

THURSDAY
December 10,
2009

The Observer & Eccentric
Newspapers

Volume 45
Number 57

75 CENTS

Naughty or nice: Holiday gifts for pets - Malls & Mainstreets, A7

WESTLAND OBSERVER

online at hometownlife.com



Check out
the special
last-minute
shopping
guide inside

AROUND TOWN

Helping out

The Westland Community Foundation is holding its annual holiday party at 6 p.m. this evening in the media center of John Glenn High School.

An annual event that attracted 300 people last year, the party serves as a fund-raiser for the Wayne-Westland Salvation Army.

"There's so much more need out there this year, it's overwhelming," said Glenn Shaw. "There's more people in need and we're asking people to do what they can."

Shaw is asking people to bring two unwrapped toys and pay a \$5 admission for an evening the will include hors d'oeuvres and soft drinks.

The money and gifts will be given to the Salvation Army. The foundation, which raises \$20,000-\$25,000 for the organization, will add in 100 movie passes, including popcorn and pop, for two that it was able to purchase at a reduced cost.

"That way we'll be able to take care of the families," Shaw said.

People need only show up at the high school to attend. John Glenn is on Marquette, west of Wayne Road, in Westland.

For Nevaeh

Wayne Masonic Lodge 112 with the help of Wayne Assembly 72 of the International Order of Rainbow for Girls, is holding a Pancake Breakfast and Child Identification Program Sunday, Dec. 20.

The Rainbow Girls will cook a pancake breakfast with trimmings from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., while the Masonic Lodge will conduct the Child Identification Program from noon to 4 p.m.

The Child Identification Program is being conducted in honor of Nevaeh Buchanan, the 5-year-old Monroe child who was snatched from her scooter while she was in the parking lot of the apartment complex where she lived. Her body was found on June 4, by fishermen near the River Raisin. Her body was found only seven miles from where she was last seen playing.

Each child that goes through the process will receive a dental impression as well as a CD containing a photo, video, digital fingerprints and their vital information, everything needed for the Amber Alert System. Parents or guardians of children who participate must be present and fill out a permission slip for the child to receive this service.

The Masonic Lodge is at 37137 Palmer, between Wayne Road and Newburgh in Westland. For more information about the identification program, contact Bernie Brewer at (734) 231-4791, by e-mail at bernardbrewer@comcast.net, or on the Michigan Child ID Web site at www.michip.org.

W-W board plans Dec. 14 vote on school closings

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A decision to close six Wayne-Westland elementary schools and go to a new grade configuration could come as soon as Monday, Dec. 14.

School board President Skip Monit's request for the meeting came after the board received a revamped proposal from its 21st Century Schools Committee which recommended that six, not seven schools be closed and that the district stick with its current boundaries for its

two high schools.

"The No. 1 thing is that this decision we are making is all about what's best for the children," Monit said. The changes came in response to parents' complaints about the redistricting at the elementary and secondary levels. Many complained that they had bought in neighborhoods to have their children attend one or the other of the district's two high schools.

The committee is now recommending that Patchin, Madison, Kettering, Jefferson-Barns and

Lincoln Elementaries in Westland and Vandenberg in Wayne be closed and that Hamilton be kept open, as well as new attendance boundaries for Edison, Elliott, Hamilton, Hicks, Hoover, Schweitzer, Taft-Galloway and Wildwood.

Initially, the committee had recommended that just one elementary — Walker-Winter in Canton — have its students divided between the 5/6 schools — Marshall and Adams. However, with the changes, there would be four elementaries — Hamilton, Hicks in Inkster, Walker-

Winter and Schweitzer in Westland — that would feed students into the two 5/6 schools.

It also recommended that sixth-seventh-graders currently attending Stevenson Middle School who reside in the Wayne Memorial High School attendance area be allowed to stay through eighth grade rather than being sent to Franklin Middle School in Wayne.

While the school district was aiming for an 85 percent capacity in the

Please see 21ST CENTURY, A2



Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano, Westland Mayor William Wild, Miss Wayne County Kelly Cicotte and Chris Gerback of MADD help kick off MADD's annual Tie One On For Safety red ribbon campaign at Westland Shopping Center.

MADD kicks off annual holiday campaign

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Two years after her daughter was killed in 1992 by a drunken driver, Paulette Gibson became a victim impact speaker for Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

"I speak once or twice a month to first-time offenders — a lot of them really aren't first-time offenders," said Gibson. "It became a passion for me."

But continuing to see 40-50 first-time offenders at each session became disheartening, said Gibson, who often brought along her 4-year-old granddaughter — a child she raised after her daughter's death.

"It had a big impact on people seeing her sitting in a big chair behind me coloring," she said.

Speaking at the kick-off ceremony

for MADD's annual Tie One On For Safety red ribbon campaign, Gibson said she returned as a speaker after about a five-year break.

"I realized that the problem was not going to go away unless there was no alcohol and that wasn't going to happen," said Gibson. "I speak from compassion and consequences. Choices have consequences."

Drunken driving impacts the offender's family, too, Gibson said.

"I start by asking them to close their eyes and think of someone they love and who loves them unconditionally," said Gibson.

Metro area law enforcement officials, including Wayne County Undersheriff Daniel Pfannes and Macomb County Sheriff's Department Capt. Anthony Wickersham, attended the kick-off at Westland Center.

"I'm here as a law enforcement officer and also as a citizen. My best friend was killed in the 1980s by drunk driver," said Pfannes. "This is very near and dear to my heart. We can't preach enough that people need to be responsible for themselves and each other. It's a hard task stepping up when someone is getting behind the wheel after drinking alcohol."

Like Pfannes, Wickersham urged drivers to call 9-1-1 when they see erratic drivers who may be intoxicated. In a time when budgets are being cut, Wickersham said that Macomb County Sheriff Mark Hackel and Macomb County Prosecutor Eric Smith have sponsored billboards asking people to call 9-1-1 about possible drunken drivers.

Please see MADD, A3

'Real' Santa pays visit to Octagon House

Santa Claus will be visiting the Octagon House Saturday — the real Santa Claus.

At least that's the story from Jo Johnson, president of the Westland Historical Society, and she's sticking with it.

"I'd like people to know we have the real Santa. Last year, a grandson of a (Historical) commissioner sat on Santa's lap with a map showing the way to his house," said Johnson. "A week later, he saw Santa at a mall and said that wasn't the real Santa, he had seen the real Santa at the museum."

The identification was good enough for Johnson.

"You've got to believe him, he knew Santa," she said.

Santa will be visiting the Octagon House in the Westland Historic Village Park 1-4 p.m. Saturday during the annual Christmas Open House. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to bring cameras to get a photograph with Santa.

Tours of the Octagon House will be offered. Hot chocolate and cookies will be served.

Westland Historic Village Park is located on Wayne Road south of Marquette. For more information, call (734) 522-3918.

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Roadwork takes bumps out of Warren Road

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

There's no dispute that much of Warren Road needs repairs but people do disagree about which section is in the worst condition.

"I've had people say the worst section is Venoy to Merriman while someone else says it's Merriman to Middlebelt," said Westland Department of Public Services Director Kevin Buford. "The entire Warren corridor is in sad shape and you can quote me."

The Westland and Garden City councils have each approved an intergovernmental agreement with Wayne County for resurfacing Warren from Wayne Road to Merriman.

Expected to begin in the spring, the \$2 million project is being funded largely by a federal grant administered by the Michigan Department of Transportation. Federal money will pay nearly 82 percent of the project costs. The local share will be divided with Wayne County paying 9 percent, Westland paying 7 percent or \$146,366 and 2 percent or \$42,122 from Garden City.

"We're absolutely pleased that they are doing this project. We're also anxious for the next project going east of Merriman," said Garden City City Manager David Harvey, who nominated the section from Merriman to Middlebelt as being in the worst condition. "The improvements on Warren have been needed for a long time. They've cut and patched the road, so it's been a little better."

In 2011, plans call for resurfacing of Warren Road from Merriman to Middlebelt and Newburgh to Wayne Road. The section of Warren from Middlebelt to Inkster Road is scheduled to be resurfaced in 2012.

"Since it is five lanes and so long, they are doing the project in segments. It's not that old of a road, it failed prematurely," said Buford. "It's a county road but we do get complaints about it — it's in my city."

The Wayne Road to Merriman project is expected to take two-three months to complete. The work includes repair and sealing of the concrete before resurfacing and replacement of some concrete.

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21ST CENTURY

FROM PAGE A1

schools, that figure would slip to 78 percent, under the new recommendation. Likewise, the hoped for \$5.5-\$6 million savings would be more like \$5 million.

"Wayne-Westland isn't alone in facing this challenge," said consultant Jeff Rahmberg in presenting the new recommendations. "Every school district around the state has been dealt this same hand and is either closing schools, getting concessions or laying off employees. This community has always risen to the challenge and this is a big one."

Parents continued to press the board to make sure they had all of the facts before making a decision. In the Madison attendance area, Ron and Sally Madison have created a Web site, Parents After the Truth — pattnow.com — to get out information they feel hasn't been considered by the committee.

"No matter what schools close and what schools stay open, it affects the whole community," said Sally Madison. "We've seen the numbers and they don't add up."

"Close the right schools for the right reason and for the right amount of money," Ron Madison added.

Parents also questioned safety issues related to the area around Hicks Elementary and for students at Vandenberg walking to Taft-Galloway.

"You've put Vandenberg in the same situation as Jefferson-Barns and Lincoln, you'll leave a vacant building that won't be safe to walk by," one parent said. "If we face this again next year are we going to move these students again? I think you need to go back to the drawing board."

Since the meeting, Andrea O'Leary has been urging her neighbors to contact Superintendent Greg Baracy and John Albrecht who chaired the enrollment sub-committee in hopes of not having children living in the area of Merriman to Henry Ruff and Avondale to Cherry Hill sent out of Westland to Hicks Elementary in Inkster.

"We are the only area that our children will be leaving our own city to go to school," said O'Leary. "I have looked at the area and know people who work there and it is my understanding that this is not a safe place to send our children."

Board Vice President Cindy Schofield, who had questioned the closing of Jefferson-Barns and

Lincoln in the Norwayne community, told the audience that she used the same criteria as what the committee in looking at the closings.

"I looked at the rubric and no matter how I changed it, I came up with the same buildings," she said, adding that Lincoln and Jefferson-Barns are the "two buildings that are the worst in the district."

The board members told the audience that they are committed to make the best decision for the students.

"It's not about the money for me," said Trustee Carol Middel. "It's about the students, it's always been that."

"I know the decision I have to make and it will be tough for me," said Trustee John Goci. "It's going to be tough for me to close schools, but I'm confident that this is right for the district."

"I've been on this board for 15 years and this is one of the hardest things I've had to do and experience," said board Secretary Martha Pitsenbarger. "Not one of us wants to close one school, we have to do this. We need to do what's right and to look out for our school district."

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

Comment called 'offensive, inappropriate'

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

"Those kids." It was a remark shouted out during the Wayne-Westland school board's Nov. 30 public forum that brought several parents and a school official to the podium Monday evening to speak in support of the students who live in the Wayne Memorial High School attendance area.

"I'm here to let you know what a jewel you have in Wayne Memorial," said Valerie Orr, the Wayne High principal and a Wayne High graduate.

Citing the school's nationally ranked JROTC Raiders unit and the many community service projects students are involved in, including a Christmas program for elementary students this week, Orr told the school board that her decision to speak was an easy one after hearing the remark.

"To hear such a disparaging remark is hard," she said. "People need to consider that when they're judging others, this isn't the Wayne district, this isn't the Westland district, this is the Wayne-Westland district. I understand that this is an emotional time, but people should redirect their frustrations to contacting their lawmakers to get them to properly fund schools."

"I want to apologize to the parents and

the children for the people who came and referred to them as white trash," said Shawnn Maxwell. "I am one of the fortunate ones whose school isn't closing, but at Taft-Galloway, any child will be welcome to our school, not as those children, but as our children."

"Each child deserves an education, instead of tearing this district apart, we need to support it," she said.

"It makes no sense in running down the schools, we have great schools," said Tim Tennant of Wayne. "I have no problem with my kids going to Taft, it's one of the better schools. I don't have a problem with you closing my school."

"Those people, what they said was inappropriate and totally offensive," added another parent.

School board Treasurer Shawna Walker said the comment was disheartening to hear.

"All of our children are important, we don't want to make anyone of them feel they are less important," she said.

"I take that comment personally because my kids are those kids," added school board Vice President Cindy Schofield. "They went to Adams and Wayne Memorial and they are both very successful."

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CORRECTION

A story about school closings in the Thursday, Dec. 3, issue of the *Observer* should have identified Ron Madison as the son-in-law of Florence Richards.

Elle Dare, owner with her husband of Genuine Toy Co. in Plymouth, said that toys made in China are now much safer than was true in the past. The comments were in a Sunday, Dec. 6, *Observer* article. She said regulations now make China-made toys much safer.

KNOW THE SCORE
check out the numbers in today's Sports section

AROUND WESTLAND

Cookie Walk

The First United Methodist Church in Wayne will hold a Cookie Walk 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 12, at the church, 3 Town Square, across from the Wayne Post Office.

Homemade holiday cookies, breads and candies will be sold. Small containers will be \$5, medium containers \$9 and large containers \$13. Homemade candies will be sold by the pound.

For more information, call the church office at (734) 721-4801.

Gold party

Bring your unwanted jewelry including gold, platinum, silver, diamonds, watches and collectible gold or silver coins to St. Theodore Church Parish Center 8:30 a.m. to noon Sunday, Dec. 20, for some cash and to benefit the St. Theodore Men's Club. Discount Jewelry will buy the unwanted items and donate 20 percent of the overall purchases to the men's club.

St. Theodore is located at 8200 N. Wayne Road, Westland.

New Year's Eve

Wayne AMVETS Post 171 will hold at New Year's party starting at 6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31. The cost will be \$30 per person and includes an open bar, buffet dinner at 7 p.m. and dancing. There also will be party favors, a bottle of champagne at each table and pizza at midnight. The party ends at 1 a.m.

Tickets are available at the AMVETS Post, 1217 Merriman, south of Cherry Hill. For more information call 973 721-9440.

Holiday skating

Head for the Mike Modano Ice Arena during the Christmas break where there will be open skating 12:30- 1:50 p.m. Monday, Dec. 21, Wednesday, Dec. 23, Monday, Dec. 28, and Wednesday Dec. 30. The arena

also offers open skating 1:30 -3:20 p.m. Saturdays and 2:30-3:50 p.m. Sundays. The cost is \$3.50 for children and \$4.50 for adults. Skate rental is \$2.50.

For a different kind of New Year's Eve, do some black light skating at a special version of Glow skate 5-6:30 Dec. 31. The cost is \$2.50 for children and \$3.50 for adults.

For more information, call the arena at (734) 729-4560.

Food distribution

The City of Westland will distribute surplus federal food to residents north of Michigan Avenue 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 17, at the Dorsey Community Center, 32715 Dorsey Road, south of Palmer.

Residents living south of Michigan Avenue can pick up their commodities the second Monday of each month from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at St. James United Methodist Church, 30055 Annapolis, between Henry Ruff and Middlebelt Roads The phone number is (734) 729-1737.

Senior citizens living in Taylor Towers will pick up their food at Taylor Towers and can call their building manager for their day of distribution. Greenwood Villa residents must pick up their food items at Greenwood Villa.

For the month, frozen chicken, applesauce, bakery mix, carrots, peanut butter, pears, walnuts and possible additional items will be distributed. For more information, call the center's surplus food hotline at (734) 595-0366.

The program is administered by the Wayne County Office of Senior Services.

Office hours

Wayne County Commissioner Joan Gebhardt, D-Livonia, has postponed her four monthly office hours during December because of the

holidays. The meetings will resume in January.

Gebhardt, who represents the communities of Inkster, Westland and the southern portion of Livonia, will hold meetings at:

- Noon Monday, Jan. 4, at the McDonald's Restaurant, 27125 Cherry Hill in Inkster.

- 10 a.m. Monday, Jan. 11, at Starbucks, 36545 Warren Road at Central City Parkway, n Westland.

- 6-8 p.m. Monday, Jan. 11, at the William P. Faust Library, 6123 Central City Parkway, north of Ford, Westland. The meeting is, held in conjunction with State Rep. Richard LeBlanc, D-Westland.


- 10 a.m. Monday, Jan. 25, at the Biggby Coffee Shop, 33328 Plymouth Road, east of Farmington Road, Livonia. Residents can attend any of the office hours, even if they do not reside in the community where the meeting is being held. They also can always contact Gebhardt's office at (313) 224-0902.

American Legion

The American Legion, Westland Post 251 meets at 7 p.m. first Tuesday of each month at the AMVETS Post 171 on Merriman Road between Avondale and Palmer. All veterans, male and female with a honorable discharge are welcome to join. Visit the post Web site at www.post 251.org or call (734) 326-2607 for more information.

