

SUNDAY
December 13,
2009

The Observer & Eccentric
Newspapers

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A fashion 'don't' becomes a 'must-do' - Neighbors, B6

WESTLAND OBSERVER

online at hometownlife.com



Local
players
featured
on All-Area
Volleyball
team, B2

AROUND TOWN

Surplus food

Eligible Westland residents can pick up surplus food commodities for December beginning this week.

All residents living north of Michigan Avenue can pick up their commodities between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 17, at the Dorsey Community Center, 32715 Dorsey, south of Palmer.

Residents living south of Michigan Avenue can pick up their commodities 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday, Dec. 14, or the second Monday of each month, at St. James United Methodist Church, 30055 Annapolis, between Henry Ruff and Middlebelt. The church can be contacted at (734) 729-1737.

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

For the month of December, food being distributed will include frozen chicken, apple sauce, bakery mix, carrots, peanut butter, pears, walnuts and possible additional items. For more information, call the Dorsey Center's surplus food hotline at (734) 595-0366.

Free locks

Secure your handguns with the help of the Westland Police Department.

The department is handing out free firearm trigger locks to the first 100 Westland residents who request one. The trigger locks work with a key and cover the trigger of a gun they are locked on to, stopping any person from pulling the trigger of the gun and causing it to go off.

The free trigger locks are available 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesday through Friday from the Records Bureau of the police station, 36701 Ford Road.

Open house

The Westland Friendship Center at 1119 N. Newburgh will host a Christmas Open House 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 15. Food, drinks, games and movies, including *White Christmas* at 10 a.m., *It's a Wonderful Life* at noon and *A Christmas Carol* at 2 p.m., are among the many events planned.

For more information, call the center at (734) 722-7628.

Marketing campaign puts city in positive light

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

"Everything you want ... Everything you need."

That's the slogan for the Westland Economic Development Department's new marketing campaign to highlight the city's shopping and dining district.

"In this economic climate, we thought the best thing is to market the city. We want to keep our retailers in the city — we have most of the major ones around the mall,"

said Mayor William Wild. "There's no doubt that Black Friday (the day after Thanksgiving) kicked off their busy season."

The marketing campaign, which kicked off earlier this month with radio spots, will do more than drawing people to the shopping and dining district which is anchored by Westland Shopping Center.

"This helps brand a positive image for the city," said Wild.

Westland has partnered with Quill Communications, a full-service advertising and marketing agency, to

execute all elements of the marketing plan and promotions.

Along with the radio spots and newspaper advertising, included in the marketing mix for the district is an upscale print campaign featuring Westland resident and 2008 Miss Michigan Ashley Baracy. Part of that is an attractive new pocket shopping and dining guide.

The campaign also features a Web site that allows users to search for businesses by category. The site can be accessed through the city's Web site www.cityofwestland.com by

clicking on the "Shop and Dine" button.

The pocket guides are available at all shops and restaurants within the district, the Westland Chamber of Commerce and all local hotels and area attractions.

"The city's new marketing plan is certainly good for the businesses of the city and residents for continuing our economic development," said Westland Chamber of Commerce President Brookellen Swope.

Please see **ADVERTISING, A2**



Destanie Bohac puts homemade ornaments on one of the pine trees in front of the Bailey Recreation Center.

For the birds: Kids decorate pine trees

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

They came in cars and in a school bus and when they were done, the large pine trees in front of the Bailey Recreation Center were dressed for the holidays.

An annual tradition, more than 300 school children gathered with Mayor William Wild to decorate the trees with homemade paper and bird seed-studded ornaments and paper chains.

"This is one of the fun things I get to do this time of year," said Wild. "It's fun especially when we get this kind of turnout, and especially when there's a lot of school pride."

The gathering included members of a Girl Scout troop and Cub Scout pack from P.D. Graham Elementary, a Boy Scout troop from Hamilton Elementary, a Brownie Troop, Daisy Troop and Cub Scout Pack from Wildwood Elementary, and a Cub Scout Pack from Schweitzer Elementary. A fifth-grade class from Kettering Elementary joined in as well as 50 students in the Bright Futures program at Lincoln Elementary who arrived in a school bus.

This is the first time Lincoln students took part in the tree decorating, but with the likelihood it will close at the end of the school year, it most likely will be its last,

according to Principal Jennifer Chambers.

"It may be the only time there's a Lincoln tree," she said.

The Bright Futures youngsters spent three-four weeks working on their decorations with the program's Outdoor Club made the "outdoor ornaments."

Once the decorating was done, children went inside the recreation center where they did Christmassy crafts, sang Christmas songs karaoke style and enjoyed hot cocoa and cookies.

Santa Claus also stopped by for a visit.

Please see **SANTA, A4**

Video technology links fire stations

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Thanks to new high-technology video conferencing equipment, Westland firefighters can hold interactive meetings and training without leaving their assigned fire station.

The new equipment, installed at each of Westland's five fire stations and the fire administration building, also makes sure firefighters don't miss training, if they get dispatched on a run. The training or other messages can be recorded to be replayed at a later time.

"We can congregate for training or watch training from other cities. We can do it here without firefighters leaving their response area," Assistant Fire Chief Scott Neal said. "It's eight or 10 miles from Station 1 to our station at Annapolis and Middlebelt. If firefighters are here (at Station 1) for training and get a run, that's an eight- or nine-minute response time. If you're that person, you'd feel a lot better about the response time from their home station."

The \$130,000 in new equipment, obtained through an Assistance to Firefighters grant with a 20-percent local match, connects Westland firefighters with 108 other Michigan fire departments and training facilities, including the Oakland Community College Crest Center. In addition, about 18 hospitals are also linked into the system.

Video conferencing has been around for a while, but this system utilizes high-speed Internet.

"This wasn't really possible before, it was cost-prohibitive. Also, the firewalls and transversals are much more advanced," said Bob Murray of Troy-based National Satellite Corp. "We're the only company that puts these in. We designed the original concept and assisted the communities in going after grants. This is the culmination of three or four years' work."

The firewalls used by the system are military grade, Murray said, the same type used by the Warren Tank Arsenal.

The system works based on a third party, National Satellite's partner the Interops Video Network, serving as the gatekeeper allowing access to the network.

"They (participating agencies) register

Please see **NEW EQUIPMENT, A2**

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Closings on W-W board agenda on Monday

The Wayne-Westland school board will take up a recommendation to close six elementary schools and go to a four-tiered grade configuration at a special meeting Monday, Dec. 14.

The meeting will start at 6 p.m. in the auditorium of the Stockmeyer Auditorium on the campus of Wayne Memorial High School on Glenwood at Fourth Street in Wayne.

School board President Skip Monit called for the special meeting last week. On the agenda will be the recommendation of the 21st Century Schools Committee and possibly a resolution calling on Superintendent Greg Baracy to "seek some kind of help from the unions" to help trim expenses in the face of a projected \$10-\$12 million loss in revenue in 2010-11.

The committee's revised recommendation is that the district close six schools — Madison, Patchin, Kettering, Jefferson-Barns, Lincoln and Vandenberg Schools and turn Adams and Marshall Middle Schools into 5/6 schools. Stevenson and Franklin would become seventh-eighth-grade schools and feed into John Glenn

and Wayne Memorial High schools, respectively. The district also would keep the existing boundaries for the two high schools under the proposal.

The district had projected a revenue shortfall of \$10 million which ballooned to \$12 million with \$292 in cuts in this year's per pupil funding. Thursday afternoon Gov. Jennifer Granholm announced a pause on a \$127 per pupil proration, scheduled to take effect with the December state school aid payment. But even with the suspension, "we can't sit back and wait," said Monit.

"That isn't going to affect what we're doing," he said. "We can't continue to run this school district at decreased capacity, it doesn't make sense."

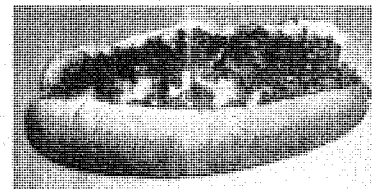
The meeting will most likely follow the board's normal format with two half-hour public comments, one on agenda items at the start of the meeting, and one for general comment at the end of the meeting.

— By Sue Mason

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ADVERTISING

FROM PAGE A1

"Anything you can do to draw people to the city, whether by a big business or the city, is good for all of our businesses."

Smaller business which don't have much money for advertising can particularly benefit from a city-sponsored market-

ing campaign, she said. The mission of the Westland Economic Development Department is to facilitate the retention, expansion, attraction and creation of businesses and jobs, while working collaboratively to enhance the overall business climate of the City of Westland.

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

Giving is 'testament to community'

BY JULIE BROWN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Wayne-Westland Salvation Army has raised \$75,000 of its Christmas Red Kettle goal of \$135,000.

"I think it's pretty amazing with the economic times," Wayne-Westland corps Capt. Derek Rose said of the figure, counted through Wednesday. He noted this year there have been more volunteers and paid bell ringers, a big help.

"In hard times, the everyday person like you and I digs a little deeper," said Rose, who heads up the corps with wife Joanna. "I think it's a great testament to our community."

The bell ringers will be out until 5 p.m. Dec. 24. They don't ring Sunday, as it is the Christian Sabbath.

"It amazes my spirit and it warms my heart more than anything," Derek Rose said of the local response. "I appreciate what our community's doing. I can't say that enough."

Need has also increased this year. Last year, the corps helped more than 700 families at Christmas. Need is up some 30 percent, he said, with more than 800 families seeking help.

The corps has bell ringers at

17 sites. Rose appreciates that Westland Shopping Center helped with two additional doors. The goal is to have at least 12 bell ringers out on weekdays, with full coverage at all sites from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturdays.

"We've been doing a phenomenal job there," he said.

The corps is no longer hiring bell ringers for the season, but interested volunteers can contact volunteer coordinator Sandy Kollinger at (734) 722-3660.

For the mail campaign, the goal is \$25,000, of which some \$11,000 has been raised thus far. That will continue through the end of January. Rose said distribution to families gets under way this week, but new, unwrapped toys can still be accepted Monday, Dec. 14.

"They do have a little bit of time," he said of contributors of toys. "We're trying to get our toy shop set up as soon as possible."

The Wayne-Westland corps also is accepting monetary donations. Checks payable to the Salvation Army can be sent to Wayne-Westland Salvation Army, 2300 S. Venoy, Westland, MI 48186. The phone number is (734) 722-3660.

Layoffs, busing cuts on LPS board agenda

BY KAREN SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Livonia school board will vote Monday on \$5.4 million in cuts to this year's budget including eliminating approximately 45 teachers, bus transportation for high school students and reducing physical education and possibly music for elementary students.

That means some class sizes will grow and some elementary students will get new classroom teachers at semester break Feb. 1.

"We'll now have bumping at every one of our elementaries," Trustee Colleen Burton said, referring to contract language that allows teachers with more seniority and the right certification to bump those with less seniority out of positions as jobs are cut.

Administrators have recommended eliminating bus transportation for all students except those in special education or eliminating high school and middle school spring sports, among other reductions, to prevent elementary students from having to adjust to new teachers in the middle of the school year. However, a majority of board members agreed they would prefer to lay off classroom teachers over cutting all busing and athletics because they fear the later would drive students out of the district.

If that happened, the board would have to lay off teachers anyway, Vice President Gregory Oke said.

"I'm concerned we would lose more than we'd save," Trustee Colleen Burton agreed.

The district's funding, the majority of which comes from the state, is based on how many students are enrolled.

The board needs to plug a \$10 million hole in this year's \$155 million general fund budget because of cuts in state fund-

ing announced after the school board adopted its budget — unless the state reverses those cuts or all employees agree to 3.5 percent to 4 percent concessions.

"I'm going with the employees," Trustee Patrice Mang said. "I have more faith in our employees than the state."

Board President Lynda Scheel said all jobs and all busing could be saved this year if employees agreed to the proposed concessions. Superintendent Randy Liepa is in the process of meeting with union and non-union employee groups.

The remaining \$4.6 million of the \$10 million hole would be made up with fund equity, leaving the district with about \$3 million to start next school year when further cuts in state funding are expected.

Oke said Liepa, his cabinet members, and school board members, who are paid \$50 a meeting, should give up a portion of their pay. He suggested 10-percent cuts for school board members.

"How about 100 percent, Mr. Oke?" Trustee Rob Freeman asked. Last week, Freeman volunteered to donate all of his stipend back to the district.

Oke said he felt uncomfortable proposing everyone do that because some board members may depend on that income.

Mang suggested the board move its elections from May to November for an estimated annual savings of \$40,000. That recommendation was not made by administrators, nor was it discussed by board members.

Scheel said moving the elections to every November or every other November is on the table for discussion in the future, as are board stipends and board conferences and classes. She said the board needs to study the elections issue.

Besides classroom teachers, other proposed job cuts include paraprofessionals,

custodians and maintenance workers, supervisors and administrators, central office and secondary school secretaries, elementary learning specialists and student assistance employees. An estimated 80 employees total would be laid off.

The board would vote on the list of employees being laid off at a special meeting later this month or in early January, Scheel said. The layoffs would take place in early February. Because of bumping rights and contract notification requirements, more employees will receive layoff notices than will actually being laid off. The board will call back those it doesn't need to lay off.

Some students and parents asked the board Monday not to cut music or transportation.

Parent Dave Lindeman said colleges today look for well-rounded students in addition to high GPAs and scores on college entrance exams. "Let's not lose sight of how important music is to students on their way to success," he said.

Student Matt Maillard, representing Stevenson and Franklin high schools' student governments, said some students who have no way to get to school may not go to school.

Eddie White, a seventh-grader at Emerson Middle School, said taking bus transportation away from high schoolers is like taking cars away from working Americans and telling them to walk to work. "If you want to save, start with yourselves," he told board members. "Slash the \$50 you get every week and give it to the schools. It won't make or break your bank."

