

SUNDAY
November 29,
2009

The Observer & Eccentric
Newspapers

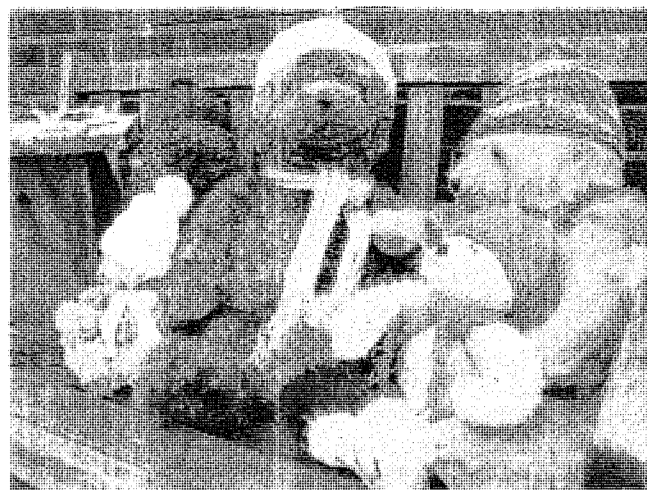
Volume 45
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WESTLAND OBSERVER

online at hometownlife.com



Tour homes decorated for the holidays - Neighbors, B6

AROUND TOWN

Memories

The holiday season is upon us and, through the hustle and bustle, we're asking our readers to let us be a part of their celebration.

We're asking readers to send us their favorite holiday memories and photos to the *Observer* for the special holiday edition we're planning for Thursday, Dec. 24.

Did you get a favorite gift for Christmas, or do you have a special memory of Hanukkah? Is there a special tradition your family has that makes the season merry and bright? Share those memories with your neighbors through us. Send your items — be sure to include a photo, if you can — to *Observer* editor Sue Mason at smason@hometownlife.com.

It is our intention to make that issue a "keeper," something our readers will savor — and save.



Santa letters

Santa Claus has started to make his list, although sources tell the *Observer* that, while he's far from checking it twice, he is waiting by his mailbox for youngsters' gift lists and letters.

The *Observer* wants to make sure Santa Claus knows what children would like this Christmas and is asking youngsters to send us letters to him. We will publish the letters in the newspaper during December before sending them on to the North Pole.

The letters should be sent by e-mail and include a snapshot of the child writing the letter. They can be a list of toys, a holiday greeting for the Jolly Ol' Elf or whatever information youngsters want Santa to have.

Send Santa correspondence to smason@hometownlife.com and be sure to put "Letter to Santa" in the subject line. Letters can also be sent the old-fashioned way, via postal service, to Letter to Santa, c/o Sue Mason, 615 W. Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226.

W-W parents plan to speak about school closings

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Wayne-Westland school board knows there will be plenty said about a 21st Century Schools Committee recommendation to close seven elementary schools and switch to a four-tier grade configuration.

Lisa Grondy and her husband Jim say they plan to be there to speak.

The Grondys live in the Norwayne community, which could see both of its elementary schools — Jefferson-Barns and Lincoln — closed, if the plan is approved.

"It's a shame to see both go. They do so many things for our community," Lisa Grondy said.

The school board has scheduled a public forum for 6 p.m. Monday in the Stockmeyer Auditorium on the

Wayne Memorial High School campus in Wayne.

The board, which has observed the work of the committee since it started in late June, will officially receive the committee's recommendation and then hear the comments and recommendations of residents. It will take formal action on the plan at its Dec. 7 board meeting, also planned for 6 p.m. at the Stockmeyer Auditorium.

"The meeting will be structured on an informational basis," school board President Skip Monit said. "We won't be in a position to answer questions. In fact, we'll be asking our own questions."

The committee is recommending closing seven elementaries (Madison, Patchin, Lincoln, Jefferson-Barns, Hamilton, Kettering and

Vandenburg), turning the remaining elementaries into K-4 buildings, turning Adams and Marshall middle schools into 5/6 buildings, with Stevenson and Franklin as the remaining middle schools.

The Grondys were among a group of parents that met last week at Jefferson-Barns school to talk about what needs to be done to convince the school board that one of the Norwayne schools needs to stay open.

The meeting was organized by Susan Nagy and Kristi Hicks, parent representatives for the two schools on the 21st Century Committee. Both live in the Norwayne community, attended either Lincoln and Jefferson-Barns schools and have children attending the schools.

Please see **SCHOOLS, A2**

PUBLIC FORUM

What: Wayne-Westland school board public forum

Why: To receive the recommendations of the 21st Century Schools Committee and to hear comment and recommendations from the public regarding proposed school closings and boundary realignments.

When: 6 p.m. Monday, Nov. 30

Where: Stockmeyer Auditorium, Glenwood east of Fourth Street, on the campus of Wayne Memorial High School campus

Information: Online at www.wwcsd.net, click on the @ist Century Schools Committee logo

Williams' ex-wife: 'He felt this rage come over him'

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

In an early morning telephone call, George Williams allegedly told his ex-wife that he had just murdered his current wife, Sarah Williams, outside Chatters Bar and Grill.

Crying before she began her testimony Tuesday in Westland 18th District Court, Michelle Williams testified that her former husband, charged with first-degree murder in Sarah Williams' death, had called her at about 3:30 a.m. Sept. 27.

"He told me to pick up the children at home — that he had just killed his wife and planned to kill himself," said Michelle Williams, adding the children meant her two daughters with Williams and Sarah Williams' daughter from a previous relationship.

When Michelle Williams asked what he had done, she testified that George Williams told her Sarah Williams was lying in the back parking lot of Chatters, where she worked as a barmaid. A Livonia resident, George Williams had reportedly fled and was later arrested in Toledo.

When she arrived at Chatters about three minutes later, Michelle Williams said she found Sarah Williams unconscious on the paved surface near the rear of the building.

"I started screaming — I thought she was dead. She wasn't dead at that time. I called 9-1-1," said Michelle Williams. "Two or three people walked out of Chatters. I called to them for help and they ran up. I said don't touch her. I was afraid they would make her injuries worse."

In multiple telephone calls from George Williams, Michelle Williams said her former husband told her that he had left Chatters with Sarah Williams, 28, and they argued. The couple had been married just over one year.

"He said that he remembered choking her. He said he felt this rage come over him — if he couldn't have her, no



Cassandra Bryngelson reacts to the autopsy report of Sarah Williams. She was so moved she left the court room. She and Sarah had been friends since they were 10 years old.

one could," said Michelle Williams. "He kept saying 'Oh, my God, what did I do?'"

Judge Sandra Cicirelli ruled that Michelle Williams couldn't testify about what Sarah Williams had told George Williams — it was hearsay coming via George Williams. Michelle Williams was allowed to testify that George Williams told her that Sarah Williams spoke to him after he had choked her.

In addition to being strangled, Wayne County Assistant Medical Examiner Dr. Francisco Diaz methodically went over multiple blunt force trauma injuries that Sarah Williams had suffered literally from head to toe.

Please see **TESTIMONY, A2**



Michelle Williams to her ex-husband George Williams during testimony in 18th District Court. George Williams is charge with murder in the death of his wife Sarah.

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GANNETT



Shoppers make start of season merry

Five women have organized themselves as an exclusive club for their Black Friday shopping experience. See story and photos on Page A5.

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The sounds of Christmas carols and the bell ringing at the Salvation Army Red Kettle mixed with cha-ching of cash registers as people flocked to Westland Shopping Center early Friday morning to scoop up bargains.

On the first official day of the holiday shopping season, many were there shopping for gifts, but others had a different idea.

"I'm shopping for myself," said Marco Mattioli, who was at the mall with Matthew Gutierrez.

The two Garden City residents had been at the mall since 6:15 a.m., making stops at teen meccas PacSun, Aeropostale, Champs, Lids, Footlocker and American Eagle.

"I got shirts and pants, I'm looking for some good deals," said Gutierrez. "We'll start our real Christmas shopping in a couple of weeks."

Debbie and Sam Domke of Westland were early risers but not early enough to be at the mall when doors opened.

"We decided we'd go when we woke up and wait until the swarm of shoppers at the doors were gone," said Debbie Domke. "We got to Kohl's during a lull. We picked a time that wasn't too early and not too late."

For the Domkes, Christmas will be a conservative one. Sam Domke is unemployed

and while they had told their sons, ages 19 and 23, that they couldn't afford Christmas, they'd decided to spend a small amount on gifts for them.

"We're just about done," said Debbie Domke.

"We started out being conservative, then started spending; at Christmas, why not?" said Sam Domke.

Taking a break and having burgers at 8 a.m. at the A&W Restaurant near Kohl's were Tracy Archambeau of Belleville, her mother-in-law, Linda Archambeau of Canton, and Dawn Davenport of Ypsilanti Township.

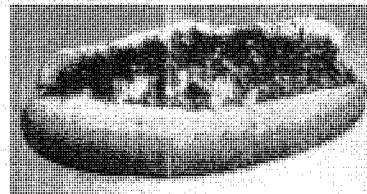
"It's our first break, unless you count the car ride," said Linda Archambeau. "We're finding bargains and more."

Please see **SHOPPING, A3**

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TESTIMONY
FROM PAGE A1



Defendant George Williams listens to testimony during a preliminary hearing last Tuesday.

Sarah Williams' injuries included severe head injuries, fractures of both eye sockets, bruises and abrasions throughout her body, Diaz said, noting a very large abrasion on her back consistent with being dragged.

Additionally, Diaz said Sarah Williams' liver had been destroyed — what he described as pulpified. Reviewing her medical records, Diaz testified she had no underlying disease that caused the damage — it was due to blunt force trauma. "When she arrived at the hospital, she only had a heart-beat. She was a coma scale three — that's the lowest you can get," said Diaz. "She survived for 12 hours. For practical purposes she was dead at the time she arrived at the hospital."

The number and severity of the injuries sustained by Sarah Williams would have taken time to inflict, Diaz testified, noting manual strangulation itself will take two-three minutes.

Sarah Williams' family and friends, several wearing T-shirts with her photograph, filled two rows in the courtroom as Cicirelli ordered George Williams bound over for trial on a charge of first-degree murder.

Defense attorney Scott Nadeau had argued there

wasn't sufficient evidence of the premeditation required for a first-degree charge which carries a mandatory sentence of life in prison without chance for parole. Second-degree murder, which is not premeditated, carries a sentence of up to life in prison but with a chance for parole.

"The brutality of this incident is beyond description. The defendant didn't call for help, he fled," said Cicirelli. "The injuries started at her head, her neck, her back — most of this woman's body. He admitted he choked her. Whether he began by punching her and breaking both her eye sockets, he could have stopped at any time."

George Williams, who turned 33 on Nov. 26, continues to be held without bond. His arraignment in Wayne County Circuit Court is scheduled for Dec. 1.

lrogers@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-5428

Public forum will have format

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

When the Wayne-Westland school board meets Monday evening, it will be in the same venue where 14 months ago, angry residents were berating the board over a teachers' strike.

School board President Skip Monit hopes that this public forum will be better organized and less rancorous.

"This is an informational meeting, people will have the opportunity to ask questions and get answers," he said. "Questions that can't be

answered that evening, we will be sure they get answers before the next meeting."

The forum will include a formal presentation of the 21st Century Schools Committee recommendation, time for school board members to ask questions and time for public comment. Consultant Jeff Rahmberg will facilitate the forum and chairs of the sub-committees which developed the plan will be available to answer questions.

According to Monit, residents will have to sign up to speak and will be called to the podium. In the case of

large groups from a particular school, the board is asking that a spokesman be designated to speak.

"We want to make sure all the issues are heard," he said. "Instead of having several people come up and say the same thing, using a spokesman will give everyone a chance to speak."

Faced with both declining enrollment and state revenue, the school board asked the committee to come up with a plan to trim \$10 million in expenditures. The closing of seven elementaries and the grade reconfiguration will save

the district an estimated \$6 million.

Monit has received a few e-mails and has heard a few negative comments about the plan. He recognizes that the schools are important to residents, but that not acting will no help the district financially.

"Every school has its own special reason for not closing, but if you look at it that way, we'll be back to square one," he said. "Once this is implemented, I'm sure parents will see that their kids are doing fine."

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

SCHOOLS
FROM PAGE A1

that both schools still need more than \$4 million in renovations.

Current enrollment at Jefferson-Barns is about 140 students, while Lincoln has 280 students.

"We need to make our voices heard," Nagy said. "We all have biases about what schools should be kept open. Ours is that one of the schools in Norwayne needs to be kept open."

Nagy initially questioned the decision to close both schools at the committee meeting Nov. 17, saying that it would have a negative impact on the community.

According to Nagy, many of the parents lack transportation and face a hardship

if they had to pick up a sick child at school. The closing also limits parents' involvement in their child's school.

"We know this school is more like a community center where parents gather, where children have breakfast during school and during the summer," she said.

"Lincoln has a lot of kids who are tardy. What's going to happen when the bus comes around and they're not there?" one parent told the two women. "That's a lot to ask of a child. If they can't make it to school on time walking, how are they going to make a bus?"