Friends of Eloise

The Friends of Eloise meets at 7 p.m. on the third Tuesday of the month (except July, August and December) at the Collins House in the Westland Historic Village Park, on Wayne Road between Marquette and Cherry Hill. For information, call Jo Johnson (734) 522-3918.



CITY OF GARDEN CITY
NOTICE OF ADOPTION


Please take notice that at its regular meeting of Monday, November 30, 2009, the City Council of the City of Garden City did adopt the following schedule.

2010 - SCHEDULE OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETINGS		
Monday	January 11, 2010	Council Meeting
Monday	January 25, 2010	Council Meeting
Monday	February 8, 2010	Council Meeting
Monday	February 22, 2010	Council Meeting
Monday	March 8, 2010	Council Meeting
Monday	March 22, 2010	Council Meeting
Monday	April 12, 2010	Council Meeting
Monday	April 26, 2010	Council Meeting
Monday	May 10, 2010	Council Meeting
Monday	May 24, 2010	Council Meeting
Monday	June 7, 2010	Council Meeting
Monday	June 21, 2010	Council Meeting
Monday	July 12, 2010	Council Meeting
Monday	July 26, 2010	Council Meeting
Monday	August 9, 2010	Council Meeting
Monday	August 23, 2010	Council Meeting
Monday	September 13, 2010	Council Meeting
Monday	September 27, 2010	Council Meeting
Monday	October 11, 2010	Council Meeting
Monday	October 25, 2010	Council Meeting
Monday	November 8, 2010	Council Meeting
Monday	November 22, 2010	Council Meeting
Monday	December 6, 2010	Council Meeting
Monday	December 20, 2010	Council Meeting

Publish: December 10 & January 10, 2010

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2010 FIRE AND POLICE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION MEETING DATES

NOTICE OF SCHEDULE OF REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE WESTLAND FIRE AND POLICE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION TO BE HELD DURING THE CALENDAR YEAR COMMENCING JANUARY 13, 2010 AND ENDING DECEMBER 8, 2010:

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE MEETINGS OF THE WESTLAND FIRE AND POLICE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF WESTLAND:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT THE WESTLAND FIRE AND POLICE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF WESTLAND, 36601 FORD ROAD, WESTLAND, MICHIGAN, (734) 467-3190, WILL HOLD REGULAR MEETINGS AT THE FOLLOWING DATES, TIMES AND PLACES DURING THE 2010 YEAR, COMMENCING JANUARY 13, 2010 AND ENDING DECEMBER 8, 2010:

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
01/13/10	9:00 A.M.	WESTLAND CITY HALL, 36601 FORD ROAD
02/10/10	9:00 A.M.	WESTLAND CITY HALL, 36601 FORD ROAD
03/10/10	9:00 A.M.	WESTLAND CITY HALL, 36601 FORD ROAD
04/14/10	9:00 A.M.	WESTLAND CITY HALL, 36601 FORD ROAD
05/19/10	9:00 A.M.	WESTLAND CITY HALL, 36601 FORD ROAD
06/09/10	9:00 A.M.	WESTLAND CITY HALL, 36601 FORD ROAD
07/14/10	9:00 A.M.	WESTLAND CITY HALL, 36601 FORD ROAD
08/11/10	9:00 A.M.	WESTLAND CITY HALL, 36601 FORD ROAD
09/08/10	9:00 A.M.	WESTLAND CITY HALL, 36601 FORD ROAD
10/13/10	9:00 A.M.	WESTLAND CITY HALL, 36601 FORD ROAD
11/10/10	9:00 A.M.	WESTLAND CITY HALL, 36601 FORD ROAD
12/08/10	9:00 A.M.	WESTLAND CITY HALL, 36601 FORD ROAD

PROPOSED MINUTES OF EACH OF THE MEETINGS LISTED ABOVE WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION DURING REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS AT WESTLAND CITY HALL, 36601 FORD ROAD, WESTLAND, MICHIGAN, NOT MORE THAN EIGHT BUSINESS DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SAID MEETING, AND APPROVED MINUTES OF EACH MEETING WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION DURING REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS, AT THE SAME LOCATION, NOT MORE THAN FIVE BUSINESS DAYS AFTER THE MEETING AT WHICH THE MINUTES ARE APPROVED.

THIS NOTICE IS GIVEN IN COMPLIANCE WITH ACT NO. 267 OF THE PUBLIC ACTS OF MICHIGAN, 1976.

EILEEN DeHART
WESTLAND CITY CLERK

Publish: December 10, 2009

Celebrate the holidays with us

Take a break from the holiday bustle by sharing your holiday wishes and fondest memories with us.

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 is making his list and getting close to checking it twice, but there's still time to send him wish gift list.

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'll send them on to the North Pole after we make cop-



ies to publish in the newspaper Dec. 24. It's been a holiday tradition that we at *The Observer* have thoroughly enjoyed and hope children will help keep it going.

The letters can be sent by e-mail and need to 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 also can be sent the old-fashioned way, via the U.S. Postal Service, to Letter to Santa, c/o Sue Mason, 615 W. Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226.



Paulette Gibson, a victim impact speaker for Mothers Against Drunk Driving, talks about the loss of her daughter, who was killed in 1992 by a drunken driver.

MADD

FROM PAGE A1

"We took this concept from Neighborhood Watch. We need people to be our eyes and ears and call 9-1-1 with as much information about the vehicle as they can," said Wickersham. "Then we hope an officer will be able to stop them."

From Thanksgiving to New Year's Day nationally close to 1,500 fatalities occur involving a driver with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 or higher and thousands of individuals are injured, according to MADD. In 2008, 317 people were killed and 5,700 injured in alcohol-related accidents statewide. In the seven counties that make up Southeast Michigan, 104 fatalities and 2,085 injuries occurred in crashes where the drunken driver had a BAC of .08 or higher.

Noting his relationship with MADD dated back to his time as Wayne County sheriff, Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano said that the organization has changed the dynamics and discussions that relate to alcohol consumption and driving.

"Ten years ago, you wouldn't

"Ten years ago, you wouldn't have known what a designated driver is. There is a lot more discussion at parties about drinking and who is driving home," he said. "But the job isn't complete if one family is injured by a drunk driver."

ANTHONY WICKERSHAM, Macomb County Sheriff's Department Captain

have known what a designated driver is. There is a lot more discussion at parties about drinking and who is driving home," he said. "But the job isn't complete if one family is injured by a drunk driver."

Tying a red ribbon around a vehicle antenna wasn't just a reminder of the Tie One On For Safety campaign, Westland Mayor William Wild said, but also shows a commitment of the driver to drive sober and wear a seat belt.

The MADD ribbons are available at local State Farm Insurance offices — the insurance company is a sponsor of the Tie One On For Safety effort.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
Pursuant to state law a sale will be held at: Secured Self Storage, 2460 Gulley Rd., Dearborn Hgts., MI Dec. 19, 2009 @ 1:05 PM.
#648 Rachel M. Leblanc
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Publish: December 3 & 10, 2009

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WESTLAND ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION
These vehicles have been deemed abandoned and will be sold at public auction. The auction will be on Tuesday, December 15th at 11:00 A.M. and will be held at 6375 Hix, Westland, MI, 48185. The vehicles will be sold as is, starting bid is for towing and storage.

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	COLOR	VIN
1997	Chevrolet	Cavalier	Teal	1G1JC1245V7253176
1995	Buick	Royale	White	2G4WB52L1S1494297

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PUBLIC SAFETY

Cash, equipment taken from restaurant

Embezzlement

1. The owner of Mancino's, 37636 Ford, told police Nov. 30 that approximately \$16,000 in cash, food and equipment had been stolen from Aug. 14 when the business opened and Oct. 31. He identified the suspect as a Livonia man who had been his partner in the business and was in charge of handling cash at the location.

Break-in

2. Police were called to a home in the 36000 block of Booth just after 8 p.m. Dec. 2 when a resident told police that a man had broken the bay window and entered the house. The resident was outside in the back yard when the officers arrived and searched the home without finding anyone.

A landscaping brick was found on the kitchen floor and the officer noted mud on the outer and inner window frame consistent with someone climbing in. Since there was no mud on the floor, the officer said he appeared to have been leaning in trying to grab a purse that was on the kitchen table.

The resident told the officer she was watching television nearby when she heard the brick come through the window. When she walked into the kitchen, she said a man in a black coat, knit hat and gloves was climbing through the window. The man ran, she said, when she started screaming.

Damage to the window was set at \$400.

Larceny

3. Numerous televisions were reported stolen after 19 different fifth-wheel/camping trailers were broken into at Westland Camping Center,

WESTLAND COP CALLS

1475 S. Newburgh, Nov. 25-30. The televisions had been mounted in the camping vehicles. Officers said the perimeter fence had been cut and some type of pry device or key had been used to open the vehicles.

Various tools and a generator also were missing from a show trailer on the site.

Dog gone

4. A resident in the 2100 block of Edgerton told police Nov. 29 that someone had stolen her dog, a chocolate lab/pit bull mix, from the back yard of her home. She said the dog, valued at \$100, had been outside for about 30 minutes.

The officer noted there were also pry marks on the rear door but no entry was made.

Larceny from a vehicle

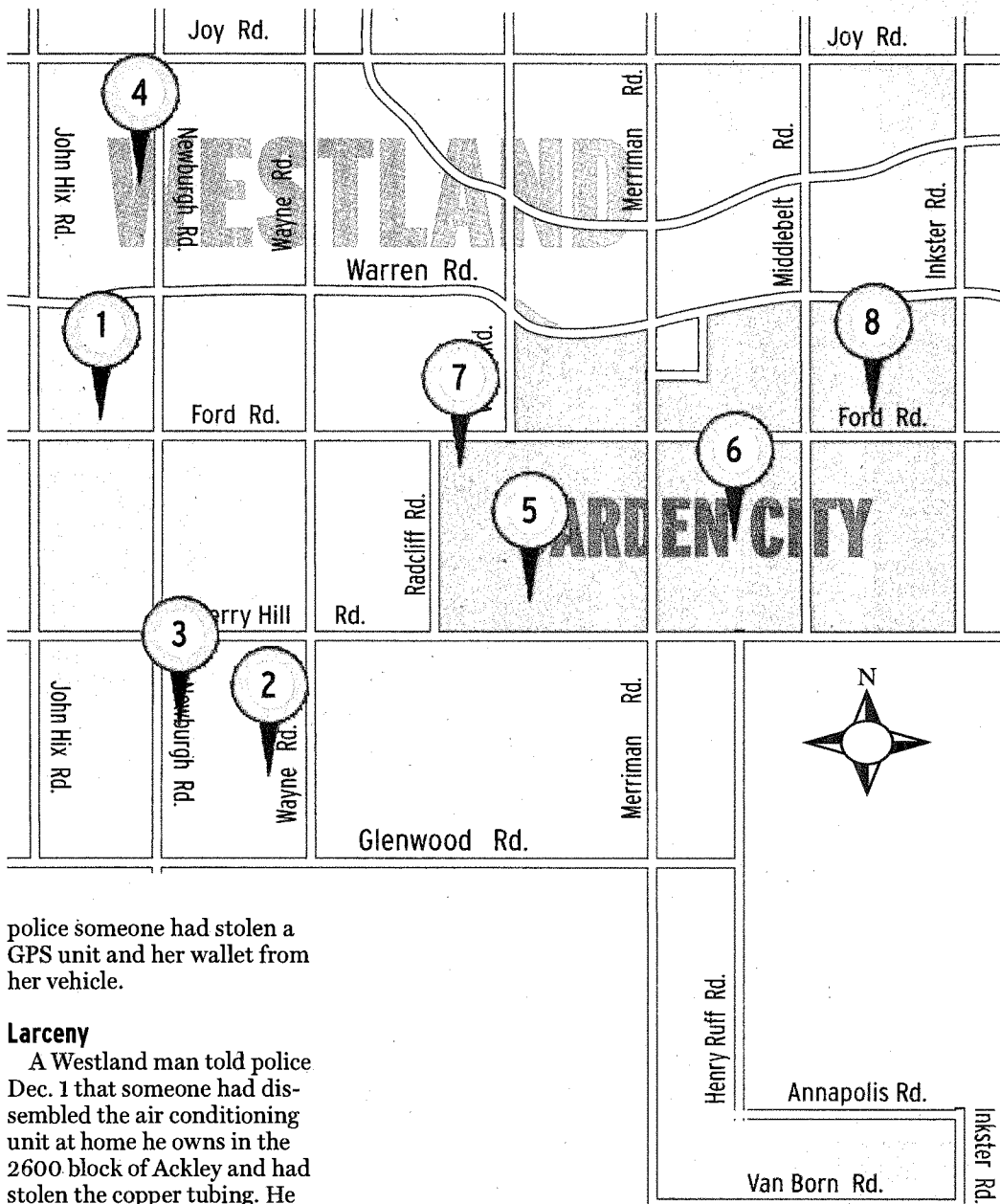
A resident of an apartment at 37500 Scotsdale Circle told police Dec. 2 that her vehicle was parked overnight and in the morning she found the driver's side window smashed out. Reported missing from the vehicle was a touch-screen radio valued at \$300. Additional damage to the dashboard was also reported.

Purse stolen

A Canton woman told police Dec. 2 that her purse had been stolen from her boyfriend's vehicle while they were at Powerhouse Gym, 34520 Ford. The boyfriend, a Farmington Hills man, said the vehicle window had been smashed. The purse contained identification and \$10 cash.

Larceny from a vehicle

On Dec. 1, a resident in the 38000 block of Oakwest told



police someone had stolen a GPS unit and her wallet from her vehicle.

Larceny

A Westland man told police Dec. 1 that someone had disassembled the air conditioning unit at home he owns in the 2600 block of Ackley and had stolen the copper tubing. He said he had last been at the home on Nov. 27.

Break-in

On Dec. 3, a resident in the 2400 block of East Rhead told police that someone had entered his garage and stolen assorted tools valued at \$700.

Larceny from a vehicle

A resident of an apartment in the 33000 block of Trafalgar Square told police Dec. 3 that someone had damaged both door locks on his vehicle and stolen 30 CDs. No damage estimate was included but the stolen CDs were valued at \$400.

By LeAnne Rogers

Vandalism

6. A window at the Greek Flame Restaurant at Cherry Hill and Venoy was found smashed by a cement landscaping brick Dec. 2. The manager told police that the brick matched landscaping under the broken window. He added that he has had no recent employee/customer troubles.

The rear window of a pickup truck was shattered by a BB or pellet gun while it was parked in the driveway of a home in the 29000 block of Rosslyn Dec. 5. The owner said it appeared nothing had been taken from the truck. Damage was set at \$500.

A resident in the 32000 block of Sheridan told police she was in her kitchen Dec. 5 when she heard a noise like glass breaking and saw that the glass in her doorwall was shattered. It appeared the damage was done by a BB or pellet gun and that the shot had come from north of the home on Barton street. However, police found no one who had heard or seen anything. Damage was set at \$500.

Larceny from a vehicle

7. A radio face, three CDs, 90 oxycotin pills and \$7 in change were among items taken from a vehicle that was parked and locked in the driveway of a home in the 31000 block of Barton Dec. 2. The driver told police that the incident happened sometime between 10 p.m. Dec. 1 and noon Dec. 2. Police found rips in the molding around the top of the driver's door that appeared to be new.

Two dollars in change was found missing from a truck parked in the driveway of home in the 29000 block of Chester Avenue Dec. 5. The owner told police the truck had been parked about 11 p.m. When he went out at 5 a.m., he found the small center window had been broken out and the money missing.

Counterfeit money

8. Liquor at 33439 Ford called police Dec. 2 after a customer attempted to purchase cigarettes with a fake \$5 bill. The customer told police that a man handed her the money and told her to go buy some cigarettes and didn't notice it was fake until the store owner showed her the bill.

The woman said the man is her manager at group home in Westland and that he had told her he had found it on the ground and didn't know it was counterfeit. The man went to the store to retrieve the bill, but left when the store owner told him he had called the police.

Woman finds her missing ID used at pawn shop

Identity theft

5. A Cement City resident told police Dec. 1 she believes her brother's ex-girlfriend used her identification to pawn several chain saws that were taken in a break-in of his home in Wayne.

The woman told police she her identification had been lost or stolen recently and she

wasn't certain what had happened to it until an employee at the pawn shop identified a photograph of the ex-girlfriend as the person who produced identification in her name when she brought in the chain saws.

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Understand estate taxes, Roth IRA conversions

Recently I have been asked a number of questions regarding changes in the tax laws for 2010. The questions have dealt with two issues — changes in rules with regards to estate taxes and changes with regards to Roth IRA conversions.



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

It is a good idea to briefly explain the changes. However, there is one caveat and that is with tax laws anything and everything can change. It used to be that when you talked about long-term tax planning you were talking in terms of years. That is no longer the case. Fortunately, or unfortunately, depending upon your view, our tax laws are ever changing and that's what makes long-term tax planning difficult. As I write this column there are heated discussions in Washington regarding tax law changes, in particular, estate taxes.