The board will meet at 7 p.m. Monday in its meeting room at 15125 Farmington Road.

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AROUND TOWN

Giving sleigh

Westland Shopping Center and Kroger have teamed up to help the Lighthouse Home Mission of Westland with a Sleigh of Giving now through Monday, Dec. 21.

Located in the East Court of Westland Shopping Center, located at 35000 W. Warren, the public is encouraged to donate non-perishable foods, which will then be distributed by the Home Mission to families in the Westland community for the holiday season. Make a donation and be entered in a drawing to win a \$200 Westland Center gift card. One lucky recipient of a food package also will receive a \$200 Westland Center gift card.

For more information on these events or to see the mall's extended holiday hours, go online to www.westland-center.com.

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, north of Warren 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 (734) 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.

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 Bigby 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.post251.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.

Child identification

Wayne Masonic Lodge No. 112 will provide a free child identification program noon-4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 20, at Wayne Masonic Temple, 37137 Palmer, Westland.

The program is being done to honor Nevaeh Buchanan, the young five-year-old girl who was abducted and found dead along a river bank in Monroe in June. The program is being provided at the request of Nevaeh Buchanan's family and is open to the public.

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. Parents or guardians of children who participate must be present and fill out a permission slip for the child to receive this service.

The Michigan Masonic Child ID Program provides the family with everything needed for the Amber Alert System. For more information about the event or to a similar event, 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.

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NEW EQUIPMENT

FROM PAGE XX

through us, we can bridge from outside the network," Murray said. "We're the first people to devise the interoperability bridge between operations. We never had that before."

Westland is in the second wave of departments receiving the equipment, which Neal said is being made available to the police and other city departments. He also extended an offer to show the equipment to interested residents.

"We're excited, we really are.

Technology at the fire department is very

rare, usually we're at the back. On this, we're at the forefront for a change," Neal said. "Ten years from now, this will all been seen as standard equipment. Now this will make the fire service much more efficient."

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RSVP: St. Dunstan's serves annual Christmas dinner

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

People often have holiday traditions and Christmas Day dinner at St. Dunstan Church is an annual event for many guests and volunteers.

"I've been working on it for 10 years and the church had it for many years before that. It's definitely a tradition," said Judy Larry, a member of the Garden City parish who chairs the dinner. "It's a great community thing. We get volunteers from all over the parish and people from the community who aren't part of the parish. They know we do it and volunteer food or their services."

St. Dunstan is the only church in the area that hosts a dinner on Christmas Day. The dinner is free to people who would otherwise be alone on the holiday — the only other requirement is reservations. About 110 people came to dinner last year, many senior citizens.

"It's a wonderful sit-down dinner with turkey and mashed potatoes. I will call people for cookies. I like to have a lot of desserts — I don't buy those," said Larry. "The main course is all cooked, so I just ask people for a dozen cookies. Everyone is baking around the holidays."

People also make cash donations to help offset the costs for the dinner which is funded through St. Dunstan's Christian Service money. That money also feeds hundreds of people during the year through the church's food pantry program.

Like last year, guests at the dinner each received a Christmas ornament as a gift — something Larry said will happen again this year with the help of the Cracker Barrel Restaurant.

"Last year, I happened to be in the Crack Barrel on the day after Christmas. The ornaments were 50 percent off. I thought it would be

nice to give everyone a present," said Larry. "I talked to the manager. I told her what we did and that I wanted to buy 110 ornaments. She was so nice and told me to come back the next day — the ornaments would be 70 percent off."

It ended up that the restaurant and the church split the cost for the ornaments, Larry said, with Cracker Barrel throwing in boxes and bows for wrapping the ornaments.

To make a reservation for the Christmas dinner, call Larry at (734) 595-3049. Anyone wishing to donate baked goods for the dinner can drop items off at the parish office.

"I'll be there on Wednesday (Dec. 23) making centerpieces. I have a couple of ladies helping me," said Larry.

St. Dunstan is located on Belton, one block west of Inkster Road just north of Marquette.

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

Craft teachers find new home at Maxwell's

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

With Jo-Ann Fabrics and Crafts on Central City Parkway and Warren Road in Westland closing, instructors who had taught classes there have found a new place to call home — Maxwell's Arts and Treasures in Garden City.

Several of the displaced instructors were there, demonstrating classes during an open house. Visitors learned bow making, beginner's knitting crocheting and sewing, according to Sharon Strebbling.

"We're starting Saturday with a few classes and we'll have the January classes listed on the (Maxwell's) Web site," said Strebbling, who had been an instructor at the Jo-Ann store.

Strebbling found Maxwell's owner Laura George by way of Sue Nicholas of the Garden City Community Coalition. Adding the craft classes fits in with George's goal of a one-stop celebration of the arts.

"We want to give people the option of doing something other than watching TV or being on Facebook," George said. "I'm open to pretty much anything that has to do with the arts."

George opened Maxwell's a little over two years ago. It offers an art center as well as a store, featuring the work of local artists, some of which reuse items. "We do a lot of reuse, making new things out of old things." There are

also treasures like antiques, jewelry, books and furniture.

George has expanded Maxwell's art center to include a clay, glass and metal studios. She's also put in a stage where she hosts events like last Saturday night's Blues and Muse, featuring live performances by local artists, and a monthly open mic night. Adding the classes taught by the former Jo-Ann instructors lets her focus on some of the lost arts.

"With Jo-Ann's closing and Michael's cutting back its classes, there's really nowhere to go," she said.

Strebbling and her few of her fellow instructors demonstrated different needle arts — knitting, crocheting and sewing — throughout the afternoon and helped people sign up for classes that will start in January. George also talked about the new classes during Blues and Muse.

George said her goal has always been to do art classes. The business side has helped her to start offering them.

"Maxwell's is still here and it's expanded," she said. "Now we need to get students. It's been a slow process."

Maxwell's Arts and Treasures is at 32416 Industrial Road, north of Ford Road. For more information, call (734) 427-5300, Ext. 7, or go online to www.maxwellsartandtreasures.com.

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

Anderson's free movie is for families in need

In an effort to brighten the holidays a bit for those experiencing hardship during these difficult economic times, State Sen. Glenn S. Anderson, D-Westland, in cooperation with AMC Theaters of Livonia, is hosting a free screening of *A Christmas Carol*, starring Jim Carey, for families in need.

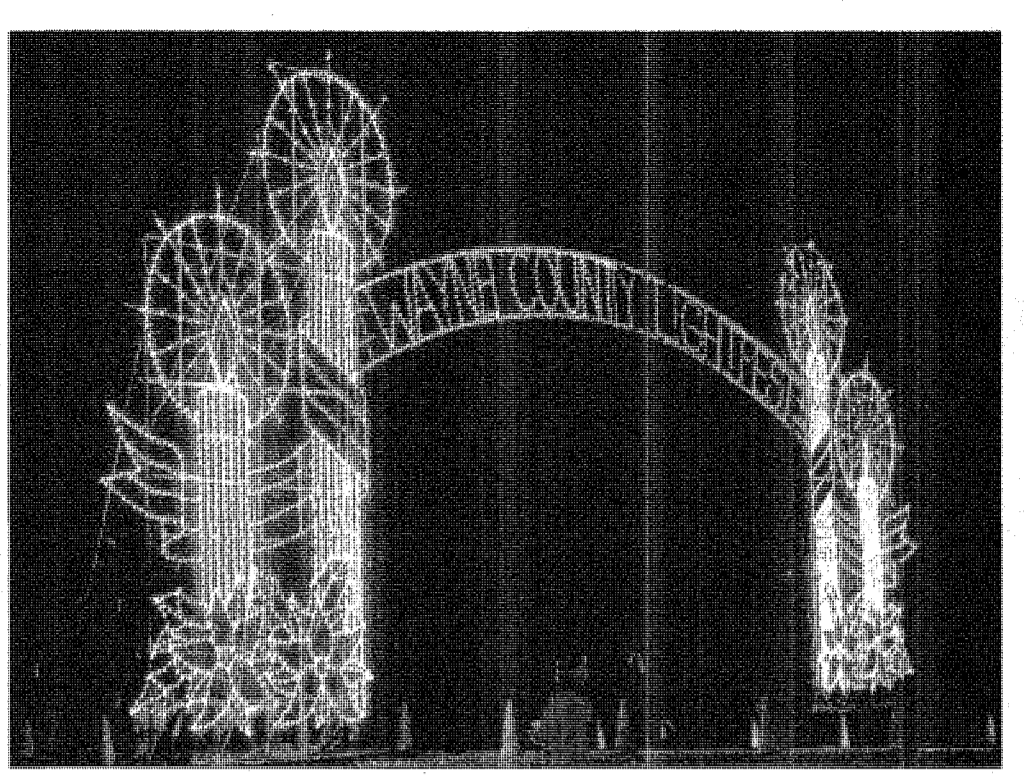
"The holiday season can be an especially challenging and stressful time for families feeling the impact of our

economy," said Anderson. "I would like to invite all in-need families, families who have parents who are unemployed, to this year's free event featuring the movie *A Christmas Carol*. I am hopeful that this year's holiday movie event can provide a happy memory for both parents and children as they enjoy a morning filled with holiday cheer."

The movie will be shown at 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 19, 2009, at the Livonia AMC

20 at 19500 Haggerty Road, north of Seven Mile Road.

In addition to the free screening, concessions will be provided free of charge courtesy of AMC Theaters of Livonia. Seats are limited and a reservation will be required for admission. Parents can request their free admission by contacting Anderson's office by e-mail at SenatorAnderson@senate.mi.gov or by calling toll free at (866) 262-7306.



Holiday lights

Lighted poinsettias and candles flank a sign welcoming residents to the annual Wayne County Lightfest that features more than 35 animated displays and more than one million lights along more than four miles of Hines Drive. The holiday light display is open 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. through Dec. 31. It will be closed Christmas Day. There is a \$5 donation per car. There's also a walk-through display area where visitors can stop by Santa's Workshop at the Warrendale Area for refreshments and gift shopping. Santa will be there until Dec. 23. Although Lightfest begins at 7 p.m., Hines Drive closes to traffic beginning at 5:45 p.m. nightly. Visitors enter Wayne County Lightfest at Hines Drive and Merriman in Westland.

December 2009

Center Hours in Green • Santa Hours in Red

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
10am-7pm 11am-6pm	9am-10pm 10am-8pm	9am-10pm 10am-8pm	9am-10pm 10am-8pm	9am-10pm 10am-8pm	9am-11pm 10am-8pm	7am-11pm 9am-8pm
Dec. 13	Dec. 14	Dec. 15	Dec. 16	Dec. 17	Dec. 18	Dec. 19
9am-8pm 9am-6pm	6am-11pm 9am-8pm	9am-11pm 9am-8pm	9am-11pm 9am-8pm	7am-6pm 9am-6pm	Christmas Day Mail & Office CLOSED	9am-9pm
Dec. 20	Dec. 21	Dec. 22	Dec. 23	Dec. 24	Dec. 25	Dec. 26

Holiday Hours!

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OLYMPIA GROUP

EDUCATION

SANTA

FROM PAGE A1

"I've had some big requests — real ponies," said Santa. "I had two girls ask for real pink ponies ... I guess I could make some."

Also on wish lists this year are Nintendo DS, American Girl dolls, Legos and Transformers, he said.

Makenzie Carpenter was one of those asking for a DS. According to her mother, Lori, the youngster has been asking for one for a year.

"It's too big of a present for her birthday, so I told her to ask Santa," Lori Carpenter said. "This is the first year she's actually said what she wants for Christmas."

According to Makenzie, Santa told her two things.

"He told me I have to be good and that he'll be watching me," she said.

The tree decorating is one of several activities the city sponsors for children. Youngsters had a chance to talk with Santa in a live call-in show as well as create posters showing their homes covered in snow to win in hopes of winning a white Christmas.

"It's fun especially when we get this kind of turnout, this is the largest number yet," said Wild.

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Maggie Lakatos is all smiles as she visits with Santa Claus at the city's annual tree decorating program.



Paige Johnson and Moranda Pattee, both age 12, posed for a picture with Santa.



Susie Pattee enjoys a candy cane she got from Santa Claus.



Cub Scout Kyle Finley makes a Santa puzzle at the crafts table.

SCHOOL BRIEFS

Holiday Night

Wayne Memorial High School is rolling out the welcome mat for youngsters who attend Elliott, Hamilton, Hicks, Hoover, Jefferson, Kettering, Lincoln, Roosevelt, Schweitzer, Taft, Vandenburg and Walker-Winter Elementary schools.

The students are invited to attend a Holiday Night 6-8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11. But there's one catch: To get in they need to present a Holiday Night flier that's available at their respective schools.

The evening will include a spaghetti dinner, a visit with Santa and activities like making an old-fashioned ornament, decorating a holiday cookie and writing a letter to Santa which comes. There also will be raffles and inflatables as well as Christmas caroling.

The event is free of charge, and all children must be accompanied by an adult. For more information, call the high school at (734) 419-2200.

Receives scholarship

Jessica Erlingis, the daughter of Stan and Janey Erlingis of Westland, has been awarded the 2009 Howard T. Orville Endowed Scholarship in meteorology.

A student at the University of Oklahoma, Erlingis is pursuing a bachelor's degree in meteorology. In 2006, she received the American Meteorological Society/Vaisala Inc. freshman scholarship. She is interested in flash flooding, remote sensing and hydrology and plans to attend graduate school to study remote sensing, winter weather and hydrology.

The scholarship is awarded for the senior and is designed to encourage senior undergraduate students to continue pursuing careers in atmospheric and related oceanic and hydrologic sciences. The scholarship honors the late Howard T. Orville, the head of the Naval Aerological Service from 1940-1950 and president of the AMS 1948-49.