Nagy and Hicks have been meeting with residents of the Norwayne community since

the meeting to "just try and get the word out" about what is proposed. They're concerned some of their neighbors consider the proposal a done deal.

"We just trying to spread the word that the school board's mind isn't made up," Nagy said.

Nagy also plans to address the school board. Her message will be the effect the closings will have on her community.

"If you stand at Venoy and Palmer, we're losing four schools in a three-quarter-mile radius," she said. "To close four schools in one area isn't good for the area."

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CITY OF WESTLAND ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC NOTICE

The following appeals will be heard at a public hearing to be held in the Council Chambers of Westland City Hall, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, MI on Wednesday, December 16, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at which time comments may be directed to the Board during audience participation. If you wish to reply by mail, send your comments to the above address. All property owners whose names appear in our tax rolls located within 300' of this property are being notified pursuant to this statute.

Petition #2691 - Dollar Tree, 2651 S. Wayne Rd.
Request for a 42.73 square foot sign area variance from Ordinance 248 in order to install a 171.73 sq. ft. wall-mounted sign on the front of the existing store; whereas Section 15:6.2(a) allows the tenant space a maximum of 129 sq. ft. of wall-mounted signage.

Publish: November 29, 2009

CITY OF GARDEN CITY WINTER TAX NOTICE

The 2009 winter taxes will be payable from December 1, 2009 through February 15, 2010 without penalty. Beginning February 16, 2010 thru March 1, 2010 a 3% penalty will be added to the unpaid taxes. Beginning March 2, 2010 all unpaid 2009 REAL property taxes must be paid to: Raymond J Wojtowicz, Wayne County Treasurer, The International Center Building, 400 Monroe, 5th floor, Detroit, MI 48226 with an additional 4% administration fee plus 1% per month interest computed from March 2, 2010

ALLYSON M BETTIS-Treasurer-City Clerk

Publish: November 29, 2009

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SHOPPING

FROM PAGE A1

The women started planning their shopping trip on Thursday.

"After Thanksgiving dinner is done, we cover the table with ads to plan where we're going to go," said Davenport, a teacher at Adams Middle School in Westland.

"We make a list and check it twice," added Tracy Archambeau.

In the central court, Marilyn Best of Canton was busy reading a Penney's holiday shopper, baby-sitting the bags of her fellow shoppers.

"My hip went out, I think I have sciatica," she said. "They gave me this at Penney's, this is all I have to read. I've seen a lot of deals, a lot for me in it. Next year, I'm bringing a book."

Best hoped her hip would stop hurting long enough to make it to Olga's Kitchen where she was meeting family members from New Jersey, New York and Indiana and the Detroit area for lunch at 11 a.m.

"It's a tradition; ah, that'll be a table for 10," she said.

Also baby-sitting bags was Colleen Myles of Canton whose sister, Eileen Veit of Bay City, was shopping in The Children's Place.

"We take turns with the stuff, we need to make a car run," she said.

The two sisters started their day at 2 a.m. at Toys R Us, and had managed to make it to Kohl's, J.C. Penney, Sears, Bath and Body Works and Macy's before stopping at The Children's Place. They planned to end their day at Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi.

"We've been doing this for 13-14 years," she said. "We always go through the ads and create a plan of attack so we can get in and get out. It's a yearly tradition."

Black Friday newbies included the McKinley family from Livonia. Sheila, Tasha, Jessica and mother Carol started shopping at 5:30 a.m., but were packing up to go home because one of the sisters had some place to be at 9 a.m.

"Each of us is shopping for ourselves," said Carol McKinley. "I told them last night to keep in mind something they needed. I was look-



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Debbie and Sam Domke of Westland did their shopping at Kohls Friday morning.



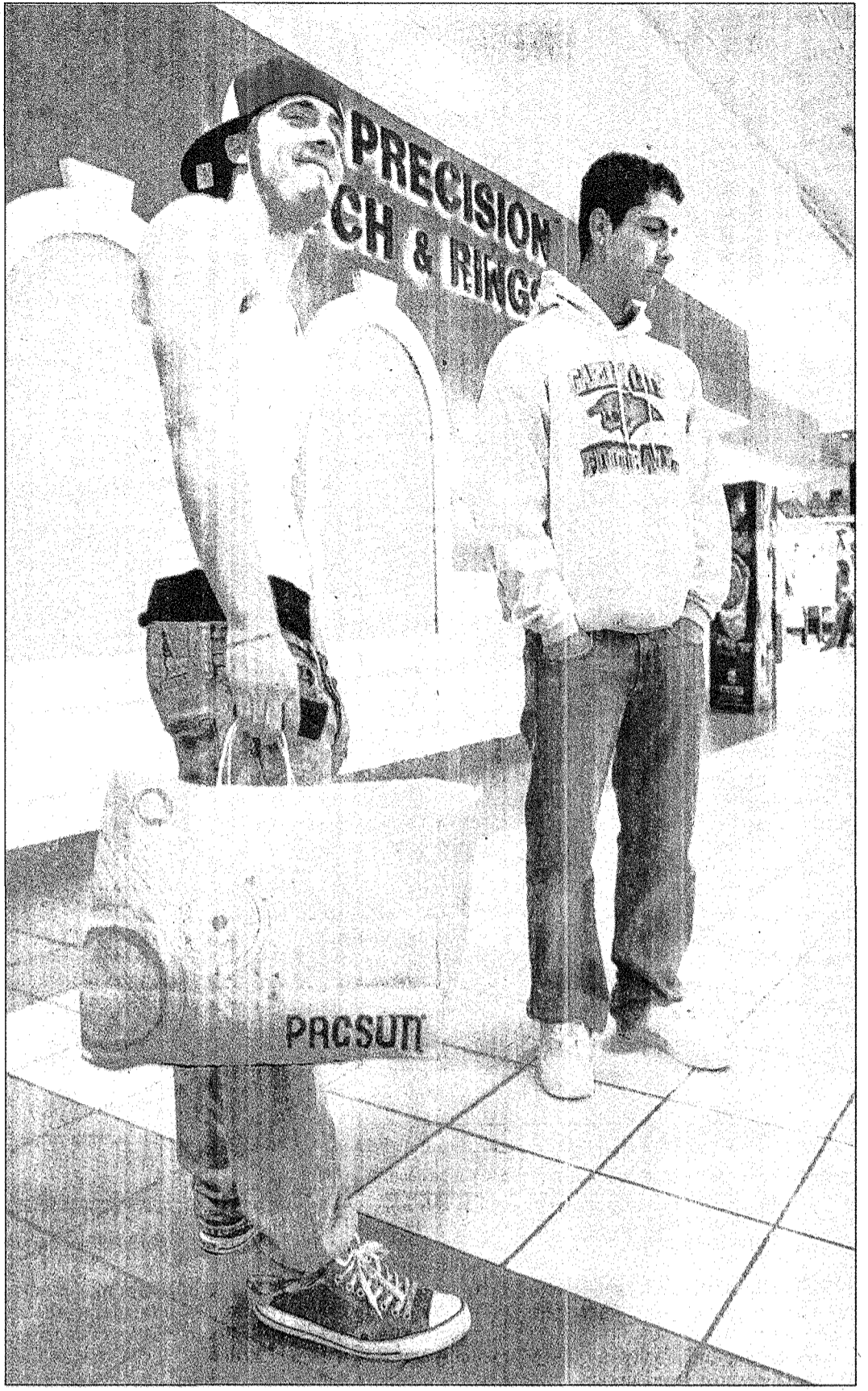
Greg Carver shops at Westland Shopping Center at 7:30 a.m. Friday. The former Westland resident lives in Crystal Lake, Illinois.

ing for work pants and a purse at Payless which they had."

In Macy's, Amanda Hickman was trying to convince her mother, Marge, that \$198 for a Coach purse was a bargain. The two were out shopping with fellow Garden City residents Jen

Wrobel and Barb Wlosinski. "We started at 3 a.m., I was up at 2 and out the door at 3," said Marge Hickman.

The ladies had made it to Sears, J.C. Penney, Target, Kohl's, Victoria's Secret and Bath and Body Works, not to



Garden City residents Marco Mattioli and Matthew Gutierrez plan to start their real shopping in a few weeks after doing a little shopping for themselves on Black Friday.

mention Toys R Us where there were no lines. They did some Christmas shopping for others and bought a few things for themselves — sweaters, crank flashlights and a 42-inch flat screen TV at Target. Wlosinski and her husband, Ray, had

talked about buying one after the holidays.

"We had discussed that we would buy it after we paid off Christmas, but it was \$449 at Target," said Wlosinski. "We took it home while he was sleeping and left it in the liv-

ing." "I can't wait to hear what he says when he gets up," said Marge Hickman, adding that, "We actually bought some gifts."

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EDUCATION

Elliott 'pilgrims' gather, give thanks



Jerardo Ochoa finds the Thanksgiving dinner finger-licking good.



Mom Tiphaine Cser tries to give some corn to Johnathon Conner.



Ilyda Srnka shows off her hat while behind her parents help fill the children's plates for their Thanksgiving feast.



Alannis Barber likes to lick her mashed potatoes like an ice cream cone.

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

"I've got too much stuff, I can't get any more on my plate," said 6-year-old Alannah Kirpatrick.

It was a delightful problem for the first-grader, who enjoyed an early Thanksgiving dinner with his classmates and other first-graders at Elliott Elementary School in Westland.

"They knew what was coming," said teacher Lindsay Siso. "They knew it was lunchtime by the turkey smell. It smelled so delicious."

The youngsters enjoyed a traditional

dinner of turkey with all the trimmings as well as a few kid-friendly items like meatballs, macaroni and cheese and juice packs.

"They've been looking forward to this since September when we told them the activities we would be doing," said Siso. "All you heard about on the playground today was 'Today is this is our feast.'"

Siso and fellow first-grade teachers Susan England and Kerri Krafft made the turkey while parents provided the side dishes. There was the traditional Thanksgiving fare of stuffing, sweet potatoes, mashed potatoes and gravy,

corn, rolls, pumpkin bread and pumpkin pie, but there also was Saranda Mumford's barbecue meatballs.

"With kids, the secret is to keep it simple, and 6-year-olds love meatballs," said Mumford, watching daughter Avea eat. "This is fun, I love hearing them call for more meatballs. I love it."

The teachers have been doing the Thanksgiving dinner the last few years, tying it in with their study of American history. In addition to making the turkeys, they also made the

pilgrim hats for the youngsters.

"Actually, they're hard to make, but they did make Indian headbands," England said.

"They were so excited about the hats," added Siso. "We talked about what the pilgrim boys and girls did."

The dinner may have wrapped up their study of early America, but it also was important for another reason.

"For some of these kids, this will be the only Thanksgiving dinner they're going to have," England said. "They're

so appreciative of the food they get, they just love it."

The youngsters ate heartily with many asking for seconds. Branja Johnson said her favorite was the mashed potatoes and gravy.

"I was excited about this," she said. "We do a lot of fun stuff. We play with our friends and have dinner together."

"And they get to practice their manners," added Siso. "We're very lucky to have a principal who lets us do this. She loves these kids."



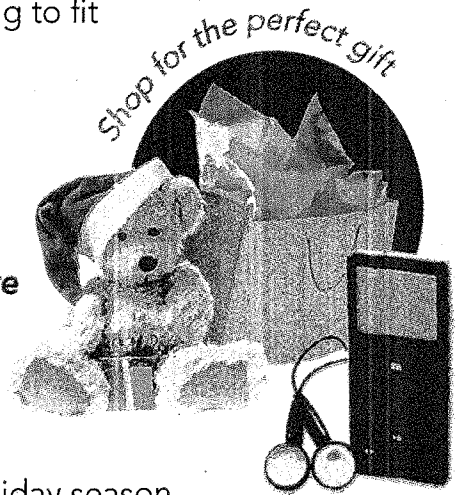
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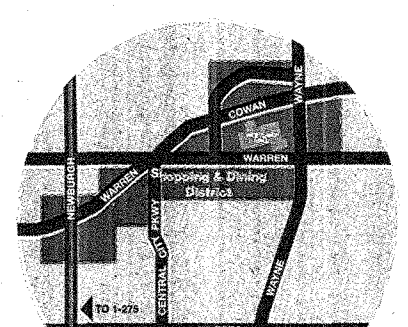


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Bargain Hunters bring more than a plan for shopping

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

People who head out to shop on Black Friday usually bring along a game plan, coupons and whatever else they need to snap up the bargains as quickly as possible.

The five-member Holiday Bargain Hunters bring something a tad different — an urn containing the remains of Patricia Piper.

"Mom passed away seven years ago and we promised her we'd take her with us to shop," said Diane Musser of Livonia, holding up an urn shaped as a golf bag.

"She picked it out herself, she loved to golf," said Musser's daughter, Aime.

The Bargain Hunters include the Mussers, both Livonia residents, Diane's sister, Laura Condroik of Jacksonville, Fla., Sue McCann of Madison, Conn., and Lisa Barnett of Baton Rouge, La., who have been shopping as a well-coordinated team for the last six years.