Estate laws tax an individual upon their death. The tax is determined by the fair market value of someone's net worth at the time of their death. Currently, the majority of Americans are not subject to an estate tax. Under the law that is set to end on Dec. 31, the first \$3.5 million of your estate is not subject to estate taxes. However, in 2010 there is no estate tax. In other words, if someone with substantial wealth passes away next year their estate would not be subject to estate taxes. The downside is that same law states that in 2011 estate taxes will return. In addition, there would not be a \$3.5 million exemption. That number would be reduced to \$1 million. Obviously, if the exemption went to \$1 million many more Americans would be subject to estate taxes.

The other change in tax law which is much more beneficial to many Americans deals with rules regarding converting traditional IRAs into Roth IRAs. Under current tax law, adjusted gross income must be less than \$100,000 to be eligible for a conversion. The \$100,000 figure applies whether you are single or married. That provision in the law terminates at the end of this year. In 2010, anyone will be eligible to convert an existing IRA into a Roth IRA.

There is another change in the law with regards to Roth conversions that is beneficial to taxpayers. Under today's rules, taxes owed must be paid in the year of conversion. For 2010 only, if you do a conversion you will not be required to pay the entire tax in 2010. Half the tax can be paid in 2010, the other half in 2011. This option is only available for 2010.

In regard to estate tax changes, I'm not sure there's much of anything to do at the present time. I will not be surprised if it happens sooner than later. Congress will amend the law to provide for an estate tax in 2010 and a higher threshold moving forward. Therefore, there's not much that anyone should do at this point in time. However, for individuals who have large estates, the same strategy that I have recommended for years still applies and this is to consider a living trust. In today's world with the \$3.5 million exemption, husbands and wives, through the effective use of a living trust, can shield upwards of \$7 million from estate taxes. Even if the law does not change and the exemption drops back to \$1 million in 2011, a trust could shield \$2 million of assets from estate taxes.

As to the Roth IRA, the one thing that taxpayers can do in preparation for the 2010 conversion is to put aside some money to pay the taxes. It does not make sense to use the money that you are converting to pay the taxes. Therefore, if you plan to do a Roth IRA conversion in 2010, do set some money aside for taxes.

I believe you never let the tax tail wag the dog. In other words, you don't want to do anything for tax reasons alone. That being said, I also believe it is not more patriotic to pay more taxes than required.

Good luck!

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at money matters@hometownlife.com. For more information, visit Rick's Web site at www.bloomassetmanagement.com.

Loves 'still dancing' after 70 years



Dorothy and Clyde Love met at a dance in Garden City and 70 years after they married, the Westland couple is still dancing through life.

Clyde Love was a farm boy who met his sweetheart, Dorothy Odell, at a local dance in Garden City. More than 70 years later, they all still together or as Dorothy puts it, "still dancing."

The Westland couple recently celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary. They were married on Nov. 25, 1939, at Garden City Presbyterian Church in 1939 and settled in a home they built on Ann Arbor Trail near Nankin Mills.

According to their daughter, Geri Conser, the Loves built a home where they could raise their family. Clyde Love cut the wood, sawed it and they built it with hand tools. The couple moved in on Nov. 2, 1940, just shy of their first anniversary.

The Loves had four children. First came two daughters - Geraldine, followed by a second daughter Dorothy. They became known as the "first family." The reason - World War II.

"In 1944, he joined the Army and served in World War II on the Philippine Islands for two years," Conser said. "Upon his return, they completed their family with two sons, William and Myron."

According to Dorothy Love, "the youngest one didn't know her dad when he came home."

Clyde Love worked in factories as a tool maker, but his heart was with the land. With the help of Dorothy's father, Jack Odell, the Loves started a small roadside farm stand, Clyde Love's Farm Produce. The whole family worked on the farm and at the stand.

The kids learned their mathematics and manners with the help of their parents.

"He was a farmer through and through," said Conser. "They were known for having the best kids, the freshest fruits and vegetables in the area. The local kids all wanted to work for the Love's because there was always lots of work and lots of fun."

As the children got older, Dorothy Love became involved with their 4-H groups. Clyde Love taught many of the kids to hunt and fish.

"There was always room for one more kid in the very small kitchen," Conser said. "They were always part of the kids' activities."

As the years passed and their children married and moved away, Dorothy and Clyde Love spent more time doing the things they loved.

Dancing became a weekly ride to Saline Dance Club. Walks in the woods and travel became part of their life, Conser said.

Today the Love family includes Conser and her husband John, Dorothy and Charles Grabowski, Janet and William Love and Ruth and Myron Love. Their grandchildren include Anne and Glenn Driver, Kari and James Hornsby, Christiana Conser and Larry Berlin, Deanna and Chris Hansen, Joshua Grabowski, Sara and Jon Love, CherylAnn and David Love, Jessica Love, Valeri Love, Teresa Walker Lamton and great-grandchildren Sean Grabowski, Samantha Grabowski, Sadie Grabowski, Katrina Hornsby, Stella Berlin, Kyle Love, and Alex Love.

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HENRY FORD WYANDOTTE HOSPITAL



OUR VIEWS

Shop locally during holidays

Many people will be cutting back on spending this holiday season because of the economy.

They have less money for gifts, decorations and festive foods than they have had in past years. Some may even be cutting out gift-giving entirely.

That isn't all bad. Simpler celebrations may mean people will focus more on the true meaning of each holiday.

We encourage readers to shop locally this holiday season, whether it be for food or gifts or both.

However, people still need to purchase food even if they don't host extravagant parties. And, many people invariably will still buy gifts for their loved ones, even if they spend less than they have in the past.

We encourage readers to shop locally this holiday season, whether it be for food or

gifts or both.

By doing so, they will help local businesses, which, in turn, will benefit them.

If every Michigan household spent \$10 each week on Michigan-made products, \$37 million would be put back into the local economy on a weekly basis, according to the grass roots Made in Michigan Movement.

More money is kept in the community because locally owned businesses purchase from other locally owned businesses, service providers and farms. Purchasing locally helps other local businesses to grow.

When businesses grow, they hire more people. Small local businesses are the largest employer nationally.

Local businesses also support the local community, donating money and/or services to local schools and service organizations benefitting local children and residents.

And, customer service is usually better. Local business often are willing to order items specially for customers or offer more services than national chains.

Businesses like Orin Jewelers in Garden City and Copper Cricket Collectibles in Westland are family owned and operated. They've built up a reputation of providing quality products and service to its customers.

This Christmas shopping season plan to buy as many gifts on your list as possible from local merchants.

Your gifts will not only benefit your loved ones, they'll also help the local economy and put local merchants in a better position to survive and, we hope, thrive in the new year.

COMMUNITY VOICE

Are you ready for winter and the snow?

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



"Yes, I preplanned. I have the stakes up, marking the driveway, and cones so the plow doesn't go on the lawn."

Steve Mackenzie
Northville



"Sure, because I go to Florida."

Linda Masters
Westland



"I don't want to be, but I'm ready for it. It's coming."

Carla Bey
Westland



"Yes, I like the snow."

Ennore Usher
Westland

LETTERS

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.

A Carl Rove supporter

In response to Phil Solarz's criticism of Glenn Anderson's understanding of the Michigan Fair Tax Plan:

Phil Solarz has written many articles critical of people not supporting his views whatever they may be. He has criticized Joe Golonka of reading non-right wing blogs and propaganda (though they have never met) and, of course, accused Joe Golonka of using some secret coded language.

His latest attack was on our senator, Glenn Anderson. I don't know Glenn Anderson, never met him or any of his associates or family or friends. But I did note Phil Solarz again a knew all about the Fair Tax Plan and our representative did not.

Just being inquisitive, I called Glenn Anderson's office and asked if they ever spoke to Phil Solarz. That said, they had no idea who he was or why he was attacking Glenn Anderson. They also had a few people call and ask what this was all about. So his statement that he spoke to Glenn Anderson is an outright lie.

What is notable is the method of putting forward a plausible statement, even though it is a lie, and then pretending it shows a negative character of his opposition, is a practice taught by Carl Rove, George Bush's former propaganda minister. He used this tactic on John McCain during the South Carolina primary campaign in 2000.

Carl Rove had his staff pose as pollsters and call McCain supporters, asking if they would vote for a man who fathered a mix race child. Of course, in South Carolina, the answer would be no, and then the voter polled would see John and Cindy McCain with their adopted daughter. The rest was history.

I don't like to assume someone's character without meeting them, but Phil Solarz's letters to the editor reveal and awful character. Phil Solarz does not like to mince words, so I can be blunt, factual and truthful. As a self-proclaimed teabagger, the group that has fervently worked to stop debate, discussion and all other actions to inform the populace of issues and practice democracy, we can all assume he is one of Carl Rove's fascist supporters and will stop at nothing until his party destroys this country.

Frances Meese
Westland

Data is corrupt or falsified

Obama is traveling around the country as I am writing this asking (once again) for ideas on how to stimulate job growth in this country. The answer is as plain as egg on his face yet he won't go that route because that is not his mission.

The Democrats in Congress are even considering a second stimulus package, seeing the first one worked so well. Less than 40,000 have been created by the first bill although "recovery.org" states that 640,000 have been "saved or created" by the plan. If you look as to where the job growth occurred, you will see that a lot of states had job growth in districts that do not exist. The data is either corrupt or falsified, in either case their claim is a lie.

Until Obama is replaced or the Congress is better balanced, we can continue to look forward to this massive spending, tax increases and our decent into socialism.

Phil Solarz
Westland

Stop bashing Michigan

I was born and raised in Michigan; lived here all my life. We had a back yard, a couple of dogs, shade trees, rode bikes and had nice neighbors. I don't believe I have ever known a drug lord

plemental insurance to receive quality care. AARP will be there to save the day.

Vickie Kahle
Farmington Hills

Too much influence

The health care industry is plying Congress with huge amounts of money to protect that industry's interests.

These are some statistics that I have read:

Some \$1.4 million per day is spent by the health care industry to lobby Congress. The health care industry has hired six lobbyists for every member of Congress. These people are paid to protect the interests of the health insurance companies, the pharmaceutical industry and other corporations that make up the health care industry.

Max Baucus, who is a Democrat from Montana, is chairman of the Senate Finance Committee. Five of his former staffers are involved with companies in the health and insurance sectors. Max Baucus has received over a million dollars from health care and insurance companies. Even worse, 23 members of the Senate Finance Committee receive millions from health care interests.

We can put a stop to this kind of influence by writing or calling our Senators, urging their support of the Fair Elections Now Act (FENA). When we show our outrage over the influence of corporate lobbyists in Congress this type of influence peddling will stop.

Doreen Lawton
Plymouth

Support the home team

When you drive a vehicle from a foreign manufacturer you cut off your nose to spite your face. You destroy your home value, threaten your employment and reduce your school funding — and that's just for starters.

Manufacturing is the heart of the economy, and the automotive industry is by far the largest element of manufacturing. George Bush chose to ignore many things like Katrina, financial oversight and manufacturing, to name just a few. Along with Cheney and Greenspan (at least he admits it), they chose to let the old boy network of short-sighted greedsters run amok. Meanwhile, Cheney and Bush love big oil, that is their wealth. What market forces? This toxic economic soup created the catastrophic Bush Depression — some call it a recession because they don't include the affect of trillions of dollars sacrificed by Americans, multiplied throughout the world.

Jennifer Granholm, to be fair to the other party, is just like George; she does nothing. Quite frankly, Jim Hiller with his grocery stores has done more for Michigan than Granholm can dream of. Blown away yet? While the ship sinks she is courting foreign automotive companies, and that's on a good day. What's wrong with fighting every day for the home team?

Someone in the world (all over the world) has to build 70 million (and growing) new vehicles every year. That is a lot, and it is not going away. Why not us? Have the leaders of the Big Three also been short-sighted greedsters for decades? Absolutely, but do we really want to send our standard of living overseas to spite them? Is the mess really this simple? Manufacturing is the heart of the economy; anyone that tries to tell you differently is a liar.

Go ahead, cut off your nose — at the neck. Or support the home team.

Mark Ritchie
Northville

ONLINE VOICES & VIEWS

Here is a sampling of comments posted on our Web site at www.hometownlife.com.

• About W-W school plan

It's funny the central office administrators are still making the big money. In this plan there is no talk about consolidating central office personal. This district has been told time after time there is too many chiefs and not enough Indians. Please note that the lower union groups have been taking concessions for years, including this year to help out the district ...

You2havea voice

Not sure how many CO personnel you would be satisfied with removing, but likely you will be first in line to complain later when certain 'needs' are not met when they are short of staff. Though it would be prudent for CO staff to take concessions in light of the deficit this district faces, it is probable that everyone will need to do so in order to meet the shortfall. Since 85 percent of budget is salary, then 85 percent of \$150,000,00 is \$127,500,000. Take 5 percent from everyone and you get \$6,325,000 or just about what is needed to balance. That's 5 percent from everyone. But at least all of the staff are spared and the budget shortfall is met ...

opine4utoo

WESTLAND OBSERVER



Sue Mason
Community Editor

Susan Rosiek
Executive Editor / Publisher

Grace Perry
Director of Advertising

Gifts for four-legged friends

BY WENDY VON BUSKIRK
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

There's no doubt Santa is an animal lover, as evidenced by the way he reveres his reindeer.

Take a cue from Old St. Nick and spoil your favorite four-legged friend with some holiday cheer this year.

Here are some fun gift ideas for the dogs and cats in your life:

Fashion



GOZO DOG COLLARS

Gozo Dog collars are walking art. Handcrafted by Ferndale's own Stacy Schaffer-Helmer, the collars combine bright fabrics, sophisticated designs and durable materials produced in the United States. Limited edition collections change each season. Available in various sizes, \$23 at www.gozodog.com.

KLASSY CANINE PET COLLARS

For the pooch who's all business, check out Klassy Canine Pet Collars. Created by an independent Michigan designer based in Holly, the one-of-a-kind collars feature plaid, paw print and checkered ties. Michigan State and University of Michigan fabrics also available. \$7.50 at www.etsy.com.



PERFECT DOG BOWS

Pampered pets and show dogs will look adorable in Perfect Dog Bows, made especially for small breeds like Shih Tzu, Yorkies and Maltese. Northern Michigander Mary Beerman crafts each bow by hand using ribbons, buttons, charms and vintage rhinestones. Order by Dec. 13th for guaranteed Christmas delivery. \$1 and up at www.perfectdogbows.com.



Fun

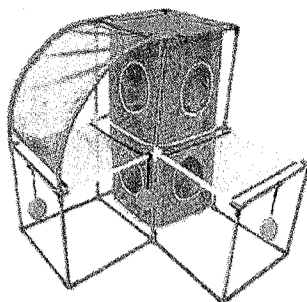
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COLOR PAWS NAIL POLISH

Put the final touch on your pretty pet with an eye-popping manicure. Color Paw Nail Polish comes in Poppin' Neon Purple, Dayglo Neon Orange, Evergreen, Jet Black, True Red and more. \$4.99 per bottle at Petland in Westland Center.



MULTI CAT JUNGLE GYM

Keep active cats busy with the Multi Cat Jungle Gym, featuring jumping platforms, obstacles, vertical and horizontal tunnels and fuzzy hanging toys. \$25.79 at select Target locations and www.target.com.

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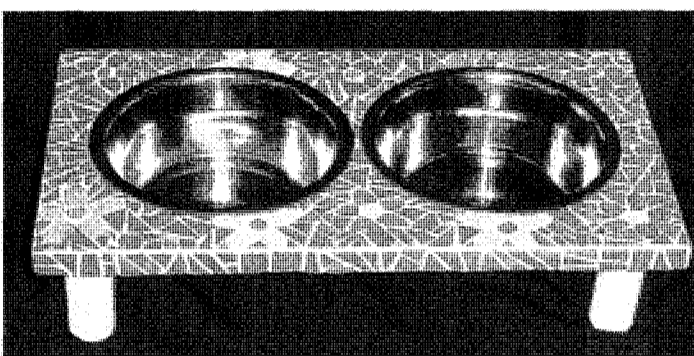
HEALTHY HELPINGS

There's nothing more practical than high-grade pet food. Specialty Pet Supplies, 1449 W. Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth, carries various brands and has a knowledgeable staff well versed in nutrition. Print out coupons online at www.specialtypet.com. Bring your pet for a visit with the pooch photographer 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday Dec. 12 and 19.

PUP PIZZAS



Completely organic Pup Pizzas from Uppity Puppy in Royal Oak look good enough to eat. In fact, you could. All the tasty treats at this upscale pet shop, including Ginger Kids Cookies, Carrot Bones and Biscotti, are beyond human grade and made with organic ingredients. \$9-\$21 per dozen. Visit 706 Washington in Royal Oak, call (248) 336-2380 or visit www.theuppitypuppy.com.



PET DINNER TABLES

Locally-made mosaic tables make dining elegant for your pet and clean up the feeding area in your home. The tables can be custom ordered online with different colors, styles and bowl sizes, and personalized with your pet's name. \$45 and up at www.petdinnertables.com.