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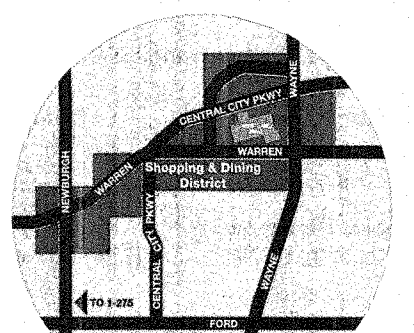


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Brandon Brown serves Dan Stachow and Lynn Lariviere samples of food served at Ashley's Bar & Grill, located on Wayne Road, north of Warren Road.



Megan Bell tries the food and drinks from the Red Robin Restaurant.

Holiday Taste Fest draws a crowd

More than 500 people filled the Hellenic Cultural Center for the Westland Chamber of Commerce's annual Holiday Taste Fest.

For 2 1/2 hours, guests sampled foods from a variety of restaurants in the community, bid on items in a silent auction and try their luck in winning prizes in a raffle.

"It was great, everyone had a great time," said Brookellen Swope, chamber president and CEO. "It was a really relaxing evening."

This was the 11th year the chamber has hosted the taste fest that has become a holiday tradition for some participants.

"It's actually become an event that people come to every year," said Swope. "For some, it's the kick-off to their holiday season."

Serving up samples of their food were American Legion



Daniel Ehred from William D. Ford Career Technical Center brings out some blackberry-topped tarts for the culinary program's display which won the Creativity Award.

Post 32, Ashley's Beer & Grill, Hellenic Cultural Center, Joy Manor Banquet & Catering, McDonald's, Longhorn Steakhouse, Macy's Lakeshore Grill, Maria's Italian Bakery/Vintage Market, Marvaso's

Italian Grille, Mary Denning's Cake Shoppe, Olga's Kitchen, O&W, Papa Romano's-Mr. Pita, Qdoba Mexican Grill, Red Robin, Rose Catering, Texas Roadhouse, Toarmina's Pizza and the

Culinary Arts Department of the William D. Ford Career and Technical Center.

Winning this year's Culinary Excellence Award was the Lakeshore Grill, while William D. Ford's culinary arts program, under the direction of Chef Tony Paquette, received the Creativity Award for the best looking presentation.

The Holiday Taste Fest, as well as Winterfest Bowling, help fund the chamber's Joseph F. Benyo Scholarship which is presented to a Livonia or Wayne-Westland Community School graduating senior who is Westland resident and is interested in pursuing an art, imaging, media or photography-related career at a college and/or technical school.

With fund-raising, the chamber is in the position to give out two \$500 scholarships this school year, Swope said.

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Sun sets on public safety chief's long career

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Far from the New York City school where his boyhood dream of becoming a U.S. Marine began, and a world away from the Vietnam battlefield where his combat medals included a Purple Heart for shrapnel wounds, John Santomauro seems content as he closes out a 40-year law enforcement career that tops a long list of achievements.

Santomauro, Canton's longtime public safety director, will retire as December ends and as he closes the door, just one more time, of his third-floor office in the township's administration building. At 60, he has dedicated the last 24 years of his career to making this community a safer place.

"I don't know how I could have had a more enjoyable career than Canton has offered me," Santomauro said, reflecting on his life from behind his desk. "It was 24 years of a great run."

Long before he changed Canton's approach to public safety, Santomauro, an only child, recalls seeing trenchcoat-clad police officers walking the streets near the public school he attended in New York's Queens borough. As a fifth-grader, he also was riveted to a Marines brochure he saw.

By age 13, Santomauro's stepfather had died, and he moved with his mother to live with relatives in Garden City, where he attended high school before enlisting in the Marines. His duty included a 13-month stint in Vietnam, and he served in combat during the bloody Tet Offensive. He survived malaria and shrapnel wounds, finished his tour, earned several medals and commendations and achieved the rank of staff sergeant before his honorable discharge.

"It was a very traumatic life experience," Santomauro said of Vietnam. "For me, it was a catalyst for growth, for what leadership is in its purest form, for learning to accept life as it is."

Santomauro has kept in his office a Vietnam photo album and scrapbook meticulously compiled by his daughter, Tamara Danaher. He also has a son, two grandchildren, two stepchildren and is married to wife Laura.

After he returned from Vietnam, Santomauro was only 20 years old



John Santomauro retires at the end of the month after a 24-year career with the Canton Public Safety Department.

when he got his first police job in 1969 in Farmington, where he achieved the rank of deputy chief, before leaving for the top slot of public safety director in Pittsfield Township in 1982.

Canton hired him in 1985, and he headed up the old police station near Geddes and Sheldon before he embarked on a career-defining task of creating a nominally consolidated police and fire, or public safety, department. Santomauro oversees a department of nearly 200 employees.

"Without question, he was the architect of what we have today, which in my opinion is the finest public safety department in the state of Michigan," township Supervisor Phil LaJoy said in September, when Santomauro announced plans to retire.

True to his military background, Santomauro implemented a rigid department philosophy and culture requiring officers to have short hair, a polished look, a minimum two-year college degree and other training, plus the ability to pass a rigorous test.

"We have continued to do that," he said — and many officers haven't made the cut.

Santomauro led the charge to form certain regional crime-fighting organizations, such as the Western Wayne Special Threats Response Unit, and in Canton he spearheaded efforts to give public safety officers the tools they needed for their evolving jobs — ranging from in-car laptop computers to a fire truck with a 100-foot aerial ladder.

During his law enforcement career,

Santomauro continued his education. He earned his bachelor's degree in social science from Madonna University and his master's degree in interdisciplinary technology from Eastern Michigan University. He also is a graduate of the 164th session of the FBI National Academy, and has held numerous positions such as president of the Wayne County Chiefs of Police Association.

As the low point of his career, Santomauro cited the 2003 death of Gordon "Lew" Stevens — the only Canton police officer ever killed in the line of duty. Stevens was killed when his patrol car was hit by another vehicle after he stopped to investigate a suspicious situation.

"It was a traumatic shock for our organization," Santomauro said, but



John Santomauro earned a Purple Heart while serving in Vietnam.



John Santomauro started with the Canton Police Department in 1985.

the department struggled through it and "came out of it stronger."

After he retires, Santomauro plans to continue part-time teaching and lecturing at places like Eastern Michigan University.

He and wife Laura want to travel, and he plans to spend more time with family, including grandchildren Amanda, 13, and Connor, 10.

Deputy Police Chief Patrick Nemecek has been tapped as his successor, and Santomauro has confidence the department — already nationally accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies — will continue to flourish.

"The talent pool is so deep in this organization, it is unbelievable," Santomauro said. "The greatest legacy I could leave is not only will this place be fine, but will it continue to grow and evolve? I believe it will."

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Motown celebrates 50th anniversary

On Dec. 14, 1959, Berry Gordy created one of the most legendary record labels in history. After starting off as a small business based out of a home on West Grand Boulevard in Detroit, Motown quickly grew to be the biggest independent label by the 1970s. What was so remarkable about this was that Motown was an African-American owned business focusing on African-American talent that was able to sell millions of records of the Motown Sound at the height of the civil rights movement.

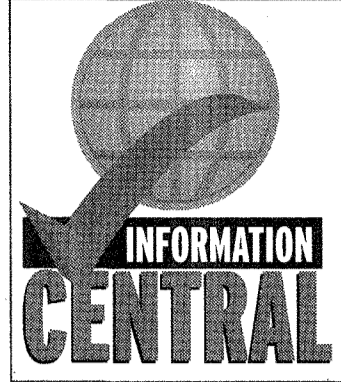
The whole business got started when Gordy's friend Smokey Robinson urged him to create the label. Gordy, a former auto worker, modeled his hit factory after the assembly lines of the Detroit auto industry. He had the songwriters, the talent and the session musicians all working on cranking out hit after hit. The house on West Grand even had a sign reading "Hitsville, U.S.A." Successful acts that were on the label include The Temptations, The Jackson 5, The Four Tops, Martha and the Vandellas, Marvin Gaye, Stevie Wonder, Diana Ross and the Supremes, Smokey Robinson and the Miracles, among others. Well-known songs included "You've Really Got a Hold On Me," "Heat

Wave," "Dancing in the Street," "Tracks of My Tears," "Where Did Our Love Go," "My Guy," "My Girl," "Baby Love," "Reach Out, I'll Be There," "I Can't Help Myself," "Get Ready," "Stop! In the Name of Love," and "The Way You Do the Things You Do." There were 135 No. 1 hits in total.

Things started changing by the late 1960s. Gordy started getting involved in film and TV. Stevie Wonder turned 21 and took control of his own music. In 1971, Marvin Gaye's album, "What's Going On," came out. Most of the Motown acts by then were just not as popular as they once were and Gordy finally moved the label from Detroit to Los Angeles. In 1988, Motown was sold to MCA and eventually landed with Universal.

For a close-up education on Motown, visit the Motown Historical Museum in Detroit in the home where it all started. To learn more about Motown's history and influence at the library, pick up "One Nation Under a Groove" by Gerald Lyn Early or "Dancing in the Street: Motown and the Cultural Politics of Detroit" by Suzanne E. Smith.

There are also biographies on some of the main figures, such as Martha Reeves, Marvin Gaye and Diana Ross. Stop by at the refer-



ence desk, call us at (734) 326-6123, or remotely search our catalog 24 hours a day at www.westland.lib.mi.us.

Highlighted Activities

Adult Fiction Group: 7 p.m. Dec. 15, ages 18 and up

If you would like help developing your fiction or enjoy reading new and exciting fiction, please join us for one of our sessions. Two new stories will be covered each month by the group. Check with the Reference Desk for this month's stories or send an e-mail to andy.schuck@westland-library.org

Adult Book Discussion Group: 7 p.m. Dec. 15

Join us as we discuss Mark Twain's

"The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn." This classic novel tells the story of a teenaged misfit who finds himself floating on a raft down the Mississippi River with an escaping slave, Jim. Although some of the situations in "Huckleberry Finn" are funny in themselves, this book's humor is found mostly in Huck's unique worldview and his way of expressing himself. All are welcome.

Jobs in the Michigan Film Industry: 7 p.m. Dec. 16

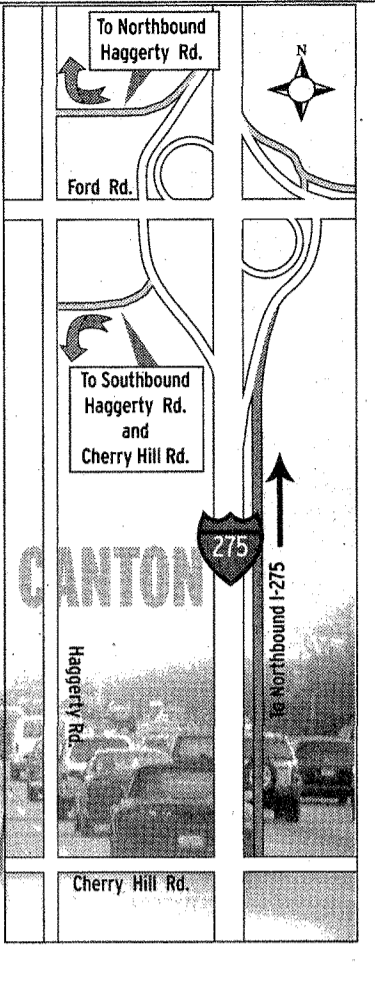
Learn how you can get involved in movies being made in Michigan. Noted film industry expert, Bob Brown, co-founder of Purple Rose Films, founder of Charity Island Pictures and member of the Michigan Film Office Advisory Council, will explain new employment opportunities that the emerging Michigan Film Industry has to offer. Sign up at the Reference Desk. Rescheduled from Oct. 28. A Certified Sign Language Interpreter will be provided.

Open Mic: 7-8:30 p.m. Dec. 17, teens and adults

Attention artists, open mic is back!!! Let your muse run wild, coffee shop-style. Writers, poets, singers/rappers, bands, performers of all sorts are welcome. Singer-songwriters Dave Boutette emcees.

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 - Potential for improved access to development parcels east of I-275, relieving congestion at Ford/Lotz intersection.



Pushing for a plan Leaders travel to D.C. to push I-275 project

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Local officials, facing fierce competition to secure a \$20.3 million federal grant to reshape the traffic-snarled I-275/Ford Road interchange, took their battle to Washington, D.C., amid hopes of garnering support. Canton Township Supervisor Phil LaJoy and Municipal Services Director Tim Faas caught a morning flight Dec. 3 to Washington and returned the same day after waging a lobbying blitz during talks with Michigan lawmakers and their staff members.

LaJoy and Faas sought bipartisan support for a massive economic-recovery project that, if approved, could create hundreds of jobs and ease traffic congestion along a stretch of Ford Road that ranks among the state's most accident-prone areas.

The proposal, submitted in September through the Michigan Department of Transportation, hinges on a \$20.3 million federal TIGER, or Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery, grant.

"I think we've got a shot at it," LaJoy said, though he conceded the battle for limited federal dollars is being hard-fought.

Local officials expect to learn by mid-February whether the money will be approved by the U.S. Department of Transportation.

LaJoy, who raised the issue of I-275/Ford Road improvements as a former state legislator, said the TIGER grant would not only improve traffic for Canton, but also for neighboring communities such as Westland, Plymouth, Plymouth Township and Van Buren Township.

On a whirlwind day in Washington, LaJoy cited face-to-face meetings with U.S. Reps. Thaddeus McCotter and Candice Miller, both Republicans, and U.S. Rep. Mark Schauer, a Democrat.

LaJoy and Faas also met with office representatives for Miller, Republican U.S. Rep. Vernon Ehlers and three Democrats — U.S. Sens. Debbie Stabenow and Carl Levin and U.S. Rep. Gary Peters.

