

THURSDAY
December 3,
2009

The Observer & Eccentric
Newspapers

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75 CENTS

WESTLAND OBSERVER

online at hometownlife.com

Westland
native qualifies
for national
championship

Sports, B1



AROUND TOWN

Encore shows

Following a very successful run of his latest creation, Inspire Theatre artistic director and writer Len Fisher has announced that a portion of the ticket prices from the encore performances of *KORK TV* will be used to assist some local families have Christmas this year.

KORK-TV, an original comedy by Fisher, ran its traditional two-weekend/four-show schedule. However, after playing to SRO crowds its closing weekend, the troupe decided to crank it up for an encore weekend.

"Although the show is great fun, we want to give something back," Fisher said. "After talking with my pastor, Ron Wrightson of Life Church in Canton, I realized that there were many families in our area who are struggling even put food on the table, much less by presents."

Inspire Theatre currently rents space from Warren Road Light and Life Church in Westland. A portion of all the tickets and a collection will go toward making this Christmas an "enjoyable time rather than an anxious one." Show times are 7:30 p.m. Saturday Dec. 5, and 3 p.m. Sunday Dec. 6, inside the church at 33445 Warren Road, Westland. Tickets are \$12. Group gates and discounts are available. For more information, call Fisher at (734) 751-7057 or Mark Carver at (734) 205-1535 or go online to www.inspiretheatre.com.

Rock 4 Reason

The family of Sarah Williams will hold a college education fund-raiser for her daughter, Mariah Neil, Saturday, Dec. 5, at the Harris-Kehrer VFW Post Hall, 1055 S. Wayne Road at Avondale in Westland.

Rock 'N 4 A Reason will include a spaghetti dinner 3-6 p.m. and a live band playing from 7 p.m. to midnight. There also will be a cash bar, raffles and 50/50 drawings throughout the evening. Only those 21 years and older will be allowed in the hall after 9 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 per person and available at the door. Donations to the Mariah Neil Fund can also be made at Parkside Credit Union, 36525 Plymouth Road, just west of Levan, in Livonia. Donations for the raffles can be made by calling Connie Kincer at (734) 578-4615.

Sarah Williams died Sept. 27. Her husband George Williams will stand trial on a charge of first-degree murder in connection with her death.

Parents ask WW to reconsider proposed plan

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

More than 500 parents and children filled Stockmeyer Auditorium Monday evening to let the Wayne-Westland school board know that they want more information and more consideration given to a proposed plan to close seven elementary schools and redistrict the remaining schools' boundaries.

"You want to divide our subdivision, we want to keep it together," Florence Richards told the school board.

"When I bought my house, the real estate agent said this is John Glenn territory. You just lowered my property values."

"This will devastate the Curtis Woods Subdivision," said Richards' husband Ron.

The Richardses and many of the parents who went to the podium to speak live in what they called "the little blue box," the portion of the Madison Elementary School attendance area between Avondale and Palmer and Wayne Road and Dowling.

The district's 21st Century Schools Committee has recommended that Madison, as well as Kettering, Hamilton, Jefferson-Barns, Lincoln, Patchin and Vandenberg schools be closed. Madison students living south of Avondale would be bused to Schweitzer Elementary on Glenwood at Treadwell which serves as a feeder school for Wayne Memorial High School in Wayne.

"Why where schools are being closed, are subdivisions being divided

Please see **SCHOOLS, A2**



Kim Arbour, Heather May, Scot May and Michael Dietz listen to the recommendations of the 21st Century Schools Committee during a public forum Monday evening.

Singing praises

Bentley homecoming draws choir alumni from around the world

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
CORRESPONDENT

It was an evening to remember as 25 years of Bentley Concert Choirs celebrated their homecoming and 75th birthday of founder Jerry Smith. Some fifty years after the 1960 ensemble sang their first note, hundreds of classmates embraced each other with warm greetings. Around the perimeter of the room were poster boards of memorabilia. Overhead the room sparkled with glittering snowflakes. The Saturday night event took nearly two years of planning.

Lawrence Zane, committee member, had been part of the process that culminated with a long line of alumni who waited to share memories with Smith. All his wife Sharon could say was "it's awesome."

"The turnout is beyond expectations," said Zane of Plymouth. "I've been on the phone all week with



Choir members Karen (Murphy) Barys of Westland and Jeff Velis of Chicago enjoy the camaraderie of the reunion.

people coming from California and Colorado. They wanted to know if we still had tickets."

As of 8 p.m. 840 tickets were sold. Marie Seiter, a member of the Burton Manor staff preparing for the event, said they had set up 900 chairs and nearly all were filled as alumni rehearsed songs they sang so many years ago.

"Listening to them sends shiv-

ers through me," said Seiter of Westland.

HIGHLIGHT OF HIGH SCHOOL

Livonia Councilwoman Laura Toy was there to present a tribute from the city of Livonia. The 1970 graduate sang in the regular girls' choir as a second alto. The Concert Choir was the elite ensemble students aspired to during high school.

"It's overwhelming to see so many old dogs," said Toy fondly. Bentley High School teams were known as the Bulldogs.

Debra Medley Pechacek traveled from Houston. She sang in the 1973-74 choir.

"I know I'm going to cry all the way home," said Pechacek, who

Please see **BENTLEY, A8**

Mix of oxygen, smoking blamed for fatal fire

Westland fire officials have ruled that cigarette smoking in the presence of medical oxygen contributed to death of a resident at the Riverbend Apartments on Warren Road early in the morning of Sunday, Nov. 28.

According to Deputy Fire Chief Bruce Tenniswood, the fire department's Fire Marshal division has determined that the fire started on the couch where the where the 53-year-old victim was found.

"Evidence of cigarette smoking was

present within reach of the couch, as was an oxygen generator, which had been powered on at the time of the fire," Tenniswood said in a prepared statement.

Firefighters were called to the apartment at 2:15 a.m. and found smoke was visible from the second-floor apartment. They had to force their way into the apartment, finding extensive fire conditions inside the living room area and heavy smoke throughout the unit.

The body of the man was found in the living room after they had extinguished the fire, Tenniswood said, adding that the victim had some health issues that affected his mobility.

Tenniswood is urging Westland residents not to smoke in bed or on the couch, calling it an "extremely dangerous practice." Adding oxygen to the mix is asking for tragedy, he said.

"Westland has experienced three extensive fires involving smoking in

the presence of medical oxygen in the past six months, two of which resulted in fatalities," he said. "The Westland Fire Department implores its residents to stop this dangerous practice before anyone else is injured or killed."

In one of those instances, three of four oxygen tanks exploded in a fire that destroyed an apartment at the Westgate Tower senior housing facility. A woman smoking in bed and using oxygen was being blamed for that fire.

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Stuff-a-bus benefits Salvation Army

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The transportation department for the Wayne-Westland Community Schools is used to stuffing a bus with students, but Saturday, employees will be filling one of the 78-passenger school buses with donations for the Wayne-Westland Salvation Army Corps.

Transportation employees have been helping the Salvation Army out at Christmas for four or five years, but with the needs of the community increasing, Sherice Roark, the district's director of transportation, decide to take their charity work to the next level.

Between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, people can

drop off their donations of non-perishable food items, toys and children's size gloves, hats, socks and scarfs at the school bus which will be parked in the lot of the Kmart store at Wayne Road and Cherry Hill in Westland.

Employees have volunteered to be at the bus throughout the day and hopes are that they will fill one bus and have to go get another one.

All items will go to the families living in the Wayne-Westland area.

The donations will come in handy at the Salvation Army, which expects its requests for assistance to increase 30 percent above last year, when 705 families received help.

"We're seeing people coming in quite consistently,"

said Capt. Derek Rose, local corps officer. "We expect the bulk of the numbers of people needing help to increase despite the population decrease in Michigan."

Cash donations are off by \$8,000 and Rose said the corps is making a push to meet its goal of raising \$160,000 this holiday season. It held the first of its three red kettle street collections last Saturday and has two more scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 12 and 19, at the intersection of Wayne and Warren roads.

People can get more information about helping the Wayne-Westland corps meet its goal by calling (734) 722-3660.

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AROUND WESTLAND

WYAA meeting

The Westland Youth Athletic Association will hold its annual general membership meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 3, at the Lange Compound Building, 6050 Farmington

Road, north of Ford. The meeting is being held to review the year and elect the 2010 Board of Directors. For more information, call the WYAA at (734) 421-0640 during regular business hours-7-9 p.m. Wednesdays and 10

a.m. to noon Saturdays.

Stuff a bus

From 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, the Wayne-Westland Community School District will attempt to stuff a bus with non perishable food

items, toys and children's size gloves, hats, socks and scarfs. The bus will be located in the parking lot of Kmart at the corner of Wayne Road and Cherry Hill in Westland. All items collected will go to the Salvation Army in Westland for

their Christmas program. All items will go to the families in the Wayne-Westland area.

Christmas Craft Show

Wayne AMVETS Post 171 will host a Christmas Craft Fair noon to 6 p.m. Saturday,

Dec. 5, at the Memorial Hall, 1217 Merriman, south of Cherry Hill and north of Palmer, Westland. There will be wreaths, ornaments, gifts, stocking stuffers and refreshments, including hot dogs and polish dogs.

SCHOOLS

FROM PAGE A1

up? How is this in the best interest of the kids?" asked Sally Madison. "You need to go back to the drawing boards and put some realism in this plan. Grandfathering won't address the problem and our property values."

"We live in Westland, we want to go to Westland schools," another parent said. "It's unfair to change the boundaries."

BUILDING UTILIZATION

John Albrecht who headed up the committee's enrollment team, told the audience that the group tried to get as close as 85

percent of building capacity in drawing the attendance boundaries for the proposed plan so one building wasn't overutilized while another was under utilized.

"We tried to keep them as close as possible, but we found we couldn't do that," said Albecht, the district's executive director of student and legal affairs.

School Superintendent Greg Baracy added that "the class sizes would be more balanced" with the redistricting.

"The average class size in the district is in the middle 20s because we have some classes with 9-10-11 students," he said. "We're talking about balancing class sizes and that's what we hope to do."

Many parents threatened

to home school or move their children to other districts, and a few even used the R word — recall — if the boundary changes go through as proposed.

Terry McClellan of Canton has a daughter who attends Walker-Winter Elementary which will remain open and have its students divided for high school. She told the board she will pull her daughter out of the school district, if she is sent to Franklin Middle School.

"Franklin is 7.7 miles away, Stevenson is 4.5 miles away," she said. "One side of Geddes is Stevenson, the other Franklin. I will not let my daughter go to Franklin."

Tammy Richards who lives at Cherry Hill and Inkster Road told the board she is devoted to the teachers, principal and secretaries at Jefferson-Barns Elementary in the Norwayne subdivision. Under the proposed plan, Jefferson-Barns would be closed and students sent to Hicks Elementary on Cherry Hill east of Middlebelt.

"It's not right for the kids to be split, one school in Norwayne needs to remain open," she told the board. "I believe in this district, I want my son to go to Jefferson-Barns. If you shut it down, I want him to stay with his teachers. I want to make sure my daughter has the teachers my son has. I will follow those teachers even if it's to Northville."

A parent who lives across the street from Hamilton Elementary, which also is proposed for closing asked why the district can't combine Jefferson-Barns and Lincoln and Hamilton and Kettering which also is on the closing list.

"You're breaking up what we consider a family," she said. "I don't want to see a school with boarded up windows. That totally ruins the value of my home."

TOO MANY SCHOOLS

Westland resident Brandi Smith told the board she

understands the need for cuts, but that she thinks the district would be closing too many schools.

"This shouldn't be an easy decision," she said.

Kristi Hicks, a member of the committee, appealed to the board to consider combining Jefferson-Barns and Lincoln, which also is on the list.

"I know the children will adapt, but these schools are not just schools, they're community centers," she said. "You need to consider the needs of this community. I'd like to see the board and the committee have a heart."

"I can't believe you could look around and not see the need," added Hicks' sister Misti Curtis.

Mark Neil who lives by Patchin School and walks his grandson to that school, told the gathering that he believes the proposed plan will likely be modified.

"This is the most difficult decision this community has had to face," he said. "I for one, don't envy the task facing this board. This is a lot of information to

assimilate. I'm not a person to appreciate hearing the word recall. I know we elected you to do a job and you will do it."

Wayne Mayor Al Hadeous urged the district and parents to work together.

"Business as usual doesn't work any more," he said. "We need to work together as a community to provide a quality education for the kids, that's how we have to make it work for the betterment of the kids."

The board is scheduled to vote on the recommendations at its Monday, Dec. 7, meeting, set for 7 p.m. at the Stockmeyer Auditorium.

"Your concerns have not fallen on deaf ears," said school board Treasurer Shawna Walker at the end of the five-hour meeting. "They will be considered. This is important to you and it's important to us."

"We need to look at the common themes that ran through your comments," added board Vice President Cindy Schofield. "I appreciate hearing from all of you."

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CITY OF GARDEN CITY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, December 17, 2009, at 6:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers, at the Civic Center, 6000 Middlebelt Road, Garden City, Michigan. At the hearing, all interested persons shall have an opportunity to be heard.

The purpose of the Public Hearing is to solicit public comments on the following:

- 09-023, Special Land Use. A Veterinary Clinic is proposed for 30579 Ford Road in the C-2, Community Business district. Veterinary Hospitals are a Special Land Use in the C-2 zoning district.

Written comments may be submitted prior to the public hearing and should be addressed to: The Office of Community Development, City of Garden City, 6000 Middlebelt Rd., Garden City, MI 48135.

David L. Harvey
City Manager

Publish: December 3, 2009

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Young dancers to perform in 'The Nutcracker'

When The Nutcracker ballet opens at the Detroit Opera House this evening, there will be two familiar faces on stage - Kayla Eichstedt, 12, of Garden City and Jennifer Rousseau, 10, of Westland.

Students at the Deborah Chase School of Ballet in Livonia, they join 100 local children in appearing in the Cincinnati Ballet production at the opera house now through Sunday, Dec. 6.

"I'm always thrilled when any of my students are selected to dance in outside productions and *The Nutcracker*," said Debbie Chase. "It's always a pleasure to watch, no matter how many times one sees it."

"I'm so excited to dance with the Cincinnati Ballet and I'm so grateful for the support of my parents, my older sister, Kiersten, who also dances, and the teachers at Garden City," said Kayla. "Many of them are coming to my show and although some dancers only dance select performances, I'm dancing in every show."

Kayla began dancing before she was age three. According to her mother, Laurie Eichstedt, she used to stand in the doorway of her older sister's dance class at age two and mimic the dance steps.

"I believe she's always known this was what she wanted to do," Laurie Eichstedt.

Jennifer Rousseau, who plays a soldier in the Battle Scene danced with the Joffrey Ballet last year.

"I was only 9, then, but each dance troupe does *The Nutcracker* differently, so I can't wait to see how this will all turn out," Jennifer said.

Jennifer's entire fifth-grade class is making a field trip to see her perform.

"I'll probably be nervous at first since I'll know who's in the

audience, but once I get into the performance, I forget who is out there," she said. "I'm just so happy whenever I'm on stage."

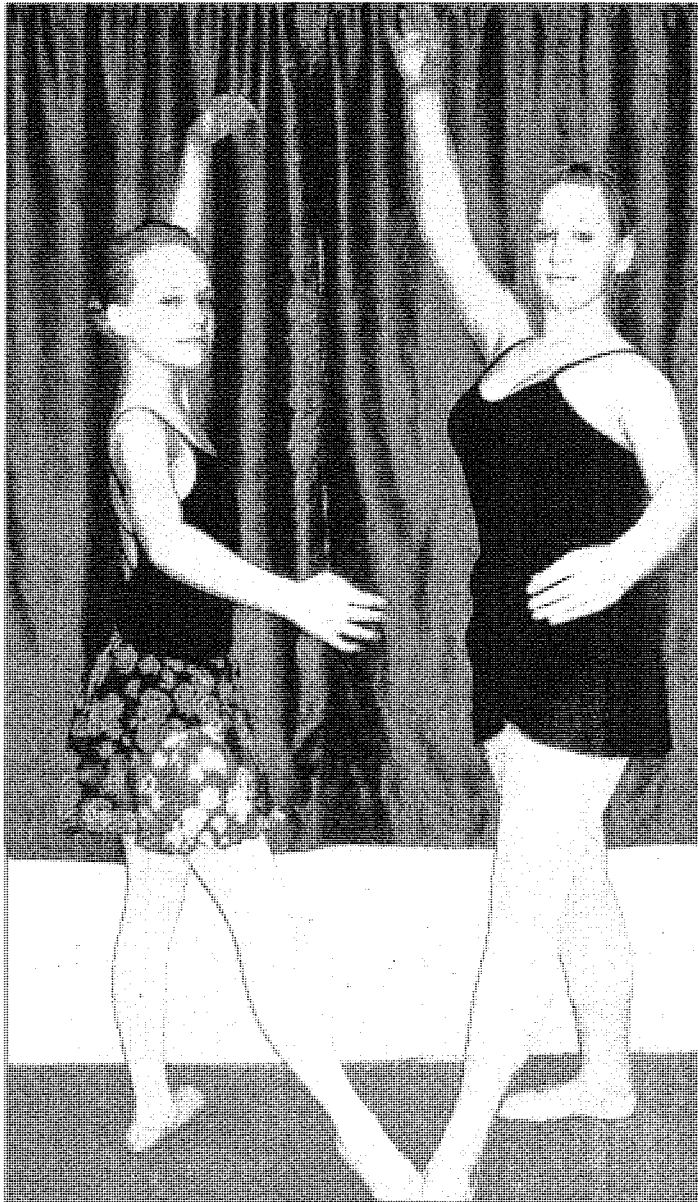
A Detroit family tradition, the Cincinnati Ballet production of *The Nutcracker* features ornate sets and costumes, live accompaniment from the Michigan Opera Theatre Orchestra, and festive activities for kids and families.