For Charity

DETROIT ZOO

From one animal to another, why not contribute to the Detroit Zoological Society in your four-legged friend's name? The zoo offers a wide variety of gift ideas with proceeds supporting animals at the zoo and around the world. Engrave your beloved pet's name on a brick paver (\$90), or a brass-finished butterfly to be displayed inside the Wildlife Interpreted Gallery (\$500). Call (248) 541-5717 or visit www.detroitzoo.org.

MALLS & MAINSTREETS

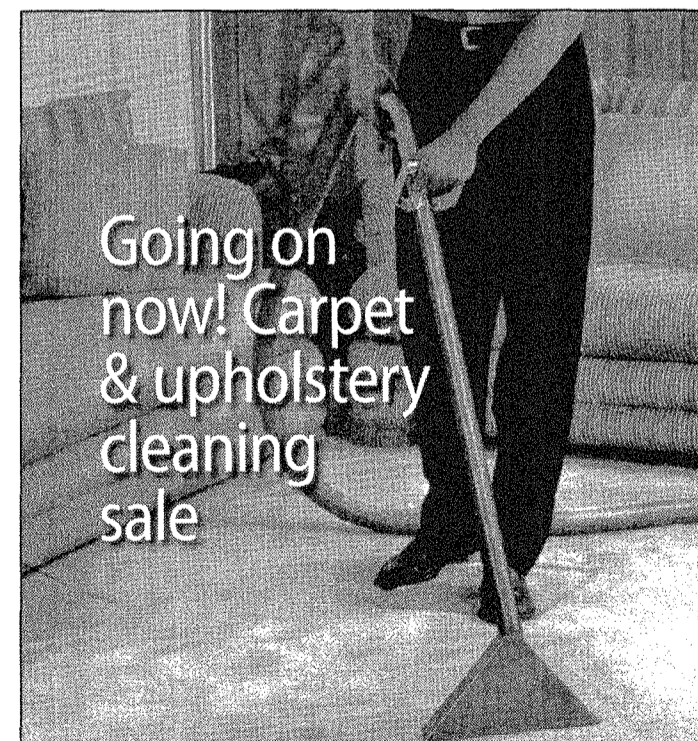
GIFT WRAP APP

Lisa's Gift Wrappers and Vectorform have teamed up to develop an iPhone and iPod Touch applications that offers instruction on perfect gift wrapping. WrapItApp is available for download at the iTunes store for \$1.99. The innovative

app uses the iPhone or iPod as a measuring device to ensure use of the proper amount of paper. It also provides step-by-step instructions on making looped bows. Visit www.lisagiftwrappers.com.

SANTA PAWS PET PHOTOS

Guests are invited to bring their dog or cat to Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi from 9-10:45 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 13 to have their photo taken with Santa. The same photo packages available to families are available for pets. Reservations are a must. Call (248) 348-9438.



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Sale good **Tuesday, Dec. 15, 9 a.m.- 9 p.m. Only**

Scotch specialty items draw customers near, far

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
CORRESPONDENT

Allan Ackroyd Jr. proudly displays his new shortbread creations alongside a refrigerated case of specialty items at his store in Redford. The second-generation baker threw out about 100 pounds of dough before perfecting the take-off on the traditional treat, but it's the pasties, steak pies and sausage rolls that keep customers coming back to Ackroyd's Scotch Bakery. The store on Five Mile, east of Beech Daly, is about the only place around where Scotch and non-Scotch alike are able to buy foods such as shepherd pies, bridies, and black or mealie pudding (blood sausage). One customer stopped in Wednesday to find out the deadline for sending meat pies to his mother down south for Christmas. Ackroyd sells his baked products across



Three dozen of the thousands of pies Ackroyd's will ship for the holidays.



Owner Allan Ackroyd Jr. will be very busy over the next few weeks as orders come in from all over the country.

the U.S. throughout the year but especially during the holidays. "What's popular for the holiday? Everything in volumes," said Ackroyd, who puts in 12 to 14 hours, 7 days a week at this time of year. On Christmas he celebrates by sleeping.

Ackroyd jokes he has a lot of elves that work hard in the large kitchen at the back of the bakery. Last year those six employees helped Ackroyd make 700 dozen meat pies the week before Christmas. "Two days before Christmas is usually orders only. If you haven't placed an order by then it's usually too late unless we have a few items left in the case," said Ackroyd. "People come from all over and we've shipped as far as Hawaii and last week Oregon. I love doing it. A lot of the

customers I know by name or face." The new shortbread cookies are made the traditional way with butter, flour, sugar and a little salt before adding flavorings or covering with chocolate. The Apple Cinnamon was inspired by Plymouth

Orchards and Cider Mill, which carries the shortbread seasonally. Pumpkin Spice and Dark Chocolate Dipped round out the offerings stocked by several local merchants. Allan, Jr. believes Ackroyd's has been in business for 60 years because of the quality. The bakery case beckons with trays of oatcakes, cherry and sultana (golden raisin) pound cake as well as fern cakes made from a shortbread crust and strawberry jam on the bottom then topped with almond-flavored yellow cake and icing. Cubes of steak in gravy fill pies covered with puff pastry made from scratch just like all of Ackroyd's products. "They're family recipes, primarily dad's recipes and a master baker from Scotland who worked with him," said Allan Sr., 83, still helps out at the bakery. "Dad started with meat pies and formed the dough over Mason (canning) jars until he was able to buy a special machine from Scotland for making crusts. There were about 7 Scotch bakeries back then. We're the only one in this area now and one of a few Scotch bakeries in the U.S. that

does a full line of meat-filled products." Allan, Sr. and his brother Silas immigrated to the U.S. from Scotland in 1947 and opened their first bakery in Detroit about a year later. Ackroyd's has called Redford home for 37 years. The family owned a Birmingham store for 21 years until closing about 5 years ago. In addition to baked goods, the store carries imported Lemon Curd and Bramble Jelly to spread on their well-fired bread and serve along with a cup of Yorkshire tea from the U.K. Ackroyd's three new flavors of shortbread are available at the bakery in Redford; Hiller's Markets in Plymouth, Northville and West Bloomfield; Hollywood Market, Bloomfield Hills and Royal Oak; Harvest Fresh Market, Farmington; Westborn Market and Joe's Produce and Gourmet Market, Livonia, and Market Square, Birmingham, to name a few. For a complete list, visit the Web site at www.ackroyd-bakery.com. Ackroyd's Scotch Bakery is at 25566 Five Mile, Redford. Call (313) 532-1181 or (866) 532-1444.

**CITY OF WESTLAND
NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION**

On December 15, 2009, the Westland Police Department will conduct a public auction of impounded, abandoned vehicles. The auction will begin promptly at 11:00 am at Westland Car Care, 6375 Hix Rd., Westland, MI, County of Wayne, where with following vehicles will be offered for sale to the highest bidder:

YEAR	MAKE	BODY STYLE	COLOR	VIN
1998	Chevrolet	Malibu/4 Dr	White	1G1ND52M2WY125026
1993	Ford	Escort/4 Dr	Tan	1FAPP14J2PW186625
1994	Ford	Ranger/Pickup	Black	1FTCR14X4RPC12503
1994	Pontiac	Grand Prix/2 Dr	Black	1G2WJ12M2RF345218
1998	Ford	Escort/Dr	Blue	3FAKP1130WR249335
1995	Ford	Contour/4 Dr	Gray	3FALP66L4SM132892
1989	Ford	Probe/2 Dr	Red	1ZVBT21C8K5211809
2002	Ford	Taurus/4 Dr	Gray	1FAFP53U02G164057
1998	Chevrolet	Venture/SW	Gold	1GNDX03E4WD278686
1997	Mercury	Grnd Marq/4 Dr	Burg	2MELM74W0VX655999
1993	Buick	Roadmaster/4 Dr	Tan	1G4BN5377PR402602
1992	Buick	Skylark/4 Dr	Green	1G4NJ5436NC649758
1992	Buick	LeSabre/4 Dr	Tan	1G4HR53L3NH458633
1993	Buick	Skylark/2 Dr	Gray	1G4NJ14N9PC265258
1999	Chevrolet	Tracker/4 Dr	Green	2CNBJ13C8X6925740
2004	Chrysler	PT Cruiser/SW	Blue	3C4FY48BX4T325893

All vehicles are sold in "as is" condition. Bidding on all vehicles will start at the amount due for towing and storage. Vehicles may be deleted from this list at any time prior to the start of the auction.

30 DAY NOTICE OF AUCTION
Due to unknown ownership, 30 day notice is hereby given that the vehicle(s) listed below will be auctioned after January 9, 2010 unless it is claimed by the owner prior to that time.

YEAR	MAKE	BODY STYLE	COLOR	VIN
1999	Chrysler	Sebring/2 Dr	Black	4C3AU52NXXE104056

Publish: December 10, 2009

**CITY OF WESTLAND
NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION**

On Thursday, December 24, various items of the City of Westland, Special Investigations Unit will be sold at public auction. The auction will be held at Insurance Auto Auction, 8251 Rawsonville Road, Belleville, MI, County of Wayne, at 10:30 a.m. The following items will be offered for sale to the highest bidder:

Stock	Year	Make	Model	VIN
5967195	1996	Mercury	Sable	1MELM53S7TG647839
6018917	1989	Chevrolet	'S' Truck	1GCCS14Z4K8169349
6019078	1996	Chevrolet	Corsica	1G1LD5541TY119068
6123799	1992	Jeep	Cherokee	1J4FT88S1NL171796
6123826	2001	Mercury	Mountaineer	4M2ZU86P61UJ05869
6125734	1997	Ford	Taurus	1FALP52U8VG273701
6146610	1995	Chevrolet	Lumina	2G1WL52M5S1168655
6146631	2000	Ford	Contour	1FAFP68G2YK131057
6146645	1998	Ford	Taurus	1FAFP52U4WG151822
6146661	2001	Ford	Mustang	1FAPP40471F146884

Vehicles are sold in "as is" condition.
The referenced vehicles, as well as many others, may be previewed by prospective buyers on Wednesday, December 23, 2009, from 8:30 am - 4:30 p.m. Vehicles may be deleted from this list at any time prior to the start of the auction.

Terms and Conditions will be applicable to any item sold. Registration fees apply.

Publish: December 10, 2009

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THURSDAY
December 10,
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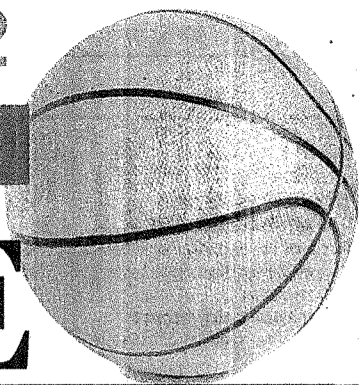
SECTION B
(WL)

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

Churchill rules the boards, routes Dearborn - A2

SPORTS, FILTER, FOOD & WINE

HOMETOWN LIFE



Impressive start

Still room to improve for 13-0 Lady Ocelots

BY BRAD EMMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Ever the perfectionist, Schoolcraft College women's basketball coach Karen Lafata gives her team a "B plus" grade entering the semester break.

That's despite the fact that the Lady Ocelots extended their home court winning streak to 42 games and improved to 13-0 overall following Saturday's 83-52 conquest of Kalamazoo Valley Community College in the finals of the Schoolcraft Invitational.

"I'm not complaining, I'll take 13-0," said Lafata, whose team is ranked No. 2 nationally behind defending champion Kirkwood CC (Iowa) in the latest NJCAA Division II poll. "We've been beating some good teams. We've had some good, solid wins."

Against Kalamazoo Valley, the Lady Ocelots led 46-24 at halftime and cruised home to victory with a 13-0 second-half run.

Four players scored in double figures for Schoolcraft including Antania Shepherd (18 points), April Goins (17), Amber Avery (15) and Jasmine Brown (11).

Avery also grabbed a game-

high 15 rebounds as the Lady Ocelots held a 55-37 edge.

"We just rebound - we kill most of the teams we play on the boards," Lafata said. "The only game we didn't do it was against Owens (a 66-65 win on Nov. 29). That was a tough ballgame."

Point-guard Angela Burrell also dished out eight assists in the championship final as Schoolcraft shot 50 percent from the floor (33-of-66).

The 5-foot-4 Burrell, a second-year player from Detroit Northwestern, has filled in nicely for the graduated Brittany Collins.

Burrell is coming off knee surgery which limited her play last year to a backup role.

"She (Burrell) is 100 percent, she's crafty," Lafata said. "Last year we had Taylor Langham (now at University of Detroit Mercy) - she was a jet. And with Brittany out there they brought a lot of quickness. Brittany was like Chris Paul (of the New Orleans Hornets) whereas Angie plays like John Stockton (formerly of the Utah Jazz). She just knows how to play."

The Lady Ocelots finished 32-3 last season and went all the way to the NJCAA Division II championship game before

losing to Kirkwood.

"I hate comparing because we're a different kind of team than last year," Lafata said. "We still get up-and-down the floor, but we're more of a half-court team."

The only minuses in the win over Kalamazoo Valley were turnovers (24) and free throw shooting (16-of-30).

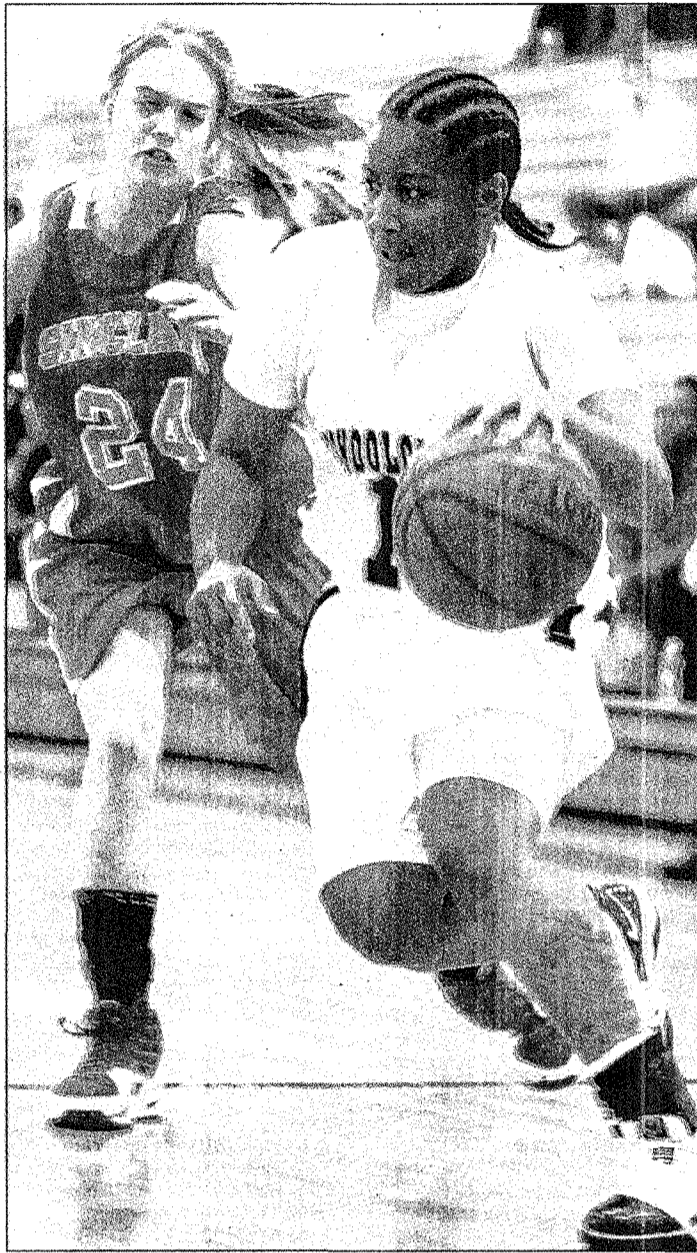
"There are times when we don't take care of the ball, but there was one game when we had only seven," Lafata said. "Last year we went to the line a lot more. We now have some time to work on it (free throw shooting)."

Betsy Hoeflinger and Kaitline Vincke tallied 13 and 10 points, respectively, for the Kalamazoo Valley (3-6). Dee Closson also grabbed 11 rebounds.

The Cougars shot only 22.2 percent from the floor (14-of-63) and committed 26 turnovers.

Meanwhile, the emergence of 6-foot freshman forward Kimberly Bee (Detroit CMA) off the bench has enabled returnee Goins (committed to Florida Atlantic University) to move to more of a guard role from last year's post position.

Please see S'CRAFT, B3



Lady Ocelot point guard Angie Burrell (right) goes hard to the basket during Friday's opening round of the Schoolcraft Invitational against a Sinclair Community College defender.

SIDELINES

Lakers swim fast

Livonia Stevenson grads Jeff Pauza, Mike Cruce and Joey Wingett figured prominently last weekend as the Grand Valley State men's swimming and diving squad captured the 2009 Calvin College Winter Invitational team title in Grand Rapids.