Some of the legislators have key ties to certain committees that local officials hope could boost their chances of securing the TIGER grant. Ehlers, for example, sits on the House Transportation and Infrastructure

Committee.

The grant proposal follows a years-old, regional transportation study by the township, MDOT and a consulting firm, Parsons-Brinckerhoff, that found a pressing need for improvements to the I-275 interchange. Ford Road alone was found to have 50,000 motorists a day, and traffic congestion has only worsened amid new development such as Michigan's only IKEA store, which LaJoy said draws some 2 million customers a year, including shoppers from other states and Canada.

"It's a state problem," LaJoy said. As earlier reported in the Observer, here's how:

- Drivers exiting southbound I-275 could use a new access ramp, or slip, to get to northbound Haggerty without getting onto Ford Road.

- Motorists exiting southbound I-275 also could access southbound Haggerty by using another new ramp south of Ford Road.

- Drivers from the area of Cherry Hill Road could access north I-275 by using a northbound service drive along the interstate, bypassing Ford Road.

Faas has said the \$20.3 million plan would be far less costly — and less disruptive — than installing a completely new interchange.

To be sure, the changes would bring their share of construction-related traffic woes, but officials say existing traffic problems are only expected to worsen unless changes are made.

LaJoy said the project already has gained widespread support from neighboring communities, the regional Southeast Michigan Council of Governments and MDOT.

During a five-year period ending in 2008, the Ford-Haggerty intersection near the I-275 interchange had 345 crashes, making it one of Michigan's worst areas for accidents.

"It's a safety issue," LaJoy said. "It's also an economic development issue. This is about creating jobs, too."

LaJoy, Faas and others who support the project only hope last Thursday's lobbying efforts, coupled with earlier political support, will help convince federal officials to award the grant.

"It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," LaJoy said. "This is a more than \$20 million opportunity, and it's worth making every effort."

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<p>Christmas Cards</p> <p>EXCLUDES EVERYDAY STYLE TINS</p>	<p>Christmas Tins</p> <p>EXCLUDES EVERYDAY STYLE TINS</p>	<p>Christmas Ornaments</p> <p>INCLUDES MINIATURE, BOXED SETS & ROBERT STANLEY GLASS ORNAMENTS</p>	<p>Christmas Categories Shown</p> <p>50% Off</p>	<p>Tinsel, Fabric & Bead Garlands</p> <p>25 Count C-7 or C-9 G.E. Light Sets</p> <p>OUR EVERYDAY LOW PRICE</p> <p>7.99</p>
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Cardio class offers total body workout

The Mind, Body and Spirit Institute is offering a cardio-kickboxing/aerobics class designed to teach self-defense, improve self-esteem and self-confidence, and increase mental discipline while toning and losing weight.

The class, taught by a professional fighter, is a total body workout is designed to burn up to 800 calories per session. It meets at the Bailey Recreation Center.

Classes are 6-7 p.m. and 7-8 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays and 6-7 p.m. Sundays. The class is for those age 15 year and older and all skill levels. Middle school students can attend if accompanied by a parent and with the instructor's permission.

The Bailey Recreation Center is in the civic center complex at Ford and Carlson, west of Wayne Road. Call (734) 686-9882 for more information.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Earth Angels

Details: Earth Angels, a children's entertainment/performance non-profit group composed of kids ages 9 - 16 years old, is currently looking to fill spots. There's opening for girls ages 9 - 11, with at least two years of dance experience, and boys, ages 9 - 12 with no experience needed just an interest in performing. The group delivers a high energy show made up of choreographed dance routines spiced with theatrics and lip-synching to the great Oldies music of the '50s and '60s as well as some current fare. **Contact:** www.earthangelsontour.org or by e-mail to eangel1986@comcast.net

TOPS 869 meetings

Time/date: Mondays, weigh-ins at 5:30 p.m., followed by the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

Location: Adams Senior Village, 2001 Kaley Ave., south of Palmer, Westland.

Details: The group is for people age 18 and older.

Contact: The group which meets on Mondays is for people age 18 and older.

American Legion Post 251

Time/date: 7 p.m. first Tuesday of the month

Location: 1217 Merriman Road, between Avondale and Palmer, Westland.

Details: All veterans, male and female with a honorable discharge are welcome to join.

Contact: www.post251.org or call (734) 326-2607

Fish Dial-A-Ride

Location: Garden City, Livonia and Westland

Details: Fish Dial-A-Ride of Western Wayne County is seeking volunteer drivers. A nonprofit community service group, it provides door-to-door rides to non-emergency medical and other necessary appointments for senior and disabled residents of Garden City, Livonia and Westland who are unable to drive and have no alternative transportation. Volunteers can specify days, times, and areas they're willing to drive. **Contact:** Call (888) 660-2007 and leave a message.

Higher Rock Cafe

Time/date: 7:30 p.m. second and fourth Fridays of the month.

Location: Wayne-Westland Salvation Army, 2300 Venoy, south of Palmer, Westland.

Details: Doors open at 7:30 p.m. Live bands perform beginning at 8 p.m.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Friends gather

A crowd is expected tonight (Sunday) in downtown Plymouth's Kellogg Park for the annual Compassionate Friends candle-lighting ceremony to honor children who died too young. The ceremony, which starts at 7 p.m., features poems and the reading of the names of the children who've died. Two trees in the park will be decorated with ornaments featuring their names. Organizers recommend attendees arrive around 6:30 p.m.

Admission is free, however, a free will offering will be taken to support the bands.

Contact: www.tsa.higherrockcafe.4t.com or call (734) 722-3660

FOR SENIORS

Friendship Center

Location: 1119 N. Newburgh, Westland

Details: The Senior Resources Department (Friendship Center) offers a variety of programs for older adults.

Contact: (734) 722-7632, www.ci.westland.mi.us

Dyer Center

Location: 36745 Marquette, between Wayne Road and Marquette, Westland

Details: Offers activities Monday-Friday at the center.

Contact: (734) 419-2020

Senior Fitness

Location: Maplewood Senior Center, Maplewood west of Merriman, Garden City

Details: The Senior Fitness Room is open 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and noon to 6 p.m. Sunday. Annual membership is \$50 per year or \$1 for a daily pass. Aerobic classes are held 8:45-9:45 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday. **Contact:** (734) 793-1870

FOR YOUR HEALTH

Safe Place

Time/date: 7 p.m. Thursdays

Location: Fellowship Hall at Merriman Road Baptist Church, 2055 Merriman, Garden City.

Details: A SAFE PLACE is based on the Alcoholics for Christ program.

Contact: Russ Weathers at (734) 422-1995

Metro Fibromyalgia

Time/date: 1-3 p.m. Second and fourth Thursday of each month

Location: Merriman Road Baptist Church, 2055 Merriman, just west of Ford in Garden City

Details: The first meeting has a speaker, the second meeting is open to discuss living with our fibromyalgia.

Contact: Lucy at (734) 462-1768, www.MetroFibroGroup.com

Menopause & More

Time/date: 7-9 p.m. the first Wednesday of the month

Location: Classroom 2 of the west addition of the Marian Women Center of St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile, Livonia

Details: A support group for women, no registration is necessary, and the group is free of charge.

Contact: (734) 655-1100

Counterpoint

Details: Counterpoint Shelter and Crisis Center offers free counseling and respite services for people ages 10-17 and their families.

Contact: (734) 563-5005

Toughlove

Time/date: 7:30-9:30 p.m. Tuesdays

Location: Northwest Wayne Skill Center, Ann Arbor Trail between Merriman and Farmington, Livonia.

Details: Support group, newcomers welcome.

Contact: (734) 261-7880 or (248) 380-7748

EDUCATION

Willow Creek

Location: 36660 Cherry Hill in Westland

Details: Willow Creek Cooperative Preschool offers a Parent/Tot, Young 3's, 3-year and 4-year programs.

Contact: (734) 326-0078

St. Damian

Location: 29891 Joy, Westland

Details: St. Damian Catholic School offers preschool for 3-4-year-olds and full day kindergarten through

grade 8. **Contact:** (734) 427-1680, www.stdamian.com.

YWCA Preschool

Details: The YWCA of Western Wayne County's Education Department offers quality preschool programs to children aged 2-5 years old at no cost to most families. There are many locations available throughout the community. Home-based programs are also available.

Contact: (313) 561-4110, Ext. 10

VOLUNTEERS

First Step

Details: First Step, which has been active in the effort to end domestic violence and sexual assault in western Wayne County and Downriver communities for more than 20 years, is looking for volunteers. Interested people must be at least 18, willing and able to travel to the Downriver area and complete a 55-hour training program.

Contact: (734) 416-1111, Ext. 223

Drivers Needed

Details: Volunteer drivers are needed to transport area residents to meetings of the Western Wayne Parkinson's Disease Support Group. The meetings take place 7-9 p.m. on the second Thursday of the month in the Livonia Senior Center, Farmington Road south of Five Mile. Drivers may be offered a stipend. Parkinson's patients, caregivers and others may attend the meetings.

Contact: (734) 459-0216 or (734) 421-4208

VNA Hospice

Details: Visiting Nurse Association of Southeast Michigan's (VNA) hospice program needs volunteers to comfort and support patients at the end of life. Volunteers can provide companionship, write a memoir, provide respite for family or work as office support. A free 18-hour training program is provided at the VNA headquarters, 25900 Greenfield Road, Suite 600. Registration is required.

Contact: (248) 967-8361, www.vna.org

Hours:
OPEN X-mas Eve 9-6
CLOSED X-mas Day
MON.-SAT. 9-9
SUN. 9-7

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Notice of Public Sale of Personal Property.

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self Service Storage Facility Act, State of Michigan, **PS Orangeco, Inc. and/or Shurgard TRS, Inc.** will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage located at 20080 Allen Rd. Trenton, MI 48183 (734)479-5442 12/29/2009 at: 10:00 am. Sales are for cash only. Removal within 24 hours. For sale and storage units in which rent and fees are past due. Personal property described below in the matter of:

034	Tamara Hess	GMC Van VIN 1GDHGG31R7H1041741
104	Tom Finnley	1991 Ford Tempo VIN 2FAPP36U7NB104843
117	Brenda Solley	boxes, bags, totes
155	Wanda Hicks	boxes, sofa, tv
509	Nurhayda Sison	boxes, bags, totes
512	Janet Pielak	boxes, bags, dresser
623	John Scherlitz	dresser, mattress
642	Samuel Zavaleta Jr	boxes, bags, toys
826	Eboni Craig	bags, totes, tv
922	Shawntel Harris	boxes, bags, dresser
1001	William Bell	boxes, totes, suitcase
1004	Guy Ellis	table, chairs
1106	Lionel Belanger	boxes, totes, tv

Publish: December 13 and 20, 2009

NOTICE OF MEETING

The annual meeting of the stockholders of the Wayne Masonic Temple Association, a Michigan non-profit corporation, shall be held at the office of the corporation at 37137 Palmer Rd., Westland, Michigan on the Tuesday December 15, 2009 at 8:00 PM for the election of directors and such other business as may properly come before said meeting.

Publish: December 6, and 13, 2009

Notice of Public Sale of Personal Property.

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self Service Storage Facility Act, State of Michigan, **PS Orangeco, Inc. and/or Shurgard TRS, Inc.** will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage (formerly Shurgard) located at 24920 Trowbridge St., Dearborn, MI 48124 (313) 277-7940 12/29/2009 at: 1:00pm. Sales are for cash only. Removal within 24 hours. For sale and storage units in which rent and fees are past due. Personal property described below in the matter of:

1010	Andrea Garrison	boxes, bags, totes
1196	Brittany Riley	boxes, dresser, bike
1214	Dawn Turner	bags, bike, tv
1252	Gregory Marvin	dresser, chair, box
1348	Charlise Williams	boxes, bags, totes
1472	Nicole Murphy	boxes, bags, stove
2240	Charlotte Scott	boxes, bags, totes
2281	Jeffrey Griffith	boxes, totes, tv
2285	Kisha Stewart	boxes, sofa, dresser
2298	Tamika Hister	boxes, bags, dresser
2430	Nicole Jefferson	stove, bags
2474	Walter Elliott	boxes, bags, totes
3006	Pamela Avery	washer, dryer, bags

Publish: December 13 and 20, 2009

Get sound advice on filing for bankruptcy

Q: Dear Rick: My husband and I have decided that there is no alternative but to file for bankruptcy. In addition to our mortgage, which is more than the value of our house, we have a substantial amount in credit card debt. We have five charge cards. One is in my name, one is in my husband's name and we have three joint cards. For many reasons, we don't want to be the position where we both have to file for bankruptcy. We decided it would make sense for him to file. We figure that if he declares bankruptcy, he can claim all the charge cards except the one in my name. In reading one of your past columns, I thought that could be a problem, however, a friend said I shouldn't worry and that as long as my husband declares bankruptcy and claims those cards there should be no problem. Is this true? My friend also said that if it is a problem then my husband and I can divorce and in the settlement he would take all the debt. What do you think?

A: I can almost guarantee that your friend is not a lawyer and doesn't understand bankruptcy laws.

First, if your husband did declare bankruptcy he could potentially receive a discharge from his liabilities. However, his bankruptcy does not affect you. Since you are a signator on the joint charge cards, the charge card companies would not be able to go after him but they certainly can go after you. His bankruptcy does not discharge you from your obligation under the debt.

The same premise applies to your home. If the mortgage is in both your names, once again, his bankruptcy would not have any impact on you and the financial institution can pursue collections from you.

With regards to divorce, your friend, once again, is wrong. A divorce would have no impact on your obligations to the creditors. Even if the court orders him to pay the debts that would not prevent the charge card companies and the mortgage company from coming after you.