Patrons who attend the Saturday and Sunday matinee performances of *The Nutcracker* will enjoy a number of family-friendly activities, including live reindeer, face painting offered for a \$5 donation, and photos with Santa and *The Nutcracker*. There will also be the "Sugar Plum Parade" after the show where audience members can meet the dancers on the Detroit Opera House stage. A buffet lunch will also be available for \$10.

The production is the classic tale of Clara and her Nutcracker Doll as together, they visit the land of fantasies and sugar plums, toy soldiers and Christmas mice.

In addition to the local dancers, the production also will feature local choirs performing holiday music in the grand lobby of the Detroit Opera House before the show and during intermission.

"I'm proud of the hard work and dedication Kayla and Jennifer put into this production, in addition to school, other



Kayla Eichstedt, 12, of Garden City (right) and Jennifer Rousseau, 10, of Westland are among 100 local performers appearing in the Cincinnati Ballet production of "The Nutcracker" this week.

recreational activities and, of course, my classes," Chase said. "I'm eager to see them perform and, especially to be just an audience member, not a nervous dance instructor backstage on performance night."

Showtimes are 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 3, and Friday, Dec. 4; 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5 and 2:30

p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6. Tickets range in price from \$29-\$76 and are available at the Detroit Opera House ticket office, 1526 Broadway, Detroit; by phone at (313) 237-SING (7464) or online at www.MichiganOpera.org. Tickets are also available at all TicketMaster outlets, by phone at (248) 645-6666 or online at www.TicketMaster.com.

Share your memories, Santa letters with us

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.

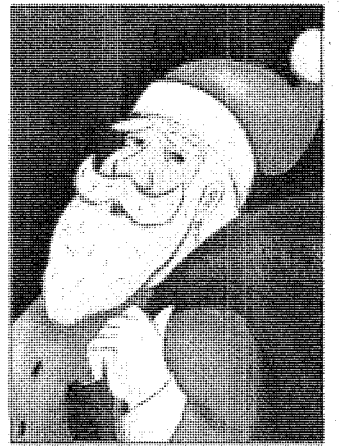
We're asking readers to send us their favorite holiday memories and photos to the *Observer* for the special holiday edition we're planning for Thursday, Dec. 24.

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.

And for youngsters, 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.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Pursuant to state law a sale will be held at: Secured Self Storage, 2460 Guiley Rd., Dearborn Hgts., MI Dec. 19, 2009 @ 1:05 PM.

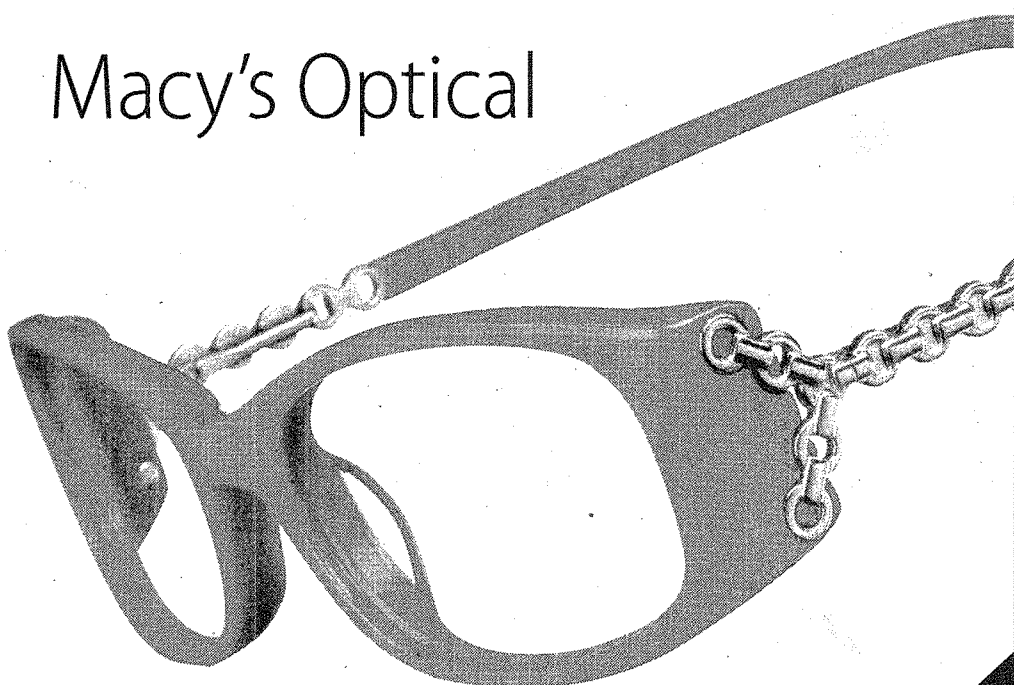
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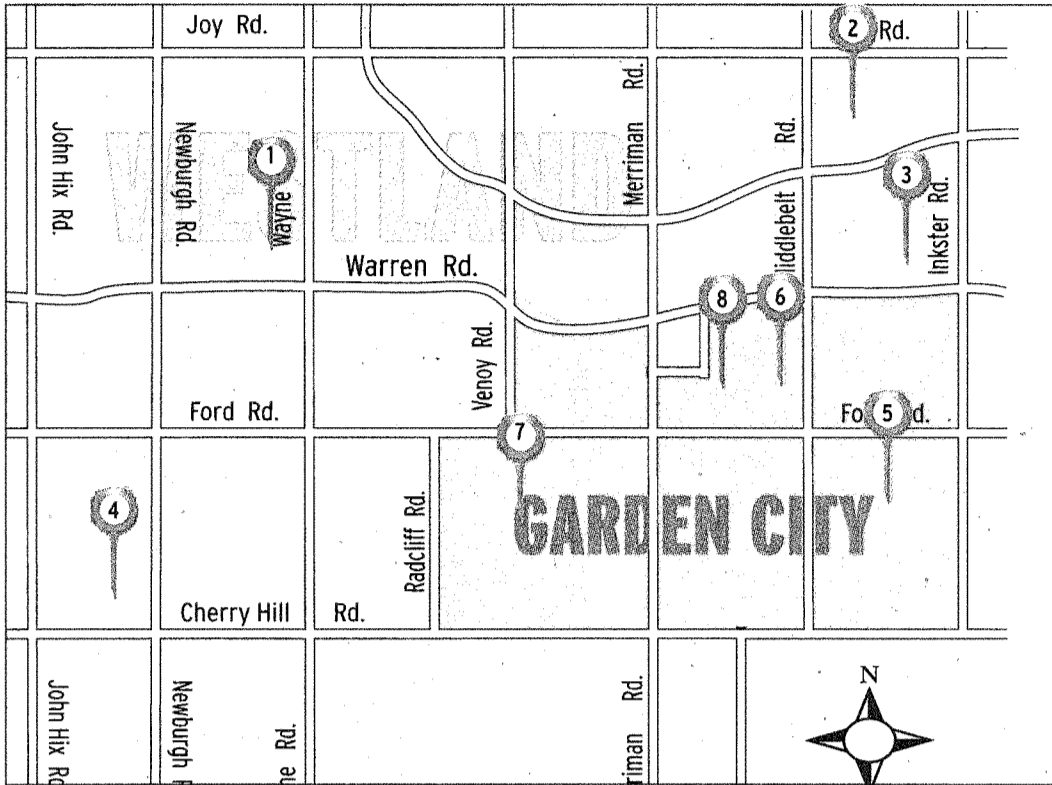
Detroit man charged with shoplifting at Macy's

Shoplifting
A 56-year-old Detroit man was arrested for shoplifting more than \$550 in items from Macy's at Westland Shopping Center on Nov. 24. Loss prevention officers told police they watched the man select items from different departments in the store and then walk past several open and manned cash registers into the mall. The man was rickets for retail fraud in the third degree, possession of narcotics paraphernalia and synthetic narcotics after a crack pipe and pill bottle containing generic Soma and Keflex were found in his backpack.

Fraud
A Westland man contacted police Nov. 24 after receiving a text message that stated that his ATM card had been suspended. The man told police that the text stated that it was an automated message from the "community driven C.U." and that he needed to call an 800 number to reactivate it. The man told police he called his bank and was informed that it was a scam.

Stolen vehicle
A resident of the 8200 block of Bristol Avenue told police that someone stole his 1999 Dodge Dakota sometime between 3:37 p.m. Nov. 24 and 6:03 p.m. Nov. 25 while it was parked in the lot. The man told police the had been locked and had been taken without the keys.

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Larceny
A resident in the 28000 block of Warren Road told police someone stole his satellite dish from the back of his apartment sometime between 8 a.m. and 6:15 p.m. Nov. 23.

Retail Fraud
A Westland man has been charged with retail fraud after he was caught trying to take three bottles of men's cologne from the JC Penney Store on Nov. 24. Police stopped the suspect on the south side of Warren Road. The man told police he had just bought "some stuff from a guy at the mall" and that he thought he had been "hustled." However, the store's loss prevention associate identified the man as the person she had seen remove a bottle of Kenneth Cole Black from its packaging and place it in a briefcase type bag he was carrying. The associate also said the man placed another bottle of cologne in the bag.

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Police found the Kenneth Cole cologne as well as a tester bottle of Rocawear IX and a bottle of Dolce & Gabbana The One colognes in the bag. They were valued at \$200.

Larceny from a vehicle
An employee of Good Hope Nursing Home on Cherry Hill told police someone smashed the front passenger window of her car and stole a purse that had been hidden under the seat on Nov. 24. Several employees told police that had seen a suspicious man walking around the inside of the building. When asked if they could help him, he told them he was looking for a nursing home for his mother. They told police that shortly after he left the building they heard about the theft. The woman told police she had cancelled her credit cards and checking account prior to making the report. According to the woman, her accounts had not been accessed.

Stolen doors
Four steel entrance doors were found missing from a construction site on Huron Parkway Nov. 23. The doors were valued at \$800.

Assault
An employee on strike at the Howard Ternes Packaging Company at 700 Manufacturers Dr. told police he was assaulted by a man when he got between him and a female striker who had called him a scab. The victim told police the woman began yelling at the man who got out of his car and walked toward her. He said he stepped in front of her and advised the man to return to his car. The victim said the man grabbed his coat, pushed him from side to side and punched him in the mouth before getting in his car and pulling into the parking lot. The victim told police he recognized the man from a past working relationship.

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Woman finds neighbor using her electricity

Home Invasion
After a woman who had moved out of a home in the 28500 block of Donnelly, received a \$400 electric bill for the home which she still owned. No one was living at the home for the two months after she moved out so she went to the home at 5:30 p.m. Nov. 21 to see if something had been left on. She discovered that someone had gained entry and connected an orange electrical cord from her bedroom outlet to the window to her neighbor's house. She told police she recalled that the neighbor had told her previously that his power was shut off and he didn't know what to do.

GARDEN CITY COP CALLS

after she moved out so she went to the home at 5:30 p.m. Nov. 21 to see if something had been left on.

She discovered that someone had gained entry and connected an orange electrical cord from her bedroom outlet to the window to her neighbor's house.

She told police she recalled that the neighbor had told her previously that his power was shut off and he didn't know what to do.

Wayne man outside of Rockstars, 33729 Ford, after they were called to the establishment about 1 a.m. Nov. 21 on the report of a fight. Reportedly, the man had been "harassing" a woman. The argument escalated to the point where he tore a customer's chain from his neck and a woman was pushed into a dart board.

Home invasion
A resident in the 2950 block of Balmoral returned home about 2:30 a.m. Nov. 20 to find that someone had kicked open his side door and let his two dogs out. The thief stole several computers, a Sony PS2 and jewelry.

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Break-in
Someone used a block of concrete to break open and enter a door in the 32600 block of Ford on Nov. 26, but no items were taken.

Vandalism
A resident in the 30400 block of Marquette complained to police on Nov. 24 that his neighbor cut down two trees on his property after they had discussed that he didn't want them cut down. The neighbor didn't like the branches hanging over into his backyard.

Break-in
A resident in the 33000 block of Brown reported that he heard a loud bang about 1:30 a.m. Nov. 21. When he went to investigate, he discovered that a door was forced open and an unknown woman was lying on his couch. When the intoxicated woman refused to leave, the man called the police. The woman gave no specific reason why she was there and just said "because."

Strong arm robbery
The police Tasered and arrested a 29-year-old

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Clarification

On the Nov. 12 Thanksgiving Traditions holiday page A6, the story, "A twist on tradition," should have read:

"Completely submerge the bird in a large container for about six days."

Executive Chef Jim Moschini of the Culinary Arts Institute at the Art Institute of Novi does not recommend the use of a paint bucket for this task. He also recommends refrigerating the turkey at all times during the brining process.

DAZZLE YOUR GUESTS WITH HOLIDAY ETIQUETTE TIPS 101

You've spent the entire day cooking the perfect holiday feast. But it's an hour before your guests arrive, and you find yourself standing in front of the table, listening to a little nagging voice in your head.

Does the knife go on the left, fork on the right, or is it the other way around? Is that centerpiece too tall? Should I go ahead and put food on table before guests arrive, or do I wait until everyone gets here?

If you can't answer those questions, don't feel alone. In today's eat-on-the-run world, you're not the only one to flunk holiday etiquette.

"Table manners have become a lost art," says etiquette expert Jill Slatter. "Think back 15 or 20 years ago, families gathered every evening for a proper meal. But these days we're all stretched so thin juggling work, school and home, most folks don't have time to sit down together, so when holidays roll around no one's sure what to do at a formal meal."

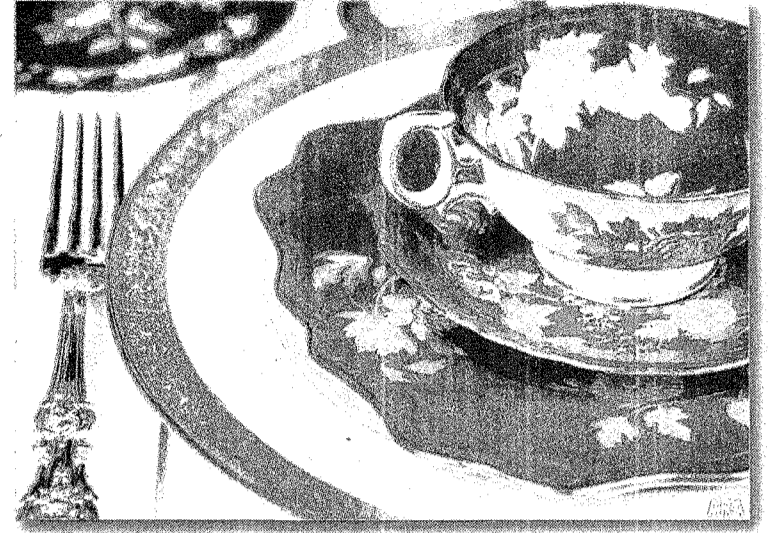
Slatter is an etiquette coach at Greensboro, N.C.-based Replacements, Ltd., touted as the world's largest supplier of old and new china, silver, crystal and collectibles. The company is bombarded with questions this time of year from folks looking for a crash course in

proper manners and table settings. Based on the most frequently asked questions, Slatter offers this quick holiday etiquette 101 to give you insight that will dazzle your guests.

Set the perfect table

- Forks to the left, knives and spoons to the right. Only set out utensils that will be used for various courses. "If you're not serving soup or salad, you certainly don't want an extra spoon or fork in your place setting," Slatter says. "Not only will those get in the way, the extra utensils may confuse your guests."
- The bread plate goes on the left of the dinner plate, glasses on the right.

- Wait to pour. Water glasses should be the only glasses filled before your guests arrive. Iced tea, wine and other beverages should be poured once everyone is seated. Wine should be filled halfway, not to the rim.
- Salad and bread should be the only food on the table when your guests arrive.
- Courses are generally served in the following order in the United States: appetizer, soup, salad, main course, dessert.



Are you the hostess with the mostest?

- Remember, the hostess always sits last.

- Unscented candles are a great part of holiday decor, but should only be lit during the evening. "Another thing to keep in mind, flickering candles are more than a distraction, those can cause headaches," warns Slatter. "That's why you never want to place burning candles directly in front of your guest, and make sure you situate the flame below eye level."

- Centerpiece too tall? Sure those flowers you spent hours arranging are pretty, but will only get in the way if your guests have to crane their necks to look at each other. Make sure your guests can see over any table adornments.

- Passing isn't just in football. Always pass food around the table counter clockwise to the right and refrain from serving yourself first. Always pass the salt and pepper as a set, even if you're only asked for one.

statement or start by passing a dish.

- If you're not sure which utensil to use with each course, start on the outside and work in toward the plate.

- If you need to excuse yourself temporarily, gently place your napkin in your chair.

- Signify you're finished with the meal by placing napkin to the left of the dinner plate, and your fork and knife side by side diagonally across your plate with the sharp side of the knife blade facing inward and the fork tines down.

"One of the most panicked questions we hear concerns what to do if you accidentally break a piece of the host's dinnerware," adds Slatter. "You should certainly offer to replace the broken piece especially if it has sentimental value for the host or hostess."

Slatter says don't lose hope if your host doesn't know the name of the pattern or the manufacturer—you can always take advantage of Replacements' free pattern identification service.