They all wore reindeer antlers, matching fleece vests festooned with embroidered patches, each one representing a shopping year — 2009 is the year of the penguin — socks, also embroidered with a penguin, fleece-lined red Crocs and matching bracelets and earrings made by McCann.

"We even have matching pajamas," said McCann.

Also a part of their entourage is an empty baby stroller.

"The stroller is the key part of this, it's our shopping cart," said Aime Musser, adding that in the past they've worn flashing red noses as their head gear. "That year we traded them in at American Eagle for a discount."

When their mother was alive, the sisters would switch back and forth with their mother, but six years ago decided they needed a girls trip. McCann who knew Musser through church, and Barnett, who had housed Condroik at her home in Baton Rouge before she moved to Florida, joined in.

"Actually, I left my family at home to be home with my sister," said Condroik.

"I had Thanksgiving on Wednesday and left my hus-

band and kids to do a hockey tournament," added McCann, who had lived in Northville before being transferred to Connecticut when Pfizer closed its Ann Arbor facility.

The women do all of their holiday shopping Thanksgiving weekend. The marathon started at 10:30 p.m. Thursday at Toys R Us and by 7:30 a.m. Friday, they were at Westland Shopping Center. In between there was a package drop-off at

home, a quick stop at Dunkin' Donuts and shopping at Target. Their purchases included an Xbox, Nintendo DSI and a 32-inch LCD flat screen TV.

"We did Meijer's at 4:30 a.m. and got an iPod Nano," said Aime Musser.

"We get the job done and have fun doing it," added Condroik. "We have a routine. We know when the stores open, we know when to shop. We go to Bed, Bath and Beyond on

Saturday because they have better deals that day."

"We even have little books that we keep our notes in," added Diane Musser.

After posing for a photo with their mom in the mall's east court, Musser, Condroik and the rest of the group headed out for more shopping.

"My mom just loves this," said Aime Musser.



Sisters Laura Condroik and Diane Musser, Sue McCann, Lisa Barnett and Aime Musser power shop at Westland Shopping Center. The Mussers are from Livonia, Condroik from Jacksonville, Fla., and Barnett is from Baton Rouge, La.

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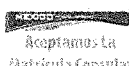
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- HARTLAND** Wireless Zone 810-632-5656
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- STERLING HEIGHTS** Wireless Network
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Listings for the Community Calendar can be submitted by e-mail at smaison@hometownlife.com. They also can be mailed to Sue Mason at 615 W. Lafayette - Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226, or faxed to her attention at fax at (313) 223-3318. For more information, call (313) 222-6751.

UPCOMING EVENTS

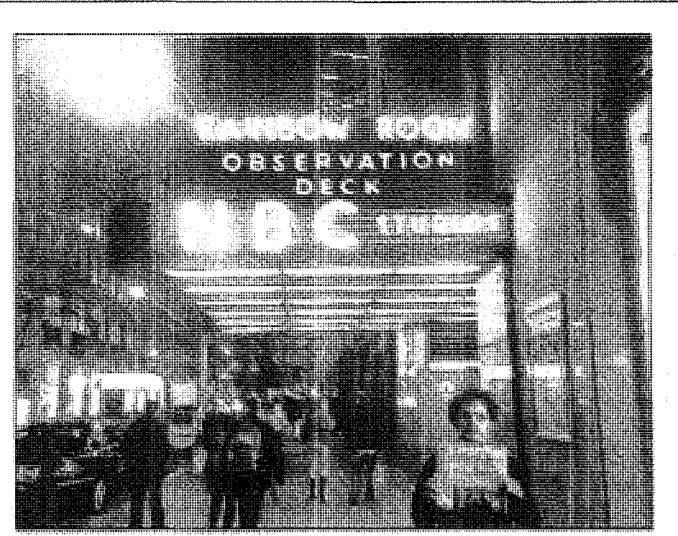
Spirit Night
Time/date: Wednesday, Dec. 2
Location: The Physical Education Building on the main campus of Schoolcraft College on Haggerty between Six and Seven Mile roads, Livonia.
Details: Both the Men's and Women's basketball teams will take on Macomb Community College in an action-packed doubleheader. Admission is only \$5 and all proceeds will benefit Big Brothers and Big

Sisters of Metropolitan Detroit. The first 200 paid donors will receive free T-shirts for their support. The women will take the court at 5:30 p.m. and the men will play at 7:30 p.m. In addition, Ocelot fans in attendance will enjoy music by DJ Jason George of United Productions and half-time performances by the college's Break Dance Team and Girls Dance Team. There will also be a basketball skills contest and lots of giveaways. The Wayne Memorial High School ROTC Color Guard will present the colors prior to the games. The evening is sponsored by Applebee's, Aubree's, Bravo!, Community Alliance Credit Union and Metro PCS.

WCGH 25th Reunion
Time/date: Doors open 5 p.m. and party runs to 9 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 8
Location: Cafe Marquette, William D. Ford Technical Center, Marquette

and Carlson
Details: All Wayne County General Hospital retirees and former employees are invited to attend. A buffet meal will be served. Price is \$16 (including gratuity). Pay at the door.
Contact: Kay Shafi at (734) 427-3437, e-mail chknit@wideopenwest.com; Dennis Abraham at (734) 721-2917, e-mail fightingirish316@sbcglobal.net, or Pat Ibbotson at (734) 331-9291, e-mail pibbotso@aol.com.
Zonta anniversary
Time/Date: 16 p.m. Friday, Dec. 4
Location: Embassy Suites, Seven Mile just east of I-275, Livonia
Details: Renowned Comedian Meghan Marie Meyer will set the mood for a fun filled night in celebration for the Zonta Club of Northwest Wayne County Club's 30th Anniversary Party and Christmas Get Together. Cost is \$35.

Zonta International is a women's service organization that works to improve the status of women. For information, go online to www.zonta.org or www.zonta15.org/northwestwayne
Contact: For more information or to reserve a seat, contact Karen at (248) 474-1582 or Sally at (734) 464-3728.
Earth Angels
Details: Earth Angels, a children's entertainment/performance non-profit group composed of kids ages 9 - 16 years old, is currently looking to fill spots. There's opening for girls ages 9 - 11, with at least two years of dance experience, and boys, ages 9 - 12 with no experience needed just an interest in performing. The group delivers a high energy show made up of choreographed dance routines spiced with theatrics and lip-synching to the great Oldies music of the '50s and '60s as well as some current fare.
Contact: www.earthangelsontour.org or by e-mail to eangel1986@comcast.net



Wish You Were Here

When Benjamin Fisher and his father Len took a trip to New York City, he made sure to get a picture with his Westland Observer. Where? In front of the NBC Studios at Rockefeller Center. If you go on vacation, be sure to take a picture with your Observer and send it to Sue Mason, 615 W. Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226. Be sure to include your name and information about your photo.

HOLIDAY CRAFT SHOW
 At Hawthorne Valley Country Club
Saturday, December 5th
 10 am - 3 pm
 \$1 fundraiser admission donation - strollers welcome
 For info email shells-2@hotmail.com

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TOPS 869 meetings
Time/date: Mondays, weigh-ins at 5:30 p.m., followed by the meeting at 6:15 p.m.
Location: Adams Senior Village, 2001 Kaley Ave., south of Palmer, Westland.
Details: The group is for people age 18 and older.
Contact: The group which meets on Mondays is for people age 18 and older.
American Legion Post 251
Time/date: 7 p.m. first Tuesday of the month
Location: 1217 Merriman Road,

between Avondale and Palmer, Westland.
Details: All veterans, male and female with an honorable discharge are welcome to join.
Contact: www.post251.org or call (734) 326-2607
Fish Dial-A-Ride
Location: Garden City, Livonia and Westland
Details: Fish Dial-A-Ride of Western Wayne County is seeking volunteer drivers. A nonprofit community service group, it provides door-to-door rides to non-emergency medical and other necessary appointments for senior and disabled residents of Garden City, Livonia and Westland

who are unable to drive and have no alternative transportation. Volunteers can specify days, times, and areas they're willing to drive.
Contact: Call (888) 660-2007 and leave a message.
Higher Rock Cafe
Time/date: 7:30 p.m. second and fourth Fridays of the month.
Location: Wayne-Westland Salvation Army, 2300 Venoy, south of Palmer, Westland.
Details: Doors open at 7:30 p.m. Live bands perform beginning at 8 p.m. Admission is free, however, a free will offering will be taken to support the bands.
Contact: www.tsa.higherrockcafe.4t.com or call (734) 722-3660

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You Could Win a \$200 Shopping Spree!

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Enter every time you shop at Novi Town Center this Holiday season from **now thru December 24th** for a chance to win one of five \$200 Holiday Shopping Sprees!

Come discover great gift ideas at stores like Children's Place, Old Navy, Borders Books & Music, Running Fit, TJ Maxx, Mattress & Futon Shoppe, AT&T Store and Bodies In Motion and many more specialty shops.

Enjoy lunch or dinner at Athenian Coney Island, Bonefish Grill, Pei Wei Asian Diner, Potbelly's Sandwich Works and other great restaurants.

For complete details on our Holiday Sweepstakes, visit www.novitowncenter.com

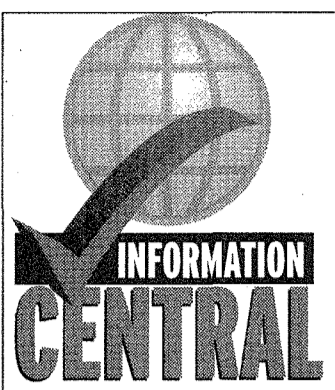
Join us for the annual **Choral Fest**
 Monday, Dec 7th
 7pm - 8pm
 At Novi Town Center & Theater

Getting to know Windows 7

You may have seen the commercials with the Mac guy vs. the PC guy. The Mac guy makes fun of the PC guy for producing a computer with a lot of problems with it and for basically not being very cool. The idea being that if you purchase a Mac, you will have a computer that runs better and you will also have the added benefit of being a hipper person.

What is so wrong with the PC you say? Basically, there were a lot of problems that PC's encountered with the advent of the last operating system put out by Microsoft in 2005: Windows Vista. Windows Vista had a lot of bad press because of compatibility issues. As a result Microsoft launched new operating systems called Windows 7 for retail computers on Oct. 22.

If you are wondering what an operating system is, it is the brain of your computer, it's responsible for basic tasks, such as recognizing input from the keyboard, sending output



to your screen, keeping track of files and directories on the disk, and controlling peripheral devices, such as disk drives and printers. It is that thing running in the background that is absolutely vital for your computer to operate.

The goal of Windows 7, unlike Microsoft's previous operating systems wasn't to add a bunch of new features, but to be fully compatible with existing applications and hardware. Although purchasing a Mac computer is an option, it isn't always the most realistic

option for everyone. Mac computers cost more and they are only used by 3.9 percent of the U. S. computer using population.

If you plan on buying a new computer anytime in the near future, chances are you will need to become acquainted with Windows 7. At the Westland Public Library you can learn more about Windows 7 by checking out "Windows 7 for Dummies" by Andy Rathbone and "Windows 7" by William R. Stanek. Several new books will be arriving soon, too. So stop in or call the library seven days a week. Our Web site is always available for your convenience. westlandlibrary.org.

Highlighted Activities
December Concert Series @ the Library: Dec. 3, 6, 10, 13
 Call the library for more information at (734) 326-6123
Understanding Fibromyalgia: A holistic approach to chronic pain and fatigue: 7 p.m. Dec. 1
 There is relief from the constant

nagging symptoms, pain, and fatigue. Learn safe, effective, and natural methods for addressing fibromyalgia and chronic pain symptoms. Dr. Brian K. Brackney is the featured speaker. Call (734) 326-6123 or visit the Reference Desk to reserve your seat.

Plastic Model Building - Children ONLY: 1 p.m. Dec. 5

The Plastic Modelers Society of Livonia will host a scale model building program for children age 6 and up and accompanied by an adult. Register at the Children's Reference Desk or by calling the Children's Service Department at (734) 326-6123
Adult Poetry Group: 7 p.m. Dec. 2, ages 19 and up

Interested in reading, discussing, and writing poetry? Please join us for one of our sessions, whether you're a first-time writer or a serious wordsmith. Sign up by inquiring at the Reference Desk. Check out our blog at westlandadultpoetry.blogspot.com.
Science Fiction/Fantasy Book Club: 7 p.m. Dec. 7
 Join us for a discussion of Adam Rex's "True Meaning of Smekday." It all starts with a school essay. When 12-year-old Gratitude Tucci is assigned to write five pages on "The

True Meaning of Smekday" for the National Time Capsule contest, she's not sure where to begin. When her mom started telling everyone about the messages aliens were sending through a mole on the back of her neck? Copies of the book are available at the Reference Desk.

Job Seekers Lab: Every Tuesday 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Wednesday 5-8 p.m. and Friday 1-4 p.m.

Have a question regarding formatting your resume, setting up an e-mail account, attaching your resume to an online application, searching for a job, or any other job related activity? Stop by the library where computers are set up specifically for job seekers. A librarian will be available to help.