I recommend that you sit down with a qualified bankruptcy attorney and discuss your options. More than likely, the debts on all the charge cards are substantial and there is no realistic opportunity to repay the debt and it would make sense for both of you to file for bankruptcy.

I recognize that going into bankruptcy does impact your credit, however, what it is also does is allow you and your husband to get a clean start. Just by the fact that you file for bankruptcy does not mean that in the future you will not be able to obtain credit because you will. It will be a little more difficult and it may be more expensive. However, as far as I am concerned that is a small cost to pay to get a fresh start.

I am not one who recommends bankruptcy the first time someone gets themselves into financial difficulty. After all, there are opportunities to potentially work with creditors to solve the problem without having to go into bankruptcy and impact one's credit. However, that said, I'm also not one who believes that bankruptcy is something that people should avoid at all costs.

We live in a society and a country that believes that people are entitled to a second chance and bankruptcy laws are there to provide that opportunity. I also believe that the stigma with regards to bankruptcy is no longer there. In this financial crisis, many individuals and corporations have had to seek protection through bankruptcy laws and I believe that most people in our society recognize that things happen that are sometimes out of ones control.



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

A perfect example of is what has happened to General Motors. I remember when many people in the financial world predicted and even recommended that General Motors seek bankruptcy

protection. The general thought of many people in the company was if GM went into bankruptcy no one would buy GM cars.

That is not the case. Consumers have continued to purchase GM vehicles.

In fact, I believe if GM had filed for bankruptcy a few years ago, they probably would be in better shape than they are in today.

When it comes to bankruptcy, I strongly recommend someone whose great majority of work is in the bankruptcy courts. Bankruptcy is very specialized. If you need the name of a qualified individual e-mail me.

One final point. Many people attempt to transfer assets or do other transactions to shield assets before they go through bankruptcy. Be very careful. Those transfers, perhaps well intentioned, can cause you problems.

Good luck!

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

Garden City Hospital, at 6245 Inkster Road, offers a weekly schedule of health and wellness programs for residents. The lineup includes:

Monday, Dec. 14

Stroke Caregiver Support Group at 6:30 p.m. will benefit those who care for loved ones that have had strokes or aneurysms. The group meets on the second Monday of the month at in Classroom 3 of the Allan Breakie Medical Office Building. Caregivers may bring their loved ones with them. A stroke survivor support group will take place at the same time in the adjoining classroom. For more information, call (734) 458-4392.

Yoga (4 of 4 classes) at 7:30 p.m. The four-week session is \$32. Classes meet at Garden City Hospital's Cardiac Rehab. Call (734) 458-3242 to register.

Tuesday, Dec. 15

Get Up and Move at 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. The exercise program is designed to help you get up and get moving, and is the perfect compliment to your diet program. Fee is \$30 per month. For more information, call (734) 458-3242.

Diabetes Self-Management Education (3 of 3 classes) at 9:30 a.m. A comprehensive series, participants learn self-care skills of nutrition, exercise, medication management, monitoring of blood sugar levels, foot and skin care, prevention of problems and psychosocial issues. Physician referral is required. There is a fee, but reimbursement is available by Medicare, Medicaid and most commercial insurance plans. Call (734) 458-3481 for more information or to register.

Strength and Stretch at 2 p.m. is a non-aerobic exercise class designed to help strengthen and define muscles, as well as increase flexibility. Fee is \$30 per month. For more information, call (734) 458-3242.

Fitness FUN-Damentals at 6 p.m. Enjoy a fitness class that includes exercise, fitness tips and healthy recipes. Bring a yoga mat. Class is held at

HOSPITAL WELLNESS CALENDAR

the Westland Specialty Center, 35600 Central City Parkway, Suite 103, Westland. Class drop-in fee is \$8. Call (734) 458-3242 for more information. Cerebral Aneurysm and Stroke Club at 7:30 p.m. Support is offered to those who have had an aneurysm or stroke as well as to their family and friends. The club meets every third Tuesday of the month and is held in Garden City Hospital's Rehabilitation Unit dining room. For more information, call (734) 458-4392.

Wednesday, Dec. 16

Free blood pressure testing for senior citizens at 10:30 a.m. at the Maplewood Community Center on Maplewood just west of Merriman. Call (734) 458-4330 for more information.

CPAP and BIPAP Mask Fitting Clinic at 5 p.m. Visit the Sleep Disorders Center of Michigan, 35600 Central City Parkway, Suite 103, Westland, from 5-6 p.m. any Wednesday for a free mask fitting clinic. No appointment is needed. Call (734) 458-3330 for more information.

First Aid (Adult- ARC) at 6 p.m. This American Red Cross class teaches how to respond to breathing and cardiac emergencies for victims age 8 and older. The class is offered at Garden City Hospital's Health and Education Center at 6701 Harrison, north of Maplewood. There is a \$40 fee. Participants will receive a certification upon successful completion. Call (734) 458-4330 for more information or to register.

Eating Disorders Support Group at 7 p.m. is for individuals with anorexia, bulimia, and compulsive and binge eating disorders. Men, women and teens invited to attend. Call (734) 458-4330 for more information.

Thursday, Dec. 17

American Red Cross Blood Drive 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Garden City Hospital will host an American Red Cross Blood Drive in the Lower Level Classrooms of the Allan Breakie Medical Office Building, located on the Garden City Hospital

campus, 6245 Inkster Road. Appointments may be scheduled by calling (734) 458-4259. Walk-ins are welcomed.

Get Up and Move at 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. The exercise program is designed to help you get up and get moving, and is the perfect compliment to your diet program. Fee is \$30 per month. For more information, call (734) 458-3242.

Strength and Stretch at 2 p.m. is a non-aerobic exercise class designed to help strengthen and define muscles, as well as increase flexibility. Fee is \$30 per month. For more information, call (734) 458-3242.

Yoga (3 of 4 classes) at 6:30 p.m. The four-week session is \$32. Classes meet at Garden City Hospital's Cardiac Rehab. Call (734) 458-3242 to register.

Diabetes Self-Management Education (3 of 3 classes) at 6:30 p.m. A comprehensive series, participants learn self-care skills of nutrition, exercise, medication management, monitoring of blood sugar levels, foot and skin care, prevention of problems and psychosocial issues. Physician referral is required. There is a fee, but reimbursement is available by Medicare, Medicaid and most commercial insurance plans. Call (734) 458-3481 for more information or to register.

Yoga (4 of 4 classes) at 6:30 p.m. The four-week session is \$32. Classes meet at Garden City Hospital's Health Enhancement Center. Call (734) 458-3242 to register.

Daily programs
Garden City Hospital's Health Enhancement Center offers daily programs Monday through Friday in Phase II and III Cardiac Rehabilitation/ Cardiac Wellness, a Peripheral Vascular Disease Exercise and Strength Training Program, and a Diabetes Exercise Program. These classes are presented and monitored by certified exercise physiologists. Contact the Health Enhancement Center at (734) 458-3242 to select an exercise program specifically designed for you.



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Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

A sales representative will be present with information and applications. For accommodation of persons with special needs at sales meetings, call toll-free (800) 449-1515 or TDD (800) 956-4325.

Workshops are for Medicare-eligible individuals who do not have benefits paid for by a former employer and who pay for their own healthcare coverage.

[†]Based on Medicare's Plan Quality and Performance Rating 2009 Survey conducted by the federal Medicare program. To see full results, go to "Compare Health Plans" on www.medicare.gov

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SUNDAY

December 13, 2009

SECTION B (WL)

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

Saint's celebration signals start of Christmas season - B7

SPORTS, HEALTH & FITNESS, NEIGHBORS

HOMETOWN LIFE



Hill leads Zebras to 53-43 win

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

They may have to start calling Wayne Memorial's Daniel Hill "Mr. Dependable."

"He's not flashy and I don't know if they appreciate what he does," Wayne coach Wayne Woodard said of his 6-foot-3 senior center.

Hill was not spectacular, but he was his consistent and steady self throughout the Zebras' season-opening 53-43 boys basketball win Thursday night over Taylor Truman.

Hill was 7-of-12 from the floor and 6-of-10 from the foul line. He also controlled the

BOYS BASKETBALL backboards and had

three blocks.

"Daniel's a quiet leader, super reliable with great hands," Woodard said. "He gets the most out of being undersized as a post player. Like he said himself, he patterns his game after a Tim Duncan. And that's a good assessment. He's a lot like Lorenzo Guess (Wayne's All-Stater in the mid-1990s). He's a winner and the bottom line that's the objective."

Wayne led 12-11 after one quarter, but took control with a 16-7 second-quarter run to lead 28-18 at intermission.

The Zebras then opened up a 17-point lead, 35-18, with 5:05 left in the third period on a basket by Derric Horton and the Cougars never got closer than 10 the rest of the way.

Reggie Reeves added nine points, while Horton contributed eight for the Zebras, who shot 20-of-54 from the floor (37 percent) and 12-of-20 from the free-throw line (60 percent).

Wayne won despite committing 24 turnovers.

"There's room for improvement, but we got off on the right foot," Woodard said. "It

Please see **ZEBRAS, B4**



Scene of the crash

Churchill's Tony Mifsud (left) and Plymouth's John Deal collide along the boards during Wednesday's KLAAs South Division hockey clash. The two teams battled to a 3-3 draw. See story on page B3.

SIDELINES

Crusader men win

You can call them the "Three Musketeers" as Kevin Henry, Geoff Gaylor and Bryant Slaughter combined for 61 points Friday as the host Madonna University men's basketball team earned a 78-72 victory over Notre Dame (Ohio) in the State Farm 2009 Crusader Classic.

Henry, a 6-foot-4 freshman from Toledo, scored 21 points and added six assists as the Crusaders improved to 2-8 overall.

Slaughter, a senior guard from Westland, and the 6-8 Gaylor each added 20 points.

Senior forward Leroy Allen chipped in with a team-high 10 rebounds to go along with eight points. Gaylor also grabbed nine rebounds.

MU overcame a 39-34 halftime deficit.

The Crusaders shot 28-of-59 from the floor (47.5 percent), including 6-of-18 from beyond the arc. MU made 16-of-25 free throws.

Notre Dame (7-2) got a game-high 22 points and 17 rebounds from Eric Dummermuth.

Nick McCartney added 14 points, while Will Townsend and Curtis McClure each added 10.

Notre Dame made just 37.5 percent of its shots from the field (27-of-72).

MU faces Rochester College in Saturday's final round of the State Farm Crusader Classic.

MU women fall

On Friday, host St. Ambrose (Iowa) College got 22 points from Jenny Clark in a 76-65 women's basketball win over visiting Madonna University at Lee Lohman Arena in Davenport.

Ali Dolphin contributed 16 points and 13 rebounds for St. Ambrose, which improved to 9-1 overall.

Megan Cash chipped in with 11 points for the host school.

The Crusaders, who dropped to 3-4 overall, had four players score in double figures, led by Tabatha Wydryck's team-high 16 points. She also added eight rebounds and four assists.

Heather Pratt came off the bench to score 13 points, while Kim Olech (Plymouth) and Erin Bentley each contributed 12.

Olech grabbed a team-high nine rebounds.

MU shot only 35.3 percent from the field (24-of-68), including 10-of-39 from beyond the arc (10-of-39).

The Crusaders hurt themselves by committing a total of 20 turnovers.

Pratt's 3-pointer with 8:42 remaining gave MU a 54-50 advantage, but St. Ambrose regained the lead for keeps, 56-54, with 6:46 to go on a 3-pointer by Clark.

The Crusaders played St. Mary-of-the-Woods (Ind.) in Saturday's St. Ambrose Classic.

Spartans aiming to stay in top 10

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER



Marecki

Chris Behler, Michael Cruce, Jeff Kinsvater, Jereme Pesta, Joey Wingett, Ryan Scott and Charles Turlo — all of whom

helped the Spartans to the KLAAs Central Division and Kensington Conference titles.

They were also a big reason why the Spartans finished with 177 points at the state finals and were less than four points out of fourth place.

The Spartans, who open their dual-meet season Tuesday at home against Beverly Hills Detroit Country Day, will eye this year's state

PREVIEW

finals — March 12-13 at the Holland Aquatic Center — with renewed optimism.

Four key performers return from a year ago led by senior Aaren Marecki, who placed fifth in the 50-yard freestyle (21.76) and sixth in the 100 freestyle (47.73).

Marecki was also a member of Stevenson's third-place 400 freestyle relay team which clocked a 3:12.43 in the prelims and a 3:12.85 in the finals.

Marecki is also the lone hold-over on the Spartans' 200 freestyle relay quartet that earned a fourth in the state finals (going 1:27.13 in the prelims).

"He's that much big-

ger and stronger this year," Shoemaker said of his tri-captain.

Another key returnee is junior Kellen Schoff, who placed ninth in the 200 individual medley (1:58.19) and 100 backstroke (54.32). Schoff was also a member of Stevenson's 400 freestyle relay squad.

Meanwhile, senior Bryan Bielicki was a state qualifier in the 200 IM (2:05.06) and 100 backstroke (56.36 in the prelims).

Yet another key returnee is senior Daniel Schoff, who earned second-team All-Observer honors in the 500 freestyle.