The Lakers scored 1,392 points to beat Kalamazoo College (948.5) and host Calvin (379).

Pauza, a junior, won the 1,650-yard freestyle with a pool-record time of 16:08.99 and added a first in the 500 freestyle (4:38.62). Both times were NCAA Division II "B" cuts. Pauza also placed fifth in the 100 backstroke (52.04).

Cruce, a freshman, earned an NCAA Division II "B" cut in the 200 butterfly with a third-place time of 1:55.39. He also added a third in the 1,650 freestyle (16:34.49) and a sixth in the 100 butterfly (52.79).

Wingett, another freshman, contributed a sixth in the 200 breaststroke (2:11.82) and a seventh in the 100 breaststroke (1:00.24).

Patriots iced, 5-4

In a close, hard-checking game the Livonia Franklin boys hockey team mounted a late rally, but fell Friday to visiting Dearborn Unified at Edgar Arena, 5-4.

The Patriots (0-3) scored three times with a span of 2:29 during the final four minutes to make it a one goal deficit - Aaron Hoffmeyer (from Jacob Wirgau and Robbie Ringe); Kevin Webb (from Brian Bekkala and Ringe); and Ringe (from Webb and Bekkala).

Dearborn led 2-0 after one period on goals by Michael Sears and Keith Wozniak. The Patriots then took a 3-1 second-period lead on Bobby Abram's goal before Philip Mitchell (from Webb and Mike Dibble).

Dearborn then opened up a 4-1 lead in the third period on goals by Justin Harned and Sears.

Dearborn outshot the Patriots, 34-27, as netminder Anthony Crechiolo stopped a penalty shot in the final period.

But Franklin took 12 penalties and gave up a pair of power-play goals.

Free open skate

The three Livonia varsity hockey teams - Churchill, Franklin and Stevenson - will stage a free open skating party from 3-4:20 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 24, at Eddie Edgar Ice Arena, located at 33841 Lyndon (just west of Farmington Road).

Skates will be provided. For more information, e-mail Churchill hockey coach Pete Mazzoni at pmazzoni@livoniapublicschools.org.

John Glenn boys ready to orbit way to state finals

BY BRAD EMMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

PREP BOWLING PREVIEW

Westland John Glenn second-year boys bowling coach Ron Brusseau has a problem most coaches would like to have - loads of talent.

During a recent tryout, Brusseau had seven bowlers average 193 or better during a nine-game span.

The Rockets, who everybody off last year's 9-6-1 squad, will try and duplicate what rival Wayne Memorial did last season - make it all the way to the Division 1 state team championship match.

While Wayne took runner-up honors, the Rockets placed 17th overall in the qualifying block held last March at Northway Lanes in Muskegon.

This season, the goal for the Rockets is to earn a spot in the Division 1 state team finals, March 5-6, at M-66 Bowl in Battle Creek.

Glenn has a slew of returnees includ-

ing Kyle Hamlin, who led the tryout session with a 220 average, along with state singles individual qualifiers Chris Harper and Brian Monty.

"Having experienced going to the state finals last year has the returning players, as well as the newcomers, wanting more," Brusseau said. "Our only focus is building on last year. There is no looking back with this team. They are re-energized and want more. Our goal this year is to win."

Wayne, meanwhile, must replace four key performers lost to graduation including state singles qualifier Mark Shiemke, along with Ryan Gabriel, Josh Vojtkofsky and Jesse English.

Coach Bob Jawor does return talented sophomore Elliot Arnold, a state singles qualifier who averaged 221, along with junior T.J. Lave and senior Kellen Collison.

Another area team that could be strong in the boys ranks is Livonia Clarenceville, a Division 2 regional runner-up which finished 15th in the qualifying block at last year's state team finals.

Coach Phil Horowitz lost state singles qualifier Philip Heidler, but returns seniors Chris Diaz, who also qualified individually, Jason Bertera, Cody Kissandi and Garet Hintzman.

On the girls side, Clarenceville took ninth in last year's Division 2 qualifying block at the state team finals. But the Trojans, despite the return of state singles qualifier Amanda Dailey, a senior, find themselves scrambling to put a team together after only four girls reported for tryouts.

Clarenceville will be an associate member of the Kensington Lakes Activities Association, but will not be able to compete for medals and team titles.

Both the Glenn and Wayne girls teams, along with the boys, will com-

pete in the KLAA's Central Division.

Both Glenn and Wayne will feature new coaches.

Jim Bowles takes over the Rockets' program for Shirley O'Hara, while Traci Skye replaces Dianne St. Louis at Wayne.

Glenn's top returnee is senior Alysson Kassab, a state singles qualifier who averaged 182.

Wayne, meanwhile, lost three of its top five to graduation, but returns junior Stephanie O'Harris and senior Chelsea Preiss.

In the Catholic League, Livonia Ladywood returns four of its top five bowlers from last year's squad led by All-League selection Jessica Stamper, a senior. The Blazers are coming off a fifth-place finish in the Division 2 regional.

This year's Division 2 state finals will be at the Super Bowl in Canton.

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

Crusaders fall on buzzer shot

BY BRAD EMMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It just wasn't in the cards Saturday afternoon for the Madonna University men's basketball team.

The host Crusaders certainly had their chances before falling at the buzzer, 62-60, to Alma College in the WHAC/MIAA Challenge.

Inbounding the ball with only 3.1 seconds left, Tommy Erickson's putback followup of Greg Silverthorn's missed three-point attempt from the wing proved to be the game-winner.

Alma, which won both games in the Challenge, improved to 2-4 overall.

MU, meanwhile, drops to 1-8 after losing the previous night at home to Olivet College, 79-55.

After Kevin Henry's layup tied the game at

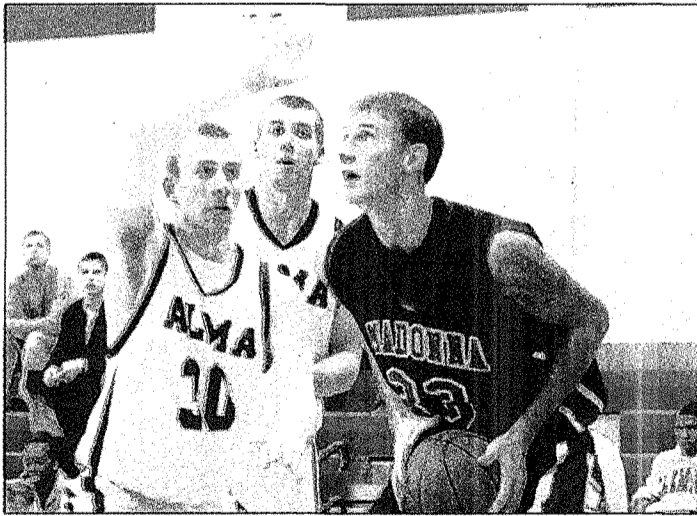
60-all with 1:37 to go, the Crusaders committed two costly turnovers during the final 40 seconds to set up the game-winning play by the Scots.

"We've been in three games where it's been anybody's game in the last minute," MU first-year coach Noel Emehiser said. "In the end it looked like a lack of execution. But we played so bad the first half. We lacked discipline and our defense was horrendous."

The Crusaders fell behind 10-0 at the start before pulling within four at intermission, 29-25.

Alma junior guard Jordan Redditt, who led all scorers with 31 points, tallied 19 first-half points.

Please see CRUSADERS, B3



Madonna's 6-foot-8 junior center Geoff Gaylor (33) had 15 points and 16 rebounds in Saturday's last-second 62-60 setback to Alma College. The Scots' Tim Rodell (30) tries for the block.



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PREP BOWLING CAPSULE OUTLOOK

BOYS PREVIEWS
LIVONIA CLARENCEVILLE
Head coach: Phil Horowitz, second season.
League affiliation: Kensington Lakes Activities Association.
Last year's dual match record: 9-4-1 (runner-up Division 2 regional; 15th in state team finals).
Notable losses to graduation: Phillip Heidler (state singles qualifier).
Leading returnees: Chris Diaz, Sr. (215 average; state singles qualifier); Jason Bertera, Sr. (203 ave.); Cody Kissandi, Sr. (195 ave.); Gareth Hintzman, Sr. (185 ave.).
Promising newcomers: Sean Diaz, Soph.; Corey Coughlin, Soph.
Horowitz's 2009-10 outlook: "The season looks extremely promising for the varsity boys team with the returnees, and I have high hopes of taking them to the state finals in team event and could have a possible four single finalists as well. We have 11 freshman boys on the JV squad and many of them have potential for varsity next year."
WESTLAND JOHN GLENN
Head coach: Ron Brusseau, fourth season.
League affiliation: Kensington Lakes Activities Association (Central Division).
Last year's dual match record: 9-6-1 (Division 1 regional runner-up; 17th in state finals).
Notable losses to graduation: None.
Leading returnees: Kyle Hamlin, Sr. (captain); Chris Harper, Sr. (co-captain; state singles qualifier); Derrick Ammons, Sr.; Brian Monty, Jr. (state singles qualifier); Josh Duprie, Jr.; Thomas Brusseau, Soph.; John Cleaveenger, Soph.
Promising newcomers: Jordan Hornes, Fr.; Daniel Ammons, Fr.; Steven White, Fr.; Mark Kassab, Fr.
Brusseau's 2009-10 outlook: "I have a problem most coaches would love to have. I have a varsity and JV team full of top-notch bowlers. With everyone returning, and the emergence of several freshmen, I have a very positive outlook for this season. I honestly feel we have a very strong team that can compete with any team in our conference, as well as in the state."
WAYNE MEMORIAL
Head coach: Bob Jawor, fourth season.
League affiliation: Kensington Lakes Activities Association (Central Division).
Last year's dual match record: 13-3-1.
Titles won last year: Division 1 regional

champs (state runner-up).
Notable losses to graduation: Ryan Gabriel, Josh Vojtkofsky, Mark Shiemke (state singles qualifier), Jesse English.
Leading returnees: Elliot Arnold, Soph. (221 ave.; state singles qualifier); Tony Lave, Jr. (300 game); Kellen Collison, Sr.
Promising newcomers: Jeremy Brown, Sr.; Mike Gabriel, Sr.; Mike Grandowicz, Jr.; Zack Huffman, Soph.
Jawor's 2009-10 outlook: "Although we lost four big contributors to last years success, I look forward to another great season. With the continued improvement of Huffman, along with the addition of Brown, Gabriel, and Grandowicz, hopefully we'll pick up where we left off."
GIRLS PREVIEWS
LIVONIA CLARENCEVILLE
Head coach: Phil Horowitz, second season.
League affiliation: Kensington Lakes Activities Association (associate member).
Last year's dual match record: 9-5 (third place, Division 2 regional; ninth in state team finals).
Notable losses to graduation: Amanda Dalley (state singles qualifier), Amy Weible, Patty Myers.
Leading returnees: Amber Cummins, Sr. (179 ave.; state singles qualifier); Bridget Moricz, Soph. (165 ave.).
Promising newcomers: To be determined.
Horowitz's 2009-10 outlook: "The girls varsity - as of now - has only four bowlers and their season looks dim. If we don't get any more girls, their season will be over before it starts."
WESTLAND JOHN GLENN
Head coach: Jim Bowles, first season.
League affiliation: Kensington Lakes Activities Association (Central Division).
Last year's dual match record: 12-4 (Division 1 regional runner-up; ninth in state finals).
Notable losses to graduation: Victoria Elsey, Amber Krzyzaniak, Katy Harris.
Leading returnees: Alysson Kassab, Sr. (182 ave.; state singles qualifier); Natalie Brown, Sr. (158 ave.).
Promising newcomers: Khiry Sparks, Jr.; Karlyon Rhynes, Soph.
Rhynes's 2009-10 outlook: All of our girls are looking forward to building on last year's success. Our two returning senior starters (Kassab and Brown) are focused this year on winning the division and getting back to

the state finals. While Victoria Elsey, Amber Krzyzaniak, and Katy Harris graduated, we have quite a few new talented girls joining this year in addition to returning JV players all competing for a spot in the varsity lineup. I have a very positive outlook for this season. I believe that with our experience, leadership, and young talent, we will work our way back to the state finals."
WAYNE MEMORIAL
Head coach: Traci Skye, first season.
League affiliation: Kensington Lakes Activities Association (Central Division).
Last year's dual match record: 5-3 (KLA Central Division).
Notable losses to graduation: Samantha Bawcum, Rebecca O'Harris, Ashley Odom.
Leading returnees: Stephanie O'Harris, Jr.; Chelsea Preiss, Sr.
Promising newcomers: Tiffany Markham, Fr.; Brianna Everett, Jr.; Alyssa McGeorge, Sr.; Chelsea Moreau, Jr.; Shannon Parker, Sr.; Deanna Boston, Sr.
Skye's 2009-10 outlook: "(Stephanie) O'Harris and (Chelsea) Preiss are the only two with varsity experience. We're looking to pick up where Diane St. Louis (last year's coach) left off. We could be a little stronger than last year. We're looking for a work ethic. It's game time now. We have to take practices seriously. We're looking for Stephanie (O'Harris) and Chelsea (Preiss) to be team leaders with the experience they have. They've been a huge help to me so far as far as the way things are run. I hope to use some of the experiences I've had in bowling to build a better team."
LIVONIA LADYWOOD
Head coach: Judy Jaeger, sixth season.
League affiliation: Catholic League (Eastside Division).
Last year's dual match record: (4-6 league; fifth place Division 2 regional).
Notable losses to graduation: Katie Renaud.
Leading returnees: Jessica Stamper, Sr. (All-League); Marissa Ley, Sr.; Katherine Bedenis, Sr.; Kerry LaValley, Jr.
Promising newcomers: Brigitte Hutter, Jr.
2009-10 outlook: The Blazers, led by All-Catholic League selection Jessica Stamper, a 2008 state singles qualifier in Division 2, will be looking to move up in the standings of the Catholic League as Farmington Hills Mercy will defend the title. Ladywood was knocked out in the opening round of the (league) tournament playoffs last year by Warren Regina.

Churchill rules boards, routs Dearborn, 62-35

Livonia Churchill brought out the Windex Tuesday night in its season boys basketball opener. The host Chargers wiped the glass clean thanks to a 42-20 rebounding margin en route to a lopsided 62-35 win over Dearborn High. Tony Frezzell, a senior guard, led Churchill with a game-high 16 points. Adam Bedell, a 6-foot-6 forward, added 12 points and 15 rebounds, while 6-5 senior D'Juan Cooks chipped in with 10 points and eight rebounds. The Chargers led 14-9 after one quarter and upped their lead to 35-17 at halftime with a 21-8 second-quarter run. "We came out with a lot of energy early," said Churchill coach Jim Solak. "We played solid defense, got some steals

KLAA BOYS BASKETBALL
 and were able to finish. We were patient offensively. We took good shots, especially the first half." Senior forward Nores Pradil Dearborn with nine points. **KENNEDY 62, JOHN GLENN 52:** On Tuesday, Brandon Jenkins scored 12 points, while Raphael Danson and Ryan White each added 11, as Taylor Kennedy (1-0) toppled host Westland John Glenn (0-1) in the season opener. Junior Brett Hudy led the Rockets, who trailed 36-28 at intermission, with 12 points. Marcus Davis and Jeremy Langford each added 10. Glenn was 15-of-21 from the foul line, while Kennedy made 6-of-8. **MILFORD 50, FRANKLIN 45:**

Chris Cunningham and Joe Miller each scored 18 points Tuesday to power the host Mavericks (1-0) to a season-opening victory over Livonia Franklin (0-1). Franklin trailed 25-17 at halftime and 34-31 after three quarters, but couldn't get closer than three during the final period. "We came out sluggish, we got within three numerous times," Franklin coach Jeremy Rheault said. "We had numerous chances, but we made some bad turnovers and got outrebounded." Senior guard Andy McCaffery led the Patriots with 13 points, while Alontae McElhane and Nate Coleman each added eight. Franklin was 11-of-15 from the foul line, while Milford shot 12-of-22.

Annapolis derails Trojans in opener

Livonia Clarenceville's bid to get the 2009-10 boys basketball season off on a high note fell by the wayside Tuesday night as visiting Dearborn Heights Annapolis registered a decisive 61-49 triumph. The Cougars opened up a 14-6 advantage after one quarter before the Trojans fought back in the second to close the gap to 23-18 at the break. Led by the efforts of Levonte Brooks and Ben Watts, the Trojans trimmed the deficit to just three points at 37-34 after three quarters only to see the Cougars come out firing in the fourth. In those final eight minutes, the Cougars outscored the

Trojans 24-15 to walk away with the win. Brooks and Watts each scored 14 points to lead Clarenceville. "It all happened so quickly in that fourth quarter," first-year head coach Justin Johnson said. "We started really putting everything together, and then, in a minute or so, they went on an 8-0 run and gained control." **HURON VALLEY 43, MT. CARMEL 31:** It wasn't pretty, but Westland Huron Valley Lutheran (1-0) got 14 rebounds from junior center Mark St. John and 11 points from senior guard Bryan Gruenewald Tuesday to beat host Wyandotte

Mount Carmel (0-1). Senior point-guard Mark St. John added 10 points for the victorious Hawks, who opened up a 21-9 halftime advantage. Chris Parker led the Comets with 10 points. Huron Valley made 10-of-18 free throws, while Mount Carmel hit 6-of-12. **LUTHERAN N'WEST 49, LUTH. WESTLAND 47:** Gage Flanery scored 18 points and Austin Baglow added 15, but it wasn't enough Tuesday as host Lutheran High Westland (0-1) dropped its season opener to Rochester Hills Lutheran Northwest (1-0). Alex Massell led the victorious Crusaders with 14 points.