Drop-in Knitting Nights @ the Library: Every Wednesday evening at 7 p.m. Everyone welcome.

Chess Night: Every Thursday evening at 7 p.m.

Like to play chess? Want to get better? Come to the library and play a couple of games. Bring your own board or use one of ours. Novices to Chess masters are all welcome. No sign-up required.

Information Central was compiled by Kristy Cooper, reference librarian. The William P. Faust Public Library is at 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland. For more information, call (734) 326-6123 or go online to westlandlibrary.org.

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Nov 23 – Dec 11

Salvation Army Angel Giving Tree located in the East Court. Stop by the Angel Giving Tree in East Court right beside the Santa Set. The Angel Giving Tree will be here until Friday December 11. The Salvation Army and You helping to make a child's Holiday a little brighter.

Nov 23 – Dec 21

Kroger Sleigh of Giving located in the East Court. Your donation of non-perishable foods will be passed along to families in the City of Westland for the holiday season. Donations are being accepted at the Customer Service booth located outside of Macys until Dec 21. Your donation enters you into a drawing for a center gift card. See Customer Service for more details.

Dec 1 – Dec 24

Angela Hospice Tree of Life located in the East Court. Beginning Tuesday, December 1st through December 24th shoppers are invited to participate in the Angela Hospice Tree of Life. Stop by the Angela Hospice display next to Santa to participate. You may write the name of a loved one on a gold angel ornament and place it on the tree in honor or in memory of someone special. Information about free grie support programs offered by Angela Hospice is available as well.

Dec 15

Gift Wrap for Men 101 located in the East Court 6pm-8pm. Westland Shopping Center and Magic 105.1 are taking away the excuse that you cannot wrap a gift because you are a man. Join Mike Bradley from Magic 105.1 as gift wrapping experts show how to wrap gifts of all sizes. We encourage all the men in the community to stop by, with gifts that you have purchased from the center of course, and be shown how you can wrap it like a pro, and then it is your turn to give it a try. Prizes will be given to the best wrapped gift, the best attempt to wrap a gift and other fun games that we will think of on the night.

Center Hours in GREEN
Santa's Hours in RED

DECEMBER 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Nov. 29 10am-7pm 11am-5pm	Nov. 30 10am-9pm 11am-8pm	1 Pet Night with Santa 6pm - 8pm 10am-9pm 11am-8pm	2 10am-9pm 11am-8pm	3 10am-9pm 11am-8pm	4 Tie One On with MADD 11am-1pm, East Court 10am-9pm 11am-8pm	5 Hot Item Give-Away Look throughout the Center for ways to win! 10am-9pm 11am-8pm
6 Hot Item Give-Away Look throughout the Center for ways to win! 11am-6pm 12pm-5pm	7 10am-9pm 11am-8pm	8 Fee-Free Gift Card Day! 10am-9pm 11am-8pm	9 10am-9pm 11am-8pm	10 10am-9pm 11am-8pm	11 10am-9pm 11am-8pm	12 8am-10pm 11am-8pm
13 10am-7pm 11pm-5pm	14 9am-10pm 10am-8pm	15 Fee-Free Gift Card Day! 9am-10pm 10am-8pm	16 8am-10pm 10am-8pm	17 8am-10pm 10am-8pm	18 8am-11pm 10am-8pm	19 7am-11pm 9am-8pm
20 9am-9pm 9pm-8pm	21 8am-11pm 9am-8pm	22 8am-11pm 9am-8pm	23 8am-11pm 9am-8pm	24 <i>Santa's Last Day!</i> 7am-6pm 9am-5pm	25 <i>Christmas Day</i> Mall & Office CLOSED	26 8am-9pm
27 11am-6pm	28 10am-9pm	29 10am-9pm	30 10am-9pm	31 10am-6pm	Jan. 1, 2010 10am-7pm	

For further details regarding these events and other great happenings at Westland Shopping Center visit our website at: www.westlandcenter.com

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SUNDAY
November 29,
2009

Looking for the perfect tree? See the Christmas Tree Guide in today's classifieds

SPORTS, HEALTH & FITNESS, NEIGHBORS

SECTION B
(WL)

HOMETOWN LIFE

Brad Emons, editor (313) 222-6851
bemons@hometownlife.com



Stevenson goes on goal binge against Churchill

Spartans roll to 9-1 victory

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It was the night before Thanksgiving, but the feast already got started for the Livonia Stevenson hockey team.

The Spartans improved to 3-0 on the young season with a surprising 9-1 mercy-rule victory Wednesday over rival Livonia Churchill at Edgar Arena.

Stevenson put a pair of goals on the table within the first 49 seconds of action, and it only proved to be the appetizer.

Cole Rochowiak, Stevenson's senior captain, who had a pair of goals and assist on the night, flipped a backhand from behind the net and over Churchill goaltender Aaron Crouse for a 1-0 lead just 20 seconds into the game. Justin Shureb drew the assist to make it 1-0.

Senior defenseman Jake Poynter then drilled a shot from the blue line just 29 seconds later from Tim Pruchnik and John Mandryk to make it 2-0.

"We got two early ones and it kind of set the tempo," Stevenson coach David Mitchell said. "We got a lot of

pucks to the net. The bounces went our way. We'd hit a post or then a second post, and when it's going like that, you know it's going your way."

The Spartans would score four more times in the first 8:12 of the second period before Churchill could answer — Shureb (from Evan Malick and Rochowiak); Pruchnik (from Mandryk and John Strauch); Strauch (unassisted after steal inside the blue line); and Malick on a wrist shot (from Shureb and Poynter).

Churchill's only goal of the night came at 9:56 of the same period, when Christo Pappaionnou beat Stevenson netminder Danny Sager off an assist from Matt Sinclair.

But Stevenson would score three more times before the period ended — Rochowiak on a backhand (from Poynter and Shureb at 11:06); Malick (from Kyle Gabrielson and Shureb at 15:23); and Cam Humitz's unassisted game-clincher (from Mandryk and Sager with 53.2 seconds left).

Stevenson outshot the Chargers by nearly a two-to-one margin, 35-18.

"We ran four lines," Mitchell said. "We got contributions from everybody. We've been



Stevenson's Cole Rochowiak (23) battles for the puck with Churchill's Jimmy Lelekatch (7) and goaltender Aaron Crouse during Wednesday's clash at Edgar Arena.

stressing good puck movement and sharing the puck. Give my guys credit because they did that tonight. It's been a pro-

cess and they did a pretty good job of it. They were unselfish."

Stevenson, which dressed 12 seniors and nine juniors,

couldn't ask for a better start. "It's an older group that's

Please see **SPARTANS, B2**

Defensive breakdowns cost Franklin in season opener

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

PREP HOCKEY

One glaring statistic — other than the final score — stuck out like a sore thumb in Livonia Franklin's season-opening 8-0 setback Wednesday night to Pinckney at Edgar Arena.

The Patriots turned the puck over 27 times in their own end, including 13 in the opening period to trail 3-0. Eight more giveaways in the second period led to a 7-0 Pinckney advantage.

Mitch Rogowski's unassisted short-handed goal with 7:53 left in the game clinched the mercy-rule win for the Pirates, who improved to 2-0 overall. "The turnovers they (Pinckney)

forced in our zone were way too many," Franklin coach Scott Wirgau said. "And on a lot of the forced errors, they scored goals on those. It's hard to play offense when you give the puck away. It happened so many times in our zone. We gave away the puck too much. You have to play it where they're not."

Senior captain Tom Kilgore's hat trick and one assist paced the Pirates. Freshman Scott Johnson added pair of goals and one assist, while senior Tyler Hack contributed a goal and two assists.

"I'm disappointed with the pen-

alty minutes — it was way too many," Pinckney coach Mike Kroll said. "But overall, I thought we played pretty well."

Blake Hextall tallied the other Pinckney goal, while Brendan McLeskey and Brett Yanick each chipped in with two assists.

"I didn't know what to expect," Kroll said. "We beat Franklin last year, but in Scott's (Wirgau) first year they beat us when they were a strong, veteran team."

"We have a veteran team right now. We came out with 11 seniors. We have high expectations coming into this year. We were in the regional final last year for the first time and, obviously, we have high goals."

Meanwhile, the goal for Franklin, coming off a 0-24 season in 2008-09, is to get a win. The Patriots return to action Wednesday, Feb. 2, to face 3-0 Livonia Stevenson, which is coming off a 9-1 mercy-rule win over Livonia Churchill.

"I thought our goalie (Anthony Crechiolo) played great and kept us in it," Wirgau said. "The score was not indicative of where we are. We're playing better. We've got some new kids that we've added to our offense. But after where we were at last year, we're coming so far behind the eight-ball that we still have a long way to go."

bemons@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-6851

Outlook remains solid for Patriots

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The 2008-09 girls basketball season provided plenty of thrills and excitement — courtesy of Livonia Franklin's run all the way to the Class A state championship game.

The Patriots, who fell in the state final to Benton Harbor, have two huge holes to fill from last year's 24-4 squad — the Taylor twins, Brianna and Brittany, who will be sorely missed and are now playing for Grand Valley State.

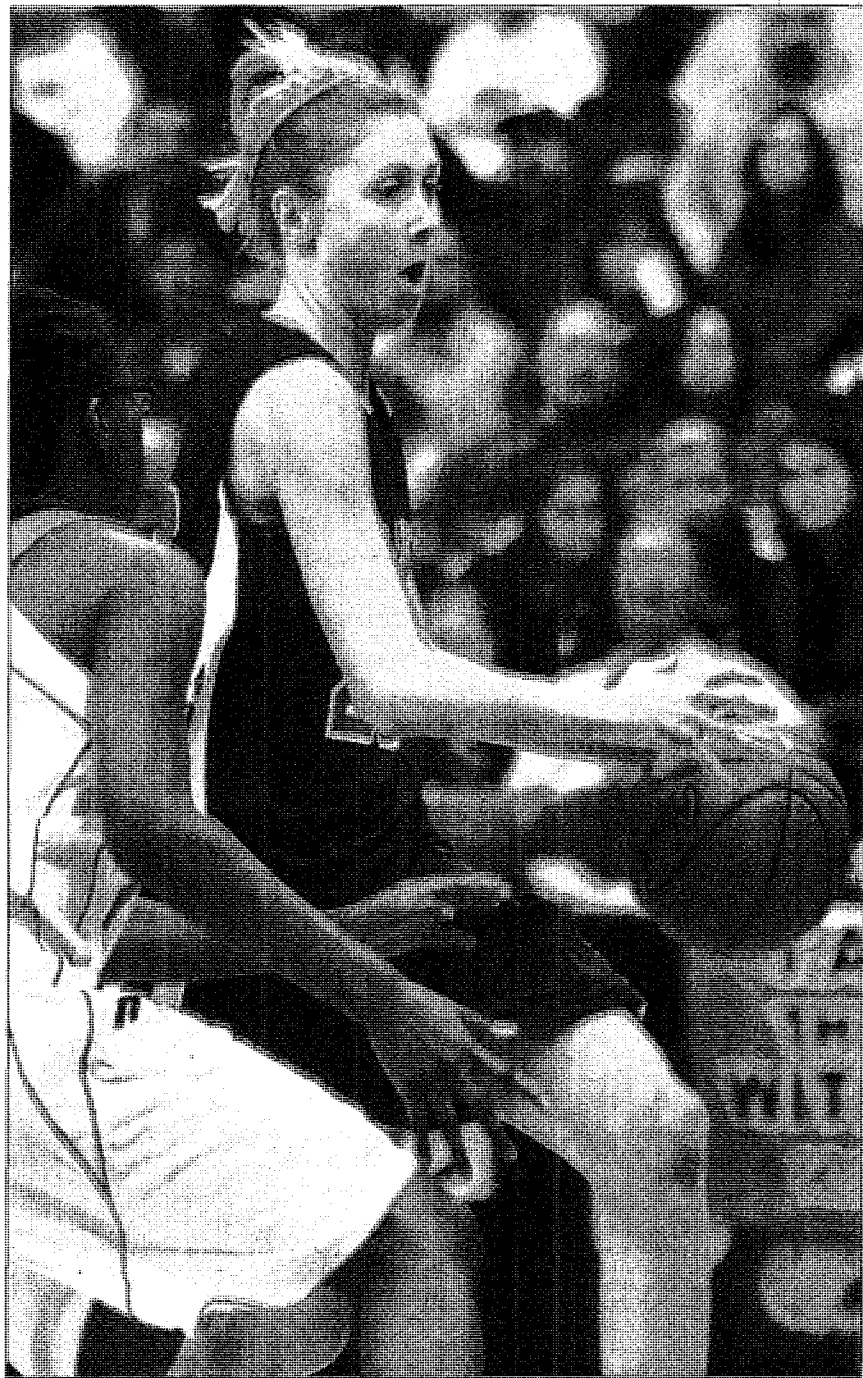
But when Franklin takes the court for its 2009-10 opener, the cupboard won't be completely bare.