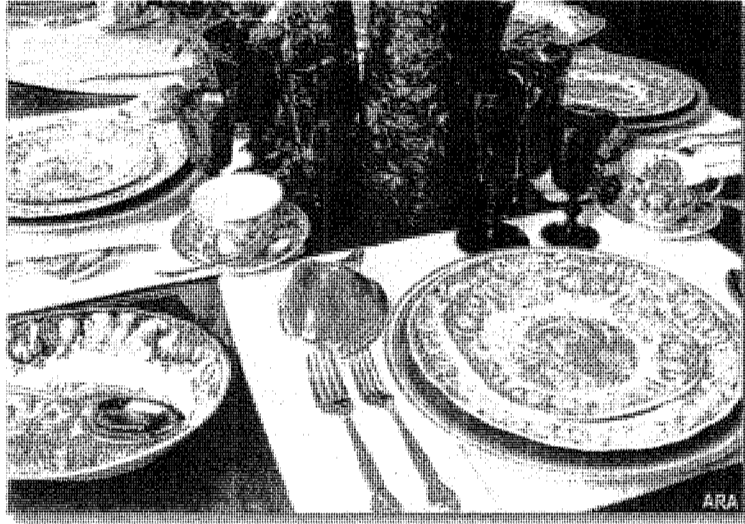
If you're still in doubt about holiday etiquette 101, a cheat sheet is just a mouse click away. You can find place setting guides outlining the correct layout for all meals at www.replacements.com, under the site's "neat things" tab. With these tips in mind, you're sure to throw the perfect gathering.

— Courtesy of ARAContent

Tips for lighting

For specific holiday-themed drama, explore the latest seasonal decorations powered by LED lighting. "New color-changing technology now allows lighting designers to have the ability to specify custom color scenes or shows to set a particular mood for festivities," says David Wilkins, president and CEO of American Lighting in Colorado. "Whether you desire a red roofline or one that fades from red to green and back to red, color-changing LED technology offers creativity like never before. You can produce the exact ambiance you like at any moment during your party or gathering this season."

— Courtesy of ARAContent



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OUR VIEWS

School closings difficult decision

The Wayne-Westland school board faces a monumental decision next week: Close seven schools as recommended by its 21st Century Schools Committee or succumb to the pleas of parents to keep their neighborhood schools open.

The committee has recommended the school closings and a grade reconfiguration to address declining enrollment and trim expenses to cope with declining state school aid. At the onset, the district let the committee and residents know it needs to "right size" itself and trim \$10 million from its budget to weather the current financial crisis. But that may not be enough, considering the cuts coming out of Lansing.

Every parent of a student attending a school targeted to close has a good reason for why that school should stay open, but as school board President Skip Monit has said, the district will be back to square one if no schools are closed.

Wayne-Westland has used its fund equity to maintain programs. It has trimmed costs wherever it can to make sure the bulk of its money goes for classroom instruction. But it cannot run or hide from the fact that it, like schools across the state, is losing students, hundreds of students. Families are leaving the state in droves to find jobs. Those losses could go on for years to come and the likelihood of regaining students when it ends is slim at best. This economic crisis is changing the face of Michigan forever.

The change will be painful for families that have become accustomed to their neighborhood schools, but they need to understand that Wayne-Westland can no longer afford to operate under-utilized buildings. Those whose schools that are proposed to be closed should not look down their noses at their possible new school and vice versa. In Wayne-Westland, no school is better than the other. They are all quality schools.

We have noticed on our Web site comments posted Livonia Public Schools residents injecting the ugliness that occurred when their district went to a 5-6 schools several years ago. They paint a ominous picture of even more student losses, if the district goes through with the change.

Wayne-Westland has taken a page from the LPS play book and has been open and transparent about school closings. The district isn't trying to spring a surprise on parent. LPS parents should focus their attention on what's happening in their own district. It is in worse shape than Wayne-Westland and is facing massive midyear layoffs.

No one — parents, teachers, administrators, the school board — is happy about the recommendations, but change is necessary, if the district is to survive. We believe the school board will vote for what's right for the students. That is, and has always been, their focus. Parents need to understand that and work with them to keep the district moving forward.

COMMUNITY VOICE

Are you cutting back on Christmas spending this year?

We asked this question at the William P. Faust Public Library in Westland.



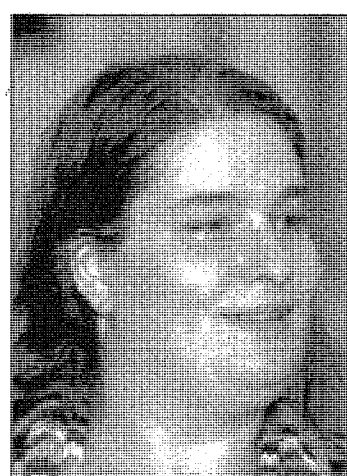
"I'm unemployed, I can't even afford to get anybody anything. I'm going to give out IOUs."

Brittani Abiolu
Westland



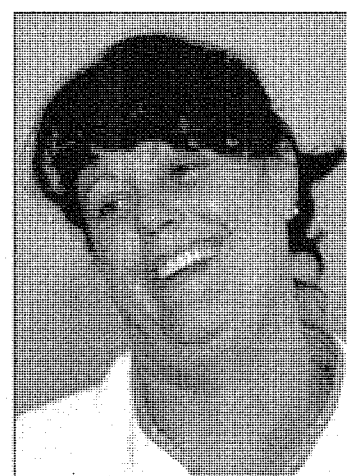
"I'm definitely not cutting back and I'm donating more this year even though I'm unemployed."

Shahenda Mustapha
Wixom



"Yes, it's not a choice this year with the unemployment, and I'm one of the unlucky people who is unemployed."

Amber Letizio
Taylor



"I'm not spending as much for obvious reasons. I'm not working and my husband works for GM."

Grace All
Plymouth

LETTERS

Reconsider boundaries

The Wayne-Westland school district has proposed a restructuring of the entire school district. I do agree that many of these changes are necessary and would be beneficial for our children.

That being said, I disagree with the proposed change of boundaries. The committee has proposed to move a section of Westland students out of their current school located in Westland and into an elementary school located in Inkster. I moved to Westland so my children could attend school in Westland not in Inkster. If I wanted them to attend school in Inkster, that is where we would have moved.

Many of the parents in our neighborhood agree. I urge the school board to reconsider the boundaries. It would be a shame to lose more students over this matter.

Lisa Said
Westland

Story has helped club

I would like to thank you for the wonderful article that ran in Sunday, Nov. 29, *Observer*. I received several calls today about the article and interest in Zonta. What a great boost for our club members

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

We welcome your Letter to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content. Submit letters via the following formats.

Web: www.hometownlife.com

E-mail: smason@hometownlife.com.

Blog: You may also let your opinions be heard with your own blog at hometownlife.com.

Deadline: Letters must be received by 9 a.m. Monday to be published in the Thursday edition.

who have work so hard on the many projects we do to help improve the status of women. Thanks again.

Sally Randall
Livonia

Thanks for coverage

The Friends of the William P. Faust Public Library of Westland would like to thank you for publishing the articles

for our November Used Book Sale in the *Westland Observer*. Our sale was a great success.

Marie Didomizio

Friends of the Westland Library

Cox is wrong

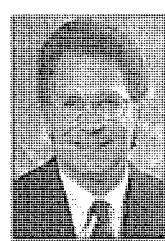
If as Attorney General Mike Cox says, the 2002 Manoogian affair is just "gum on my shoe which will wear off if I just keep walking," is far from being accurate. Unless and until our attorney general comes clean about what actually happened at the Manoogian Mansion and subsequent death of Tamara Greene, he is unfit to even run as our next governor. If this matter has been covered up and Cox is involved, this is obstruction of justice. The citizens of Michigan cannot tolerate possible obstruction of justice from our own top cop.

There are substantial discrepancies between the sworn testimony from State Police Detective Mark Krebs and statements made by Cox. Cox is likely to get more gum on his shoes if he continues to dismiss this as an "urban legend."

Gerald and Dolores Maxey
Farmington Hills

From Lansing, we need less talk, more action

The lyrics of country great Toby Keith's song *A Little Less Talk and a Lot More Action* popped in my head when I heard the Legislative Commission on Government Efficiency had released its draft report, *Charting A Way Forward: A Path Towards Fiscal Stability For the State of Michigan*. After 18 months of kicking the can down the road, yet another report is produced telling state leaders what and how to reform government.



Tom Watkins

Our state leaders are not without a multitude of reports to choose restructuring ideas or government reforms from — what they have is a great shortage of political will to make the tough choices that will address the long-standing structural problems confronting this state. Certainly, this report has a number of worthy recommendations. Many of the ideas have been around for years without being acted upon.

The Legislative Commission on Government Efficiency was created by 2007 PA 96. The nine-member commission is charged with making recommendations on how to consolidate and make more efficient state department functions and services. Its final report to the House, Senate and Gov. Jennifer Granholm is due Dec.

1. Only two of its nine members — Senate Fiscal Agency director Gary Olson House and Fiscal Agency director Mitch Bean — are from the government. The rest were appointed from the private sector.

There have been countless studies and recommendations from distinguished organizations including: The Center For Michigan (www.thecenterformichigan.net/); The Michigan Leaders for Michigan/formerly, Detroit Renaissance (www.businessleadersformichigan.com); The Citizens Research Council (www.crcmich.org); The Mackinac Center (www.mackinac.org); and my own report I wrote as state superintendent of schools in 2004 that stated our school funding system was unsustainable and we must address the runaway health and pension costs and share services and consolidate districts to have adequate resources to invest in 21st century education (www.michigan.gov/documents/michiganschoolfunding_110803_7.pdf).

Each of these reports clearly spell out ways for Michigan to make sensible changes in state and local government that enable us to live within our means while making meaningful structural reforms.

In 2007, Gov. Granholm appointed a bipartisan Emergency Financial Advisory Panel, co-chaired by former governors William G. Milliken and James J. Blanchard, to review the state's financial cri-

sis and offer recommendations on how best to avoid similar crises in the years ahead. You guessed it — she never acted on her advisory panel's thoughtful recommendations.

There are even recommendations left over from the Secchia Commission in the 1990s under Republican Gov. John Engler that have yet to be implemented.

If the Legislative Commission on Government Efficiency would have taken their "efficiency" charge seriously, they would have met, reviewed the above reports, e-mailed them to the governor and Legislature telling them to implement the recommendations already on the table and disband.

Michigan continues to lose jobs in roaring tsunamis and replace them in tear drops. We have lost nearly a million jobs in the last decade and have the highest unemployment in the nation at 15.3 percent. We are caught up in a perfect storm of losing businesses and people together with the taxes they pay. Michigan gets less populated, less educated, and poorer because of people fleeing our state. The families who are leaving are the people the state desperately needs to kick-start our economic rebound — young, well-educated high-income earners.

Few organizations relish change and will go to great lengths to avoid facing the consequences. Clearly this has been the case with Michigan's elected leaders. They behave as though nothing has changed,

when everything has changed.

We don't get action from the governor or Legislature; we get yet another study that is destined to gather more dust created by the unemployed fleeing not just a state with a lack of jobs, but a state with leaders that fiddle as those without work burn through their unemployment checks as the hope for a productive future slips away.

Those that think we can simply cut or tax our way out of these problems are delusional. It is change-or-die time for Michigan.

Clearly, there is little constituency or lobby for change. Yet, we must reform, restructure and reinvent Michigan to position ourselves for the hyper-competitive, disruptive, global, innovative economy that is coming at us at warped speed.

As I return to China next week, rest assured, they are not slowing down waiting for Michigan's leaders to get their act together and — well, lead. They and other states and nations are moving forward.

Inaction has consequences. The time for studies, delays, debates and talking is over. We need the governor and Legislators to dispense with the "whole lotta talk — and produce a lot more action!"

Tom Watkins is a business and education consultant. He served the citizens of Michigan as a state superintendent of schools, 2001-05 director of the mental health department, 1986-90 and an elected member of the Wayne County Charter Commission, 1980-82.

ONLINE VOICES & VIEWS

The following are readers' comments posted on our Web site, www.hometownlife.com:

End of leaf pickup

• I doubt if anyone will see this but why couldn't the city have a plan for low cost bags we live on a fixed income and bagging my neighbors leaves was not the way I wanted to spend my money. Also the DPS missed a house on Cadmus Court. Not one leave picked up.

pjj314

• OMG. What a pain in the arce this is. We are glad that the city decided this was a money saving idea, but those of us who are bagging 20/30 bags curse the council for allowing this to happen.

Westlander

WESTLAND OBSERVER



Sue Mason
Community
Editor

Susan Rosiek
Executive Editor
/ Publisher

Grace Perry
Director of
Advertising

Gifts, etc.

Holiday etiquette for the 'others' in our lives

BY WENDY VON BUSKIRK
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

One day last summer, my son, then 3, ran out to greet the mail truck. His face fell when he discovered none of the mail was for him. A few days later, he got a stamped card from a "secret admirer." I knew the culprit was Cathy, our sweet mail carrier. That kind of thoughtfulness earned her a nice tip at Christmas.

But Cathy's been transferred, and now it seems a different postal worker visits our home each day. So, is it necessary to tip the mailman this year?

In the season of giving, it's natural to buy presents for close family and friends, but what about the other people in our lives, such as babysitters, teachers, personal trainers, dog groomers and coworkers?

I spoke with two local etiquette experts to find out.

According to Ramona Lawrence of Blessings of Etiquette in Southfield Lathrup, gifts should be given only to people who are extra special.

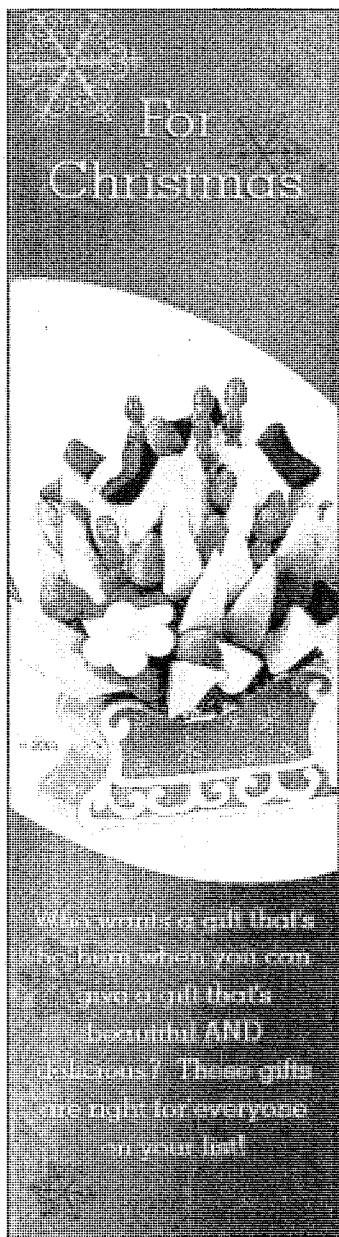
"You cannot personally thank everyone who has provided you with a service throughout the year, but if continuously you've been pleased with that service it's nice to show your gratitude at the end of the year," she said.

The key is to tailor gifts to each individual.

"It comes from the heart when you can do some type of research, get to know that person and what they like," she said. "When all else fails I don't think you'll find too many people who'll say they don't want money."

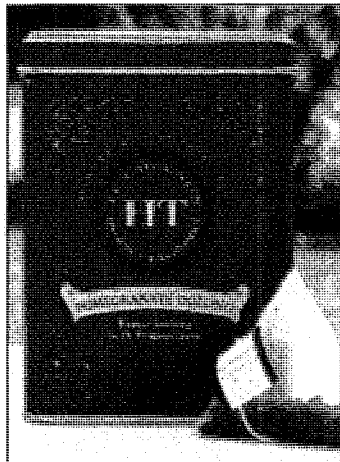
CASH FOR CHRISTMAS

When it comes to giving gifts of cash, etiquette experts agree it's standard to double



Edible Arrangements are perfect for gift-giving to your boss.

your normal tip or payment. For people like your shampoo girl, manicurist, hairdresser or pet groomer, that would mean twice the usual tip, or the cost of a basic service like a haircut; for a housekeeper or babysitter, an extra day's pay. A beloved nanny should be



Find Harney & Sons teas at TranquillTea in Plymouth.

compensated an extra week, if possible.

Good etiquette dictates that you personalize a gift of money with a nice card.

"If you're just giving cash, I suggest you write a note to that person and let them know how you feel about them. It just adds that special touch," she said.

And while it's nice to tip a bit more generously this time of year it isn't necessary to go out of your way to pay the guys at the car wash, the barista at the corner coffee shop, or the groomer who always has a treat for Fido.

"I would tip them extra if I'm using them during the holiday season, but I wouldn't make an extra trip to go see them," Lawrence said. "As far as the amount, everyone has to face how much they can give."

Of course there are some instances when cash isn't appropriate, such as in the workplace or at your child's school. In those cases, creative and thoughtful gifts go a long way.

BUSINESS OF GIFTS

Denise Anne Taylor, owner of Competitive Advantage, Inc. in Birmingham, special-

TOKENS OF APPRECIATION

Simple gift suggestions for people who take care of you year round:

Yoga teacher: Harney & Sons teas, 20 bags for \$8.75 at TranquillTea in Plymouth

Dog groomer: Special Dog ornament with a photo of their favorite client, \$12.50 at Hallmark in Livonia

Boss: Starry Sleighride with fresh and chocolate dipped fruit, \$100 at Edible Arrangements in Farmington

Client: Motivational letterpress print, \$12.50 at etsy.com

Babysitter/children's teacher: Visa gift card, accepted virtually everywhere

izes in business etiquette. She said the holidays are a nice time to show your appreciation to supervisors, co-workers and clients.

"If you have special people who throughout the year are always there for you providing support, I think it's nice to acknowledge them," she said. "Give them little incentive items, just to say 'thank you,' especially if they go above and beyond."

Fitting gifts include items they can display on their desk, like a paperweight, photo frame, or a small vase. Or, fill a basket with office supplies, such as notebooks, colored paper clips and novelty pens.

Holiday ornaments are also an inexpensive choice.

These ideas also can be applied to teachers.