THE WEEK AHEAD

BOYS BASKETBALL
Thursday, Dec. 10
 Edsel Ford at Clarenceville, 7 p.m.
 Taylor Truman at Wayne, 7 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 11
 Stevenson at Churchill, 7 p.m.
 Luth. Westland at Oak Christian, 7 p.m.
(St. Joseph Mich. Lutheran Tourney)
 Howardsville vs. Flint Int. Acad., 6:30 p.m.
 Huron Valley vs. Mich. Lutheran, 8 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 12
 John Glenn vs. Det. Renaissance at Detroit Cass Tech, 1 p.m.
 Mich. Luth. Tournament, 5:30 & 7 p.m.
GIRLS BASKETBALL
Thursday, Dec. 10
 F.H. Harrison at John Glenn, 7 p.m.
 Wayne at Taylor Truman, 7 p.m.
 Luth. Westland at Luth. N'west, 7 p.m.
 Lutheran South at Huron Valley, 7 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 11
 Churchill at Stevenson, 7 p.m.
 A.A. Skyline at Clarenceville, 7 p.m.
 Grand Ledge at Ladywood, 7:30 p.m.
PREP HOCKEY
Friday, Dec. 11
 Churchill vs. Novi-Detroit CC at Edgar Arena, 6 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 12
 Ladywood vs. G.P. South at Arctic Pond, 6:30 p.m.
 Stevenson vs. Novi-Detroit CC at Computware Arena, 7 p.m.
PREP WRESTLING
Saturday, Dec. 12
 Avondale Invitational, 9 a.m.
 Garden City Invitational, 9:30 a.m.
 Salem Invitational, TBA.
 Rochester Invitational, TBA.
BOYS SWIMMING & DIVING
Thursday, Dec. 10
 Lincoln Park at John Glenn, 6:30 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 12
 Rocket Relays at John Glenn, 1 p.m.
PREP BOWLING
Saturday, Dec. 12
 Farmington Early Bird Invitational at DrakeShire Lanes, 9:30 a.m.
GIRLS COMPETITIVE CHEER
Saturday, Dec. 12
 Wyandotte Invitational, 9 a.m.
 CCAM Invitational at Stoney Creek, 1 p.m.
GIRLS FIGURE SKATING
Sunday, Dec. 13
 Ladywood in Team Competition at Hartland Sports Center, 8 a.m.

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Friday, Dec. 11
(Madonna University Classic)
 Rochester College vs. UM-Dearborn, 6 p.m.
 Madonna vs. Notre Dame (Ohio), 8 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 12
 Schoolcraft at Glen Oaks CC, 3 p.m.
(Madonna University Classic)
 Notre Dame (Ohio) at UM-Dearborn, noon.
 Madonna vs. Rochester College, 2 p.m.
WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Friday, Dec. 11
 Madonna at St. Ambrose (Ia.), 8 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 12
 St. Clair CC at Schoolcraft, 1 p.m.
 Madonna vs. St. Mary-of-the-Woods (Ind.) at St. Ambrose (Ia.) Classic, 4 p.m.
ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE
Thursday, Dec. 10
 Plymouth at Sarnia, 7 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 11
 Erie Otters vs. Plymouth Whalers at Computware Arena, 7 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 12
 Saginaw vs. Plymouth Whalers at Computware Arena, 7 p.m.
TBA - time to be announced.

Swine flu postpones Stevenson hoop opener

The 2009-10 boys basketball season opener for Livonia Stevenson has been put on hold until Friday. The Spartans were scheduled to open their season Tuesday at home against Howell, but the Highlanders asked to have the tripleheader,

including the JV and freshman games, postponed until a later date because of the swine flu. Stevenson athletic director Lori Hyman was informed by Howell A.D. Dan Hutcheson that entire Highlander varsity squad, with the exception of one player, were all out of school on Monday. The three games have been rescheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 16.

"We want to stay with a tripleheader for cost reasons in travel for Howell and game workers for Stevenson," Hyman said. "We wish the Howell team a speedy recovery." That means that Stevenson will open its boys season Friday, Dec. 11 at Livonia Churchill.

Ladywood takes down Nouvel

Patience on offense was a virtue Tuesday as host Livonia Ladywood earned a 41-32 girls basketball win over Saginaw Nouvel Catholic. Senior forward Molly Gacioch and senior guard Mary Fitzgerald scored 12 and 10 points, respectively, for Ladywood. The Blazers bolted out to a 15-9 first-quarter advantage and never looked back in improving their overall record to 2-1. "Nouvel ran a 2-3 zone (defense) and the first quarter we moved the ball well," Ladywood coach Pat Cannon said. "We pressed them and got some scores off transition. And late in the game we were able to knock down some free throws." Ladywood was 8-of-14 from the foul line, while Nouvel was 2-of-8. Jessie Franz, who burned the Blazers last year for 22 points, was held to nine thanks to the defensive effort to Teresa Wojnarowski and

Christina Butkiewicz. Taylor Hengesbach also tallied nine for the Panthers. **LUTH. WESTLAND 31, CRANBROOK 20:** Senior center Emilie Freeman scored eight points and senior guard Nicole Zehel chipped in with six Tuesday as Lutheran High Westland (2-0) posted the non-conference win over Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook-Kingswood (0-2). Lashay Edwards led the Cranes with seven points. **HURON VALLEY 29, MT. CARMEL 14:** Katie Nell's 14 points and eight rebounds propelled Westland Huron Valley Lutheran (1-1) to a non-conference win Tuesday at Wyandotte Mount Carmel (0-1). Devon Linderman grabbed 10 rebounds and sophomore Gab LeClerc added six points for the victorious Hawks, who led 13-8 at halftime. **HAZEL PARK 31, CLARENCEVILLE 28:** Carmen Diaz tallied 17 points Monday as the host Vikings (1-1) squeaked out a


non-conference triumph over Livonia Clarenceville (1-2). Kristen Jolly led the Trojans with 12 points, while teammate Jenna Burgess grabbed a team-best 15 rebounds. Clarenceville trailed 12-6 after one quarter, 20-15 at halftime and 26-21 after three periods, but couldn't get any closer than three. **FRANKLIN ROAD 50, HURON VALLEY 21:** In a matchup of Michigan Independent Athletic Conference Red Division matchup Monday, host Novi Franklin Road Christian (2-1, 1-1) had three players score in double figures in a victory over Westland Huron Valley Lutheran (0-1, 0-1). Sydney Holley led the victorious Warriors with 14 points, while Mauren McSweeney and Brittany Ramos added 12 and 10, respectively. The Hawks, who fell behind 12-3 after one quarter and 26-3 at halftime, got eight points from Katie Nell and six from Claire Wood.

Kerr sparks Chargers' victory over Dearborn

Senior guard Taylor Kerr scored 18 points as Livonia Churchill made it two-for-two on the young girls basketball season with a convincing 51-28 triumph Tuesday over visiting Dearborn. The Chargers, who jumped out to a 17-8 first-quarter led, also got 13 points from junior guard Kara Kempinski. "We played a half-court trap and pressed them," said Churchill coach Chad Jenkins, whose team is 2-0 overall. "We got some steals and some fastbreak points early, especially by Kerr, and we kept the

momentum going the entire game." Kathlyn Mooradian scored eight points for the Pioneers, who slipped to 0-2 overall. **EDSEL FORD 65, JOHN GLENN 36:** Michelle Vanover had 23 points, 10 rebounds, four steals and two assists Tuesday, but it wasn't enough as Westland John Glenn (0-2) fell to host Dearborn Edsel Ford (2-0). Three Thunderbirds scored in double figures led by Charisse Carr's 15 points. Danielle Cowart and Marie Gaedke added 13 and 12, respectively. **MOTT 49, FRANKLIN 37:** Eastern Michigan University-bound guard Desyree Thomas scored a

game-high 20 points Tuesday as Waterford Mott (2-0) rolled to a victory over host Livonia Franklin (1-2). The Corsairs led 11-4 after one period and 30-15 at halftime before breaking it open with a 21-12 third-quarter run. Junior guard Chelsea Williams led the Patriots with 11 points, while Nicole Emery and Sennecca Scott each added eight. Franklin was 2-of-11 from the foul line, while Mott was 7-of-17. **GARDEN CITY 50, WAYNE 37:** Megan Pichla and Deanna Hudson each tallied nine points to lead a balanced scoring attack Tuesday as the host Cougars (1-1) downed Wayne Memorial (0-1).

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CRUSADERS

FROM PAGE B1

"We put in a half-court trap and picked up full-court into a 2-1-2 zone press," Emenhiser said of his second-half strategy. "We got moving and got out of the watching them play in the offense-mode."

Redditt, who was 11-of-27 from the floor, added 12 second-half points. He was the only Scot to score in double figures.

"It was better than the 19 that he had in the first half when he ate us up, but he still got 12 points," Emenhiser said of the University of Detroit Jesuit grad.

The Crusaders clawed their way back during the second half led by four, 60-56, with 1:48 to go, when Henry split a pair of free throws.

MU, however, wouldn't score again, missing its last three shots coupled with two turnovers.

Erickson added nine points and 10 rebounds for the Scots, who went 2-0 in the Challenge.

Henry, a 6-foot-4 freshman from Toledo, led MU in scoring with 18 points. Geoff Gaylor, a 6-8 junior, came off the bench to record his first career double-double with 15 points and 16 rebounds.

Slaughter, who hails from Westland, added 13 points.

Both teams shot identical percentages from the field — 22-of-63 (34.9) — and nearly the same from the foul line. MU was 12-of-22, while Alma hit 11-of-22.

But it was a missed opportunity this weekend for the Crusaders. The combined record of the four teams entering the Challenge was 3-20 overall.

"We've got a pretty resilient bunch," Emenhiser said. "We've played a difficult schedule until this weekend. Not to take anything away from Alma (or Olivet), but this weekend the teams were not as good as the other teams we've played."



ANNA-MARIE GATT | MADONNA SPORTS INFORMATION

Freshman Kevin Henry (3) lines up for a free throw during Saturday's WHAC/MIAA Challenge against Alma College. Teammate Ryan Bahnmiller (12) waits behind the top of the key.

But we have a bad habit of playing a little bit worse than the team we've played. We hope to break that habit and change it."

MU returns to action again this weekend at home in the Crusader Classic.

The Crusaders will face Notre Dame (Ohio), 8 p.m. on Friday, and Rochester College, 2 p.m. on Saturday.

Owens rips Schoolcraft

Jonathan Dunn tallied a game-high 26 points to go

along with nine rebounds and four assists Saturday as host Owens Technical Community College (Ohio) rolled to a 106-76 victory over Schoolcraft College.

Joshua Robinson added 21 points, eight assists and seven rebounds as the Express improved to 3-5 overall. DaLante Heard contributed 17 points and nine rebounds, while Derrick Sanderfer added 15 points.

Freshman center Aaron Felsner tallied 16 points for the Ocelots, who fall to 2-10 overall.

S'CRAFT

FROM PAGE B1

And Lafata noted that Odessa JC (Texas) transfer Emelda Chew, a 5-11 forward from Northwestern, has been a nice addition as well.

"Defensively, we're a little ahead of last year," Lafata said. "This sophomore class is special. We have some seasoned kids who got major minutes last year. It's a very calm team, a humble group. I love this team and they're great kids."

Schoolcraft, leading the MCCA Eastern Conference at 4-0, wraps up its 2009 portion of its '09-10 schedule, 1 p.m. Saturday, at home against St. Clair County CC (6-2, 1-0).

"We gave them a few days off for finals this week," Lafata said. "Then we'll get back in the gym, take some time off for the holidays, and then get ready for the second half."



RENA LAVERTY

The Lady Ocelots' Antania Shepherd (32) takes a Sinclair CC defender off the dribble during Friday's opening round of the Schoolcraft Invitational.

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SPORTS ROUNDUP

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 1).

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

Westland Holiday Hoops

The City of Westland Parks and Recreation's second annual 1-on-1 Holiday Hoops Champ will offer two sessions for ages 5-13 (grades K-6) from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. — Monday through Wednesday, Dec. 21-23 (Session I); and Dec. 28-30 (Session II), at the Bailey Recreation Center.

The cost is \$75 for Westland residents and \$82 for non-residents.

For more information, call (734) 418-3190; or visit www.1on1basketball.com/michigan.

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.

Wolfpack matmen first at Blissfield tournament

Wayne Memorial earned medals in 11 of 14 weight classes Saturday to repeat as champion of the 12-team Blissfield Invitational wrestling tournament.

The Wolfpack received first-place finishes from Jalen Jones (145 pounds) and Chris Bowie (285), while runner-up finishes were earned by Tristan Jarosiewicz (119), Terry McCartney (135), Anwar Oliver (145), Josh Mills (160), Dylan Korzetki (215) and Dimitrus Renfro (189).

Devon Adams (125) and Nate Cavanaugh (189) added thirds, while Pablo Flores (103) took fourth.

The Wolfpack 'B' team finished 2-2 in Saturday's Livonia Clarenceville dual-meet tournament.

Earning victories on the day for Wayne were: Matt Scagg, Allan Parker, Michiel Hood, Avery Barron, Cody Allen, Kyle Szalai, Sharif Hegazi, Doug Rutan, Chris Schmidt, Amanda Prough, Matt Hansen, Aman Brar and John McTigue.

Warriors' Palka MVP

Justin Palka earned the 135-pound title and unanimous lower weights MVP honors as Lutheran High Westland took fifth out of 10 teams with 102 points Saturday at the Rochester Hills Lutheran Northwest Invitational.



Wayne Memorial's Wolfpack celebrate following their second straight Blissfield Invitational wrestling tournament title.

Laith Francis (130) also came home with an individual title for the Warriors.

Other placers for Lutheran Westland included Sean Rowe (140), second; Craig Kowalsky (189), third; Jacob Richter (125) and Glenn Oppenlander (160), sixth.

"I was really happy with my champions," Lutheran Westland first-year coach Joe Schmidt said. "Sean Rowe had a great day losing to a quality opponent in the finals, 4-0."

Spartans garner sixth

Livonia Stevenson, earning eight individual places, finished sixth in the team standings

with 92 points at Saturday's Grand Blanc Invitational.

Saginaw Swan Valley, the No. 1 ranked team in Division 3, led the 14-school field with 241.5 points.

Rounding out the top five was Northville (183.5), Davison (147.5), Waterford Kettering (140) and the host Bobcats (134).

Stevenson's top placers included Andrew Schramm (189), second; Ash Alhaj (112), third; Charlie Kokenakes (140) and Danny McCarthy (171), fourth; Nathan Keedle (285), fifth; Omar Mostafa (119), Samer Shebak (130) and Derek Wenderlich (215), sixth.

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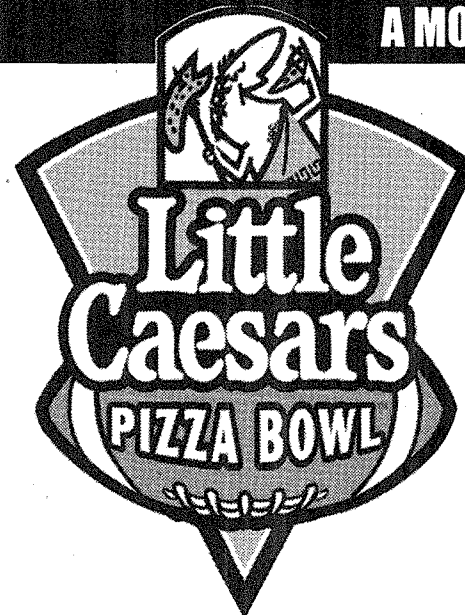
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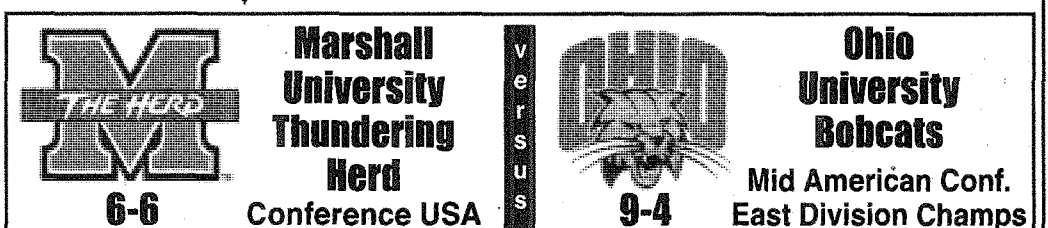
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Cookie walk grows in its third year at Livonia church



Highly decorated cookies, like the Santa Nutter Butters, and holiday favorites, including gingerbread men, fill serving plates at Timothy Lutheran Church's cookie walk.