Third-year coach Dave McCall returns four of his top six players, including 5-foot-9 junior point guard Chelsea Williams, a second-team All-Observer pick who averaged 10.2 points, 4.0 rebounds and 4.5 steals per game.

Also back from the starting lineup is 5-9 senior center Seneca Scott and 5-2 junior guard Nicole Emery. Sixth man Brittany Milican, a 5-7 senior forward, also returns.

Canton, which returns all of its starters from last year's 20-3 team, will be a heavy favorite to win the KLAA's South Division title.

Livonia Churchill (10-11), also a member of the KLAA South, lost its top two players in point guard Lindsey Graciak and forward Alysa Boldizar, but third-year coach Chad Jenkins does return 5-11 senior forward Darcy DeRoo.



Franklin junior Chelsea Williams, a second-team All-Observer pick, returns at point-guard after leading the Patriots to a 24-4 record and the state Class A finals.

Lady Ocelots sting Alpena thanks to Bee

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Float like a butterfly, sting like a Bee.

That was the tale of the tape Tuesday night as Kimberly Bee, a 6-0 freshman from Detroit Communication & Media Arts, scored a career-high 19 points to go along with 15 rebounds and five blocks

COLLEGE BASKETBALL to lead the Schoolcraft College

women's basketball team to an easy 106-55 homecourt win over Alpena Community College.

Schoolcraft, now 7-0 overall and 3-0 in the Eastern Conference of the Michigan CC Athletic Association, had four others score double figures, including Amber Avery (15), Antania Shepherd (12), Emelda Chew (11) and April Goins (10).

Jasmine Brown and Elaina Mathis each added nine points, while Angela Burrell dished out eight assists as the Lady Ocelots won their 39th straight game at home and 30th conference game in a row.

Schoolcraft, ranked No. 2 in the latest NJCAA Division II poll, committed just seven turnovers, which ties the school record for fewest in a game. The Lady Ocelots also outrebounded Alpena 58-33.

Hayley O'Meara and Etouye Simms tallied 17 and 16 points, respectively,

Please see **OCELOTS, B2**

SIDELINES

Lakers in Final 4

The Grand Valley State University women's soccer team, featuring three area players, will play in the NCAA Division II Final Four beginning Thursday in Tampa, Fla.

The Lakers, 20-0-4 overall, will face Saint Rose (N.Y.) in the semifinals. Area players include freshman forward Alyssa Mira (Livonia Churchill), who has five goals in 24 games; senior defender Caitlin Boyak (Livonia Stevenson), who has three goals in 22 appearances; and sophomore forward Lindsey Marlow, three goals in 22 appearances.

MU harrier 62nd

Madonna University junior Sarah Sherwood (Salem) earned a 62nd-place finish at the NAIA National Cross Country Championships, held Nov. 21 at the Fort Vancouver Historical Site in Vancouver, Wash.

Sherwood, who covered the 5,000-meter course in 19 minutes, 28 seconds, was the second fastest harrier from the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference, trailing only Carly Plank from Aquinas College.

Schroeder All-District

Kalamazoo College senior Ben Schroeder (Livonia Stevenson), was selected to the CoSIDA/ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District Second Team.

The goalkeeper carries a 3.66 GPA as an economics major.

Schroeder posted four shutouts this season, allowing 12 goals in 14 games with a 0.83 goals-against average as the Hornets finished the season 7-9-1 overall and 7-6-2 in the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association.

Tumbler takes 8th

Livonia's Cassandra Skinner, a freshman at Stevenson High School, placed eighth in the Girls 13-14 tumbling with a score of 25.700 at the 2009 Trampoline & Tumbling World Age Group Competition, Nov. 18-21, in St. Petersburg, Russia.

Skinner's teammates, Kiara Nowlin and Shaylee Dunavin, finished 1-2 with Russian Darya Mironova earning the bronze medal.

Running to Reno

Three area youths have qualified for USTAF National Cross Country Championships Saturday, Dec. 12, in Reno, Nev.

At the Region 5 meet Nov. 22 at Masterson Station Park in Lexington, Ky., Keenan Jones, who attends Livonia's Emerson Middle School, finished runner-up in the Midget Boys with a personal best 11 minutes, 42 seconds for 3,000 meters.

Megan McFarlane, a student at Livonia's Frost M.S., also qualified by taking eighth in 17:30 on the challenging 4,000-meter course for Young Girls.

And in the Intermediate Boys, Livonia Franklin High junior Austin Jones placed 12th with a time of 17:30 on the hilly 5-kilometer course.

All three earned Region 5 All-Invitational honors.

Please see **PREVIEW, B2**

Two's a charm

Spitfires cash in early to edge Whalers, 2-1

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

True hockey fans had something to be thankful for Wednesday night at Compuware Arena.

Host Plymouth and Windsor hooked up for a highly competitive, entertaining Thanksgiving Eve clash before an enthusiastic crowd.

For those Plymouth rooters among 2,983 spectators, the only bad thing was the final score — the Spitfires scored two quick goals and held on for a 2-1 victory.

"They had more shots (45-38) but I think we had more Grade A scoring chances," Whalers head coach Mike Vellucci said. "I thought we played really well. I thought we gave them two goals when we sat back early, but once we got our legs going I thought it was a real good game."

Windsor (22-3-0-3) took a 1-0 lead just 6:22 into the contest. Winger Richard Panik took advantage of a Plymouth giveaway, scoring unassisted on a wrist shot that beat goalie Matt Hackett.

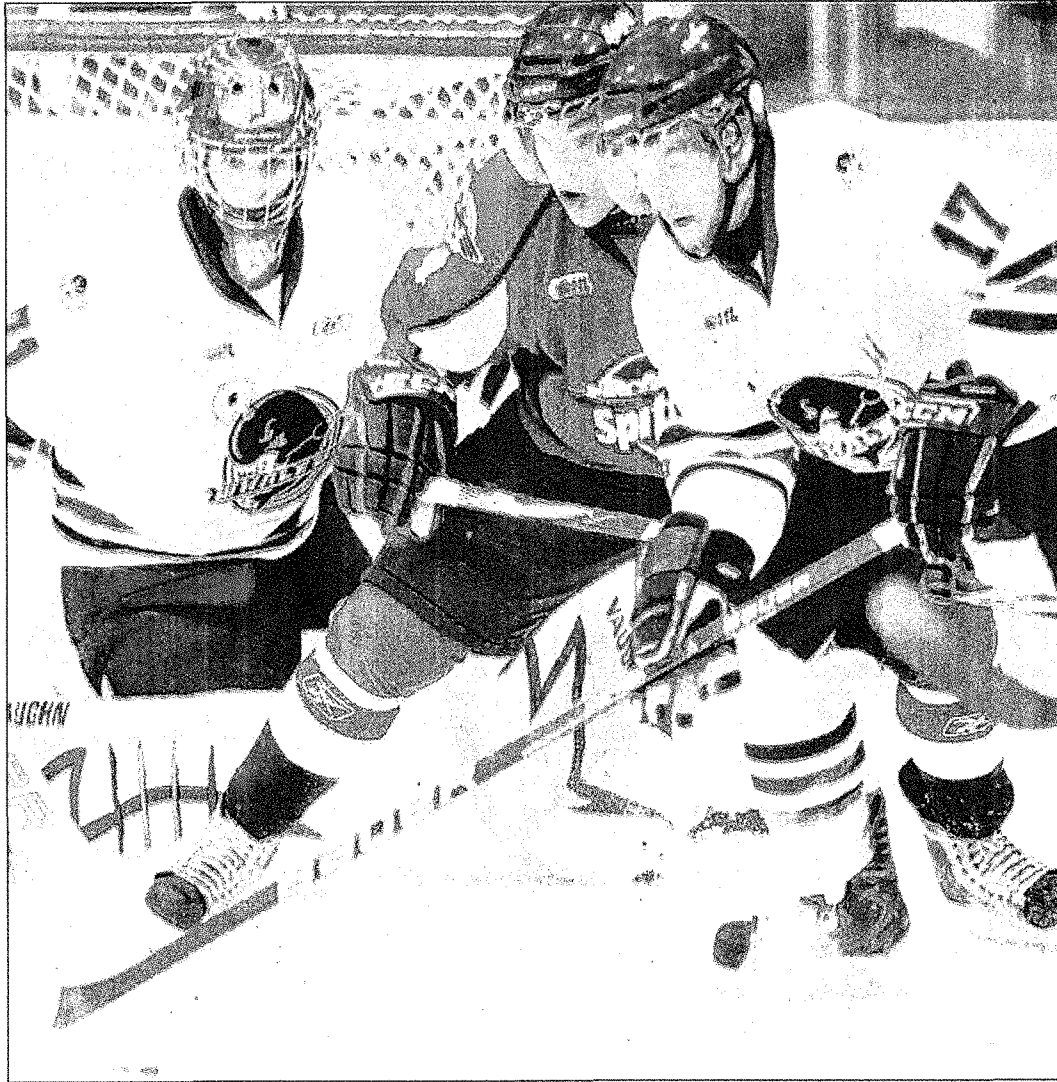
At 10:07, a long shot by the Spitfires' Ryan Ellis was tipped in front by Scott Timmins for Windsor's second goal.

Plymouth needed just 50 seconds to get that one back.

Forward Josh Brittain jabbed in the rebound of a shot by center Tyler Seguin past Windsor goalie Troy Passingham. Collecting the second assist was forward Robbie Czarnik, playing his first game for the Whalers and in the OHL.

But that was all the scoring, with Hackett and Passingham thwarting every opportunity although both squads put on plenty of pressure.

Plymouth dropped to 14-



Windsor star winger Taylor Hall (No. 4) works for position in front of Plymouth netminder Matt Hackett with Whalers defenseman Beau Schmitz (No. 17) during Wednesday's game.

12-0-0 with the defeat, entering game Friday and Saturday.

Czarnik, a draft pick of the NHL Los Angeles Kings, had been playing college hockey at the University of Michigan. The Washington, Mich. native was acquired Monday in a trade with the Oshawa Generals and skated on a line with Seguin and Brittain.

"I think he was pretty good," Vellucci said. "I think he was

tired and wasn't used to that much ice time.

"But I thought he played very well and he's going to do really good for us, ... his speed is outstanding."

According to Czarnik, it will take a little while to get used to the "pro style game" of the OHL and mesh with his line-mates.

"It's just the second time I skated with this team, so I think it will be a little hard at first," Czarnik said. "But I

think we'll adjust to each other pretty well."

He added that the major junior circuit is "really different than college, but I really enjoyed it out there tonight. It seemed a little faster."

Czarnik will have back-to-back games Friday at Sault Ste. Marie and 7 p.m. Saturday at Compuware against Kingston to get more acclimated.

tsmith@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2637

THE WEEK AHEAD

GIRLS BASKETBALL
Tuesday, Dec. 1
Ply. Christian at Clarenceville, 7 p.m.
Franklin at Ladywood, 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 3
John Glenn at Belleville, 7 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 4
Churchill at Garden City, 7 p.m.
Franklin at Thurston, 7 p.m.
Edsel Ford at Stevenson, 7 p.m.
Clarenceville at Annapolis, 7 p.m.
Ladywood at Flint Powers, 7 p.m.
PREP HOCKEY
Wednesday, Dec. 2
Churchill vs. W.L. Western, 6 p.m.
Franklin vs. Stevenson at Edgar Arena, 8 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 4
Franklin vs. Dearborn Unified at Edgar Arena, 6 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 5
Ladywood at Port Huron, 4 p.m.
PREP WRESTLING
Wednesday, Dec. 2
Stevenson at Avondale Quad, 5 p.m.
Wayne Quad Meet, 5:30 p.m.
Franklin, John Glenn at N.B. Huron Tri-Meet, 5 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 3
C'ville at Annapolis Quad, 5:30 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 5
Rocket Duals at John Glenn, 9 a.m.
Clarenceville Quintet Meet, 9 a.m.

Grand Blanc Invitational, 9 a.m.
Blissfield Invitational, TBA.
MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Wednesday, Dec. 2
Macomb CC at Schoolcraft, 7:30 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 4
(WHAC/MIAA Challenge)
Olivet College at Madonna, 8 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 5
Schoolcraft at Owens (Ohio), 3 p.m.
(WHAC/MIAA Challenge)
Alma College at Madonna, 2 p.m.
WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Sunday, Nov. 29
Madonna at Alma College, 3 p.m.
Schoolcraft at Owens (Ohio), 3 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 2
Macomb CC at Schoolcraft, 5:30 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 4
(Schoolcraft College Invitational)
K'zoo Valley vs. Kennedy-King (Ill.), 5:30 p.m.
Schoolcraft vs. Sinclair (Ohio), 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 5
Schoolcraft Invitational, 1 & 3 p.m.
ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE
Wednesday, Dec. 2
Plymouth Whalers vs. Saginaw Spirit at Compuware Arena, 7:05 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 4
Plymouth at Saginaw Spirit, 7 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 5
Plymouth Whalers vs. Soo Greyhounds at Compuware Arena, 7:05 p.m.