Taylor warns against buying extravagant gifts for supervi-



Find this Special Dog ornament at Hallmark in Livonia.

sors in an effort to curry favor. Instead, look for a token that reflects a hobby like golf or tennis.

Or, take up a collection to purchase something nicer for a beloved boss, but don't expect everyone to put money in the pot.

"Some people don't feel comfortable contributing to a larger gift. That can be awkward. I don't feel anyone should be compelled to contribute. Make

sure you include everyone, and give everyone the opportunity to decline," she said.

For clients, Taylor suggests a bottle of liquor, a tin of pistachios, or a tray of homemade cookies they can share with the rest of the office.

If you're not sure about diet restrictions or allergies, opt for something healthy like a basket of teas or an Edible Arrangement stocked with chocolate covered fruit.

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BENTLEY

FROM PAGE A1

teaches U.S. history. "He (Jerry Smith) was a big time inspiration and model. Those were some of the best times of my life."

The Hepler siblings came from opposite coasts. Heidi got her start in church choir at age 9 and now sings jazz professionally in New York. Brother Todd, a former cast member of *The Young and the Restless* soap opera, is in television production in Los Angeles. Holly, the youngest, still lives in Livonia.

"Jerry Smith was such an unbelievable leader," said Heidi Hepler. "He taught us responsibility, discipline and the joy of music. He was such a crucial part of planting seeds."

Their mother Judy said "it was a remarkable time for everyone. They had such a strong passion for the choir. It was the highlight of high school."

Mary Jo Collins said daughters Jan, Sue, Denise and Pam felt the same way about their experiences from 1974 to 1980. Collins was overseeing a silent auction table of memorabilia.

"It's so special," said Collins, one of the Coventry Gardens subdivision mothers volunteering at the event. "They're seeing Concert Choir members they haven't seen in years."

'WE ALL LOVED JERRY'

Mike Barry of Novi sang in the 1977-78 choir before going on to sing at Michigan State University.

"I chartered the bus, made meal arrangements, all without Google or the Internet," said Barry, then choir business manager. "I thank him for giving me that responsibility."

Gary Prevo was sharing memories with John Barber at the 1960 table. Prevo was in the first Concert Choir. He joined after Smith came into Study Hall in fall 1959 to ask if anyone would like to join the Glee Club. Prevo brought along about five male friends. In January 1960 he was accepted into Concert Choir. Today Prevo is a retired engineer but still working as a volunteer. He hopes to add a barbershop competition to Livonia Spree 2010.

"It was fun and consistent," said Prevo of Livonia. "He used psychology on his students. He got us to perform beyond our abilities. It seemed the cosmos came together and something happened in 1960 and it got better and better through the years."

John Barber, class of 1961, went on to sing in the Blue Jackets U.S. Navy choir. He applauded Smith for instilling moral values in Concert Choir members. A retired U.S. Postal Service worker, he still sings to his wife Drema.

"The greatest thing of all is the example (he set) and instilling virtues," said Barber of Brighton. "He was stern but kind. We called him Velvet Steel. We all loved Jerry."

LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCE

Sue Bunker Baetens and Sande Watt Godbout were enjoying the strolling dinner at the 1972 table. This coming week Baetens performs Handel's "Messiah" with the Rochester Community Choir.

"It was fun, but we had to keep our grades up," said Baetens of Clarkston. "Choir kids were involved in a lot in school. I don't want to say it, but they were the popular kids."

"You had to make a big commitment," said Godbout of Westland. "You had to be squeaky clean. When we stayed overnight for a performance, he had the guys on one floor, girls on another. There was no hanky panky going on if we were going to be in choir."

On a lighter note Baetens and Godbout laughed at the number of times Smith split the pants of his tuxedo as he conducted choir performances for sold-out audiences.

"He's so dynamic," said Baetens. "It just happened." Tracey Holliday Bouchee, Mike Page and Terry Miller were having a good time at the 1981 table.

"It changed our lives," said Bouchee, a cantor who sings with the St. Maurice Church Choir in Livonia.



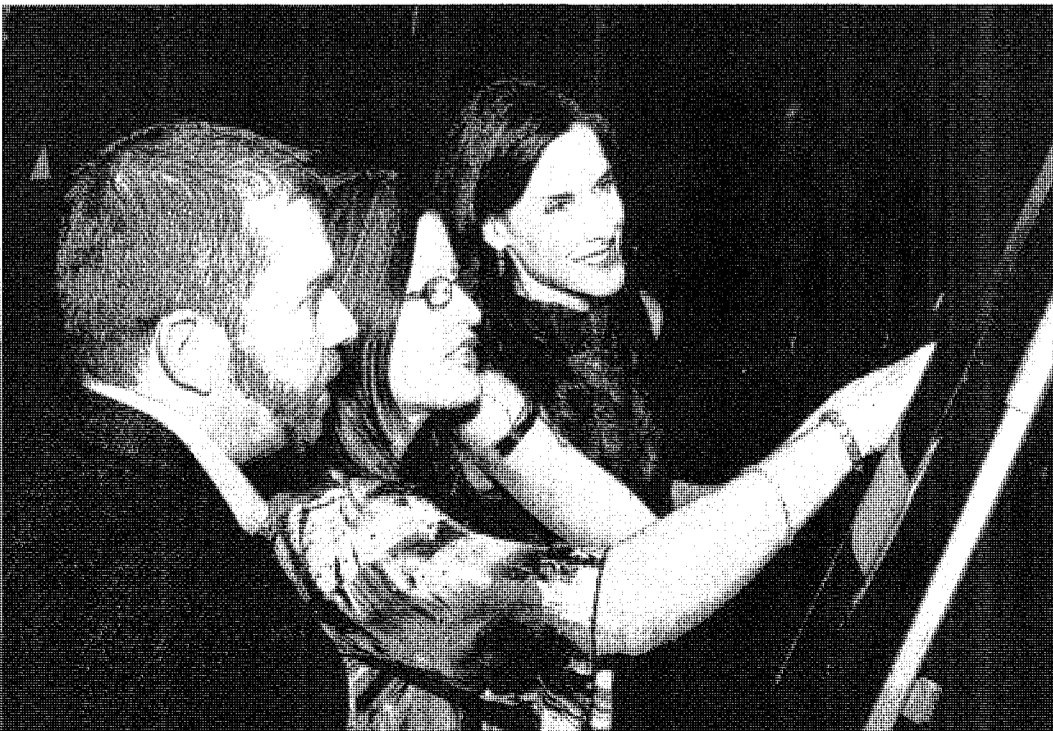
Dr. Jerry Smith leads the more than 800 former Bentley choir members in song at last Saturday's reunion.



Choir alumni came from near and far. Pictured are (from left) Maria (Kozyn) Katsimpalis of Harrison Township, Tom Kozyn of St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands, Jacqueline Kozyn of Texas, Marty Kozyn of Livonia and Theresa (Kozyn) Gedda of Pleasant Ridge. The Kozyns were the largest family from the Bentley choir at the reunion.



The music - "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year" - tells the story judging from the singers' smiles at Saturday's choir reunion.

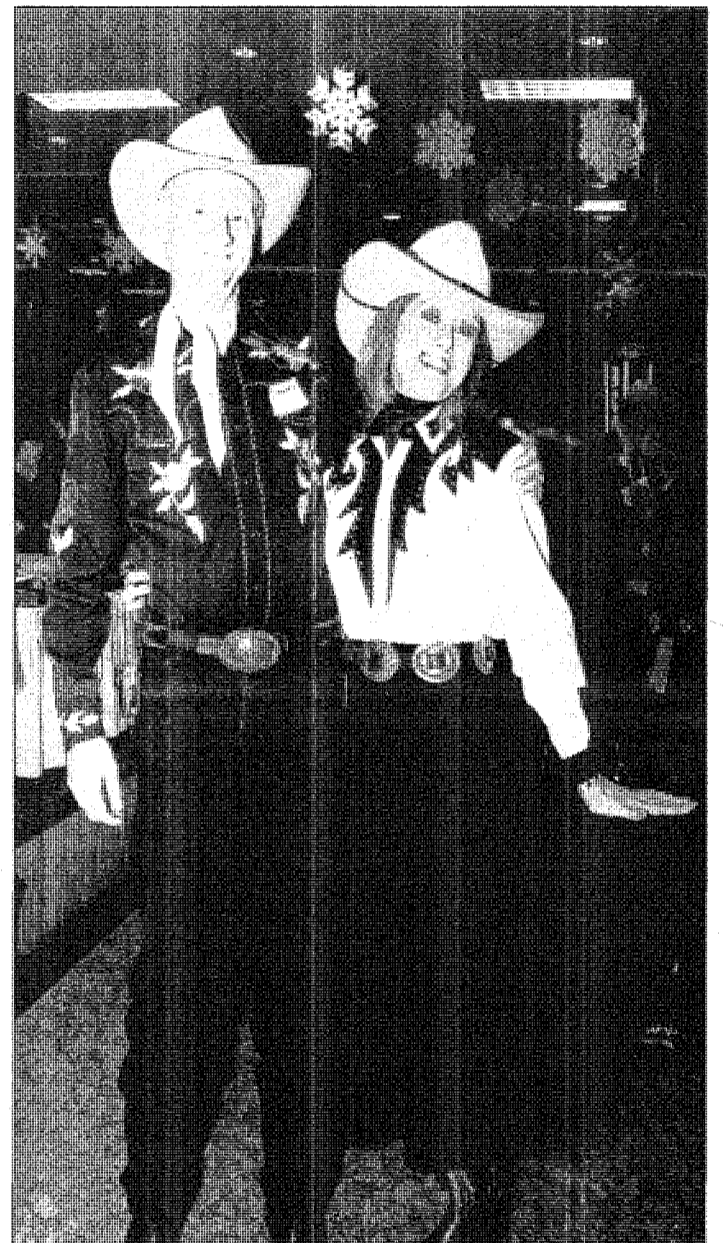


Looking at the choir memorabilia are (from left) John Cotner of Ann Arbor, Lisa Brown of Arizona and Lyndi Walter of Chicago.

"We were only high school kids, and it's amazing what the sound was like," added Page of Chesterfield Township.

CROSS-SECTION OF KIDS
"I encourage kids to get involved with choir," said Miller, a plumber who lives

in Livonia. "We had everyone from the cheerleader to football player. It was a core of active kids in the school."



Jim and Jeanne Lefsted-Martin came from New Mexico to attend the reunion. They were dressed in cowboy outfits because they were scheduled to perform in the second half of the program.



Dennis Young, a 1969 graduate from Farmington, introduced Jerry Smith, first telling a few stories and jokes about the choir members. He had the crowd concerned when he mentioned there were police in the parking lot questioning members of the Bentley reunion causing such a disturbance. Of course, it was a put on.

Tommi Mozier West was speechless as she opened the door to the hall at Burton Manor. She and a committee member bought many of the decorations before and after Christmas 2008. The wood stands for the trees of poinsettias were built by Darryl Smith, Jerry Smith's son. Jeff Jones of Plymouth Nursery provided the poinsettias. Jones is a Concert Choir alumni.

"I was breathless to see what we had made happen for Dr. Smith," said West. "The glitter, the glow, the smiling faces, the joy, the rapt attention. They all dropped 40 years and went back to what they were. They gave Dr. Smith everything they had. People came

from 26 states, Europe, the Virgin Islands and Panama. It illustrates the pull Dr. Smith still has for them to come and reproduce what they had when they were 17 years old. I'm really looking forward to the DVD of the evening."

Smith's daughter, Kimberly Swan, summed up the event best for him.

"She said, 'this has been an evening of lifetime experiences,'" said Smith on Monday. "My heart is still full. I received over 300 cards sharing what the choir meant to them, not just musical training but life lessons."

A CD and DVD recorded of the reunion will be available for purchase. Visit www.bentleychoirs.com.

THURSDAY
December 3,
2009

Wrestling team capsules - B3

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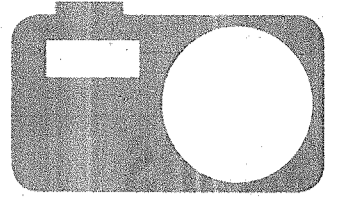


Photo galleries

Online at hometownlife.com

SECTION B
(WL)

HOMETOWN LIFE

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

Blazers get 50-46 win vs. Franklin

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Livonia Ladywood's season-opening 50-46 girls basketball victory over Livonia Franklin was far from being a masterpiece. But the host Blazers will

GIRLS HOOPS take the win over last year's state Class A runner-up.

"For the first game, I'm pleased," Ladywood coach Pat Cannon said. "We showed some poise at the end and thank God we knocked down a few of our free throws and they did not."

Franklin trailed by as many as 16 points near the end of the second quarter before going on an 8-0 run to cut the halftime deficit to 34-26.

The Patriots crept closer after three quarters, 44-40, as junior point guard Chelsea Williams scored nine of her game-high 20 points.

Williams scored the first basket of the final quarter with 6:11 left to pull within two, 44-42, but that was as close as the Patriots would get as they went ice cold from the field (2-of-12) and even worse from the foul line (1-of-7).

Nicole Emery's 3-pointer with 11.6 seconds remaining trimmed the deficit to 48-46. But Ladywood junior forward Alyssa Anastos, who paced the Blazers with 15 points, sealed the win with a pair of free throws with only 5.4 seconds go to.

Please see **HOOPS, B2**



OBSERVER STAFF PHOTO

Westland John Glenn's Josh Austin (right), seen in last year's Observerland Invitational, returns at 125 pounds for the Rockets.

Cleared for lift-off

Confident Rocket grapplers seek Elite Eight repeat

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Westland John Glenn wrestling team got a taste of the Cereal City last March.

The Rockets — coming off a 28-7 dual-match season and

MAT PREVIEW their first-ever berth in the MHSAA Division 1 team finals — will circle Feb. 26-27, 2010, Kellogg Arena, Battle Creek, on their calendars once again.

The regional champions fell to Hartland in the Elite Eight, 38-26, but will provide a strong mat presence once again despite losing three first-team All-Observer performers, including



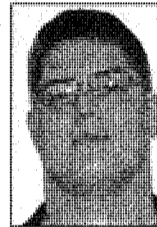
Wakeford

135-pound state runner-up Jared Stephens.

"We are looking to continue right where we left off with the completion of our team state run," Glenn coach Bill Polk said. "Our guys have experience and the desire to improve. They have worked all summer to show that they are a title contending team."



Pavlich



Gajowiak

The Rockets return four state qualifiers, including heavy-weight Dustin Gajowiak (fifth place), 112-pounder Steve Wakeford

(sixth), 130-pounder Anthony Pavlich (eighth) and 160-171 Zach Redden.

Area perennial power Livonia Franklin (21-9), a team district champion, lost a pair of state qualifiers and will put an inexperienced team on the mat.

"I know some teams are going to look at our starting lineup and say, 'Who are these guys?,'

which is what I say when I look at them," Franklin coach Dave Chiola said. "Hopefully by the end of the year, some of them can make a name for themselves."

Livonia Stevenson (25-20), which also qualified for the team regionals, remains optimistic under sixth-year coach Dan Vaughan and hopes to make waves in the KLAAs Central Division.

The KLAAs South features Glenn, Franklin and another formidable area team in Canton, which returns four All-Observer performers, including Brent Winekoff, who was third

Please see **WRESTLING, B3**

SIDELINES

Krupsky honored

Central Michigan University outside hitter Lauren Krupsky (Livonia Churchill) was named the school's Scholar-Athlete of the Week.

The 5-foot-10 junior earned Mid-American Conference Women's Volleyball All-Tournament honors after helping the 17-13 Chippewas to the MAC Tournament semifinals for the first time since 1996, finishing with the fourth-best kill average (44.2) and ninth-best hitting percentage (.314) among tournament participants.

The 2009 first-team All-MAC member's kill average was ranked second among players who advanced past the opening round and her hitting percentage was ranked fifth-best. She also finished with the second-most points in the tournament (56.5).

The biology major maintains a 3.67 grade-point average.

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.

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 signup 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.

Kroll secures berth in Foot Locker field

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Livonia Churchill's Sara Kroll has put herself in select company after qualifying for the 2009 Foot Locker Cross Country National Championships.

The senior placed seventh among a field of 270 in Saturday's Midwest Regional Championships held in Kenosha, Wis.

Kroll is the first Observerland girls harrier ever to qualify and earn an all-expenses paid trip, Dec. 10-13, to San Diego, Calif., after posting a time of 18 minutes, 15 seconds on the water-logged 5,000-meter University of Wisconsin-Parkside course.

Reigning MHSAA Division 1 champion Megan Goethals of Rochester placed first in 17:24, while Waterford Mott's Shannon Osika garnered the 10th and final national qualifying berth out of

the Midwest Regional with a time of 18:37.

"I ran hard at the start, put myself in a good spot and held on," said Kroll, who helped Team Michigan earn the girls title. "The conditions were muddy, sloppy and slippery. I took five or six strides through a little lake. It had rained for two days straight and it did not dry up at all."

Despite breaking the school record this fall with a time of 17:25.2, Kroll's senior season at Churchill could only be described as "bittersweet" despite a respectable third-place finish in the Division 1 state finals.

She was less than 100 percent physically after winning the regional, only to be disqualified for wearing a friendship bracelet on her wrist.

"I'm finally getting over being sick. I had some sort of sinus

Please see **KROLL, B2**



OBSERVER STAFF PHOTO

Churchill senior Sara Kroll has qualified for the Foot Locker Cross Country Championships, Dec. 12, in San Diego, Calif.

Lady Ocelots avert upset bid by Owens

The unbeaten Schoolcraft College women's basketball team survived its stiffest test of the season Sunday by beating host Owens Technical Community College, 66-65, in the finals of the Thanksgiving Classic.