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

Patriots five-peat at City tourney

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

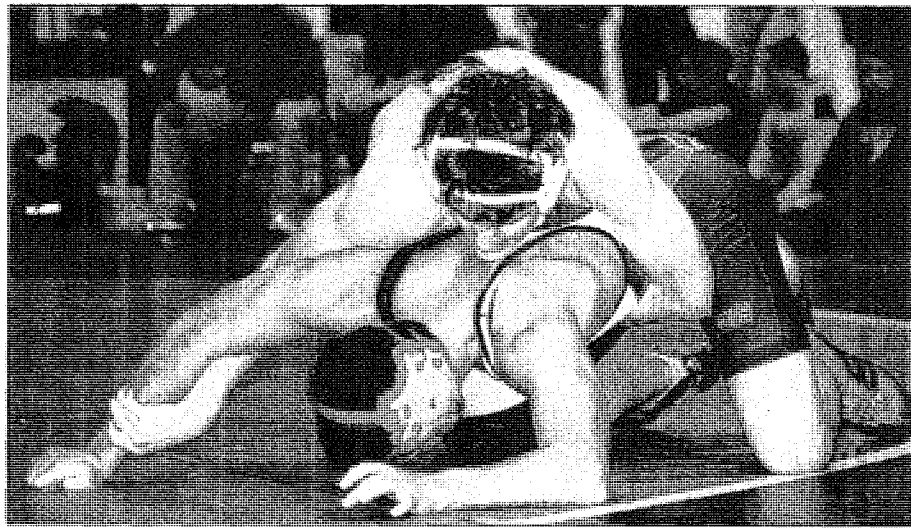
Chalk up another Livonia City Meet wrestling crown for Livonia Franklin.

The Patriots, despite an early challenge from host Stevenson, earned their fifth straight title Wednesday night by scoring 204.5 points. The Spartans placed second with 161, while Churchill and Clarenceville finished third and fourth, respectively, with 122 and 79.

Franklin was coming off an uncharacteristic 1-4 performance in Saturday's Rocket Duals hosted by Westland John Glenn. That tourney featured area powers Novi-Detroit Catholic Central and Glenn, who finished one-two on the day with 5-0 and 4-1 records, respectively.

"At the John Glenn duals we faced some pretty darn good teams and got pretty beat up," Franklin coach Dave Chiola said. "And to be so down from that only makes you better for the City meet."

"We've got a lot of work to do. We are



TRACY VAUGHAN

Stevenson's Charlie Kokenakes (top) pinned Franklin's Jordan McGuire in the 145-pound finals.

not in as good condition as we should be and we made a lot of rookie mistakes."

Yet the Patriots captured seven of the 14 weight classes as both Steve Tuvo

(125) and Paul Hanni (135) repeated as individual champions.

Please see **PATRIOTS, B4**

Bedell, Cooks spur Churchill to 'clutch' win

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Livonia Churchill made a series of clutch plays during "crunch time" Friday night to eke out a 58-55 boys basketball win at home over rival

BOYS BASKETBALL

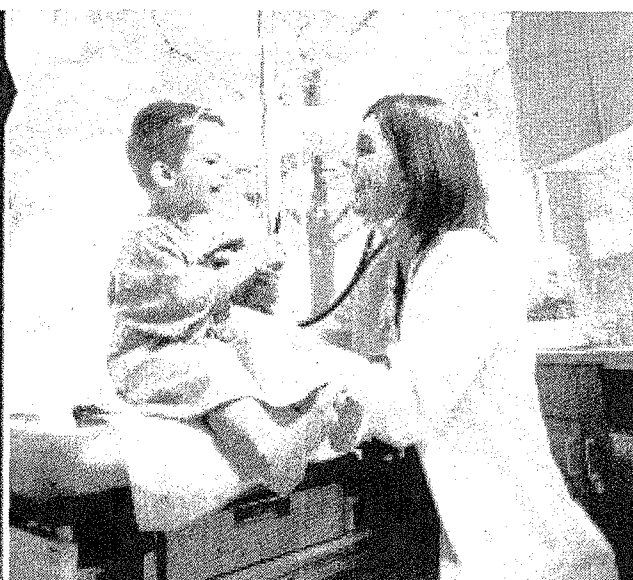
Livonia Stevenson.

The Chargers, who improved to 2-0 overall, got a team-high 31 points and 16 rebounds from 6-foot-6 senior center Adam Bedell, who had a key basket and made 3-of-4 free throws in the final 1:48.

His two free throws with

Please see **CHURCHILL, B4**

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2009 ALL-OBSERVER GIRLS VOLLEYBALL FIRST-TEAM

Sarah Suppelsa, Sr. OH, Liv. Churchill
Maddy Doyle, Soph. OH, F.H. Mercy
Jordan Kieilty, Sr. OH, Canton
Kellyn O'Brady, Sr. OH, Garden City
Claire Dezelski, Sr. OH, Liv. Ladywood
Nicole Merget, Jr. MB, Salem
Kaitlyn Krause, Jr. S-OH, N. Farmington
Kristine Vulaj, Sr. MH, Redford Union
Cory Urbats, Jr. Setter, Liv. Churchill
Emilie Freeman, Sr. MB, Luth. Westland
Katy Rooney, Jr. MB, Liv. Ladywood
Kristen Muir, Soph., OH, Canton
Kelly Vellucci, Soph. OH-S, Liv. Stevenson
Lindsey Lerg, Soph. OH, F.H. Mercy
Taylor Kerr, Sr. Libero, Liv. Churchill

SECOND-TEAM

Kerry MacDonald, Jr. Setter, Salem
Julie Plummer, Jr. OH, N. Farmington
Stephanie Stevens, Sr. OH, Garden City
Rachel Storck, Sr. OH, Luth. Westland
Hafie Baker, Jr. MH, Westland Glenn
Katie Salo, Sr. Setter, Plymouth
Kristin Malcolm, Soph. MH, Ply. Christian

THIRD-TEAM

Ashley Hines, Sr. Libero, Liv. Ladywood
Tori Czech, Sr. Libero, N. Farmington
Lauren Macuga, Sr. Libero, Canton
Cierra Yettis, Sr. OH, Liv. Churchill
Annie Bodien, Jr. Setter, F.H. Mercy
Lauren Baker, Sr. S-OH, Westland Glenn
Kat Hall, Sr. MH, Liv. Clarenceville

FOURTH TEAM

Reina Tyl, Jr. OH, Liv. Stevenson
Brittany Bejma, Sr. Setter, Garden City
Taylor Stranahan, Sr. OH, Redford Union
Kayla Bridge, Jr. OH, Plymouth
Lynn Nagengast, Sr. OH, Farmington
Lauren Dworzancin, Sr. OH, Salem
Leah Miller, Jr. MH, Huron Valley Lutheran

COACH OF YEAR

Loretta Vogel, Farmington Hills Mercy

HONORABLE MENTION

Churchill: Kara Kempinski, Erin Menard, Nicole Kempinski, Franklin: Liz Hollaway, Amanda Borio, Chelsea Williams, Stevenson: Shelby Wilson, John Glenn: Brooke Zywick, Mercedes Robinson, Britanni Robinson, Wayne: Emily Rudy, Ladywood: Jenny Rhoads, McKenzie Kettner, Caitlin McClorey, Clarenceville: Brittany Tallman, Teresa Parent, Lutheran Westland: Lauren Switzer, Emily Wilson, Nicole Zehel, Garden City: Sam Zaleski, Thurston: Rachel Smith, Breanna Taylor, Redford Union: Chelsey Gehlhausen, Katelyn Patra, Huron Valley Lutheran: Allie Dest, Kelly Kubinski, Canton: Traci Breitmeyer, Alaina Turner, Plymouth: Danielle Risi, Kelly Smoltz, Mariah Tesarz, Plymouth Christian: Brianna Harris, Amy Zinn, Salem: Jillian Sommerville, Kerstin Johnson, N. Farmington: Allison Peasley, Kaitlyn Schaeper, Makenzie Coulter, Harrison: Andrea Phillips, Karlyn Cassidy, Jasmine McBryde, Emma Williams, Farmington: Haley Schneider, Melanie Guyette, Mercy: Brooke Ruffolo, Elena Lamping

ALL-AREA FIRST TEAM

Sarah Suppelsa, Sr. OH, Liv. Churchill: The 5-foot-11 outside hitter incorporated a variety of shots to lead the Chargers to a 53-6 overall record and a berth in the Class A state semifinals.

Suppelsa finished the year with 615 total kills (4.6 per game), which ranks sixth all-time in school history.

She also hit an impressive .353 clip and served at a 97.6 percent rate. The All-Kensington Lakes, MIVCA All-Region 18 and second-team All-State selection also collected 151 digs.

"Sarah leaves Churchill as one of the best hitters of all time," Churchill coach Mark Grenier said. "She is only behind Lauren Krupsky (Central Michigan) and Kyndra Abron (Michigan State) in kills in a season, kills per game and kills in a career."

Maddy Doyle, Soph. OH, F.H. Mercy: Doyle, who made the Class A all-state second team, had 602 kills and a .417 kill percentage. An all-around player, she also had 428 digs and 48 aces; she averaged 1.4 blocks per game. Doyle isn't big but she has one of the most powerful swings of any player.

"Last year they didn't utilize Maddy as a primary passer," Vogel said. "For us, we needed that this year. We also needed Maddy as an attacker in every aspect of the game whether she was in the front row or back row. It was the same with Lindsey (Lerg) but especially Maddy."

"With Maddy being the youngest of three sisters, she's been able to watch her older sisters play, which is an advantage. She has watched a lot of volleyball. Her techniques are very precise; she really understands the game well."

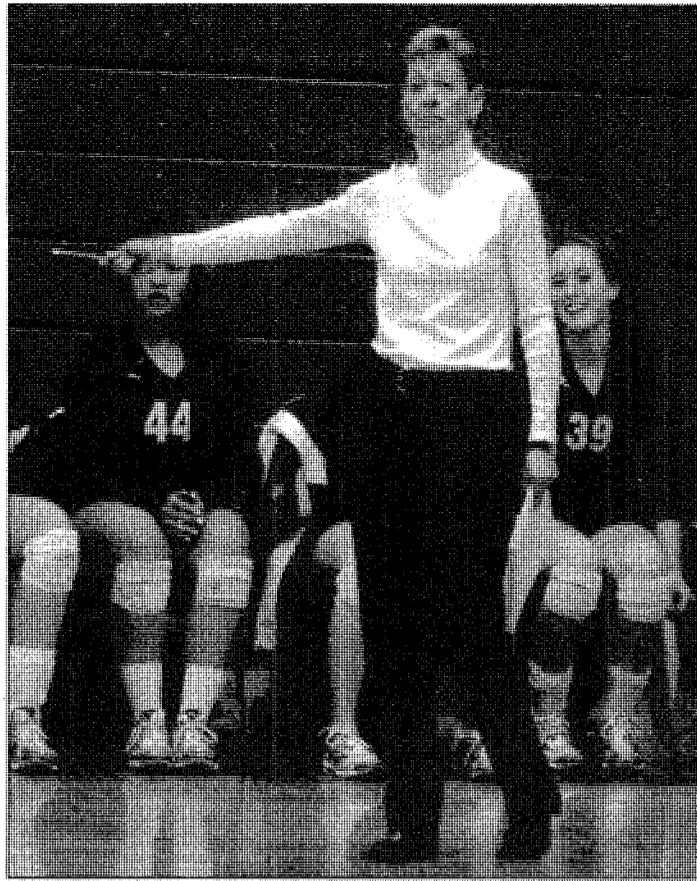
Jordan Kieilty, Sr. OH, Canton: The four-year varsity player made headlines her entire high school career, sparking the Chiefs to a 37-11 record and making the All-State team for a second year in a row.

Along the way the 5-10 outside hitter broke Canton school records in total kills, kill percentage and "has set the standards high for the rest of the players to come," said Chiefs coach Mary Kryska.

Kieilty, again All-KLAA and All-Region, tallied 495 kills, 36 blocks, 403 digs and 398 assists.

"She was a great leader and a huge asset to our team," Kryska said. "She was the player that kept everyone together at all times on and off the court. We will miss her."

Kellyn O'Brady, Sr. OH, Garden City:



JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Loretta Vogel was named Coach of the Year after leading Mercy to the state semifinals in her first season.

The senior co-captain proved to be one of the area's premier outside hitters as she led the Cougars in kills and aces. O'Brady averaged 3.5 kills and 1.1 aces per game and assumed the primary role of serve reception as well.

"Kellyn is a great leader and set a good example for everyone to follow," Garden City coach John Pace said. "She was a threat at the net and any team we played could not stop her from getting her kills. She was a threat in every aspect of the game — a very tough jump serve, a quick and heavy ball when at the net and a primary passer. She was great on the floor and even better in the classroom. She's an Academic All-State player who is looking at the strongest academic institutions to attend college."

Claire Dezelski, Sr. OH, Liv. Ladywood: The 5-9 senior outside hitter earned first-team All-Area honors for the second straight year leading the Blazers to a 40-23 overall record and a berth in the state Class B semifinals.

Dezelski earned Class B All-Region 18, All-Catholic League and second-team All-State honors.

"Claire was our go-to player this year," Ladywood coach Erin Craggs said. "She was our primary passer and led our team with over 500 kills on the year."

Nicole Merget, Jr. MB, Salem: Only a junior, Merget powered the Rocks with outstanding offense and defense, especially in the front row. The middle blocker and co-captain registered 530 kills and 125 blocks up front.

"She is a force in the middle," said Salem head coach Amanda Suder. "She has gotten better each year and works extremely hard."

Merget, an All-KLAA and All-Region selection, contributed to Salem's success in other ways. She chipped in with 57 aces and 213 digs.

Kaitlyn Krause, Jr. S-OH, N. Farmington: The 5-foot-11 junior was primarily the setter for the OAA White Division champions, but she contributed in all phases of the game. Krause had 798 assists, 46 aces, 194 kills and 73 blocks to lead the Raiders to a 30-11-8 record and a runner-up finish in the district to Mercy. Krause is a three-year varsity starter and an all-region player.

"Without her, North Farmington wouldn't have been as successful," coach Joe Lamagno said. "As a setter, she managed the game extremely well. Not only did she set up other players for success, but she got her own kills as well. She was our second-leading kill maker."

"Kaitlyn was one of our captains. Just her floor presence calmed people down and gave them confidence we could be as successful as we were. We were the first North team to win 30 games in a season, and Kaitlyn was a huge part of that."