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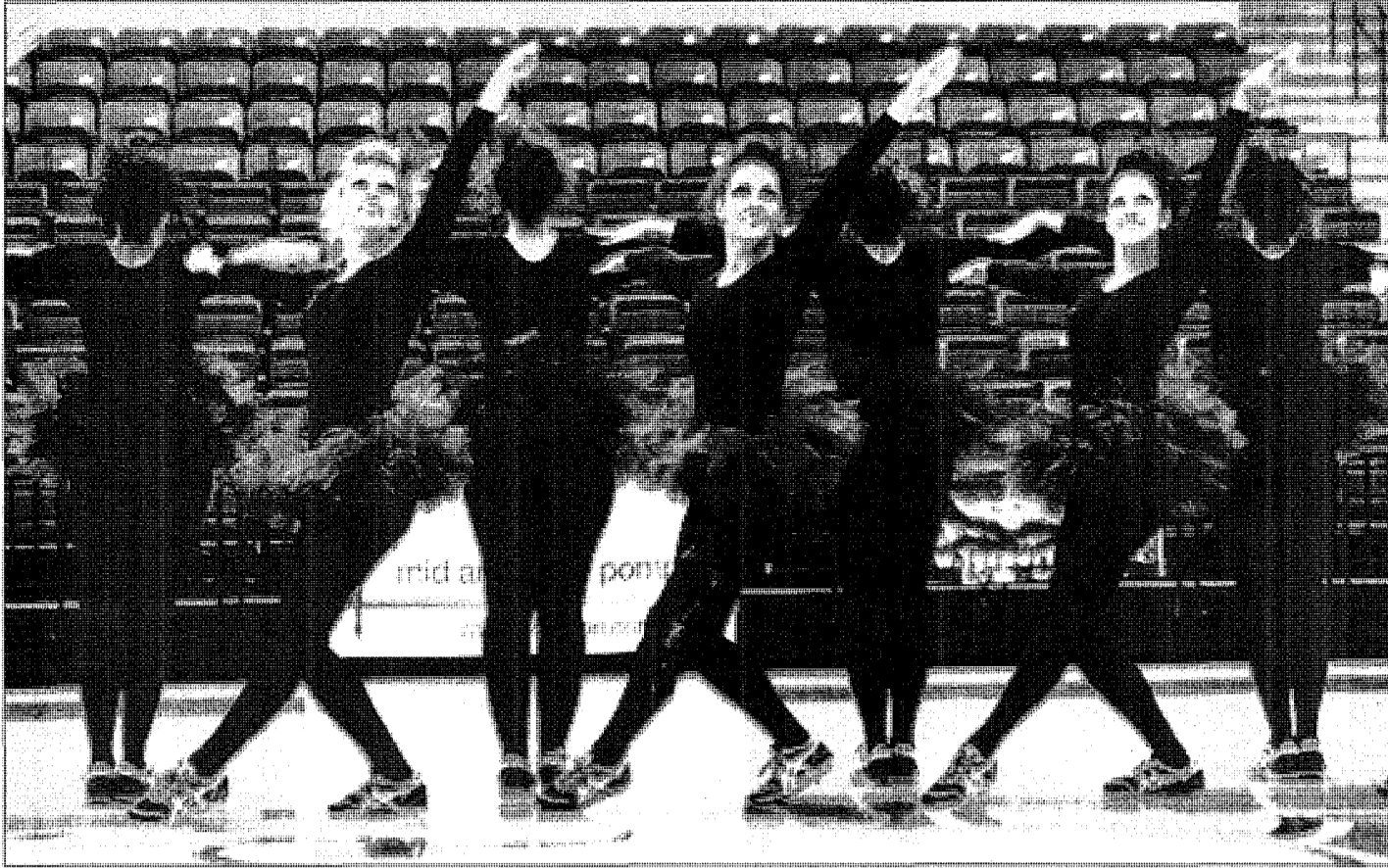
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Spartans stepping up

The 17-member Michigan State University Pompon team, coached by Livonia native Linda Conradi, earned first place in their division at the 2009 Mid American Pompon Dance and High Kick Championship that took place on Nov. 8 at Eastern Michigan University. The team placed first in the Collegiate High Kick category. The team's broken ballerina 'music box' themed routine featured the song 'Untouched' by The Veronicas. MSU Pompon was the first traditional Mid American style pompon team established at the collegiate level in 2005. MSU Pompon currently remains undefeated in the world of collegiate pompon, earning the following titles: Collegiate High Kick Champions (2007, 2008, 2009) and Collegiate Pompon Champions (2007, 2008, 2009).



Workout warriors

Get Fit coaches recently helped 10 people work out and lose a total of 27 pounds and 55.25 inches in just 10 days during fitness classes which featured nutritional tips at Phys Ed Fitness Studio, located at Six Mile and Farmington roads, in Livonia. The Biggest Loser was Kathy Rolland (7.5 pounds), while the Inch Worms were Forrest Geary and Christine Harlow (8 each). Get Fit coaches run 10-day, six-week challenges to help people meet their fitness and nutritional goals. Among the Get Fit challenge group included (from left): coach Cassandra Smith, Stephanie Labby, Patty Pettersson (back), Rolland (front), Raechelle Williams (back), coach Sue Pilarski (front), Nicole Petroff (back), Geary (far back), Laura Facione (front), Melissa Caccia (back) and Harlow. For more information, visit www.GetFitCoaches.com.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Elks Hoop Shoot

The 2009 Elks Hoop Shoot contest will be Saturday, Dec. 5 at the Livonia Community Recreation Center, located at 15100 Hubbard (off Five Mile Road).

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. the day of the event followed by the contest at 9 a.m. Age divisions for boys and girls include 8-9, 10-11, 12-13.

The contest is free.

For more information, call (734) 466-2410.

MU baseball camp

Madonna University baseball coach Greg Haeger and his staff will stage a holiday baseball camp for ages 9-18 from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m., Monday through Wednesday, at the Total Sports Complex in Wixom.

The cost is \$150 for the first child and \$75 for each additional child.

MU baseball staff members Stu Rose, Ted Falkner and Mike George will assist in the camp.

For more information, e-mail Jen at Total Sports at Jen@totalsportscomplex.com.

MU softball camps

Madonna University will stage three winter softball camps at the MU Activities Center featuring specialized individual instruction covering all phases of the game for girls ages 7-18.

Among the camps offered include:

Hitting - 9 a.m. to noon, Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 19-20 (cost \$30); Fundamental No. 1 - 9-11:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 9, 16, 23, 30 (cost \$125 if registered by Dec. 1; \$125 after Dec. 1);

Fundamental No. 2 - noon-2:30 p.m. (cost \$125 by Dec. 1; \$150 after Dec. 1).

For more information, call MU head coach Al White at (734) 432-5783; or Steve Gentilia at (734) 776-1716. You can also e-mail alwhite@madonna.edu.

Jingle Bell Run

The Jingle Bell Run for the Arthritis Foundation Michigan Chapter will start at 9 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, in Northville.

The competitively timed (with micro chip) 5-kilometer run-walk will start on Cady Road and end at the Northville Downs Race Track. The

Snowman Shuffle, a quarter-mile fun run for kids 12-and-under, will begin at 8:45 a.m.

Pre-registration is \$25 (includes T-shirt). Race day sign-up is \$30. The Snowman Shuffle fee is \$10.

Medals will be awarded in 14 age groups. The event includes music, food and a chili party. Goodie bags will go to all participants and prizes will be awarded for the top fundraiser and costume.

For more information, call (248) 757-2891, Ext. 232; or visit www.arthritis.org.

Men's hoop league

The City of Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation will be staging its 2010 men's basketball league beginning Jan. 4.

New teams can register now at \$400 per team (plus non-resident and officials fees per game).

For more information, call (734) 466-2410.

WYAA girls volleyball

The Westland Youth Athletic Association is currently accepting registration for girls volleyball (ages 8-17) from 7-9 p.m. Wednesdays and 10 a.m. until noon Saturdays, at the WYAA's Lange Compound, located at 6050 Farmington Road (north of Ford Road).

The WYAA has a fund-raiser to offset the cost of the program. Participants will also be given one raffle ticket for each \$5 of paid registration fees. These extra tickets can be used to enter the WYAA drawing or sold to recover the cost of registration.

For more information, call (734) 421-0640; or visit www.wyaa.org.

Lacrosse coach wanted

Livonia Ladywood is seeking a varsity girls lacrosse coach for the 2010 spring season.

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

Track coach wanted

The University of Detroit Jesuit High is seeking a varsity boys track and field coach for the 2010 season.

Those interested should forward a resume to: Mickey Barrett, Athletic Director, 8400 S. Cambridge, Detroit, MI 48221; or fax to (313) 862-3299; or e-mail mickey.barrett@uofdjhsuit.org.

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JOHN KEMSKI

Future Lady Ocelot

Canton senior volleyball player Lauren Macuga (second from right) last week signed her letter-of-intent to play at Schoolcraft College. Helping share in her big day were Schoolcraft coach Rich Lamb (far left), Canton head coach Mary Kryska (next to Lamb) and Canton freshman coach Steve Johnson.



Special honorees

Canton's Terry Jobbitt (left) and Livonia's Joel Smith (right) were recently inducted into the Special Olympics of Michigan Hall of Fame during a ceremony and banquet held in Big Rapids. Jobbitt has been active for 32 years in Area 23 and regionally in numerous capacities and sports, while Smith has served for more than 25 years in a variety of roles. Both have been directors, coordinators and served on various Special Olympics committees, all in a volunteer role.

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On keeping your appliances clean: Refrigerator has halitosis

Bob writes: "My nephew bought a used Sub Zero refrigerator and decided to clean the fridge and freezer with Soft Scrub. He didn't realize that the strong ingredient of bleach in this popular cleaner is not going away. I called the manufacturer and they told us to turn the fridge off and scrub the entire unit with water and then air it out a day or two. He did that twice and it still has that odor. I suggested a third cleaning



Appliance Doctor

Joe Gagnon

but my nephew tells me that after twice cleaning it hardly changed the smell. Note, it never smelled before he started this whole cleaning process. I've heard suggestions to use charcoal or a product called Frig It. The Soft Scrub people said simple water should dissipate the odor. Thanks for any suggestions." Well Bob, You, your nephew and I now know that Soft Scrub is not an odor remover, which makes your e-mail all worthwhile and I thank you. I would try letting the product warm up to room temperature and washing the inside of both sections using pure tomato juice. Let it stand for an hour or so and then rinse it out using warm water. Use only

pure tomato juice, not any blend such as V8. After cleaning and rinsing, fill a bowl of tomato juice and let it sit on a refrigerator shelf for three days. The refrigerator should be operating while the juice sits on the shelf. This is the time proven method used by farmers who used to wash the dog or cat with tomato juice after they got lovey dovey with a skunk. There are several commercial products sold today to get rid of odors and I'm sure they can do the job but I've heard many success stories related to tomato juice.

DONATING A WASHER

Michele writes: "A year ago I got a great deal on a front

load washer and retired my top-loading Kenmore 70 series to my garage. I thought surely I would come across someone who would need it but no luck. So now, I'm concerned to offer it to anyone or any non-profit organization because it has been sitting. Need I be concerned? If it is safe to give away, would you suggest a tune-up? What organization could I contact about donating the washer?" My dear Michele, I trust that when you placed your old washer in the garage a year ago, you made sure the water valve was dry along with the pump or you poured in some sort of Anti-freeze. If not, these components may have frozen and will need replac-

ing. As for being so kind as to want to donate the product I might suggest you contact Habitat for Humanity at 170 April Drive in Ann Arbor. They will pick it up and with help from a service technician who donates his time, it will be tuned up and sold to a wanting person.

DISHWASHER CLEANING

Connie writes: "I was taking the dishes out of my machine and I noticed small black spots on the bottom of the dishwasher and I reached my hand down to see what it was, and to my surprise the metal is coming off the bottom of the washer. Should I continue to use it to wash dishes? I have had it for 17

years and had no trouble with it."

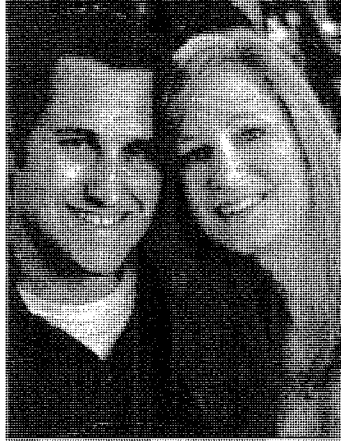
Connie, let me give you a fact that I have proven a million times. If I ran my fingertips across the bottom inside edge of a person's dishwasher, five out of 10 times they would come out stained with a black substance and that is undissolved detergent. Before you go getting rid of the dishwasher, I suggest you give it a cleaning treatment using Tang orange powdered breakfast drink. Stay tuned.