In a battle of top-10 teams in NJCAA Division II, sophomore guard Angela Burrell led a furious Schoolcraft comeback and nailed the game-winning free throw with 3.7 seconds left. Burrell paced all scorers with a career- and game-high 27 points.

No. 2-ranked Schoolcraft, now 10-0 overall, led 37-27 at halftime before Owens rallied to take a 58-52 lead with 5:42 remaining.

Kimberly Bee's block on a last-second attempt by Owens guard Jasmine Blanton (21 points) helped preserve the win.

Bee finished with 12 points and 15 rebounds, while Amber Avery contributed 12 points.

Demi Moschetti added 11 points and 11 rebounds for Owens (7-2). Ashley Hooker

Please see **OCELOTS, B2**

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OCELOTS

FROM PAGE B1

chipped in with 10 points. Schoolcraft shot 43.6 percent from the field (24-of-55), while Owens was 23-of-67 (34.3 percent). Both teams were 15-of-26 from the foul line (57.7 percent). Schoolcraft won three games in three days at the Owens Tournament, including a 106-36 triumph Saturday over Columbus (Ohio) State, as Jasmine Brown led the way with 24 points for the Lady Ocelots. Three other players had double-doubles, including April Goins (16 points, 14 rebounds); Antania Shepherd (12 points, 10 rebounds); and Avery (12 points, 10 rebounds). Bee added nine points, while Burrell had a team-high 10 assists and seven steals. Columbus State (4-6), outscored 60-9 in the second half, got 12 points and nine rebounds from Elise England. In Friday's opening round, Schoolcraft routed Edison (Ohio) CC, 91-61, as Goins had a team-best 24 points and 15 rebounds to go along with five assists and five

steals. Shepherd and Brown contributed 14 and 13 points, respectively, while Bee had a team-high 11 rebounds. Burrell dished out six assists. Rachel Striebich scored 18 points and pulled down a game-high 13 rebounds for Edison (4-1).

Crusaders stop Alma

Behind a career-high 22 points and 10 rebounds from junior Tabatha Wydryck and a 20-point and eight-rebound performance from freshman Kaylee McGrath (Livonia Stevenson), the Madonna University women's basketball team rolled to a 74-60 win Sunday at Alma College inside Cappaert Gym. Freshman Shantelle Herring joined McGrath and Wydryck in double figures with 11 points as the Crusaders, who pulled away from a 31-27 halftime advantage, snapped a three-game losing skid and evened their record at 3-3 overall. Sydney Beckwith led the Scots (0-7) with 16 points. MU won't return to action until Friday, Dec. 12, in Davenport, Iowa, to take part in the Saint Ambrose Classic against the host team.

C'ville girls cagers rally for win

Livonia Clarenceville turned to its defense Tuesday night to score a come-from-behind 40-32 girls basketball victory over visiting Plymouth Christian in the season-opener for both teams. Trailing 28-17 at half-time, rookie coach Brady Gustafson's cagers turned the fortunes in their favor in the

third quarter as the Trojans outscored their opponents 9-4 to climb to within six heading to the final quarter of play. In those last eight minutes the Trojans held the Eagles without a basket of any kind, while scoring 14 of their own to walk away with the win. "We calmed down a little bit in the second half,

knocked down some shots, and that made the difference," Gustafson said. "Give Plymouth Christian credit because they have a nice team and they fought real hard." Jenna Burgess topped Clarenceville on both ends of the court as she recorded a double-double with 10 points and 20 rebounds. She also

dished off five assists and collected three steals. Paige Davis contributed eight points and eight rebounds to the winning effort and teammate Kristen Jolly added eight points and picked up three rebounds. Olivia Bartlett, Angela McAlpine, Ashley Devon and Brittany Tallman chipped in with four points apiece.

Whalers fall to Kingston, 6-2

The Kingston Frontenacs extended a 3-2 lead after forty minutes of play with three unanswered goals in the third period to defeat the Plymouth Whalers, 6-2, in an Ontario Hockey League game played Saturday evening before 2,336 at Compuware Arena. Kingston (13-14-0-2) never trailed in the game, but the Whalers (15-13-0-0) came back from deficits of 1-0 in the first period and 2-1 in the second period to tie the game twice. Zack Harnden's first of the game came at 2:05 of the first period when Tyler Mort's

shot from the right point was knocked down in the right circle and caromed directly to Harnden, who scored from the right circle. Joe Gaynor tied the game for Plymouth at 18:09, following up the play in front of the Kingston goal and beating Frontenacs goaltender John Cullen on a rebound just outside the blue crease area. Midway through the second, Mike Farrell scored on a rebound on the left wing side of the Plymouth goal after Whalers goalie Scott Wedgewood (51 saves) made the original stop on a point shot from Jaroslav Kruzik,

But the Whalers tied the game at 2-2 at 17:06 when Westland's Tyler J. Brown followed up Ryan Hayes' long shot from the penalty box area to score on a rebound. Nathan Moon came right back 1:15 later to restore Kingston's lead at 3-2, redirecting a rebound on the right wing side of the Plymouth goal past Wedgewood. The Frontenacs put the game away in the third period on a pair of goals by Derek Froats and another by Harnden. **Teddy Bear Toss** Plymouth will play in

Saginaw Friday before returning home Saturday to host Sault Ste. Marie at 7 p.m. in the Whalers' annual Teddy Bear Toss game. Fans are encouraged to bring a new stuffed animal to the game or the Booster Club will have teddy bears available to purchase at the game and they can throw it on the ice once the Whalers score their first goal. It's a magical moment for fans and for families in need across Wayne County. All toys will then be donated to the Plymouth Community United Way children's charities.

KROLL

FROM PAGE B1

infection," Kröll said. "Finally for the first time I felt back to normal after the regional. After (the state finals) I took a few days off and I was ready to get back into things." The Westland native, meanwhile, will continue to train before leaving Dec. 10 for San Diego. (The race will be Dec. 12 at Balboa Park.) "Since the beginning of the season, it was always one of my goals to qualify for the (Foot Locker) nationals," said Kröll, who will be accompanied on the west coast trip by her parents, Michael and Anna. "I think my training

the next two weeks will go well. I'm really excited." Kröll is considering collegiate offers from Michigan State, Michigan and Illinois. Her scheduled recruiting visit this weekend to Illinois has been rescheduled. Kröll also plans to undergo surgery for a deviated septum following the Foot Locker Championships. "One of my nasal passages is completely blocked, so hopefully it will help my breathing," Kröll said. "I should be ready for the indoor season." The outdoor season, however, is still far from over for Kröll.

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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 \$150); Fundamental No. 2 - noon-

2:30 p.m. (cost \$150). 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 awhite@madonna.edu. **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. **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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HOOPS

FROM PAGE B1

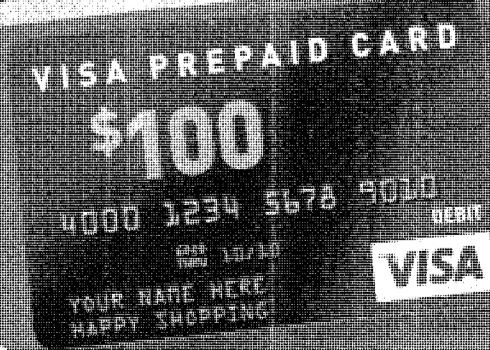
"The girls beat themselves," Franklin coach Dave McCall said. "We had mental errors and we had our opportunities at the free-throw line. "I don't know if it was first-game jitters, or nerves." Franklin's demise was free-throw shooting - 11-of-26 (42.3 percent). The Patriots were 17-of-48 from the floor (35.1 percent). "There was a point where we realized we could be in this game," McCall said. "But we were terrible at the free-throw line. We had opportunities and did not seal the deal." Ladywood held on despite going 3-for-7 from the line and 1-of-6 from the field in the final quarter. "They (Franklin) are a scrappy team," Cannon said. "Dave's got those girls going well. They work hard. You've got to be impressed." The Blazers, who also got 10 points from senior guard Jennifer Kelley and six each from Mary Fitzgerald and Teresa Wojnarowski, shot 19-of-55 from the floor (34.5 percent) and 9-of-16 from the foul line (56.2 percent). Ladywood's best quarter was the second, when the Blazers put up 19 points. "It was our transition offense," Cannon said. "We finished on the transition and defensively we pressed them a little bit and it got them out of their offense." Conversely, Franklin's best quarter came in the third. "Williams got hot and knocked down some shots," Cannon said. "We had a scoring drought and it did not help. And we did not move our feet defensively." Senior center Senneca Scott, a starter on last year's 24-4 team, added nine points and 12 rebounds for the Patriots. Emery, another senior returnee, contributed six points. Turnovers also played a factor in the final outcome. The Patriots had 22 miscues to Ladywood's 20. "Give them (Ladywood) credit," McCall said. "They're a physical team and they make you fight for every basket you get."

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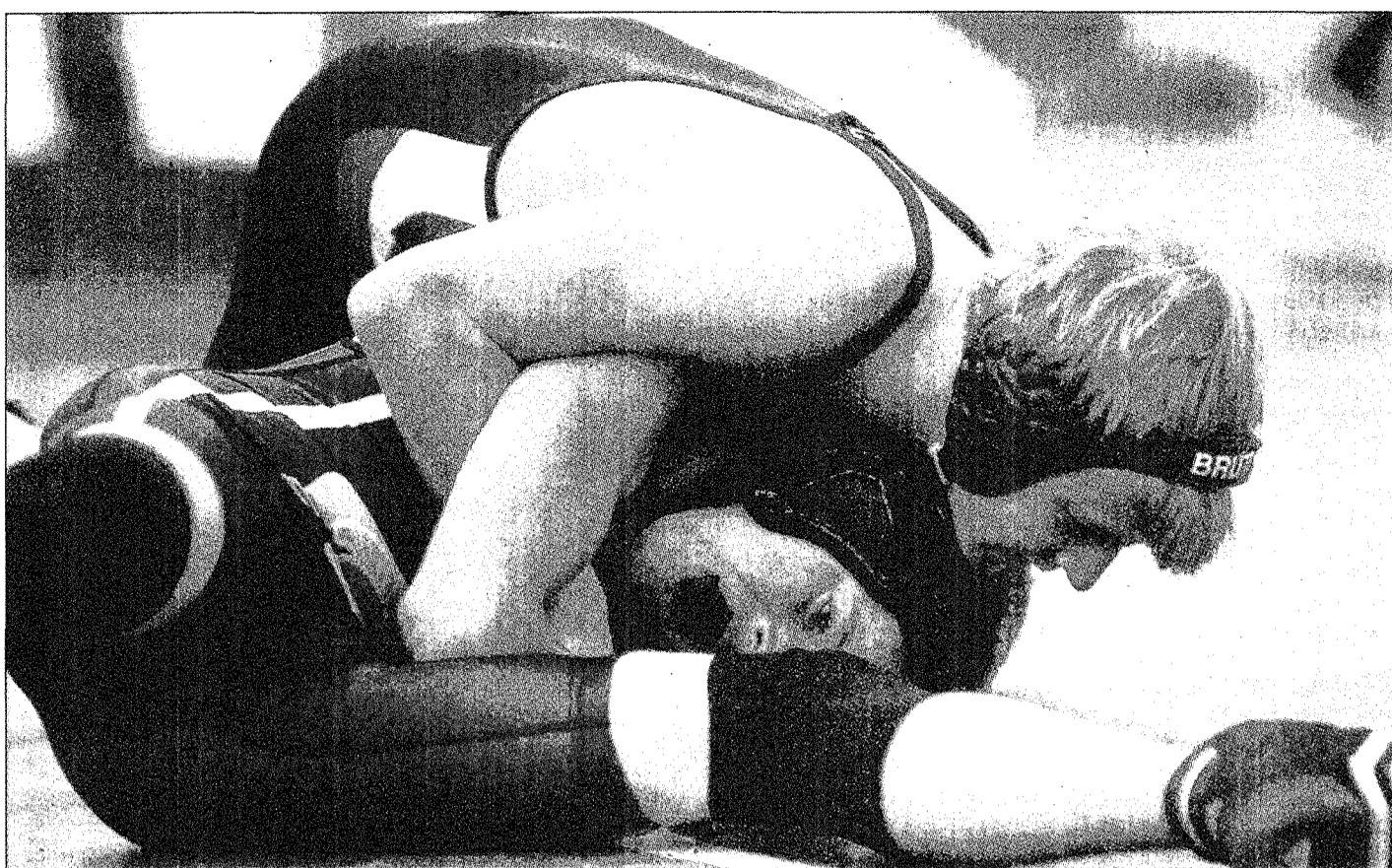
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PREP WRESTLING CAPSULE OUTLOOK

LIVONIA CHURCHILL
Head coach: Marty Altounian, 12th season.
League affiliation: KLAAS Kensington Conference (South Division).
Last year's finish: ninth place (Kensington Conference).
Notable losses to graduation: Bryan Fortney (third-team All-Area);
Leading returnees: Curtis Castleberry, Sr., 171 (second-team All-Area; 28-13; state qualifier); Jacob Meadows, Jr. 112 (third-team All-Area); John Shekell, Sr., 215; Kane Kanouse, Jr., 119; Jared Iluhugiar, Sr., 140; Tyler Farnstrom, Sr., 152; James Locklear, Jr., 119-125.
Promising newcomers: Jon Locklear, Fr., 103; Dillon Morantes, Fr., 275.
Assistant coach: Miie Gaffke's 2009-10 outlook: "This is a young bunch, but I think they'll come along and have a nice season. We have 13 freshmen. It's a pretty young so it's a bit of a building year, but we've got some good kids and it should be a good year if we stay healthy."

LIVONIA FRANKLIN
Head coach: Dave Chiola, 10th season.
League affiliation: KLAAS Kensington Conference (South Division).
Last year's dual match record: 21-9.
Titles won last year: KLAAS South Division, Division I district and Livonia City champions.
Notable losses to graduation: Cody Hay (first-team All-Area; eighth in Division I); Don Stratz (second-team All-Area; state qualifier); Mike Modes (second-team All-Area); Elvin Ferreira (second-team All-Area); Brandon Billiau (second-team All-Area); Garrett Hay (third-team All-Area); Justin Jacobsen, Brandon Conger, Nick Clendennin.
Leading returnees: Steve Tuvo, Jr. 130 (second-team All-Area; 46 wins); Zach Leuenberger, Jr. 169 (third-team All-Area; 27 wins); Paul Hanni, Sr. 125 (43 wins); Matt Roos, Jr. 171 (28 wins); Erik Czech, Sr., 119; Nick Simmons, Sr., 189; Jordan McGuire, Soph., 153; Alex O'Connor, Jr. 160; Josh Hatfield, Jr., 152.
Promising newcomers: Ryan Derry, Soph., 130; Avery Oppen, Sr., 140; Brian Nisun, Soph., 119; Ryan Tikay, Soph., 152; Omar Haymour, Soph., 275; Dan Martinez, Fr., 112; Alan Steele, Fr., 152.
Chiola's 2009-10 outlook: "This is the hardest hit we've taken to graduation since I've been here. Ten starters graduated; we've had close to that in the past, but we always had very seasoned back-ups ready to take their place. I'm not sure I can say that this year. On the positive side, this is the youngest team we've had, so I'm really looking forward to that. We only have three seniors on the team. I'm not sure how good we'll be; our goal is to improve each week, and not lay down for anybody. Quite a few of the guys put a lot of time in during the offseason. What I like about this team is they are very coachable, and very hard working. I think some of them will take their lumps, but they'll learn from it and get that much better."

LIVONIA STEVENSON
Head coach: Dan Vajzhan, sixth season.
League affiliation: KLAAS Kensington Conference (Central Division).
Last year's dual match record: 25-20.
Titles won last year: Division I district champions.



OBSERVER STAFF PHOTO

Livonia Franklin junior Steve Tuvo moves up to the 130-pound class after posting 46 wins last season.