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

Lori Barch of Livonia built two dozen houses last weekend.

She suspects the scrumptious, tiny abodes made of Rice Krispie treats will sell fast when Timothy Lutheran Church opens its doors on Saturday, Dec. 12 for its third annual cookie walk.

"It's the second year for the houses," said Barch, adding that "ladies of the church" snatched up the \$2.50 creations as fast as customers did last year.

"We don't do a lot of the ethnic cookies," Barch noted. "We do have one parishioner from England who makes shortbread."

What they lack in European-style treats they make up for in highly decorated holiday favorites.

"We make peanut butter mice, reindeer head cookies. I make Nutter Butter Santas. I'm making numerous things. I make a lot of cookies. I enjoy baking," said Barch, a Dearborn firefighter who spent four days off work last week baking and decorating her share of the church's cookie inventory.

"Just about everyone" in the small congregation volunteers to make at least a few batches of cookies for the annual sale that Barch started two years ago.

The first annual walk, designed to help pay for a new church roof and windows, was underway for just two hours when a snowstorm swept through southeastern Michigan.



Members of Timothy Lutheran Church in Livonia finish organizing cookie tables during the second annual sale last year in the church activities center. The event will move to the more spacious church basement this year.

ORTHODOX CHURCH SELLS COOKIES

Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church in Livonia plans its annual cookie walk the same day - Saturday, Dec. 12 - as the Timothy Lutheran Church sale.

Members of the Orthodox church have been baking and selling holiday treats for 16 years. The emphasis is on European-style treats, nut and poppyseed rolls, pierogis, sweet bread and stuffed cabbage. Members suggest that shoppers come early for coffee and company when the doors open at 8 a.m. The sale starts at 9 a.m. and continues until items are sold out.

Call (248) 476-3432 for more information.

AN ANNUAL TRADITION

"The first year was fantastic except for the snowstorm," said Nancy Bingham of Redford, Barch's co-coordinator and her sister. "It didn't deter us. We looked at it in a positive way."

They closed the sale in just two hours to make sure volunteers and customers travelled home safely, but sold enough cookies in that time to make the sale an annual tradition.

"The ladies of the church have fun making these cookies," Bingham noted. "I think

my favorite are my sister's Nutter Butters. One lady last year bought the entire tray of them.

"We've got another guy here who is a phenomenal cook. He comes in each year with the neatest cookies. We might have about 50 different varieties. We have so many different cookies that everyone walks out happy."

Bingham said the church members view the walk and other events such as its annual pumpkin sale and Easter egg hunts as outreach programs designed to "bring

the outside world into our church."

"It's a small church but we try to get out there and do what we can."

BETTER FLOW

This year's walk, which will raise funds for the church's general fund, will move from the fellowship hall to the more spacious basement.

"Hopefully there will be more room to move around," Barch said. "We're trying to improve the flow of the cookie walk."

Cookies will be arranged on platters that fill multiple tables throughout the room. Customers choose the cookies they want.

"We give them pie boxes and plastic gloves. They walk from table to table," Barch explained.

Wax paper liners keep the cookies from sticking. Gift boxes also are available.

The cookie walk will start at 10 a.m. and close when the goodies are sold out.

For more information call (734) 427-2290.

Your Invitation to Worship

CATHOLIC

ST. ANNE'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
Tridentine Latin Mass
St. Anne's Academy - Grades K-8
38100 Five Mile Road
Livonia, MI 48154 • (734) 462-3200
Mass Schedule:
First Fri. 7:00 p.m.
First Sat. 11:00 a.m.
Sun. Masses 7:30 & 10:00 a.m.
Confessions Heard Prior to Each Mass
Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions
Tuesdays at 7:00 P.M. CE08026544

St Genevieve Roman Catholic Church
St. Genevieve School - PreK-8
29015 Jamison • Livonia • 734-427-5220
(East of Middlebelt, between 5 Mile & Jeffries)
MASS: Tues. 7 p, Wed., Thurs. 9 a,
Sat. 4 p, Sun 11a

St. Maurice Roman Catholic Church
32765 Lyndon • Livonia • 734-522-1616
(between Merriman & Farmington Roads)
MASS: Mon. 8:30 a, Fri. 8:30 a,
Sat. 6 p, Sun 9a CE08026545

CHURCHES OF THE NAZARENE

PLYMOUTH CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
45801 W. Ann Arbor Road • (734) 453-1525
Sunday School - 9:45 A.M.
Sunday Worship - 11:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening - 6:00 P.M.
Family Night - Wed. 7:00 P.M.
NEW HORIZONS FOR CHILDREN LEARNING CENTER
(734) 455-3196 CE08026546

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ST. JOHN LUTHERAN, ELCA
Farmington Hills 23225 Gill Rd. 248-474-0584
SATURDAY WORSHIP • 5:30 PM
Sunday Worship & Sunday School
9:00 AM TRADITIONAL/CHORAL SERVICE
10:15 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL - ALL AGES
11:15 AM CONTEMPORARY SERVICE
NURSERY AVAILABLE
BILL & LAUREN KIRSH-CARR, PASTORS CE08026547

UNITED METHODIST

Redford Aldersgate 2 blocks South of Plymouth
United Methodist
10000 Beech Daly 313-937-3170
9:30 - Trad. Worship & Sunday School
11:00 - Contemp Family Worship
www.redfordaldersgate.org CE08026548

ORCHARD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
30450 Farmington Road • Farmington Hills
www.orchardumc.org
248-626-3620
Worship:
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 CE08026549

PRESBYTERIAN (U.S.A.)

St. James Presbyterian Church, USA
25350 West Six Mile Rd.
Redford (313) 534-7730
Sunday Worship Service - 10:00 A.M., Sunday School - 10:15 A.M., Thursday Dinners - 6:00 P.M., Thrift Store every Sat. 10am-2pm
Nursery Care Provided • Handicapped Accessible
Rev. Paul S. Bousquette CE08026550

ROSEDALE GARDENS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)
9601 Hubbard at W. Chicago, Livonia, MI (between Merriman & Farmington Rds.)
(734) 422-0494
Friends in Faith Service
9:00 am
Traditional Service
10:30 am
Visit www.rosedalegardens.org
For information about our many programs CE08026551

GREEK ORTHODOX

NATIVITY OF THE VIRGIN MARY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
39851 West Five Mile, Plymouth Twp., MI
Sunday Services
Mats 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 CE08026552

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 CE08026553

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. Creeden CE08026557

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD
25630 GRAND RIVER at BEECH DALY
313-532-2266 REDFORD TWP.
Worship Service 9:15 & 11:00 A.M.
Sunday School 9:15 & 11:00 A.M.
Nursery Provided
The Rev. Timothy P. Halboth, Senior Pastor
The Rev. Dr. Victor F. Halboth, Assistant Pastor CE08026557

Risen Christ Lutheran
David W. Martin, Pastor
46250 Ann Arbor Road • Plymouth MI 48178 (off I-96)
(734) 453-5252
Worship 8:15 & 10:45 am
Sunday School 9:30 • Adult Bible Study 9:30
Nursery Care Available. All are welcome. Come as you are.
www.risenchrist.info CE08026558

LUTHERAN CHURCH WISCONSIN SYNOD

ST. PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL
17810 FARMINGTON ROAD
LIVONIA (734) 261-1360
WORSHIP SERVICES
SUNDAY: 8:30 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.
THURSDAY: 6:30 P.M.
website: www.stpaulslivonia.org CE08026559

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 CE08026560

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Evening Service • 7:00 p.m.
Service Broadcast 11:00 A.M. Sunday WRDT-AM 560
The WMOZ Word Station
For additional information visit www.wardchurch.org CE08026561

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

CE08026562

Plymouth Symphony expands holiday pops offering

Local theater troupe earns matching grant

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

Plymouth Symphony always sells out its annual holiday pops concert at the Penn Theatre.

But Beth Stewart, executive director, says there should be plenty of additional seats to accommodate last-minute arrivals at the concert this year.

"This year we're offering two performances," she explained. "The Penn seats 400 and our goal is to sell 300 each show and between two shows, it may be a little over that."

The 6 p.m. show is billed as the "family" holiday pops concert and the 8 p.m., the "traditional" pops show.

"They're fairly similar," Stewart noted.

The Symphony's Celebration Youth Orchestra, with members ranging in age from 10-13, will play side by side on *Christmas Troika* with professional players at the early show.

"It's a real symphony orchestra piece. It gives them a little more meat to work with."

The Celebration Flute Choir, mostly high school students, will perform a variety of Christmas songs during the 8 p.m. show.

"It's a nice opportunity for young people who want more than what they can get at school," Stewart said, describing the Symphony's youth music programs. "All of the groups are under (director) Nan Washburn. We have two levels of strings, a beginning and middle group, and the full (youth) orchestra. Nan rescues everything so everyone gets to play."

The Symphony will play popular Christmas music including tunes from both Canadian Brass, the Charlie Brown animated Christmas show, *Polar Express*, *Christmas on Broadway*, as well as traditional holiday songs. The audience will get a chance to sing along during a Christmas carol portion of the show. Santa also will be on hand to greet the audience at both shows.

DOWNTOWN VENUE

"We have been doing it every year since they re-did the Penn and that's been five or six years



Brass musicians perform during a Plymouth Symphony concert.



Young musicians play with the Plymouth Symphony's youth orchestra.



Nan Washburn conducts the Plymouth Symphony Orchestra.

now. It's one of our traditional things to do at the holiday." Stewart said the theater doesn't offer the best acoustics for live symphony, but the group does its best to improve the sound.

"The theater was made for

movies. Movie houses built after vaudeville were built to be quiet places. Everything came through the sound system. It was not built for acoustics at all. That's why we bring in additional speakers. It turns out to be a pretty complicated place to play."

But in spite of its big theatre curtains "soaking up sound," the audience loves the venue, which is decorated with Christmas trees and situated in a perfect location to shop or dine before the show.

"People seem to love to come downtown. It's a great venue for

that." Tickets for Home for the Holidays POPS are \$25 for adults, \$20 for seniors and \$10 for students of all ages. Under 5 is admitted free. Call (734) 451-2112 for advance tickets.

The Penn Theatre is located at 760 Penniman, Plymouth.

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

Ticket sales are a bit slow for its upcoming holiday fund-raiser show, but Barefoot Productions can't be happier about a matching grant it received recently from the Wilcox Foundation.

"It's a wonderful opportunity because it's dollar for dollar match. Everyone's dollar goes that much further," said Kristin Heitmeier, marketing director.

Anyone who buys a ticket to the holiday performance on Friday, Dec. 11, can earmark the money for the grant program. Wilcox Foundation will match the \$50 advance ticket sale or \$65 at the door admission, doubling the revenue Barefoot Productions will take in.

The matching grant was awarded retroactively on Oct. 15, and is valid through June 30, 2010.

Heitmeier said the theater has contacted patrons who bought their tickets before the troupe knew they had won the grant. They're asking them to earmark their donations for the "Barefoot/Wilcox Partnership Campaign," so the theatre can receive the matching money for each seat sold.

The Holiday Celebration Fundraiser, starts at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11, at the Walker-Buzenberg Building, 240 N. Main Street, Plymouth. Desserts, teas and wines start the evening at 7:30, followed by a narrative reading of *A Christmas Carol*.

"We were just notified of this grant and are still awaiting this paperwork. The Wilcox Foundation earmarked the grant for marketing purposes. That's our single largest expense," Heitmeier noted. "Marketing encompasses so many aspects of bringing a production to stage. We're thrilled."

Marketing includes programs, posters, brochures, photography, advertising and other public relations efforts.

"Now we can earmark some of the money that might have been spent for marketing, for costumes, props and royalties."

7th Annual

Senior Expo

Tuesday, May 18, 2010 • 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Schoolcraft College Livonia Campus in the VisTaTech Center
Haggerty Road between 6 and 7 Mile Roads

If your business or organization serves seniors, you'll want to be a part of this exciting event!



Your Exhibitor Package Includes:

Print Advertising

One-quarter page black and white ad or one full page ad (color option available) for your business will appear in the accompanying special section publishing Sunday, May 9, 2010, in the South Oakland and Birmingham Eccentric and Thursday, May 13, 2010, in the Observer & Hometown Newspapers.

Web Presence

The Senior Fall Expo special section will be featured on Hometownlife.com, which receives upwards of 1 million page views per month!

Exhibitor Listing

You'll be featured on the center spread of our special section plus newspaper promotion during April and May.

Expo table plus two chairs

Use your space for giveaways, food demonstrations and promotional materials. Electricity available on a first come, first served basis for an additional charge.

Food

Two complimentary boxed lunches for exhibitors.

Special Section Promotion

The Senior Expo will be promoted in all of our trusted, local newspapers:

- Birmingham Eccentric
- Canton Observer
- Farmington Observer
- Garden City Observer
- Livonia Observer
- Milford Times
- Northville Record
- Novi News
- Plymouth Observer
- Redford Observer
- South Lyon Herald
- South Oakland Eccentric
- Berkley, Clawson, Ferndale, Huntington Woods, Royal Oak, Pleasant Ridge, Southfield
- Westland Observer

Act fast to take advantage of our early bird special!

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Find an 'arty' gift at a gallery holiday shop

Santa may have elves hammering toys and gifts together by hand — but they're also mass producing their Christmas inventory.

If you're looking for a one-of-a-kind holiday gift, something that exudes individuality,

search local art gallery holiday shops. You'll find unique items made by Michigan artists. Here's a sampling:

ART-IS-IN-MARKET

Michigan artists show and sell their works, including

functional pieces, like Jan Bostwick's ceramic serving plates, and decorative items, such as James Ritchie's photos and Patti Monroe-Mohrenweiger's calligraphy, at this store in Laurel Park Place, 37700 Six Mile, Livonia. No mass produced works allowed. Find handmade pottery, glass, sculpture, jewelry, paintings and more. (734) 432-9177

NORTHVILLE ART HOUSE

The fifth annual Holiday Art Market continues 1-5 p.m., through Saturday, Dec. 12, at 215 W. Cady, two blocks west of Center and one block south of Main, in downtown Northville. Hand-crafted work in pottery, fiber, jewelry and painting is priced for holiday gift giving by local artists, including Jan Sadowski, Marilyn Grinnell, Katherine Wickersham, Shadia Zayed, Beth Jones and Jan Robb. (248) 344-0497.

VILLAGE POTTERS GUILD

The Guild holds its annual holiday show in November, but members' works are sold year-round in the studio gallery at 340 N. Main, Plymouth. Call ahead at (734) 207-8807 to make sure someone is on hand and available to show you the functional and decorative items on display.

BIRMINGHAM BLOOMFIELD ART CENTER

Every gift at the Holiday Shop is made by hand. More than 130 juried artists have created gifts for every taste and budget — from \$1 to \$400. Gifts include fiber, jewelry, ceramics, wood, home décor, children's wear, ornaments, glass and paintings. The Ornament Gallery features hundreds of hand-made ornaments. There are gifts for celebrating all holidays including Judaica items. Hours are 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Monday-Saturday and noon-4 p.m., Sunday through Dec. 18 at the BBAC, 1516 S. Cranbrook, (Evergreen), Birmingham. (248) 644-0866

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SORRY, NO PASSES

At 33, family-run café innovates, maintains following

BY DIANE GALE ANDREASSI
CORRESPONDENT

More than three decades ago, Adriano and Rina Tonon bought an apple orchard on three acres of land on West 10 Mile and Orchard Lake Road with a dream to serve the freshest Northern Italian, Venetian-style dishes, in an elegant, yet comfortable setting.

After three additions to the building and creating a reputation for authentic Italian food, the Tonon family is celebrating 33 years on Dec. 21.

The history of Ristorante Café Cortina is interwoven with the story of the lives of Adriano and Rina. They met after he came from Italy and worked as a gardener and baker at her parent's restaurant, Rina's Pizzeria, in Detroit.

When they married, she was 18 and he was 20, and not long after they bought the land in Farmington Hills. Adriano died in 1993 and their son, Adrian, came into the family business.

Over the years the seating capacity grew, from 85 to 175. The fireside dining in three intimate rooms makes you feel like you might be sitting in someone's home in Italy.

"Through word of mouth, it took off, because of our food and our service," Rina Tonon said. "We always want to bring new things to the table. We have people from all over the world who appreciate this as an artisan restaurant."

The intimate setting has become a destination place for small weddings, showers, business meetings and other celebrations. In fact, the restaurant hosts an average of two weddings weekly.