Kristine Vulaj, Sr. MH, Redford Union: In her fourth season of varsity competition, Vulaj emerged as a premier middle hitter. Using her 6-foot frame, Vulaj hammered down 234 kills on the season. Quickness and incredible instincts led to 142 blocks and 235 digs. She also served up 63 aces. Vulaj is headed to Wayne State next year on a volleyball scholarship.

"I am very proud of Kristine," RU head coach Rachel Clor said. "She has worked hard for the last four years and the more she plays the better she becomes. Kris is very smart and she has great instincts. She has grown as a player and it has been wonderful to see her fulfill her dreams."

Cory Urbats, Jr. Setter, Liv. Churchill: The 5-6 junior and two-year starter earned the distinction as one of the top setters in the state after piling up a school-record 1,465 assists on the season.

Urbats also served a staggering 496-of-501 balls (99 percent), which is also a school best. She had 60 aces and also became the first non-libero in school history to make the top ten list with 515 total digs (seventh overall).

The All-Region 18, All-KLAA and honorable mention All-Stater was also named Churchill's co-MVP.

"She rarely left the floor," Grenier said. "Cory is one of the hardest working, most coachable, and humble kids that I have ever coached. "She was the workhouse of the team and a huge part of our success started with her."

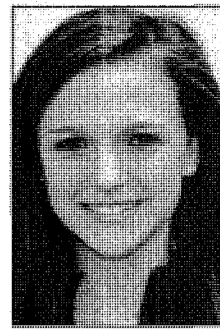
Emilie Freeman, Sr. MB, Luth. Westland: The 6-3 middle blocker finished with 369 total kills (3.21 per game) with an attack percentage of .326 for the state-ranked Warriors.

Freeman also recorded 119 total blocks and served at an 89.8 percent clip (with 63 aces) to go along with 82 digs. She earned Class D All-Region 18 and second-team All-State honors.

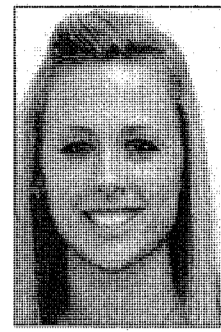
"Emilie has had a tremendous year and it was definitely fun to watch her improvement from her junior year to her senior year," Lutheran Westland coach Kevin Wade said. "Emilie was able to



Sarah Suppelsa Churchill



Maddy Doyle Mercy



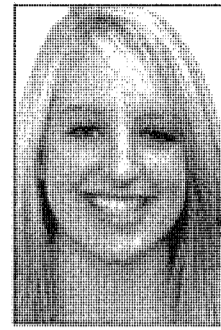
Jordan Kieilty Canton



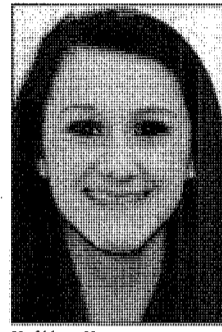
Kellyn O'Brady Garden City



Claire Dezelski Ladywood



Nicole Merget Salem



Kaitlyn Krause N. Farmington



Kristine Vulaj Redford Union



Cory Urbats Churchill



Emilie Freeman Lutheran Westland



Katy Rooney Ladywood



Kristen Muir Canton



Lindsey Lerg Mercy



Taylor Kerr Churchill



Kelly Vellucci Stevenson

do some things with the ball this year that she never would have as a sophomore or junior. She had some big shoes to fill in playing the middle with Becca Refenes (now at Cincinnati) graduating and she didn't disappoint by helping us to our first MIAC conference title in school history."

Katy Rooney, Jr. MB, Liv. Ladywood: The 6-1 junior middle attacker earned All-Region 18 and second-team All-State honors in Class B.

Rooney, an All-Central Division selection, hit at a .344 percentage with an average of 0.97 blocks per game for the regional and district champions.

Kristen Muir, Soph. OH-S, Canton: The Chiefs will happily welcome this two-year player back for two more seasons after her All-KLAA, All-Region performance in 2009.

"She will easily fill in for anything we may be losing with the seniors," Kryska said. "She is an amazing player all around. She is a strong player both physically and mentally. She plays smart and focused at all times."

"I look forward to seeing her grow even more the next couple of years."

A hard hitter at the net, the 5-7 Muir contributed 320 kills, 19 blocks and 538 digs.

Kelly Vellucci, Soph. OH-S, Liv. Stevenson: The 5-11 sophomore setter and outside hitter had a total of 229 assists, 358 kills, 203 digs and 80 aces en route to team MVP honors.

Vellucci, a Scholar-Athlete, also earned Division I All-Region and All-KLAA honors.

"Kelly is a hard worker, dedicated athlete and total team player," Stevenson coach Kelly Graham said. "I'm excited to have her back the next two years."

Lindsey Lerg, Soph. OH, F.H. Mercy: The sophomore outside hitter recorded 416 kills for a .389 percentage. Lerg also had 516 digs (1.9 per game), as well as 1.8 aces and 1.2 blocks per game.

"Her ability to become a left-front attack for us was exceptional," Vogel said. "As a jayvee player last year, she was a setter. In club, she's a libero, and she does compete on a national level for her club team. For a sophomore to assume that role as a left-front and be as effective as she was really speaks volumes for Lindsey."

ty was pretty high. I don't think you could ever tell by her emotions. She never got upset; she just continued to play the game. There aren't many players as young as Lindsey who would've been able to keep that kind of demeanor. She always played big in big games."

Taylor Kerr, Sr. Libero, Liv. Churchill: The 5-6 senior made a smooth transition to the libero position finishing with a school-record 867 digs on the year (6.9 per set), while serving at a 93.1 percent clip (with 59 aces).

Kerr, Churchill's co-MVP, earned All-KLAA and All-Region 18 honors.

"A lot of our success started with Taylor's ability to pass and play defense," Grenier said. "With Taylor's ability to deliver pinpoint passes every single time she touched the ball, we were able to transition into our offense and score."

"Taylor leaves Churchill as one of the best passers and defensive players of all-time."

COACH OF THE YEAR

Loretta Vogel, F.H. Mercy: In her first season at Mercy, Vogel led the Marlins to a Final Four appearance in the Class A tournament. She took a young team that had lost nine seniors from the previous year and guided it to district and regional championships and a 51-9-3 record.

Along the way, the Marlins won four tournaments at Chippewa Valley, Grandville, Mount Morris and Mary Blanc. Four of the team's losses were to Catholic League rival and state champion Marian.

"This year was unbelievable; I'm still smiling," Vogel said. "When we began with the district, it was just such a high from one game to the next, getting the girls prepared for it."

"During that run, I don't think anyone looked at them as being young. I never thought about that. It was always everyone preparing for the next team we were going to play. Fortunately, we had game tapes on just about everyone. That truly makes a difference in being prepared for the opponents we did see."

"I think the reason we were successful is these girls play a lot of club and have a lot of experience. You could tell; we were able to play through games and not panic. There were many times we changed offenses and were very successful at doing that."

OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC NEWSPAPERS

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Churchill's Cam Benson (left) gets checked into the boards by Plymouth's John Deal during Wednesday's KLAASouth Division clash.

Chargers, Wildcats play to draw

Late flurry of goals in KLAASouth Division clash

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The tried-and-true hockey adage that it's never a bad play to shoot the puck held true to form again Wednesday night.

A seemingly routine wrist shot by Plymouth junior defenseman Justin Bauer with 6:42 remaining in the third period found the top left corner and lifted the Wildcats (6-0-1, 1-0-1) to a 3-3 tie with host Livonia Churchill at Eddie Edgar Arena.

Bauer skated into the Churchill zone, and reached the right circle when he lofted a shot high over the blocker of senior netminder Aaron Crouse (33 saves).

"I think it caught him (Crouse) off guard," Plymouth coach Paul Fassbender said. "He might have used the defenseman as a screen, maybe the goalie didn't see it. And I think it surprised him, because they were blocking everything."

The Chargers (1-3-1, 0-2-1) nearly regained the lead with about two minutes to play.

But Plymouth junior goalie Mike Justus (20 saves) scooted across the crease in time to block a one-timer by winger Mike Kutek — perfectly set up by junior linemate Steven Klisz.

Churchill coach Pete Mazzoni said that the tying marker stemmed from "a smart play on their guy's part, just get pucks to the net. But I like the way we played" particularly on the power play (2 goals).

"Plymouth's a good team, a lot of good speed, a lot of good guys up front. I'm disappointed we had the lead and couldn't keep it, but it's a step in the right direction. We're learning, it's just taking a little longer than we would have hoped."

Fassbender said the Bauer goal was a bit of a bonus because he had only wanted the player to move the puck deep into Churchill territory.

"We're focusing on getting the puck deep," Fassbender noted. "When we do that, when we get it in the corners we seem to have a lot of success."

"So I was yelling to dump it, dump it, dump it and he took that shot and it went in."

Bauer scored less than two minutes after Chargers senior defenseman Scott Hamill's long screen shot beat Plymouth goalie Michael Justus to put Churchill up 3-2.

Hamill, who moved from forward to defenseman this season, also assisted on Churchill's second period goals by senior forward Christo Papaioannou and sophomore forward Ben Proben. Both goals were scored with the extra man.

"Scotty, we asked him to change positions this year, he has the 'C' on his jersey and he's the ultimate team guy," Mazzoni said. "I'm really happy for him because he's worked hard and he's very capable of playing like that."

Papaioannou benefited from a fortuitous bounce to score his goal.

A wide shot by Hamill caromed off the boards behind Justus, out the other side to Papaioannou at the left post. He then stuffed the puck home.

Proben made it 2-0 at 14:13 when he tipped a wrist shot from sophomore forward-defenseman Nick Proben.

A penalty to Churchill in the final minute of the period led to a Plymouth goal at 16:50.

Crouse stopped a blast from senior winger Ryan Renault, but couldn't control the rebound.

Senior linemate Pat Smiatacz jammed away in front until he finally poked the puck across the goal line.

"It was a huge momentum builder, big emotional lift for us," Fassbender said.

The Wildcats came out charging in the third period, and finally evened the game at 2-2 with 10:41 remaining.

A wrister taken by sophomore forward Zach Gambrell from the left circle was tipped past Crouse by junior forward Ryan Brown. Also assisting was senior defenseman Ryan Cigile.

CC topples Chargers.

In a non-league game Friday at Edgar Arena, visiting Novi-Detroit Catholic Central, the state's No. 1 ranked team in Division 1, scored four goals in the final period to down Livonia Churchill, 8-1.

The defending state champs dropped the the Chargers to 1-4-1 overall.

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BOYS SWIMMING & DIVING CAPSULE OUTLOOK

LIVONIA CHURCHILL

Head coach: Aaron Rieder, sixth season.
League affiliation: KLAASouth Division (South Division).
Last year's finish: 2-3 (KLAASouth duals); ninth place (Kensington Conference); third (KLAASouth).
Notable losses to graduation: Travis Holt (second-team All-Area 1-meter diving); Andrew Richards, Greg Van Gorp, Nathan Larsen, Ricky Scully, Brandon Guild.
Leading returnees: Jacob Rimatzki, Jr. (backstroke/freestyle); Lance Kortesoja, Sr. (breaststroke/freestyle); John Yurgil, Sr. (breaststroke/freestyle); Derik Atzinger, Soph. (freestyle/backstroke); Brian Sharp, Jr. (freestyle); Christopher Sharp, Jr. (diving/freestyle); Bradley Johns, Soph. (backstroke/freestyle); David Vincentini, Soph. (breaststroke/fly/IM).
Promising newcomers: Mark Freyberg, Sr. (freestyle/backstroke); Zack Anderson, Sr. (freestyle/breaststroke); Alan Robinson, Soph. (diving); Kenny Denstead, Soph. (freestyle).
Rieder's 2009-10 outlook: "The Kensington Conference of the KLAASouth is arguably one of the best in the entire state. Competing at this level is very difficult, but our program is committed to hard work and perseverance. We have a team with talent, but lacking in experience. I have no doubt that the team I see now in the water will undergo a drastic transformation during the season. Our ultimate goal is to experience as much personal improvement as possible and we will do this through our strong, cohesive team atmosphere and work ethic."

LIVONIA FRANKLIN

Head coach: Kevin Hafner, 10th season.
League affiliation: KLAASouth Division (South Division).
Last year's finish: eighth (Kensington Conference); fourth (KLAASouth).
Notable losses to graduation: Joe Michniewicz, Brett Woods, Eric Madaj.
Leading returnees: Scott Ansteth, Sr. (butterfly/backstroke); Brandon Larkins, Jr. (breaststroke/IM); Tyler Lee, Sr. (sprint freestyle); Scott James, Jr. (distance freestyle).
Promising newcomers: Justin Larkins, Fr. (butterfly/IM).
Hafner's 2009-10 outlook: "We will look to work into the top three in the South Division of the KLAASouth. The team will look to have a couple of state qualifiers in Brandon Larkins and Scott Ansteth. Freshman Justin Larkins will help to offset the loss of a large senior class from last season. Sophomores Chad Walters and Larry Allen will be asked to play a bigger role on this year's team by adding depth in several events. We have good physical size this year and are hoping that this will help the sprint freestyle events and improve our relays."