Joe Gagnon can be heard at 8 a.m. Saturdays on WAAM 1600 and Sundays at 2 p.m. on WDTK 1400. You can e-mail your problems and questions on appliances to appldr@twmi.rr.com

MILESTONES

NEDOCK-GINN

Kassandra Catherine (Kasey) Nedock, and Jeffrey Lee Ginn of Royal Oak announce their engagement. Kasey is the daughter of Kathryn Williams of Farmington Hills and David Nedock of Southfield. Jeff is the son of Mickey and Ted Ginn of Clarkston. Kasey is a 2000 graduate of Farmington Hills Harrison High School and a 2004 graduate of Michigan State University's James Madison College and also a recent graduate of Madonna University's paralegal program. She is employed as a paralegal for the firm of Kirsch and Satawa in Southfield. Jeff graduated in 2000 from



Nedock-Ginn

Clarkston High School and in 2004 from Central Michigan University. He is employed as a senior software engineer for Metastorm in Southfield. They plan a May 2010 wedding.

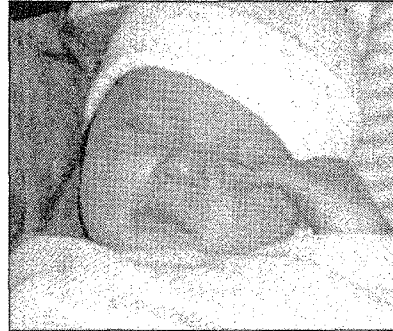


Haley needs a home

Haley is the featured greyhound this week from Greyheart Greyhound Rescue and Adoption: She's a 6 1/2-year-old greyhound with light brindle coloring. She loves to run and play, likes squeaky toys and is good-natured. If you would like to meet Haley, please call Greyheart Greyhound Rescue and Adoption at (866) 438-4739. Please visit the Web site, www.greyheart.org.

ALEXANDER RYAN BARR

Alexandar Ryan Barr was born Oct. 27 in Garden City Hospital. Proud parents are Daniel and Dori Barr of Livonia. His sister is Samantha Rivera, 13. Grandparents are Darcy Gray of Livonia, Finula Barr of Westland, Rick and Sherry Mandler of Taylor and John Barr and Donna Werner of Rochester Hills.



Alexander Ryan Barr

Metroparks card perfect holiday gift

Looking for a gift that's always a perfect fit? Golfers, nature lovers, teachers and busy moms are just some of the people who will love receiving a Huron-Clinton Metroparks gift card or annual permit this holiday season. The cards can be bought for any amount can be used just about anywhere at 11 Huron-Clinton Metroparks

in the five-county Southeast Michigan region. Good at golf courses, park offices, marinas and interpretive centers, the cards can pay for a variety of services, including greens fees, vehicle or boat annual permits, picnic shelter rentals, marina fees, interpretive program fees or cross-country ski rentals. The cards can also be at Turtle Cove

Family Aquatic Center at Lower Huron Metropark, or the pool and adventure golf course at Metro Beach Metropark. A vehicle entry permit is required to enter any Metropark and for 2010 is \$25 annually for regular admission, \$15 annually for seniors. General information can be found at www.metroparks.com or by calling (800) 47-PARKS.

Barefoot Productions holiday celebration fundraiser!

A Christmas Carol

December 11
7:30 pm
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(Walker/Buzenberg Bldg)

A Narrative

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\$50 advance/\$65 at the door
www.justgobarefoot.com
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Vintner's Canton Winery
Winner of 7 medals
at the 2009 Winemaker Magazine Awards

Enjoy an evening of wine, holiday desserts, tea, and a narrative reading of Charles Dickens' classic, *A Christmas Carol!*

Barefoot Productions, Plymouth's only theatre for the community, is a 501(c)(3) non-profit arts organization. All donations are tax-deductible.

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RUTH ANN SCHADE (nee: Edwards)
Of Dearborn Hts., MI, November 24, 2009; Age 50. Wife of Kirk. Mother of Kathryn & Christopher. Arrangements by Simple Funerals 313-382-1181. www.SimpleFuneralsInMichigan.com

MARILYN A. SIMMONS
November 23, 2009. Beloved wife of George C.; mother of Craig B. & Judy C. (Merlyn) Smith; dear grandmother of Joshua, Kalen & Erin Barnhart. A memorial service was held on November 28, 2009 at Christ The King Lutheran Church, 9300 Farmington Rd., Livonia, MI, Pastor James Fogle officiated. Memorial contributions may be made to the Church.

JUNE P. L. RANDALL
June P. L. Randall, age 84, a longtime resident of Livonia, passed away on November 22, 2009. She was born June 12, 1925 in Kennington, London, England to Gilbert and Lillian (Arnold) Parma. As a teenager June served as a Civil Defense Telephonist during the London blitz. She became a "GI" bride on October 23, 1945 when she married Leonard Randall a member of the US Army. They were happily married for 60 years until his death in 2006. She worked at the Detroit Public Library; June helped inaugurate an audio-visual department and pioneered record cataloging rules. June worked to establish library service in Livonia; she formed the first Friends of the Library group and served on the Library Commission for 10 years. She was very active in the PTA from local to state level; she received the Michigan Life and National Life Awards. June also received the key to the city of Livonia for all of her help and hard work. She was an avid reader, loved music, and had a passion for cooking. She is survived by her children Paul (Jennifer) Randall and Celia "Rose" (Stephen Warner) Randall-Warner; and her grandchildren Grace, Nichole, and Mallory. She was preceded in death by her parents and her husband. A memorial service was held last Wednesday at Jefferson Avenue Presbyterian Church in Detroit. Rev. Peter C. Smith officiated the service. Contributions would be appreciated to the Leelanau Conservancy, PO Box 1007, Leland, MI 49654 or CARE, PO Box 1871, Merrifield, VA 22116. Arrangements by: Casterline Funeral Home, Inc.

FRANK W. VAIL
Nov. 26, 2009 age 86 of Garden City. Beloved husband of Mamie. Dear father of Frank Jr. (Darella), Sandra (John) Kowlaski, Carol (Timothy) Bell, Ronald Conrad, and the late (Joseph (the late Margaret) Vail. Brother of Albert, Bonnie Riley, Jeannie McCoy & the late Levi, Alfred. Predeceased by grandson Kevin Ball and survived by 13 grandchildren & 13 great grandchildren. Funeral at the Uht Funeral Home 35400 Glenwood Rd., Westland Tue. 1 PM. Family will receive friends Mon. 12-9 PM. Please visit and sign a tribute at: www.uhtf.com

In Memory Of

IN LOVING MEMORY OF EDWARD KENT EBRE II 12-1-2006

Taken from us in the prime of his life. We cherish each and every day and ever moment we spent with you. We miss your infinite knowledge, guidance, your laughter and jokes, discussion and advice. If tears could build a stairway to Heaven and memories a road, we would walk right up to Heaven and bring you home again. It will never be the same, we will never be the same, we will forever love you and never forget you. Love always and forever, your loving wife Connie and son Walt, Bev and Jeff.

Paying Tribute to the Life of Your Loved One

May You Find Comfort in Family & Friends

NEIGHBORS

O Christmas trees!

Decking the halls starts at Halloween in this house

BY SHARON DARGAY
OSE STAFF WRITER

Ralph Pesys may be the only dog in Livonia with his own Christmas tree.

Janina and Tomas Pesys, sister and brother, consider it — and every other tree in their parents' home — normal as far as Christmas decorating goes.

Even their dad, Edmund, doesn't think twice when he considers the 900 glass ornaments carefully hung from a 9-foot tree in the family room.

"It evolved," said Toni Pesys, explaining her passion for Christmas decorations. "We put an addition on the house and then I couldn't have a tree in just one room. Next there was a tree in another room and then it kind of grew."

With 2,000 ornaments, Toni easily decorates a tree in every room. When guests walk through the Rosedale Gardens home during the Livonia 21st annual Christmas House Walk on Dec. 5, they'll even find two trees displayed in some rooms, along with roping, lights, nativity scenes, candles, figurines, ceramic villages and more.

"I love our front room at Christmas. I just think it's really pretty, especially when there's a fire," said Janina, a college student who helped decorate the tree in her bedroom when she was growing up. "I really do find myself looking for a second tree at my friends' homes. It's odd when there's only one."

Both she and her brother say they'll decorate for Christmas when they have their own homes, but probably won't put in quite as much effort as their mom.

"Yes, it's bordering on an obsession," said Toni, with a laugh. The Redford native said she is attracted to "old



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Edmund, Toni, Tomas, Janina and Ralph Pesys with the 9-foot Christmas tree that sports 900 glass ornaments, many of them from the 1950s and '60s.

LIVONIA 21ST ANNUAL CHRISTMAS HOUSE WALK

What: Tour six decorated homes
When: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5

Tickets: \$9 in advance; \$10 day of the walk; available at all three Livonia libraries, city hall and the Greenmead gift shop

Details: Sponsored by Friends of Greenmead, the event raises money for the structures and grounds of Historical Greenmead, 20501 Newburgh, Livonia. Program books, including a map, will be available at the walk. Christmas cookies will be served at the Hill House at Greenmead.
Contact: (248) 477-7375

and dirty" ornaments found at garage sales and thrift stores. "Some are so tattered, I just feel sorry for them."

TREES EVERYWHERE

Bulbs from the '40s, '50s and '60s adorn trees in the family room and basement. Straw ornaments, reflecting Edmund's Lithuanian heritage, decorate a tree in Tomas' old bedroom, which also displays amber glass, another



Edmund Pesys holds Ralph for a photograph of Ralph's very own Christmas tree. It's adorned with a 'World's Best Dog' ornament and representations of his favorite animals, including mice, rabbits and squirrels.

hallmark of the Eastern European culture. A religious themed tree in the living room shows off angels and stars and the evergreen in the dining room sports patriotic colors.

Tomas will set up a Christmas village in the outdoor potting shed that's furnished with quirky lights, salvaged furniture and a tree decorated in tiny watering

cans and seed packets.

In addition to Ralph's tree, decorated in his favorite animals and displayed near his food and water bowls, the kitchen includes a cooking themed tree that stays up year-round. Toni uses it as a night light.

The master bedroom, with its view of backyard pines, is the perfect spot for a wildlife themed tree. And the 9-foot tree with 900 glass balls takes center stage in the family room, part of the home's 900-square-foot addition.

Toni envisioned 1,000 ornaments on the tree's boughs, but couldn't fit them all and settled for 900. She tells a story about the tree's origin that Edmund jokingly claims he has "blotted out" of his memory.

"For Christmas one year he (Edmund) gave me a watch and I did a really bad thing. I took it back to the store and I exchanged it for the 9-foot Christmas tree," Toni said. "I had so many ornaments that one tree wasn't enough."

LIGHTING TECHNIQUE

Edmund, who grew up in Dearborn Heights and is

Please see **CHRISTMAS, B7**

Zonta members reach out to women, girls, mark milestones

BY JULIE BROWN
OSE STAFF WRITER

Sally Randall of Livonia is glad she joined the Zonta Club of Northwest Wayne County some 13 years ago.

"Actually, I joined for the networking and the mentoring," said the retired Botsford Hospital registered nurse. She spent 23 years on Botsford's staff in Farmington Hills.

She's now Zonta Area 3 director, including two Ontario clubs and seven in southeast Michigan. She earned both nursing and business degrees.

"I think Zonta's a wonderful organization," said Randall, who learned about scholarship opportunities through the group. "We do a lot of good."

The Zonta Club of Northwest Wayne County recently awarded scholarships to two local women, Stephanie Bagwell of Livonia and Jamie Berlin of Canton. The Michigan State University students received \$500 scholarships which are renewable for the winter semester.

Zonta International is an international women's organization that works to improve the status of women locally and globally. The club meets the fourth Monday of most months at Papa Vino's. For more information about Zonta or to attend a meeting, call Sally Randall at (734) 464-3728. You can also visit www.zonta.org or www.zonta15.org/northwestwayne.

INTERNATIONAL HELP

Randall's background in health care makes Zonta's international component a natural. It includes efforts to prevent HIV transmission at birth to infants in Rwanda. Zonta has consultative status with the United Nations, and 2008-10 biennium efforts include ending violence against

women and children.

There's the issue of obstetric fistulas which result when young girls give birth. Zonta funds a hospital in Libya for treatment of obstetric fistulas, which cause leakage of urine and feces in young mothers, resulting in their being ostracized. Girls gain self-respect and begin to teach each other, Randall said.

When Zonta International started 90 years ago, it was more behind the scenes with women asked to join. "Now we're realizing that has shot us in the foot," Randall said. "We are not known." She sees her group as having a lot to shout about.

Randall has two daughters-in-law and a daughter who help out, although they're busy with young families. "I would love to see them join," she said, especially of the couple's daughter. Randall said attracting younger members is an issue.

"Life's been good to me," Randall said. "I have to pay back." The organization has begun to accommodate those who can't always attend meetings, such as a busy tax professional who can't help during tax season. The club has a Web presence now as well.


"I think we're making a lot of progress," Randall said, noting young women today often have a strong service ethic.

Barbara Mansfield of Livonia's a 30-year member of the Zonta Club. "I was a charter president," said Mansfield, who retired in 2001 as an elementary school principal in the Southfield school district.