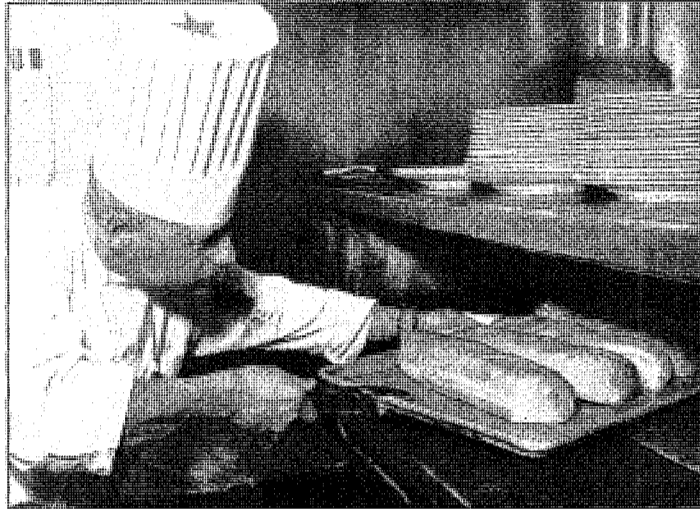
PEACEFUL SETTING

Outside the dining area are two private enclaves with brick walls, seating, vines and flowers that make visitors feel like they left the city and entered another country in another time when dinners lasted a few hours and things didn't move quite so fast.

Aside from the fresh herbs and vegetables, all the pastas and bread are handmade every morning in the restaurant kitchen. Tonon applauds chef, Jeffrey (Hoffa) Hoffa, for maintaining the highest standards.



Oleta Chavez, Chef Hoffa, Rina Tonon, Adrian Tonon, and Timoria Bailey welcome you to Cafe Cortina.



Chef Hoffa removes hot bread from the oven. Even bread sticks are made fresh.

"He's very passionate, as we all are here," she said.

"A restaurant is not just about the owners. We have a team. In fact, two staff members, Tammy Chavez and Timothy Bailey, have been with me for more than 25 years. The people we have working here (18 employees) have brought it to where we are today. We don't rest on our laurels. We consistently strive for excellence and care for people," she added.

HONORS

Three years ago, Ristorante Café Cortina, was invited to plan a dinner at the James Beard House in New York.

Considered the "Oscars of the food world" by *Time* magazine, the James Beard Foundation Awards are a coveted honor for food industry professionals. In 2003 Ristorante Café Cortina was also named Restaurant of the Year by *Hour Magazine*.

Referring to the way her son trains staff, she added: "If they're not a seasoned professional when they come here, they go out seasoned professionals."

Before Adrian began working at the restaurant he went to Italy and apprenticed at Hotel Cipriani in Venice.

"I told him he couldn't go into the business unless he

had a passion for it," said Rina. Adrian said "something clicked there and getting into the family business seemed right."

"It's always been instilled in us to never rest and to strive and innovate and that's what we'll do for the next 30 years," Adrian said. "It's souls serving souls. We're very fortunate to create moments of happiness. People come here to get away. They come to play. Every night is a party here. We celebrate every day."

Adrian, 37, is warm and articulate, all the characteristics that any young actor would want. He is working on a local television show mixing food with charitable works, especially those focused on children's causes. Pieces of it can be seen at www.culturecafe.com.

Café Cortina is weathering the economic storm. Business is good but Adrian said people are ordering simpler, less expensive dishes, like pasta, but since pasta is their specialty he said "that's fine, too."

Rina added: "We're seeing that people are ordering more moderately priced wines, or sometimes sharing appetizers or desserts."

"I didn't think 33 years would come as fast as it did," Rina said. "I still want to go another 33. I never want to lose my enthusiasm."

Restaurant goes 'green' with garden

An Italian home wouldn't be complete without a garden in back for the cook in the family to have ready access to fresh herbs, vegetables and most importantly tomatoes.

The vegetables and herbs growing behind Ristorante Café Cortina provide the same fresh, home cooked meals to customers.

A long, narrow stretch of dirt has been cultivated, planted and harvested ever since the restaurant opened. It was a tradition started first by owners, Rina and Adriano Tonon, and carried on by their son, Adrian.

"My dad planted a theory 33 years ago and it's here today," Adrian said.

Before the term "green" became popular, the Tonon's relied on their all-natural garden, free of pesticides, to adorn their dishes.

While the garden is done for the year, the rows of greenery during season are robust with rapini, arugula, radicchio, Swiss chard, basil, rosemary, sage, pumpkins, peppers, zucchini, eggplant and more. The tomatoes burst forth from 75-year-old heirloom seeds given to the Tonons by family in Italy.

Their tomato sauce is distributed throughout the country and can be found at their Web site, www.cafecortina.com.



Pair a glass of chianti or other wine with your entree at Cafe Cortina.

CITY BITES

Julbord buffet

Canton - Shoppers can enjoy a Swedish "Julbord" buffet extravaganza, 5:30-8:30 p.m., Friday, Dec. 11, at the store, 41640 Ford Road.

Adults pay \$15.99 and kids 12 and under eat for \$2.49.

The Julbord buffet includes Swedish holiday ham, smoked salmon and poached salmon and assorted herring, roast beef, potato casserole, Swedish potato salad, Swedish style meatballs with ligonberries, assorted cheeses, crisp bread, gravid lax with mustard, Swedish cucumber salad, red beet salad, red cabbage, boiled potatoes, hard-boiled eggs with shrimp or lumpfish roe, sautéed sausage, liverwurst pate, lussekat, assorted desserts, and beverages, including glogg.

Julbord is a special smorgasbord eaten at Christmas in Scandinavian countries.

Can't make it to the Julbord buffet? Ikea's Swedish Food Market has everything you need — from the Svartvinbarssill (marinated herring with black current) to Pepparkakshjuran (ginger hearts) — to prepare your own at home. (734) 981-6300

Pasta class

Farmington Hills - Learn how to make homemade pasta to go with all of your favorites sauces from 7-8:30 p.m., Dec. 11, Jan. 15 and 29, 2010 and Feb. 19, 2010 at Longacre house, 24705 Farmington Road north of 10 Mile. Class members will mix, knead, roll, and cut their own pasta to take home with them.

Evening classes cost \$30 per person and include a glass of wine.

Morning classes are planned from 10-11:30 a.m., Jan. 16 and 30, 2010 and Feb. 20, 2010. Cost is \$25.

Each class is limited to 15 participants. Register in person at the Costick Center at 28600 W. Eleven Mile, register online at www.fhgov.com or fax your registration form to (248) 473-1801. For more information, call (248) 473-1800.

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Bacon & Sausage	Chicken Fingers	California Medley
Pancakes	French Fries	Fresh Fruit
Banana Pancakes	Chicken Parmesan	Assorted Pastries

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BUSINESS MILESTONES

SPECIAL EVENTS

All wrapped up

Time/Date: 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 15
Location: East Court of Westland Shopping Center, 35000 Warren Road at Wayne Road, Westland.
Details: Westland Shopping Center and Magic 105.1 are taking away the excuse that a man cannot wrap a gift. Join Mike Bradley from Magic 105.1 as gift wrapping experts show how to wrap gifts of all sizes. Men can stop by with gifts they've purchased and be shown how you can wrap it like a pro, then it will be their turn to give it a try. Prizes will be given to the best wrapped gift, the best attempt to wrap a gift and other fun games.
Contact: (734) 421-0291

Holiday giving

Time/Date: now through Sunday, Dec. 13
Location: Art Van Furniture store, 8300 N. Wayne Road, Westland
Details: Art Van is partnering with WXYZ-Channel 7 to help feed the hungry this holiday season by collecting food for Gleaners Community Food Bank and St. Vincent de Paul community food depots. Drop off your

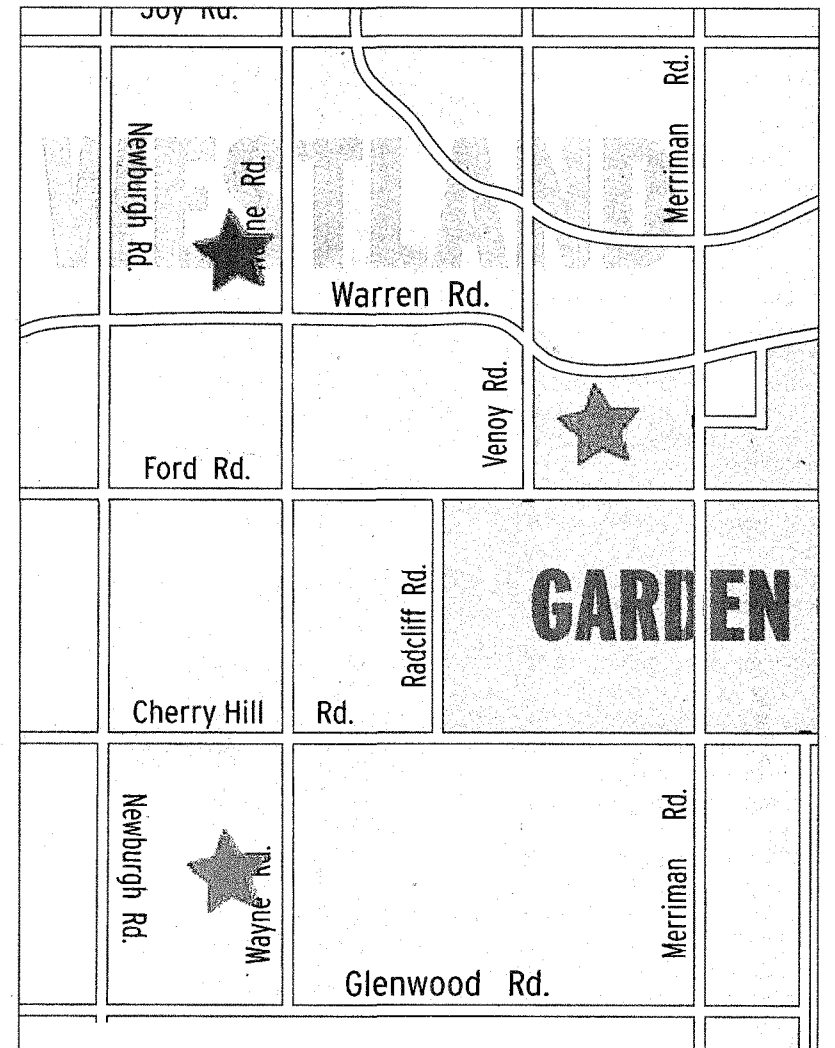
nonperishable food donations to any Art Van Furniture store in the metro Detroit area. You can also create a special Christmas for a child in need by donating a new, unwrapped toy at Art Van Furniture as part of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve's Toys for Tots program. Toys will be delivered to local children by Christmas Day. No toy guns. And stop by with the youngsters between Sunday Dec. 12, for a visit with Santa Claus. The Jolly Ol' Elf will be at the Westland store noon-2 p.m.
Contact: (734) 425-9600

Holiday Specials

Time/date: Available now through January 2010
Location: World of Fitness Dance Studios, Warren/Venoy Plaza, 32669 Warren, Suite 6, Garden City
Details: Looking for that perfect gift? World of Fitness Dance Studios gift certificates make it easy, affordable and absolutely unique. Take \$5 off a \$35 gift certificate, \$10 off a \$75 gift certificate, \$20 off a \$195 gift certificate and \$25 off a \$225 gift certificate. Certificates are valid for a year, no cash refund. A limited amount are available. To purchase certificates, visit the studio of send an e-mail to patricia@poledancefactory.net for secure Paypal invoicing.
Contact: (734) 306-0909 or www.poledancefactory.com

New Year's Eve
Time/Date: 7 p.m. to 2 a.m. Dec. 31-Jan. 1
Location: Joy Manor, 28999 Joy Road, Westland
Details: Ring in the New Year with a party at Joy Mano. Tickets are \$55 each and include full dinner buffet, premium open bar, an assortment of hors d'oeuvres and desserts, champagne toast at midnight, pizza after midnight, party favors and music by the Dr. Pocket Band.
Contact: (734)525-0960 or by e-mail at chiggins@joymanor.com

Family Celebration
Time/Date: 12:30-3:30 p.m. or 3:30-5 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31
Location: Town N Country Lanes, 1100 S. Wayne Road, Westland
Details: Join the fun at a Rockin' New Year's Family Party. Two times are available. Cost is \$29.95 per lane for 90 minutes of unlimited bowling, shoes, pizza, pop and party favors. Maximum of five people per lane.
Contact: (734) 722-5000



Hospice aide recognized in national publication

When it comes to providing excellent patient care, Pati Uhlian's dedication and compassion definitely shine. The Westland resident has been a hospice aide for 15 years, and is featured in the November/December 2009 issue of *Home Health Aide Digest*, the first and only national publication devoted solely to home health aides.

"Pati Uhlian belongs to this important group of paraprofessionals," said Nathan Unseth, publisher of *Home Health Aide Digest*. "They are the backbone of the home care industry."

Unseth said Uhlian was selected to be profiled because of the special spirit, skill, style, commitment and compassion she brings to her work.

Uhlian's fellow healthcare workers at Angela Hospice in Livonia have described her as hardworking, loyal, conscientious and, of course, caring. Uhlian said she strives with each visit to a patient's home to make that person feel better than when she arrived. Her warmth and smile immediately impress those she meets, and the 12 hours a week she spends ironing her scrubs, her devotion to those she serves comes through in many ways.

"We are all so proud of Pati," said Terry McGrail, hospice aide coordinator at Angela Hospice. "She provides exceptional care, adding a patient to her schedule at the end of the day, making the family comforted, visiting at a funeral home. Seeing her on the cover of *Home Health Aide Digest* is a testimony to the care all of our Angela Hospice aides give everyday."

Uhlian became involved with hospice when her stepfather was terminally ill. She helped care for him around the clock, and saw firsthand



Pati Uhlian of Westland has become a celebrity of sorts after being reported on in the November/December issue of "Home Health Aide."

the important work that the hospice workers were doing to help her family. When Uhlian saw the chance to work as a hospice aide herself, she jumped at it.

"I realized that hospice had always been in my heart," Uhlian said, who has worked in health care for 20 years. "If I'd known what a blessing working in hospice is, that's where I'd have started."

Uhlian is a blessing herself to those she works with. Her sensitivity to the needs of the dying has made her work as a hospice aide profound, and

rewarding for her as well.

"Their world is changing moment by moment, and just by holding their hand, listening to them, and gently caring for their needs, I can feel good because I've made a difference in their life," said Uhlian.

Uhlian has been with Angela Hospice for four years. Angela Hospice serves more than 1,500 clients a year through its home hospice and inpatient hospice programs. For more information, visit its Web site at www.AskForAngela.com.

New sign points way to Westland Floor Covering

Longtime business owner Richard Strausbaugh recently added a new touch to his Westland Floor Covering shop on Ford Road in Westland.

The brightly lit new sign at the store reads "Carpet Carpet Carpet/Westland Floor Covering," and is visible from a distance.

"The old one was in dire need of repair," said Strausbaugh. It seems to have helped business: "We've been selling a lot more."

He and others at the business adjacent to North Bros. Ford are pleased the sign went up at Westland Floor Covering Dec. 3.

"It's been much needed," said Linda Strausbaugh, his wife. "I think it's much better."

Brookellen Swope, president of the Westland Chamber of Commerce, has seen the sign and

is pleased with it. "I am encouraged to see" the new sign, Swope said. "It shows there is a commitment to the city, and our businesses are doing well."

Other local businesses have also added signs, although Swope sees more of those within the Downtown Development Authority district of which Strausbaugh's business isn't within. She said it sends a message of stability and boosts customer confidence in the future of local businesses.

"It shows that they plan to stay in Westland," Swope said.

Westland Floor Covering can be reached online at www.westlandfloors.com or by calling (734) 525-7888 or toll free at (800) 525-7898.

By Julie Brown

BUSINESS NEWSMAKERS

New Web site

Business Leaders for Michigan has launched www.MichiganTurnaroundPlan.com, a public education and advocacy Web site for the Michigan Turnaround Plan.

Michigan's largest job providers and universities have united behind the plan which is aimed at making Michigan a top 10 state for job and economic growth. To get there, the plan lays out the case for change, sets achievable goals, identifies specific action steps and explains the impact of change.

The Web site gives supporters access to directories that allow direct contact with their legislator or local media to express support of the Michigan Turnaround Plan. Features also include sample articles for newsletters, a way to request speakers and the ability to make financial contributions to

the Michigan Turnaround Plan Fund established by Business Leaders for Michigan. The fund will be used to help with efforts to raise public awareness and gain support for the Michigan Turnaround Plan.

"It's time for Michigianians to stand united as one Michigan behind one goal, to make Michigan a Top 10 State for jobs and MichiganTurnaroundPlan.com is a tool for educating the public and getting them directly involved in Michigan's future," said Doug Rothwell, president and CEO of Business Leaders for Michigan. "It's going to take the work of government, business and the civic sectors to turn Michigan around. But we are committed to putting energy behind raising public awareness and calling for concrete actions to transform our state."

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