Notable losses to graduation: Mitch Gonzales (second-team All-Area); Raz Markosian (third-team All-Area); Dustin Poisson, Jonny Myshock, Matt Greenman.
Leading returnees: Andrew Schramm, Sr., 189 (second-team All-Area; 35 wins); Charlie Kokenakes, Sr., 145 (30 wins); Josh Siebert, Sr., 160 (25 wins); Jake Burns, Sr., 171 (40 wins); Danny McCarthy, Sr., 171 (30 wins); Nathan Keedle, Sr., 285 (20 wins); Chris Arnold, Sr., 152.
Promising newcomers: Ash Alhaj, Jr., 112; Omar Mostafa, Sr., 119; Samer Shebak, Soph., 119; Jeremiah Bishop, Jr., 130; Cory Zanger, Jr., 135; Jamaal Reid, Jr., 140; Jake Mailloux, Sr., 140; Corey Davis, Soph., 119; Joe Scott, Soph., 171; Rob Schramm, Soph., 130; Derek Wenderlich, Soph., 215; Kody Ray, Fr., 135-140; Jake Kelley, Fr., 152-160.
Vaughan's 2009-10 outlook: "Last year we had some serious injuries and key wrestlers not return to competition and it forced us to wrestle really young kids. This season is a different story. All of our team leaders have returned and are very excited to exceed the accomplishments of last year's squad. The openings left by Gonzales

and Markosian will be filled nicely by some hard working individuals who wrestled behind them a season ago. The team is led by seniors - Jake Burns, Danny McCarthy, Charlie Kokenakes, Joshua Seibert (regional qualifier), Andrew Schramm (regional qualifier), Chris Arnold, Jake Mailloux and Nathan Keedle."
WESTLAND JOHN GLENN
Head coach: Bill Polk, 10th season.
League affiliation: KLAAS Kensington Conference (South Division).
Last year's dual match record: 27-8.
Titles won last year: Division I district and regional; Kensington Conference; Salem Invitational and Rocket Duals.
Notable losses to graduation: Jared Stephens (first-team All-Area; 135 state runner-up); Jimmy Mann (first-team All-Area); Zaid Ammari (first-team All-Area); Jeff Adkins.
Leading returnees: Dustin Gajowiak, Sr., 285 (first-team All-Observer, 47-11; fifth Division I); Steve Wakeford, Sr., 112 (first-team All-Area, 45-15; sixth Division I); Josh Austin, Sr., 125 (second-team All-Area); Anthony Pavlich, Sr. 130 (first-team All-Area; 30-11;

eighth Division I); Mark Thompson, Sr. 135 (second-team All-Area); Zach Redden, Sr., 160-171 (third-team All-Area; state qualifier); Steve Shak, Sr., 119; Mikkel Tipton, Sr., 140; Mike Johnson, Sr., 152; Kameron Jones, Jr., 171; Justin Parker, Sr., 285.
Promising newcomers: Kyle Gillis, Fr., 103; Quinn DePraw, Fr., 103; Noah Williams, Fr., 171.
Polk's 2009-10 outlook: "Last year we achieved our goals as a team and we will be looking to improve on that finish. Our senior class has prepared for this season for a long time and they are looking to carry on what the '08-09 seniors started for them."
WAYNE MEMORIAL
Head coach: Steve Vasilloff, fifth season.
League affiliation: KLAAS Kensington Conference (South Division).
Last year's dual match record: 13-11.
Titles won last year: Blissfield Invitational.
Notable losses to graduation: Tevin Hines (third-team All-Area); Max Hershey.
Leading returnees: Josh Mills, Sr., 160 (30-13); Darryl Ison, Jr., 119 (23-17); Dylan Korzetzki, Sr., 215 (23-22); Tristan Jarosicwicz,

Soph., 112 (26-16); Terry McCartney, Jr., 135; Anwar Oliver, Sr., 140; Jalen Jones, Jr., 145 (19-16); Brandon Whittenberg, Sr., 152 (27-17); Dimitrios Renfro, Soph., (18-22); Chris Bowie, Sr., 285 (11-15).
Promising newcomers: Pablo Flores, Soph., 103; Monte Harris, Fr., 189; Cameron Williams, Fr., 145; Mike Nicholson, Fr., 125; Brandon Marable, Fr., 215; Jacob Turner, Fr., 285; Sam Ekenam, Fr., 145; Gabe Polgar, Fr., 125; Allen Parker, Fr., 112; Marcus Jordan, Fr., 125; Joe Daniels, Fr., 145; Devin Korzetzki, Soph., 171; Lucas Hofbauer, Fr., 160; Ricky Kolman, Fr., 189.
Vasilloff's 2009-10 outlook: "The goal for this season is to continue the turn around we made last season. We tripled in size last year, and luckily we have maintained our numbers, which includes a very large, athletic, and enthusiastic freshman class. Last year was the first winning season at Wayne in a long time, and we plan to keep going in that direction. We also had over 20 wrestlers with a 3.5 (grade-point average) or above, and plan to build upon the academic success of last year. We only lost two starters,

so our lineup will be very similar, and after a long summer of wrestling we look forward to seeing what our team can do this season. Our other goals include having another winning season, moving up a spot in our division, and having some wrestlers competing in the postseason."

LIVONIA CLARENCEVILLE
Head coach: Anthony Saliccioli, seventh season.

League affiliation: Metro Conference.
Last year's dual match record: 16-11.
Notable losses to graduation: Jake Ruhl (regional qualifier); Patrick Walker (Metro champ); Derek Robbins (regional qualifier; two-time Metro champ, over 100 career wins); Andrew Jasmer (two-time Metro champ); Joe Haapala (Metro champ); Cody Sillanpaa (Metro champ).
Leading returnees: Coy Sillanpaa, Jr., 140; Brendan Groves, Jr., 152; Travis Edwards, Jr., 189; Jeremy Smith, Jr., 215; Anthony Giordano, Jr., 285.
Promising newcomers: Michael Weiss, Fr., 103; Ian Bunker, Fr., 103; Shane Martin, Fr., 112; Daniel Mrljak, Jr., 125; Aaron Bibik, Fr., 135; Alec Jones, Fr., 160; Justin Carl, Fr., 171.
Saliccioli's 2009-10 outlook: "This truly is a rebuilding time for the team. There are only three wrestlers starting this year, who were starters last year. Eleven weights will be filled by former JV wrestlers or first-timers. There will be a learning curve, but we expect tremendous growth in the athletes as wrestlers, students and men. Our younger wrestlers have tremendous attitudes and work ethics and I know we will be formidable in time. There has never been a freshman class so large, or the coaching and parental support than we have at present. These will serve as building blocks for the program to build on and Clarenceville anticipates a bright future in wrestling."

LUTHERAN HIGH WESTLAND
Head coach: Joe Schmidt, first season.
League affiliation: Michigan Independent Athletic Conference.
Last year's dual match record: 16-13.
Titles won last year: Division 4 district champions.

Notable losses to graduation: Stephen Kemp (first-team All-Area; fifth Division 4); Brad Larose, Ben Crandell, Drew Maynard, Bob Schwartz.
Leading returnees: Laith Francis, Sr., 125 (third-team All-Area; 42-9); Craig Kowalsky, Sr., 189 (third-team All-Area; 31-9); Justin Paika, Sr., 130 (38-11); Sean Rowe, Sr., 140 (25-25); Matt Sankey, Soph., 145.
Promising newcomers: Adam Seta, Fr., 103; Jacob Richter, Fr., 119; Glenn Oppenlander, Jr., 152; Phillip Welte, Soph., 160; Jacob Bartos, Fr., 189; Alex Reardon, Fr., 215; Stewart Tarp, Soph., 125; Noland Edwards, Soph., 135; Tony Sandau, Fr., 171.
Schmidt's 2009-10 outlook: "I'm very happy to have Danny Haller another long time assistant back. I'm pleased with the work ethic of the team. They are a nice group of kids which is why Danny and I are back. The kids make it fun everyday. The promising newcomers have the right attitude which will pay off for them some day. We have an interesting mix of experience and youth."

Tuomi leaves legacy on mats

Lutheran Westland coach retires after 22 seasons

BY BRAD EMONS
 OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Dennis Tuomi beat both Bobby Bowden and Joe Paterno into retirement. Tuomi, who turned 80 over the summer, stepped down last spring after 22 seasons as Lutheran High Westland's wrestling coach. Tuomi has handed the reins over to two of his former wrestlers - Joe Schmidt, who was on the Tuomi's inaugural teams in 1987-88, and Dan Haller. "I'm too old, it's time to give other kids a chance," said Tuomi. "My son Tommy (a former assistant coach) was also the heart-and-soul of the program and he's been out of it three or four years." Tuomi began coaching wrestling in 1961 at Detroit Lutheran West before migrating to the new school in Cowan Road in Westland. He was also Lutheran Westland's first varsity football coach.

Tuomi's family tree is heavily involved in the sport of wrestling. His son Bruce is a high school wrestling coach in Chicago. His grandsons, Neal and Stephen Kemp, along with Jacob Tuomi-Galindez, also wrestled for Lutheran Westland. Tuomi said he'll still attend local wrestling meets, but he's also going to be a spectator at Lutheran Westland basketball games. "My grandson (Martin Kemp) is a freshman his year and he's playing basketball," Dennis Tuomi said. "He likes it. I left it up to him. I feel that if you're driving someone to do something else, it's the wrong thing to do." During his 22-year career of coaching wrestling at Lutheran Westland, Tuomi guided the Warriors to five Division 4 (or Class D) team state finals. He also won 16 district titles and six Metro Conference crowns. "I'll miss some things - the

competition and the camaraderie with some of the coaches," Tuomi said. "I don't miss the paperwork. That's a lot of paperwork with the Alpha weigh-in (body fat content) and all that stuff." Schmidt and Haller will be directing the Warriors this week in their first meet of the season. "Between those two I think they'll make a good team," Tuomi said of his successors. "Joe's called me and I've told him to get 'this and that' done. He's better organized than I am." Schmidt said he was told by Tuomi during the 2008-09 season that he wouldn't be returning. "The last three or four years he said he wasn't coming back, then he got back into it," Schmidt said. "What he'll miss is the kids and telling his stories. The man has many stories."

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WRESTLING

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last year at 145 in Division I; Donnie Watkins, third at 135; Waleed Faraj, eighth at 112; and Keith Zech at 171. Hoping to enter the fray in the KLAAS South is Livonia Churchill, led by state qualifier Curtis Castleberry (171), as well

as Wayne Memorial (13-11), led by senior Josh Mills (160). Livonia Clarenceville (16-11) is rebuilding under seventh-year coach Anthony Saliccioli. The Trojans will miss two-time Metro Conference champion Derek Robbins, who amassed more than 100 career wins. Lutheran High Westland (16-13), coming off a Division 4 dis-

trict title, will be led by seniors Laith Francis (125) and Craig Kowalsky (189), both third-team All-Observer performers. The Warriors will have a new coach for the first time in school history as Joe Schmidt takes over for the retired Dennis Tuomi (see related story).

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- THE WEEK AHEAD**
- GIRLS BASKETBALL**
 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**
 Friday, Dec. 4
 Franklin vs. Dearborn Unified at Edgar Arena, 6 p.m.
 Saturday, Dec. 5
 Ladywood at Pctt Huron, 4 p.m.
 - PREP WRESTLING**
 Thursday, Dec. 3
 C'ville at Annapolis Quad, 5:30 p.m.
 Saturday, Dec. 5
 Rocket Duals at John Glenn, 9 a.m.
 Clarenceville Quinet Meet, 9 a.m.
 Grand Blanc Invitational, 9 a.m.
 Blissfield Invitational, TBA.
 - MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL**
 Friday, Dec. 4
 (WHAC/MIA Challenge)
 Olivet College at Madonna, 8 p.m.
 Saturday, Dec. 5
 Schoolcraft at Owens (Ohio), 3 p.m.
 (WHAC/MIA Challenge)
 Alma College at Madonna, 2 p.m.
 - WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL**
 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**
 Friday, Dec. 4
 Plymouth at Sagawaw Spirit, 7 p.m.
 Saturday, Dec. 5
 Plymouth Whales vs. Soo Greyhounds at Compuware Arena, 7:05 p.m.

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Dec. 3-9

Advent service
Lola Park Evangelical Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford, will hold midweek Advent services at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 9 and 16. Each service is 45 minutes long and is intended to help people prepare for Christ's coming. For more information, call (313) 532-8655.

Breakfast
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 39020 Five Mile, Livonia, presents Breakfast with Angels, 9:30 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 5. The special event for families with children age 3-7, will include breakfast, crafts, singing and a special visit from the angels. Contact the church office at (734) 464-0211 for more information.

Christmas ornament
The Limited Edition Our Lady of Good Counsel Christmas ornament is now on sale. This ornament was specially crafted in Poland and is hand painted with a mosaic portrait of the O.L.G.C. Mother and Child. This keepsake ornament is available for \$35 after Masses at O.L.G.C. All proceeds benefit Our Lady of Good Counsel. For more details or to arrange delivery, call Mark Coulter at (734) 453-5423 or Mary Vangieson at (734) 737-9442.

Clothing closet

Canton Christian Fellowship Clothing Bank will be open to people in need 5-6:30 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 9, and noon-2 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 19, at 41920 Joy Road, between Lilley and Haggerty. Donations of winter coats, gloves, boots accepted. The church also can schedule appointments to shop if your need is urgent. For more information, call (734) 927-6686.

Concert

Christmas concert featuring the Classical Bells handbell ensemble and the Livonia Civic Chorus, 7 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 6 at St. Matthew's United Methodist Church, 30900 Six Mile, between Merriman and Middlebelt, Livonia. A reception will follow. Tickets \$12 each in advance; \$14 each at the door; \$10 each for groups of 10 or more. Go to SeatYourself.biz/stmatthewsilivonia or call (734) 422-6038 to purchase tickets or for more information.

First Presbyterian Church of Farmington presents the men's choral society Measure for Measure in a special joint concert with the Wayne State University Concert Chorale at 8 p.m., Friday, Dec. 4, at the church, 26165 Farmington Road, at 11 Mile. There is no admission fee for this event, open to the general public, but donations of \$10 per person or \$25 per family are suggested. (248) 474-6170, Ext. 208

Drop and shop

6-8 p.m., Dec. 8 and 15 at Nativity United Church of Christ, 9435 Henry Ruff, Livonia. Mothers and Grandmothers will take care of children while their parents are out doing last minute errands for Christmas. No charge for the service. For information call (734) 421-5406.

Gift shop

Congregation B'nai Moshe Sisterhood of West Bloomfield presents a Holiday Gift Bazaar 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday,



The Our Lady of Good Counsel ornament was specially crafted in Poland and is hand painted with a mosaic portrait of the O.L.G.C. Mother and Child. This keepsake ornament is available for \$35 after Mass at the church.

Dec. 6. Discover gifts for all ages, including items such as handbags, clothing, toys, jewelry, works of art, Judaica and more. Congregation B'nai Moshe is located at 6800 Drake, between Maple and 14 Mile Roads in West Bloomfield. For more information, call Linda Mondrow at (248) 682-0471 or e-mail to lmondrow@aol.com

Lessons and carols

4:30 p.m., Dec. 6, at St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 S. Sheldon, Plymouth. Members of the church's music ministry, including Children's and Youth choirs, Handbell Choir, Parish Choir, and contemporary group SonShine, will come together to present the music for the service, under

the direction of Minister of Music Julie Ford. The event is free, but a free-will offering will be taken. Proceeds will benefit Gleaners Community Food Bank of Southeastern Michigan. (734) 453-0190

Special needs event

Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Livonia invites adults with developmental disabilities and their caretakers to attend a Christmas "Sing & Ring" event 6:30 p.m., Friday, Dec. 4, at the church, 34567 Seven Mile, between Farmington and Newburgh, Livonia. Participants will sing carols, ring bells, hear the Christmas story, and enjoy dessert and beverages. RSVP to Judy Cook at (248) 442-8822 or e-mail to judy@emmanuel-livonia.org no later than Friday, Nov. 27. If local schools are closed because of heavy snow or inclement weather, the event will be cancelled.

Swedish Christmas Shop

5-8 p.m. Friday Dec. 4 and 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Sat. Dec. 5 at Faith Covenant Church, 35415 W. 14 Mile, corner of Drake, in Farmington Hills. Swedish Christmas ornaments and decorations, along with homemade cardamom bread and crafts from Thailand and South Africa.

DEC. 10-16

Advent celebration

Traditions of Christmas will be presented at Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church will present

"Traditions of Christmas," 4:30-8 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 13, at the church, 9601 W. Hubbard, Livonia. The evening will be an all ages Advent celebration including family keepsake craft stations, Christmas and Dickens Village displays and formal family pictures by the family Christmas tree. There will be storytelling by members of the Detroit Storytelling League and the Northville High School Singers will perform. A family-style dinner will be served at 6 p.m. An Advent musical, "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year," will be presented by the RGPC Chancel Choir at 7:15 p.m. Tickets are on sale through Dec. 5. Adult tickets are \$7; children under 12 pay \$5. Advance tickets only. Call the church office at (734) 422-0494.

Advent service

Lola Park Evangelical Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford, will hold midweek Advent services at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 16. The service is 45 minutes long. For information, call (313) 532-8655.

Advent speaker

Sister Mary Finn, faculty member from Sacred Heart Major Seminary, will speak at 7 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 10, at St. Aidan Parish, 17500 Farmington Road, Livonia. Her topic is "So Gifted, So Responsible." RSVP via e-mail or phone to David Conrad at davidjconrad@staidanlivonia.org or (734) 425-5950.

Christmas craft

St. Paul's Presbyterian Church in Livonia will host a Kids Christmas Craft Day 10 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Dec. 12 for grades kindergarten through 6th. Kids will enjoy a morning of creating Christmas crafts to be used as gifts or decorations. The event is free. To sign up, call (734) 422-1470 by Thursday, Dec. 10. St. Paul's is located on Five Mile one block west of Inkster Road.

Christmas musical

"The Name Jesus," a Christmas musical, runs at 7 p.m., Dec. 11; 10:45 a.m., Dec. 13; 7 p.m., Dec. 18 and 6 p.m., Dec. 20, at First Baptist Church of Canton, 44500 Cherry Hill, Canton. (734) 981-6460

Christmas open house

2-4 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 13 at St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 West Six Mile, Redford. See Christmas decorations, enjoy Christmas carols and refreshments. (313) 534-7730

Concert

The St. Aidan Adult Choir, directed by Mr. Ray Schmidt, will present its 28th Annual Christmas Concert, 4 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 13 at the church, 17500 Farmington Road, north of

Six Mile, in Livonia. Admission cost is \$5 and two non-perishable food items. This event is held annually to assist the St Aidan Christian Service Commission in its efforts to aid those in need during the Holiday Season. (734) 425-5950.

Christmas Cantata, "Only Love,"

7 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 12 and 3 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 13, at Milford Presbyterian Church, 238 N. Main, Milford. (248) 684-2805.

The Detroit Handbell Ensemble performs Christmas music 4 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 13, at First United Methodist Church of Garden City, 6443 Merriman, Garden City. Directed by Susan Berry. Donations accepted. For more information call Susan Berry at (313) 278-7387 or visit www.detroit-handbell-ensemble.org.