Mansfield liked Zonta's ideals and purpose of opportunities for women worldwide. She's traveled internationally to conventions in Paris, Singapore, Sydney, Australia, and

Please see **ZONTA, B7**

Arthritis Today
JOSEPH J. WEISS, M.D. RHEUMATOLOGY
18829 Farmington Road
Livonia, Michigan 48152
Phone: (248) 478-7860



STIFFNESS ON STANDING
Persons who note stiffness on standing usually assume that arthritis is the cause of their discomfort. Certainly, one of the features of arthritis of the hips or knees is difficulty that makes one feel like the joints need oil more than aspirin.
The cause of the joint stiffness on arising from a chair or getting out of a car is similar to the stiffness the same individual feels on arising from bed in the morning. The reason for the stiffness is because of the effort needed to undertake movement after rest. In arthritis, when the joints are at rest, they act not as if they were at ease, but rather that they are exhausted.
A person without arthritis, both in bed and in a chair moves frequently, the joints though resting are moving sufficiently to make standing and walking possible without hesitation. In contrast, a patient with arthritis sinks into the bed or chair; joints want to remain still in an effort to overcome the strain activity places on them. As a result, when the need to move comes, the inert joints find it difficult to return to activity.
However, this explanation does not fit the majority of people, particularly the elderly, who feel stiff on standing. The main cause is being in poor physical condition. Standing and walking takes strength and stamina. Lack of exercise means that the individual loses the reserves needed to undertake unimpeded motion. The main treatment for joint stiffness is not medicine but exercise.
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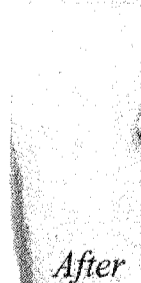
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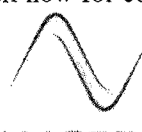



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ZONTA
FROM PAGE B6

Helsinki, Finland, as well as gatherings closer to home.

"I think it would be a great opportunity for them to join and to reach out to women," Mansfield said of young women joining Zonta. She noted two-thirds of money raised stays here.

Over the years, Zonta's helped the Women's Resource Center at Schoolcraft College with women returning to school. Seniors have received help with prescriptions, Mansfield said, and visually impaired children have received books through the Seedlings organization.

Zonta's helped First Step for domestic violence victims and women and children at the Wayne County Family Shelter in Westland. That includes gifts and books, along with cleaning supplies for women going out into their own homes and apartments.

"I have had some friends who have joined," said Mansfield, who's unmarried. "I've been very happy to be a Zontian." She cites "lasting friendships, many of them."

PRESIDENT'S VIEWS

Karen Milton of Farmington Hills has been in Zonta since 1981, having joined when she was a school principal in Perry, Mich., and joined in Owosso. She transferred to the Northwest Wayne club in 1994 with her job, and retired as a Livonia elementary school principal in 2005.

"When I joined, you were invited to join" as a community leader, Milton said. She liked the focus on improving status of women, ranging from wells in Sri Lanka to immunizing children in Nepal. Overseas, women are given tools, such as a farm animal, to help them become economically independent.

"That kind of thing gives them power then to be more independent," the club president said.

"It's not a male-bashing thing, it's just a matter of



Betteann Casemore, Karen Milton, Sally Randall, Barbara Mansfield and Helen Jeter are among Zontians marking the 30th anniversary of the local group.

PART OF HISTORY

Amelia Earhart was a member of Zonta International. Earhart was lost in 1937 and in 1938 Zonta International set up grants for women in graduate-level study in aerospace-related subjects in her honor. Since the inception in 1938, there have been 1,262 Fellowships totaling U.S. \$7 million given to 880 Fellows from 59 countries.

The Amelia Earhart Fellowships focus on eliminating the gender bias that women face in pursuing doctoral degrees in the sciences. Women are beginning to demonstrate a progression from limited representation in aerospace-related sciences to being leaders in the field. During the start of the program, the awards committee had trouble finding qualified applicants, and worked as mentors with potential applicants to help them become qualified.

Today, as evidence of the increasing numbers of women in aerospace-related sciences and engineering, the challenge is choosing the most promising women from among the many qualified applicants. In 2009, Zonta International provided 35 grants of \$10,000 each to women from 12 countries. Applications and more information are available at www.zonta.org.

Anoosheh Niavaraniheiri, a doctoral student in the mechanical engineering and Fluid Mechanics program at Michigan State University, has been awarded a 2009 Zonta International Amelia Earhart Fellowship. This is her second award which she will use to continue her research of flow behavior in micro-fluid devices for aerospace application.

helping women to become independent." Milton lives with her mom, a former "Rosie the Riveter" now in her 80s. "We kind of take care of each other," said Milton, who completed her doctorate at Oakland University the same year as retirement. That had been a longtime goal.

Milton appreciates the work

against violence aimed at women. The Northwest Wayne club has been dynamic, generating District 15 governors who oversee Michigan and part of Canada.

Milton agreed signing up younger women is a challenge for organizations like hers. "It's difficult to get people to commit," she said, adding the once

a month meeting schedule helps.

Milton was a Fulbright scholar who taught overseas, and has a world view; she took a leave from Zonta for doctoral work and missed the club.

"It's fantastic," she said of the conventions, of which she's attended U.S. gatherings. "You meet people from all over the world."

Women from Third World countries bring fabric and clothing to help pay their way. "It's really interesting to find out about people from throughout the world," Milton said of conventions.

The Zonta Club of Northwest Wayne County is celebrating its 30th anniversary on Friday, Dec. 4, at the Embassy Suites, Seven Mile and I-275 in Livonia. The meeting begins 6 p.m. and will feature comedian/Zontian Meghan Meyer.

For tickets or more information, call Sally Randall at (734) 464-3728 or e-mail her at rsrand521@sbcglobal.net.

Regular business meetings are held the fourth Monday of most months (some changes due to holidays) at Papa Vino's at Haggerty and Six Mile roads (northwest corner). You are asked to R.S.V.P. to the above number if you wish to attend.

CHRISTMAS

FROM PAGE B6

retired from GM, said he has "a minimal amount of input" in the annual decorating scheme. He proudly pointed out that Toni strings the lights on each branch as she puts the trees together.

"It's build up. It's not putting up the tree and trying to put the lights around it," he said.

The 9-foot, ornament-packed tree is her favorite.

"My favorite thing down here is the cardboard fireplace," she said, pointing to the simulated fire and mantle in

the basement. She bought the piece for a few dollars from a thrift store.

"I was just thrilled," she said. The couple has lived in the house 22 years and participated in the homeowner association's annual Christmas house walk. This is the first time they've opened their doors to the Livonia Christmas tour, which raises funds for Historic Greenmead. "My friends and I have been going on the tour for probably 10 years," Toni said, "and I loved the houses and I'd think maybe some day I'd love to do that."



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The message on the wreath is 'Happy Christmas' in Lithuanian.

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Holidays can be tough time to cope with grief, loss, change

More than 40 events in people's lives can create feelings of grief: the death of a loved one, a divorce, an estrangement, financial changes and health issues are at the top of the list. The holidays are often a time where grief can start or for someone who already is grieving this time often increases their grief.

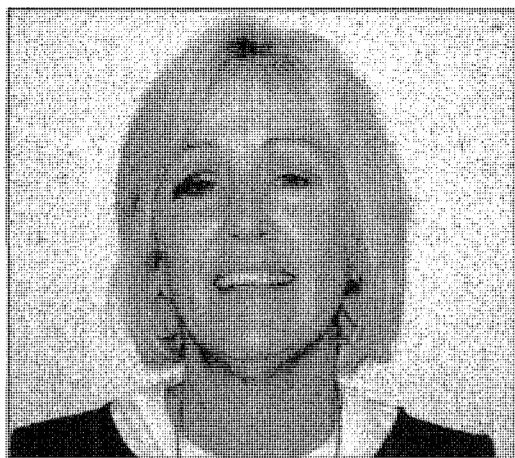
In-House Hospice offers solutions on coping with grief during the holidays:

Q: I have lost my job and am unable to find work. Now what?

A: The loss of a job is just as devastating as the loss of a close family member. Feelings of loss, sadness, anger and fear are very common. Embrace your feelings, realize that they are just feelings, and share them with a friend or loved one. Writing in a journal also helps deal with feelings, but be honest. Remember the old saying, "when one door closes, another one opens." Know that when you expect good things, good things happen. A positive attitude can make all the difference in the world.

Q: With the holidays arriving soon how can I cope with not being able to give my children the gifts that they have been accustomed to?

A: Holidays are the time many of us are extravagant and extend our budgets. This year, maybe it's time to refocus our attention on the actual meaning of the holiday, instead of what I can buy someone. It may mean changing rituals your family may have, but making new ones can be fun. Maybe just a family get together with everyone bringing a covered dish instead of the huge meal. Making homemade gifts is also fun, and children really enjoy helping. Enjoy your family and friends, and the time you have together, focus



Teresa Ridley is a bereavement coordinator for In-House Hospice, working with patients in Western Wayne County.

on the spiritual side of the holiday, and fill your home with love.

Q: My spouse and I divorced. Why do I feel grief this first holiday without him/her?

A: In a divorce, the same feelings arise as if the person had died because essentially it is a death; the death of a relationship that had started with so much promise and love. Now you are faced with creating a new "normal" and the holidays can be stressful. Understand the anticipation is probably a lot worse the reality of the day. Perhaps you can find friends in a similar situation and make plans to celebrate with them, rent your favorite films and make it a movie day, if expenses allow, plan a trip somewhere and if you feel like

being alone and sad, that's okay too. Maybe you can look upon this as an opportunity to abandon what you hated about the holidays and create new traditions.

Q: I've lost a pet. What can I do to alleviate the grief?

A: Pet owners have very close relationships with their animals, and the loss of a pet can be very painful. Feelings of overwhelming grief and sadness may be triggered, plus trouble sleeping, weight loss, feeling tired, or having difficulty focusing may occur. These feelings are much the same as losing a family member. Like grief for humans, grief for our animals can only be dealt with over time and in stages. Realize that your best support may come from outside your circle of friends and family. Seek out others who have lost a pet, they will appreciate the loss you are feeling and may suggest ways of getting through your grieving process.

Q: How can I cope with my first year of disability or chronic sickness?

A: Dealing with a chronic illness or disability often makes traveling or visiting people in their homes much more difficult, and may limit your chances of meeting up with friends and family for the holidays. You may be physically unable to host the holidays at your place this year as well. Feelings of loneliness and isolation often accompany the holidays for those of us who are unable to function at our usual capacity. However, giving people a chance to spend time with you individually and at their own convenience may be the way to have the holidays come to you. You may not be able to get out to the festivities on Christmas day but your friends and family can come to see you throughout the season,

stopping by after work or when they're out shopping. Let them know it is okay to drop in, make themselves a cup of tea, and have a chat, bringing some holiday cheer to your door.

Q: What can I do to alleviate grief from home foreclosure?

A: For those who lose their homes to foreclosure it can be a time of uncertainty and change. Not knowing what the future holds and how your life is going to change can be very sad and frightening. These feelings are normal when experiencing such a big loss in your life. At times like these it is helpful to lean on people you trust or get community support. It can also be helpful to learn as much as you can about the process of foreclosure, your rights, and any options or organizational help you may utilize. Getting as much knowledge about your situation and your options can help you gain a sense of control, relieve some of the stress and fear you may have and help cope with the upcoming changes you have to make. Keep in mind that the most pressing issue is to make sure you and your family has a safe and adequate place to stay. There are potential housing options you may be eligible for until you are able to get back on your feet.

In-House Hospice provides nearly 90 percent of hospice care to patients in their homes. When hospice care is provided in the home, a registered nurse visits regularly, coordinates care and stays in contact with the patient's own doctor. Other team members visit as needed and as the patient desires. Most patients and families choose to receive care from several team members, who include social workers, home health aides, chaplains, volunteers, music and massage therapists. www.in-househospice.com

New breast care center at Botsford offers digital mammography

Botsford Hospital opened its new Dr. Louis and Lucille Spagnuolo Breast Center on Friday, Nov. 27, offering patients digital mammography and other of the latest technologies for breast care, screening and diagnosis.

Digital mammography allows radiologists to review electronic images

of the breast using high-resolution monitors. The digital images can be stored easily, copied without loss of any information, transmitted easily without relying on one set of original films, and highlight specific areas of interest by manipulating brightness, contrast and zoom.

In addition to digital mammog-

raphy, the center offers stereotactic biopsy — which uses a computer to guide a needle to an abnormality seen on a mammogram — and high-resolution breast ultrasound with 3D reformat capability, which can show all areas of the breast including the area closest to the chest wall, which is harder to study with a mammogram.

The hospital campus also offers breast MRI for detection of breast cancer as well as to evaluate the integrity of breast implants.

The Botsford Breast Center is located on the Botsford Hospital campus at 27900 Grand River Ave, in Farmington Hills. Hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday, Wednesday

and Thursday-Friday; 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday; and 7:30 a.m. to noon Saturday. Early morning appointments also will be available for men.

For questions about the Botsford Breast Center, call (248) 442-7986. For appointments, contact Botsford Hospital's Central Scheduling at (248) 471-8100.

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