Friday Morning Men's Bible Study at Kirby Coney Island presents a concert by the Gospeln Southern Gospel Quartet, 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 10, at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, in the chapel, 40000 W. Six Mile, Northville. Free admission. For more information call Tim Reno at (734) 266-0607

Annual Christmas Concert with the Festival Choir, Jubellation Hand Bell Choir, Children's Choir and Brass Ensemble, 4 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 13, at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia. www.christsaviors.org; (734) 522-6830

Hear the St. James Presbyterian Church handbell choir perform during the 10 a.m. worship service at the church, 25350 West Six Mile, Redford. (313) 534-7730

Cookie walk

10 a.m. until sold out, Saturday, Dec. 12, at Timothy Lutheran Church, 8820 Wayne Road, south of Ann Arbor Trail, in Livonia. Christmas cookies of all varieties will be available for sale by the pound, along with various baked goods. (734) 427-2290

Readings and carols

Kneeling in Bethlehem - A Festival of Readings and Carols will be presented at 7 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 13, at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 39020 Five Mile, Livonia. The combined Adult, Children's and Handbell Choirs of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and Holy Cross Lutheran church along with strings, flutes, percussion, organ and narration will tell the Christmas story through the music of composer Michael Burkhardt and the poetry of Ann Weems. Christmas cookie reception will follow the concert. For information call Holy Trinity Lutheran Church at (734) 464-0211.

Passages
Obituaries, Memorials & Remembrances
1-800-579-7355 • fax 313-496-4968
email: oeobits@hometownlife.com
View Passages Online: www.hometownlife.com

WILFRED "BILL" "BUMPY" CAMERON

Age 81, November 25, 2009 of Livonia. Beloved husband of Olga. Loving father of Reid (Mary Kay) and Marcia (Brad) Saunders. Dear brother of Ruth Frazer. Grandfather of Richard (Tracey), Kasi, Ellen and Aaron Saunders, Grace (Tony) Zaszczurynski and Audra Cameron. Great grandfather of Nicholas, Mitchell, Heson and Lilly. He was preceded in death by his son Keith Francis Cameron. Mr. Cameron worked at the YMCA for many years. He was a lifelong Rotarian, where he was past President, Paul Harris fellow recipient and Friendship Exchange Volunteer. During his life Mr. Cameron wrote two columns (Court Jester and Ski-Heil) for the Observer Newspaper. A Memorial Service will be held on Friday at 11AM at the R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home, 15451 Farmington Rd., Livonia. The family suggests donation to Livonia Rotary Foundation. Please sign Bill's online guestbook at www.rgrharris.com



JOANNA (Jury) GARRETT

Love, Compassion, Joyfulness

Former Birmingham resident Joanna Garrett died on Monday, November 23, 2009. Joanna was born in Jackson, MI, on August 4, 1940 to Helen and Henry Jury. She began her lifelong love of education at the University of Michigan where she earned a B.A. and M.A. in English. She was President of her sorority, Kappa Kappa Gamma, and was involved in many academic and social activities during her time in Ann Arbor. Following her graduation she taught high school English in the Birmingham School District. Joanna was a modern renaissance woman. She loved, supported, and participated in the creative arts. She was a passionate reader and was co-founder of a book club which continues to this day. She was a painter and weaver, a superb cook and gracious hostess, and above all, a teacher and mentor to children, friends and family. She was an accomplished gardener who reveled in the first blossoms of spring, the last displays of fall color, and even the raking of leaves. She loved making clothes for her grandchildren on her ancient sewing machine. She enjoyed all the performing arts, especially live theatre and movies. An avid traveler along with her husband and greatest admirer, Roger, Joanna enjoyed numerous hiking, biking, and kayaking trips in Europe, Australia, New Zealand, and Africa. In 2002 she completed the famous and challenging "Coast to Coast" walk across England in 15 days. She traveled to every continent except Antarctica, and always looked forward to the exciting new experiences her travels would bring. Joanna served on the boards of the Friends of the Grosse Pointe Public Library, the Friends of the Detroit Public Library, Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church, Family Life Education Council (FLEC), and the Parents League of Independent Schools. She volunteered for many worthwhile causes including Habitat for Humanity, Guyton School in Detroit, the Grosse Pointe Public Library, Greening of Detroit, Services for Older Citizens (SOC), Pewabic Pottery, and the Detroit Institute of Arts. Joanna will be remembered as a devoted and loving wife, mother, and grandmother by her family. All who knew her will remember her enthusiasm, kindness, generosity, compassion, joyfulness, beauty, and keen mind. Mrs. Garrett is survived by her husband Roger, children Jeffrey (Maria) Johnston, Hillary (Dave) Grogan, and Bevan (Steve) Gottlieb; grandchildren Katherine, Michael, Benjamin, and Madeleine Johnston, and Garrett, Sterling, and Eleanor Gottlieb, and brother William. A memorial service will be held at the Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church on Saturday, December 5th at 11:00 a.m. Memorial donations may be made to the University of Michigan Depression Center, Rachel Upjohn Building, 4250 Plymouth Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48109.

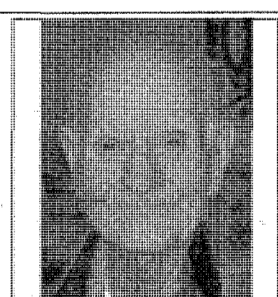
CATHERINE KECSKES

Age 91 passed away Nov. 28, 2009. Beloved wife of John (deceased). Mother of Catherine (Al) Bright and John (Diane) Keeskes. Grandmother of Dawn (Lou) Gasbarro, Kevin (Beth) Keeskes, William (Kelly) Hunt, Keith (Lisa) Keeskes, Nicole Bright, Kevin Bingman. Great-grandmother of Dylan Hunt, Sophia and Nico Keeskes, Carson and Quinn Keeskes. Catherine has been an active member in her church, St. Mary's of Wayne, and also active in her community, Wayne, for most of her life. Visitation Thursday 3-9pm at the Harry J. Will Funeral Home, 34567 Michigan Ave, Wayne. Funeral Mass Friday, in state 10:30am for an 11:00am Mass at St. Mary Catholic Church in Wayne. Memorial contributions to Alzheimer's Association appreciated.



DOREEN J. STEVENS

Passed away quietly on November 20, 2009. Preceded in death by her loving husband Lee. Survived by her children Janet (Mike) Jensen, Randy (Mimi) Stevens, and Sheila (Tom) Gebhardt, grandchildren Sara, Christopher, Christine, Craig, Danny, Lea, Samantha, Callen, and great grandchildren Aiden, Kailee, Maggie, Kelsen, and Emmy. A Celebration of Life was held in Colorado. Memorial contributions may be made in Doreen's name to the Porter Hospital Cancer Center, 2525 S. Downing Street, Denver, CO 80210. Interment Oakwood Cemetery, Farmington, MI. www.thayer-rock.com



FRANK W. VAIL

Nov. 26, 2009 age 86 of Garden City. Beloved husband of Mamie. Dear father of Frank Jr. (Darella), Sandra (John) Kowalski, 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 Bell and survived by 13 grandchildren & 13 great-grandchildren. Funeral was held at the Uht Funeral Home, 35400 Glenwood Rd., Westland, Tuesday, Dec. 1st. Please visit and sign a tribute at: www.uhtfh.com

ALMA G. ZIMMERMAN

Age 89, November 29, 2009. Beloved wife of Howard. Dear mother of Joseph (Susan) Ramer, Sharon (John) Downs, the late Ruth Ann McKinley and the late Janet Guy. Grandmother of seven. Great-grandmother of 15. Great-great-grandmother of three. Sister of Ralph Gardner, Richard Gardner and Norma Poisman. Services were held. Memorials suggested to the Garden City Builders Lodge Scholarship Fund. Arrangements by Santeiu & Son.

OBITUARY POLICY
The first five "billed" lines of an obituary are published at no cost. All additional lines will be charged at \$4 per line. You may place a picture of your loved one for an additional cost of only \$6. Symbolic emblems may be included at no cost (example: American Flags, religious symbols, etc.)
Deadlines:
Friday 4:15 PM for Sunday
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Obituaries received after these deadlines will be placed in the next available issue.
e-mail your obit to oeobits@hometownlife.com or fax to:
Attn: Obitis c/o Char Wilson 313-496-4968
For more information call:
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Observer & Eccentric
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Theater troupe inspires laughter

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

Inspire Theatre stages its plays in a church.

A former church pastor founded and directs the group.

And proceeds from this weekend's run of it's current show, an original comedy about a pair of former televangelists, will help needy families at Christmas.

But that's where the similarity ends between the four-year-old theater troupe and church-based drama programs.

"We are an aspiring community theatre group," said Len Fisher, founder and artistic director.

The group rents performance space at Westland Warren Road Church and has produced such favorites as *Godspell*, *Father of the Bride* and *It's a Wonderful Life*.

Fisher penned the current show, *KORK-TV*, which ran two weekends and continues with encore shows at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5 and 3 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 6. Tickets are \$12 and a portion of the proceeds will be used to help needy families.

"After talking with my pastor, Ron Wrightson of Life Church in Canton, I realized that here were many families in our area who are struggling even to put food on the table, much less buy presents."

He said although the current show "is great fun" the troupe wanted to "give something back" to the community.

WACKY CHARACTERS

KORK-TV is a farcical comedy about two convicted former televangelists who are ordered to turn around a failing local television station as a part of their community service project.

Among the characters they must deal with are a narcoleptic weatherman, a priest who has his own bluegrass aerobics show, a flirty receptionist, a sportscaster with Tourette syndrome and a handyman who likes explosives.

How does a comedy about fallen evan-



Deanna Lee and Bill Peterson in *KORK-TV* at Inspire Theatre.

gelists play in a church setting?

"I'm not really certain and I've not questioned it," Fisher said.

"It's reality that preachers fall from grace, so that's not a stretch. The characters are likeable enough so people accept them."

Some of the characters grew out of an improv class the troupe held last year. Fisher gave his cast a setting — television station — and they improvised scenes.

"We laughed until our sides hurt. I said this is too good. I've got to make this into a play."

FORMER PASTOR

Fisher, a Westland resident, said he found he had a gift for teaching through drama after the church he had pastored was closed. He had always been active in community theater and had produced shows at churches. He knew it was time to start his own troupe.

"It was a now or never moment. I called everyone up and said, hey, we're going to start a theater."

He said the characteristics that made him a "mediocre pastor" have turned him into a "good director."

"I push and shove people. I tell them, just remember when I push and shove you, it's not to make you feel good but to make you look good."

"I watch people who are timid and shy and I get them on stage and push and shove them and drag them to places they want to go, but have never been before. Then, in a performance, they steal the show. It's a wow moment for them."

Fisher works with a core group of about 25 actors and crew members. There are no membership fees, but the troupe pays its dues through "sweat equity."

"We do everything to make it fun," Fisher added.

He's working on his second original play. Auditions will be slated this month, with rehearsals starting after Christmas. The show is scheduled for Valentine's Day weekend.

For more about Inspire Theatre visit www.inspiretheatre.com.



Elizabeth Fisher in Inspire Theatre's current production, *KORK-TV*.

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Mass Schedule:
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29015 Jamison • Livonia • 734-427-5220
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MAES: Tues. 7 p., Wed., Thurs. 9 a., Sat. 4 p., Sun 11a
St. Maurice Roman Catholic Church
32765 Lyndon • Livonia • 734-522-1616
(between Merriman & Farmington Roads)
MAES: Mon. 8:30 a., Fri. 8:30 a., Sat. 6 p., Sun 9a CE09062646

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Sunday Evening - 6:00 P.M.
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ST. JOHN LUTHERAN, ELCA
Farmington Hills 23225 Gill Rd. 248-474-0584
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Sunday Worship & Sunday School
9:00 AM TRADITIONAL/CHORAL SERVICE
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11:15 AM CONTEMPORARY SERVICE
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United Methodist
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11:00 - Contemp Family Worship
www.redfordaldersgate.org CE09062687

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30450 Farmington Road • Farmington Hills
www.orchardumc.org
248-626-3620
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9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
10:00 a.m. Christian Education for all ages
Pastors: Carol J. Johns, Jim Braid, Margo Dexter CE09062687

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Redford (313) 534-7730
Sunday Worship Service - 10:00 A.M., Sunday School - 10:15 A.M., Thursday Dinners - 6:00 P.M., Thrift Store every Sat. 10am-2pm
Nursery Care Provided • Handicapped Accessible
Rev. Paul S. Bousquette CE09062648

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(734) 422-0494
Friends in Faith Service 8:00 am
Traditional Service 10:30 am
Visit www.rosedalegardens.org
For information about our many programs CE09062670

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NATIVITY OF THE VIRGIN MARY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
39851 West Five Mile, Plymouth Twp., MI
Sunday Services
Matins 8:30 am, Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
Rev. Fr. George Vapouris
Parish Office 734-420-0131
Office Hours M-F 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
www.nativitygochurch.org CE09062611

LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church
14175 Farmington Road, Livonia Just north of I-96
734-522-6830
Sunday Worship 8:30 & 11:00 am - Traditional
Sunday/Bible Class 9:45 am
Early Childhood Center Phone 734-513-8413
Staffed Nursery Available
Making disciples who share the love of Jesus Christ
Senior Pastor: Rev. Dean Davenport
Pastors: Robert F. Bayer and Anthony M. Creedan CE09062607

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD
25630 GRAND RIVER at BEECH DALY REDFORD TWP.
313-532-2266
Worship Service 9:15 & 11:00 A.M.
Sunday School 9:15 & 11:00 A.M.
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The Rev. Timothy R. Halboth, Senior Pastor
The Rev. Dr. Victor F. Halboth, Assistant Pastor CE09062617

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(734) 453-5252
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www.risenchrist.info CE09062600

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17810 FARMINGTON ROAD, LIVONIA (734) 261-1360
Worship Services
SUNDAY: 8:30 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.
THURSDAY: 8:30 P.M.
website: www.stpaulsilivonia.org CE09062610

CONGREGATIONAL

North Congregational Church
36520 12 Mile Rd. Farmington Hills (bet. Drake & Halsted) (248) 848-1750
10:30 a.m. Worship & Church School
Faith - Freedom-Fellowship
Ministers
Dr. Mark P. Jensen Rev. Mary E. Biedron CE09062687

PRESBYTERIAN

Fellowship Presbyterian Church
Adult Sunday School: 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. • Worship: 10:30 a.m.
Childrens Sunday School: 10:30 a.m.
Pastor: Dr. Jimmy McGuire
Services held at: Saint Andrews Episcopal Church
16360 Hubbard Road in Livonia • South of Six Mile Road
Nursery provided • www.fellowship-presbyterian.org CE09062651

EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN

WARD Evangelical Presbyterian Church
40000 Six Mile Road
"just west of I-275" Northville, MI 248-374-7400
Traditional Worship 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 A.M.
Contemporary Worship 9:30 & 11:00 A.M.
Nursery & Sunday School During the 9:30 & 11:00 Hours
Evening Service • 7:00 p.m.
Service Broadcast 11:00 A.M. Sunday WRDT-AM 560
The WMUZ Word Station
For additional information visit www.wardchurch.org CE09062677

For Information regarding this Directory, please call Donna Hart at 248-437-2011, Ext. 247 or e-mail: dhart@dnps.com

Westland-Garden City Strictly Business

IT'S YOUR BUSINESS Q&A



Kim Torres has used her love of art to design reusable 3-D artwork that people can wear on their faces.

Designer puts art on your face

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

I am the designer of 3-D artwork that people can wear on their faces. You can also be creative and wear them on your ankle, shoulder, chest, clothing, basically, anywhere. The product has some unique value propositions: It is temporary, the adhesive is non-toxic, and the artwork goes on and peels off in one piece. The 3-D artwork can be re-used several times.

Observer: Tell us about yourself?

I was born in Westland, grew up in Canton, I went to St. Raphael School in Garden City and attended Ladywood High School in Livonia. I am the CEO of Face Flair, based out of Westland. My husband, Patrick Torres, my brother, Ken Pomaranski and his wife, Karen Pomaranski are my business partners. I am living my dream. Just don't pinch me; I don't want to wake up!

Observer: What is the goal for your business unique?

My goal is to do my artwork full-time with my new company and to inspire others to follow their dreams. I would like to see my art worn by individuals all around the world one day. How exciting

FACE FLAIR

Business name: Face Flair
Name and Title: Kimberly Torres, CEO
Business Started: May 2009
Your Business Specialty: Designer 3-D artwork that people can wear on their faces
Business Phone, Web site: (877) 568-4428, www.faceflair.com

that would be! I have been told by many people that I am crazy for starting a new business in today's economy. I will not let a bad economy or anything else discourage me from my dream.

Observer: How did you decide to open your business?

I have always loved art and have been drawing ever since I can remember. It is so awesome that I've found an outlet for my creativity! I'm currently a manager for four apartments where the developmentally disabled live. I have been caring for people through this company since I was 18 years old.

I was never able to afford art school, so I continued to do my art on my own. I draw pictures all the time for my friends, family, and co-workers. I draw decorations during holidays

for the disabled individuals to color and hang up in their windows. Many of my staff and friends have told me throughout the years that I really need to start a business showcasing my artwork.

Last year, I was at a fundraiser for my friend who has Hodgkin's Lymphoma. I took some sticky rhinestones used to decorate cell phones and created a design on my face to go with the whole Guitar Hero-themed fundraiser we were having. Two guys, who I did not even know, stopped me and asked where they could buy my face art from. It dawned on me right then and there that I needed to find out how to start a business making a one piece art design for people to wear.

Observer: How has it changed since then?

It has been a whirlwind. We went from having totally nothing to having production quality product in our hands this past August.

I encourage the public to go to our Web site to see our cool products. They make very unique gifts, or they can be bought as a daily accessory or for special occasion wear. Visit us at www.faceflair.com or contact us personally at (877) 568-4428.

BUSINESS NEWSMAKERS

Cash in on gift cards

Bargains are always popular, but especially during the holidays.

Kroger customers have the opportunity to stretch their shopping dollars this holiday season during Kroger's Gift Card Mega Event, which is on now through Sunday, Dec. 13.

Customers who spend \$100 to buy participating gift cards instantly receive \$10 off their purchase at the cash register - and they will earn double fuel points. Customers can earn a maximum savings of \$50 per household for gift card purchases totaling \$500.

Gift cards from Applebee's®, Eass Pro Shops®, Bath & Body Works, Best Buy®, iTunes®, Pottery Barn®, Sears® and SpaFinder are available. Customers may mix and match cards to reach

\$100 increments. Or, if they have their eye on a particular item at a participating retail store, they can buy the gift card at Kroger to use for the purchase.

"Kroger's Gift Card Mega Event provides customers the convenience of one-stop shopping coupled with the flexibility of buying gift cards for a variety of popular retailers," said Rick Going, president of Kroger's Michigan Division. "Challenging economic times make cost savings an even greater priority for customers shopping for holiday gifts. Kroger is pleased to be able to present this retail gift card savings offer, which is the first of its kind within our industry."

For more information about the Kroger Gift Card Mega Event and other savings opportunities, visit the Web

site at www.kroger.com.

Unique gift ideas

The holidays are here and the hunt is now on to find the perfect gift for that perfect someone. The folks at Materials Unlimited have some ideas.

Materials Unlimited is a full service provider of antique furniture, antique architectural and restored period lighting. Stop in to browse their large assortment of unique gift ideas and take 25 percent off the entire inventory from now through Jan. 2.

Materials Unlimited is located at 2 W. Michigan Ave. in Ypsilanti. Store hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. For more information, call (734) 483-6980 or shop online at www.materialsunlimited.com.

BUSINESS MILESTONES

SPECIAL EVENTS

Tie One On

Time/Date: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, Dec. 4

Details: Westland Shopping Center has once again teamed up with MADD to celebrate the holiday season Safe and Sober with their "Tie One On for the Holidays" event. Join MADD in the East Court of the Center to taste test non-alcoholic holiday drinks and enter to win Westland Shopping Center gift cards. Plus you can also take home the recipes to serve at your own holiday party.
Contact: (734) 421-0291 or www.westlandcenter.com

Gamers Garage

Time/Date: 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5 and 12

Location: Inside Skateland West, 37550 Cherry Hill, west of Newburgh, Westland

Details: Gamers Garage is holding a Halo Tournament 2v2 on Dec. 5

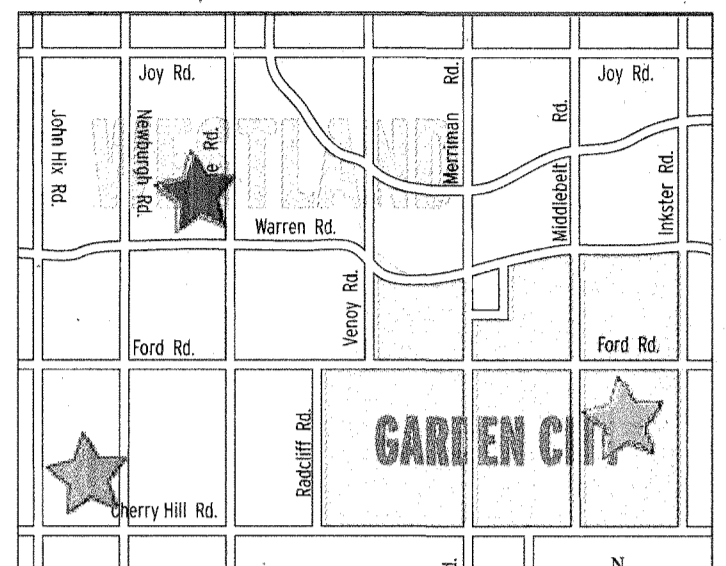
and a Call of Duty MW2 Tournament 2v2 on Dec. 12. Cost is \$20. Gamers Garage, located inside

Skateland West, has 16 Xbox 360s and 22-inch LCD monitors with 5ms response times - super fast for gaming. The Internet connection is a dedicated dual 11-3mb up and down. Gamers Garage specializes in console gaming, but you to bring your own PC or console rig.
Contact: (734) 326-2800

ONGOING

Pandemonium

Time/Date: Open seven days a week - noon-8 p.m. Sunday, Noon to midnight Monday-Friday and 10 a.m. to midnight Saturday
Location: 1858 Middlebelt, Garden



City

Details: A true hobby gaming store, Pandemonium specializes in col-

lectible card games, such as Magic the Gathering, World of Warcraft TCG, Yu-Gi-Oh!, Legend of the

Five Rings, and Chaotic. Miniature games focus on Games Workshop 40K and Fantasy, Malifaux, Flames of War, Infinity, Privateer Press Warmachine and Hordes, Reaper Figures, World of Warcraft, Star Wars, and Monsterpocalypse. Role-playing games include Dungeons and Dragons, Paizo Pathfinder and Gammamastery, Shadowrun, World of Darkness, Vampire the Requiem, Mage the Ascension, Werewolf the Forsaken, Changeling, Exalted, Battletech, and Palladium Rifts. There's also Chessex Dice, Sci-Fi/Fantasy/Strategic Board Games, Forge World, Used Miniatures and Books and more.
Contact: (734)-427-2451

A new Location

Location: Detroit City Skateboards, 6019 N. Wayne Road, Westland
Details: You'll find the same great

skateboards, clothing and accessories at Detroit City Skateboards' new and expanded location which isn't all that far from its old location. Instead of being north of Hunter, look for the store between Ford and Hunter.

Contact: (734) 721-3233 or detroit-cityskateboards.com

Sleigh of Giving

Time/Date: Now through Dec. 21
Location: East Court of Westland Shopping Center, 35000 Warren Road at Wayne Road, Westland

Details: Westland Shopping Center and Kroger have teamed up to help the Lighthouse Home Mission of Westland with a Sleigh of Giving.

The public is encouraged to donate non-perishable foods which will then be distributed by the Home Mission to families in the Westland community for the holiday season. Donors will be entered in a drawing to win a \$200 Westland Center gift card. One lucky recipient of a food package also will receive a \$200 Westland Center gift card.
Contact: (734) 421-0291 or www.westlandcenter.com

FREE WEIGHT LOSS PROGRAM

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Internal Medicine
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Livonia, MI 48152
248.321.6612
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SPORTS section

Winter Wonderland

ARTS & CRAFT SHOW

Friday and Saturday, Dec 4th & Dec 5th
9:00am-4:00pm

\$2.00 Admission (under 12 free)

Large Juried Show of Handcrafted Items Only
Lunch • Bake Sale • Kids Craft Corner
Hourly Door Prize Drawings
Strollers Welcome

LUTHERAN HIGH WESTLAND

33300 Cowan Rd. (1/2 Mile East of Westland Mall)
For more information call (734)422-2090

Concert offers symphony, dance, seasonal carols

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

The Livonia Symphony Orchestra's upcoming performance on Saturday, Dec. 5, is more than just a seasonal concert — it's a community event.

Students from the Bunny Sanford School of Dance in Livonia will share the stage for the first half of the show; members of the Livonia Youth Philharmonic will play with the musicians on two numbers; singers from Clarenceville High School will carol. There's even an afterglow buffet at Corsi's Banquet Center.

"We did want to make it a family type thing," said Rose Kachnowski, symphony board president. "It's nice to be able to bring in the high school we're performing at. And the Livonia Youth Philharmonic, we try to get them to sit side by side with seasoned musicians once a year. This is a good concert for us to do that."

"We've had relationship with Bunny Sanford's School of Dance for many years. They are superb dancers. They make a contribution to the concert."

Although the dance school's students will perform their own full version of *The Nutcracker* at 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m., Dec. 19 at Stevenson High School, 33500 W. Six Mile, in Livonia, they'll also dance several well-known selections during the first half of the Livonia Symphony concert at 4 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 5, at Clarenceville High School, 20155 Middlebelt, in Livonia.

"This is our second year," said dance teacher Marie Rabey, describing the school's participation at "The Sounds



Dancers perform "snowflakes," a selection from "The Nutcracker." They'll dance the routine Saturday, Dec. 5, at a Livonia Symphony concert.

of the Season," the symphony's Christmas show.

"It feels quite new to us. We're excited because we're dancing with live music. It's a different feeling. You hear the music differently. It brings the ballet more to life."

KEEPING IT TOGETHER

With only one dress rehearsal, student dancers "have to get used to it quickly" and learn to follow the conductor. Rabey said Volodymyr Shesiuk, Livonia Symphony conductor, "knows ballet" and keeps an eye on the dancers, making sure the music is in synch with their steps.

About 50 students will dance in the symphony show. "We're doing our snow scene and act two. Act two has all

the famous numbers — the Russian dance, the Chinese dance, the dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy."

Dancers range in age from 7 to adult. Most are in middle school and high school.

"I did it for over 17 years downtown with the Detroit Symphony. It's a part of my holiday. The whole feeling you get with the steps and the costumes evoke holiday," Rabey said. "I'm excited for my students. Between the music, costumes and steps it's entertaining all around."

AFFORDABLE

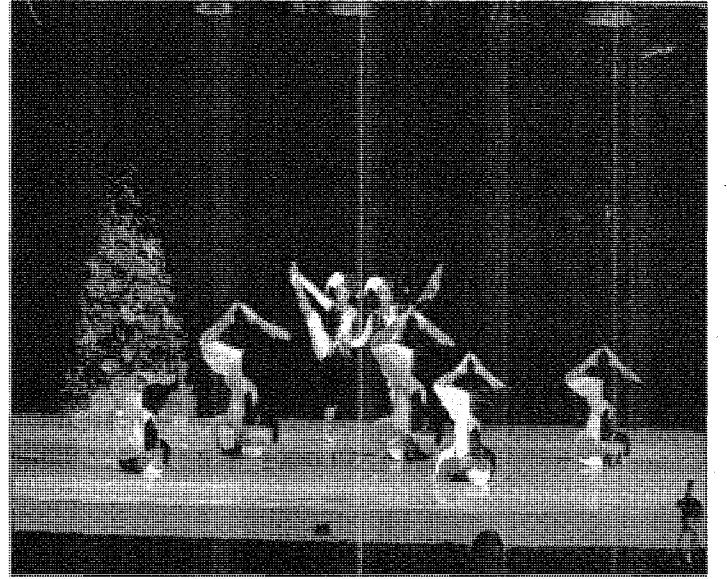
Kachnowski pointed out it's also reasonably priced entertainment. Adult tickets are \$17; children and students pay \$5.

"Regardless of age, it's \$5. Our concerts are one of the most affordable around," she said. "Even \$17, to see a full-blown production and all the community involvement, it's well worth it."

Christmas corsages will be available at the concert for a donation. Kachnowski said "it's a little something extra... giving back to the community."

The symphony contributes in an even bigger way to young musicians in the community by allowing members of the Livonia Youth Philharmonic to play with them.

"They're coming in to do a side by side. The young musicians will be sitting with the adults," said Linda Ignagni, personnel director



Students from Bunny Sanford's School of Dance perform an acrobatic routine from "The Nutcracker." Dancers will team up with the Livonia Symphony for a performance on Saturday, Dec. 5

for the Livonia Symphony and a string specialist for the Livonia Youth Philharmonic. "The kids will do *White Christmas* and *Silent Night*. It will be exciting for them."

"This will be a great concert especially for someone who has never come to a live concert. When the orchestra starts to play, it's like Wow!"

Tickets for the concert are

available at all Livonia libraries, Livonia Drugs, 33525 Five Mile, or at the door on concert night. For more information, leave a message on the symphony hotline at (734) 421-1111.

Tickets for the afterglow buffet at Corsi's are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children. To make a reservation, call Kachnowski at (734) 591-0266.

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Church members make St. Lucia Day, Christmas fare

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

Louise Turnquist has baked yeast breads for the St. Lucia Day breakfast celebration at her church for years — first as a student baker, then as a teacher.

"When my son was a baby there was a woman at church who taught yeast dough making. It wasn't too hard and it was fun to do," said Turnquist, who took the classes at church.

As the St. Lucia Day event at Faith Covenant Church in Farmington Hills grew from one to four breakfast seatings, serving approximately 1,000 guests each year, the church needed more bakers to make the yeast-based cardamom bread and Lucia buns served at the event.

By then Turnquist, who lives in West Bloomfield, had started teaching her own classes, using the same cardamom bread recipe her teacher had used.

"I would teach basic yeast dough making classes. They were four weeks in a row. The first week was white bread, the second was cinnamon and pecan rolls, the third week was cardamom bread and the fourth week was Lucia buns," she said, adding that students "had to promise to bake for the Lucia celebration" if they wanted to take the class.

GROUP EFFORT

Turnquist has long given up teaching classes, but she and other women from the church still turn out cardamom bread for the annual celebration. They gathered in the church kitchen two weeks ago to make the braided bread that will be served, along with other Swedish specialties, at the St. Lucia breakfast program on Dec. 5.

"They make it fancy. Rather than it being a loaf of bread, we braid it. We put big sugar on top," Turnquist said. "It looks like the fat salt on a pretzel, but it's imported Swedish pearl sugar. It's sprinkled on top." She makes the bread



Linda Kennedy paints an egg wash on the bread just before it goes in the oven.



Louise Turnquist removes a tray of Swedish Cardamom Coffee Bread from the oven. Linda Kennedy watches.

at home for Easter and Christmas, too.

"I'm Swedish by marriage," she explained, adding that Christmas Eve dinner always includes Scandinavian fare.

"Fruit soup I only make at Christmas. My husband loves it. To me, it's too sweet and I'm a chocolate lover. That's as sweet as it comes. I'll eat a

little of it, but he'll eat bowls of it."

Turnquist's Christmas Eve dinner often includes ham, Swedish Potato Sausage — prepared by a sister-in-law — brown beans, fruit soup, cardamom bread and Swedish cookies.

The breads, cookies and soup are served at St. Lucia celebrations, as well.

SWEDISH BISCOTTI

Jeannine McFadyen of Westland, who coordinates the St. Lucia event at Faith Covenant Church, makes Skorpor for the holiday, among other treats.

"It's good to dunk in coffee. It's like a Swedish biscotti," she said. "It's very easy to make."

Turnquist likes the Swedish Syrup Cookies ("they're heavenly") that she makes for Christmas as well as for her daughter, Krista Nunemaker, who invites family to a St. Lucia dinner at her home in Chicago, Ill., every December.

As a teen Nunemaker played in the orchestra at Faith Covenant Church's St. Lucia Day celebration. She portrayed the saint in her high school senior year.

Now married, with two children of her own, she continues the tradition in her own home, wearing a St. Lucia costume as she serves Swedish fare.

"She makes the fruit soup the night before," said Turnquist, "but I do all the baking."

Add some Swedish flair to your holiday baking

Plan a St. Lucia Day celebration or give a Christmas Eve dinner a Scandinavian twist with these recipes from members of Faith Covenant Church in Farmington Hills.

The church's annual St. Lucia Day breakfast on Dec. 5 is sold out, but you can recreate some of the foods at home on Dec. 13, St. Lucia's feast day. Many of the same foods are served on Christmas Eve.

Louise Turnquist offered the recipe Swedish Syrup Cookies. Jeannine McFadyen gave us the Skorpor recipe and Nancy Bergstrom submitted the cardamom bread recipe. All of the women are members of Faith Covenant Church.

greased baking pan and let rise until double. Brush tops with melted butter or slightly beaten egg and sprinkle with sugar and cinnamon. Bake at 375 degrees, about 20 minutes. Tap lightly with fingers to see if they are done. They will sound hollow.

SWEDISH SYRUP COOKIES

- 1 cup butter — no substitution
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 cups flour
- 2 teaspoons dark Karo syrup
- 1 teaspoon baking soda

Using a pastry blender — do not use an electric mixer — mix ingredients well. When the dough starts to leave the sides of the bowl, use your hands to blend until dough is in a soft ball. Divide into four equal parts. Shape each into a long roll, 3/4- to 1-inch diameter. Rolls will be about 12 inches long. Set oven at 300 degrees. Place two rolls on a cookie sheet. Bake for 20-25 minutes. Cut diagonally while still warm. When firm enough, move from pan.

SWEDISH SKORPÖR

- 1 scant cup oleo
- 1 scant cup sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 3 cups flour
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 3 tablespoons sour cream

Cream together the oleo and sugar. Add the eggs, vanilla, flour, baking soda, baking powder and sour cream. Make two long strips with the dough and place on a greased cookie sheet. Cover with a mixture of about 2-3 tablespoons cinnamon and sugar. Bake 25-30 minutes in a 350 degree oven. After baking cut into 1-inch strips. Put back into oven with heat turned off. Leave for four hours or overnight. Enjoy.

SWEDISH CARDAMOM COFFEE BREAD

- 2 tablespoons dry yeast
- 2 1/2 cups of milk
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 1/2 teaspoons salt
- 8-9 cups of flour
- 1 cup butter
- 3 eggs, beaten slightly
- 1 teaspoon powdered cardamom or more to taste; or crush 12 pods

Dissolve yeast in 1/2 cup warm water. Heat milk to warm. Add yeast, sugar, and salt to warm milk. Then gradually stir in four cups of flour and stir the batter with a spoon using 100 strokes or more, stirring in one direction only. Add the melted butter, the cardamom, and the eggs. Stir well. Gradually add the remaining flour one cup at a time until four more cups have been worked into the dough. If needed, add up to a cup more flour. Knead dough until smooth. Cover with a cloth and let rise to double. Let rest on a floured board about 10 minutes. Divide into four pieces. Cut each piece into three strips and make a braid. Place each braid in a

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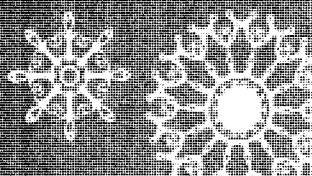
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