LIVONIA STEVENSON

Head coach: Jeff Shoemaker, 10th season.
League affiliation: KLAASouth Division (Central Division).
Last year's finish: first (Kensington Conference and KLAASouth Central); fifth (Division 1 state finals).
Notable losses to graduation: Chris Behler (first-team All-Area 50 freestyle); Michael Cruce (first-team All-Area 200 freestyle); Jeff Kinsvater (first-team All-Area 1-meter diving); Jerome Pesta (first-team All-Area 100 butterfly); Joey Winglett (first-team All-Area 100 breaststroke); Ryan Scott (second-team All-Area 100 breaststroke); Charles Turlo (second-team All-Area 200 IM); Eric Shuman.
Leading returnees: Aaren Marecki, Sr. captain (first-team All-Area 100 freestyle; first-team 200 and 400 freestyle relays); Kellen Schoff, Jr., all-around (first-team All-Area 200 medley and 400 freestyle relays); Daniel Schoff, Sr., distance freestyle (second-team All-Area 500 freestyle); Bryan Bielicki, Sr. captain (backstroke/IM (second-team All-Area 100 backstroke); Adam Dabkowski, Sr. (butterfly/freestyle); John Loria, Sr. captain (breaststroke/freestyle); Mohamed Gholteimi, Sr. (freestyle); Jake McNamara, Soph.



Kellen Schoff Stevenson (breaststroke/IM); **Daniel Schoff Stevenson** (freestyle/backstroke); **Bryan Bielicki Stevenson** (freestyle/backstroke); Adam LaPorte, Sr. (distance freestyle); David Ptashnik, Fr. (butterfly).

Promising newcomers: John Ferrara, Fr. (freestyle); **Shoemaker's 2009-10 outlook:** "(Aaren) Marecki is our fastest freestyle sprinter and expect him to finish in the top three whatever individual event he swims. Schoff is our best stroke guy. Like Marecki, he's bigger, too, this year. We lost about half our team. We're not quite as deep. We've been training hard. We still have our rivalry with Northville and Salem (in the KLAASouth Central). We'll try to be top 10 at the state meet."

WESTLAND JOHN GLENN

Head coach: Bob Harding, fourth season.
League affiliation: KLAASouth Division (South Division).
Last year's finish: 3-5 (dual meets); 10th (Kensington Conference); fifth (KLAASouth).
Notable losses to graduation: Billy Lyons.
Leading returnees: Paul Gutu, Jr. (sprint freestyle/butterfly); Joey Wakeford, Soph. (freestyle/backstroke); Dave Wilton, Sr. (freestyle/butterfly); Cody Roe, Sr. (regional diving qualifier); Levi Cavender, Sr. (breaststroke/IM).
Promising newcomers: Chase Glover, Sr. (sprint freestyle); Duron Govates, Soph. (butterfly/freestyle); Josh Wakeford, Fr. (IM-fly-freestyle-breaststroke); Aaron Alholinna, Fr. (freestyle); Brad Alholinna, Fr. (breaststroke); Davis Clenny, Fr. (diving); Jacob Burcicki, Fr. (backstroke/freestyle).
Harding's 2009-10 outlook: "The Rockets will go into this season with the largest team in recent memory with 44 athletes on this year's team. Our goals are to continue the improvement in team and individual performances that has been going on for the last three years. We hope to qualify a number of relays and a number of individual qualifies to both the MISCA meet and the state meet in March."

WAYNE MEMORIAL

Head coach: Mike Greuber, 13th season.
League affiliation: KLAASouth Division (South Division).
Last year's finish: 1-9 (dual meets); 11th (Kensington Conference); sixth (KLAASouth).
Notable losses to graduation: Jacob Barnes, Steven Ogg.
Leading returnees: Adam Karson, Sr. (sprint freestyle); Corey Robbins, Jr. (breaststroke/IM); Zach Williamson, Soph. (freestyle/backstroke); Josh Higgs, Sr. (freestyle); Josh Lowe, Sr. (freestyle); Nick Williams, Soph. (butterfly/backstroke); Bobby Prough, Soph. (distance freestyle/breaststroke).
Promising newcomers: Brandon Harnos, Jr. (freestyle/breaststroke); Shane Schooley, Jr. (freestyle/backstroke); Brandon Joaquin, Fr. (freestyle); Dakota Kane, Fr. (freestyle); Antonio Heberling, Fr. (IM/breaststroke); Mason Webb, Fr. (freestyle/backstroke).
Greuber's 2009-10 outlook: "We lost two outstanding swimmers (Barnes, Ogg) to graduation. It is going to take this team awhile to form it's identity. One thing I will tell you is that these are character kids and they will do what it takes to make themselves better. I look forward to a good season, and some really positive things happening by the end of February."

Spartans' comeback gets 4-4 tie vs. Novi

Livonia Stevenson battled back from a three-goal deficit during the final period Wednesday to earn a 4-4 deadlock with host Novi in a clash of KLAASouth Central Division boys hockey leaders at the Novi Ice Arena.

Novi came in ranked No. 5 in Division 2, while Stevenson was rated No. 7 in Division 1.

"I am very proud of our players the way that they battled back tonight to earn the tie," Stevenson coach David Mitchell said. "We spent the most of the second (period) in the (penalty) box. They showed a ton of character. When it was 3-0 they could have easily rolled over... but they didn't."

Joey Ferriss scored unas-

PREP HOCKEY

sisted 1:17 into the game to give Novi a 1-0 lead.

Taking advantage of Stevenson penalties, the Wildcats increased their lead to 2-0 on a power-play goal by Tyler Perpich and made it a three-goal cushion on Tyler Manning's goal.

Stevenson's Jake Poynter then answered with 1:22 left in the second period off an assist from Cole Rochowiak to make it 3-1.

The Spartans then caught fire in the third period with three unanswered goals starting with Justin Shureb's short-handed effort from Rochowiak at 13:56.

Matt Fox then tallied the game-tying goal from Trevor Baruzzini at 11:36 followed by the go-ahead goal from Baruzzini and Joey MacDonald.

But Novi's Curtis Herzog make a 4-all game with 3:36 remaining and that's how it ended.

The Wildcats outshot Stevenson 34-22 as Spartan goaltender Danny Sager made 30 saves.

"Overall, it was an exciting hockey game," said Mitchell, whose team is 4-0-1 overall and 2-0-1 in the Central. "Novi is an excellent, well-coached team. (Danny) Sager was excellent for us tonight in net." Novi is now 6-0-1 overall and 2-0-1 in the division.

THE WEEK AHEAD

BOYS BASKETBALL
Monday, Dec. 14
Luth. Westland at Birm. Roeper, 7 p.m.
Ladywood at Bishop Foley, 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 15
Fordson at Stevenson, 7 p.m.
Belleville at Wayne, 7 p.m.
Clarenceville at B.H. Lahser, 7 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 17
Novi at Churchill, 7 p.m.
Stevenson at Franklin, 7 p.m.
Northville at John Glenn, 7 p.m.
S.L. East at Wayne, 7 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 18
Thurston at Clarenceville, 7 p.m.
Parkway at Luth. Westland, 7 p.m.
GIRLS BASKETBALL
Monday, Dec. 14
Crestwood at Luth. Westland, 7 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 15
Taylor Truman at Clarenceville, 7 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 17
Churchill at Novi, 7 p.m.
Franklin at Stevenson, 7 p.m.
John Glenn at Northville, 7 p.m.
Wayne at S.L. East, 7 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 18
Luth. Westland at Univ.-Liggett, 6 p.m.
Clarenceville at Thurston, 7 p.m.
PREP WRESTLING
Monday, Dec. 14
Clarenceville at Redford Union, 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 16
Franklin at Crestwood, 5:30 p.m.

Franklin at Southgate Quad, 5:30 p.m.
Stevenson Quad, 5:30 p.m.
John Glenn Quad, 5:30 p.m.
Wayne at Northville, 5:30 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 18
Oakland Co. Meet at Troy, TBA.
Saturday, Dec. 19
Franklin Invitational, 9 a.m.
Woodhaven Invitational, 9 a.m.
Michigan Center Invitational, 9 a.m.
Oakland Co. Meet at Oxford, TBA.
PREP HOCKEY
Tuesday, Dec. 15
Ladyswood vs. Mercy at Edgar Arena, 8 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 16
Churchill vs. Canton at Arctic Edge, 6 p.m.
Stevenson vs. Plymouth at Edgar Arena, 6 p.m.
Franklin vs. W.L. Western at Lakeland Ice Arena, 7 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 18
Churchill vs. Franklin at Edgar Arena, 6 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 19
Franklin vs. A.A. Gabriel Richard at Veterans Arena, 6:30 p.m.
Stevenson vs. Salem at Ply. Cultural Center, 8:30 p.m.
BOYS SWIMMING & DIVING
Tuesday, Dec. 15
Country Day at Stevenson, 6:30 p.m.
Redford Union at John Glenn, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 17
Northville at Churchill, 6:30 p.m.
Franklin at G.P. North, 6:30 p.m.
GIRLS GYMNASTICS
Monday, Dec. 14
Livonia Red vs. Brighton-Howell at Churchill H.S., 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 17
Livonia Red vs. Farm. Unified at Churchill H.S., 6:30 p.m.
Livonia Blue vs. W.L. Gold-Maroon at Walled Lake Central H.S., 6:30 p.m.
PREP BOWLING
Monday, Dec. 14
Clarenceville vs. Canton, Wayne vs. John Glenn at Town 'n Country Lanes, 3:30 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 17
Clarenceville vs. Novi, John Glenn vs. Novi at Super Bowl (Canton), 3:30 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 19
Bay City, John Glenn Tourney, 9:30 a.m.
GIRLS GLENN SKATING
Sunday, Dec. 13
Team Competition at Hartland Sports Center, 8 a.m.
MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Wednesday, Dec. 16
Madonna at Defiance (Ohio), 8 p.m.
WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Saturday, Dec. 19
Madonna at Cedarville (Ohio), 2 p.m.
TBA - time to be announced.

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3-0 Chargers smother Stevenson

Livonia Churchill continued its winning ways Friday night with a convincing 56-22 girls basketball win over host Livonia Stevenson.

The Chargers, now 3-0 overall, led 29-15 at halftime and put it away with a 12-4 third-quarter run.

Meghan Catalano paced Churchill with 14 points, while Kara Kempinski added 12.

"We came out with pressure, made them rush their shots and got out into the open court and made some easy layups off their mistakes," said Churchill coach Chad Jenkins, whose team made 15-of-24 free throws.

Kristen Balhorn and Emily Hollandsworth each grabbed seven rebounds for the Spartans, who slipped to 0-2. Molly Knoph was the high scorer with five points.

"There was a lid on the basket, we had good opportunities and couldn't cash in," Stevenson first-year coach Jen Knoph said. "Churchill played a good, trapping half-court

GIRLS BASKETBALL

defense. We worked harder this week than last week even though the score doesn't indicate it."

LADYWOOD 69, GRAND LEDGE 37: A 16-2 first-quarter run propelled Livonia Ladywood (3-1) to a non-league win over the Comets (0-2).

Jenny Kelley's game-high 15 points led a balanced Ladywood scoring attack. Mary Fitzgerald and Alyssa Anastos added 12 and 10, respectively.

"We went man-to-man, pressured them right out of their game and we scored well in transition," Ladywood coach Pat Cannon said.

Taler Bradley and Kasey Trierweiler each had seven for Grand Ledge.

The Comets' leading scorer Maddie Johnston was held to six by the rotating defense by the Blazers' Teresa Wojnarowski and Christina Butkiewicz.

SKYLINE 44, CLARENCEVILLE 27: Ann Arbor Skyline (2-1) used a tight 2-3 zone defense Friday to stymie host Livonia Clarenceville (1-3) in a non-league encounter.

Kira Smith and Meggie Smith

tallied 13 and 11 points, respectively, for the victorious Eagles.

Ashley Devon paced Clarenceville with nine points, while Olivia Bartlett added eight.

Jenna Burgess also hauled down 13 rebounds, while Paige Davis snared seven.

Clarenceville led 13-10 after one quarter, but the Eagles took a 21-18 halftime lead before outscoring the Trojans 23-9 over the final 16 minutes.

HARRISON 46, JOHN GLENN 39: On Thursday, Chelsea Gaddis and Eman Hubbard tallied 16 and 18 points, respectively, leading Farmington Hills Harrison (2-1) past host Westland John Glenn (0-3) in a non-conference matchup.

Michelle Vanover scored 21 points, grabbed nine rebounds and had five steals for the Rockets.

E'Aijsha Guster added nine points for Glenn.

TRUMAN 64, WAYNE 58: On Thursday, Cheyenne York and Diana Wilson scored 18 and 16 points, respectively, as host Taylor Truman (1-2) outgunned Wayne Memorial (0-2) in a non-conference game.

Truman jumped out to a 20-7 first-quarter lead and held off Wayne's 21-13 fourth-quarter rally. Senior Allie Coleman led the

Zebras with 18 points, while junior Jane Thayer added 12.

Wayne was 17-of-23 from the foul line, while Truman made 16-of-22.

LUTHERAN SOUTH 37, HURON VALLEY 29: On Thursday, Hannah Hielson scored a game-high 19 points as Newport Lutheran South (2-1, 1-1) rallied in the second half to beat host Westland Huron Valley Lutheran (1-2, 1-1) in a Michigan Independent Athletic Conference Red Division game.

April Broska contributed 14 for the Saints, who rallied from a one-point halftime deficit with a 23-14 second-half surge.

"We played a great first half defensively, and really had their girls frustrated," Hawks coach Kris Ruth said. "They made some good adjustments at halftime and we started to get tired."

Junior guard Katie Nell topped Huron Valley with 11 points and senior forward Claire Wood added nine.

"I was pleased with the improvements I saw on offense tonight," Ruth said. "We decreased our number of turnovers and got some really good looks at the basket. We still need to make some better decisions on offense and be more confident in what we are doing."

ZEBRAS

FROM PAGE B1

wasn't pretty and we didn't play our best basketball, but we did enough good things. We were pretty unselfish and did a decent job rebounding although they (Truman) missed some 'bunnies.' But for the most part they scrapped for rebounds."

Truman was a dreadful 14-of-64 from the field (21.8 percent) and 17-of-31 from the charity stripe (54.8 percent).

"You had to wonder how it would have turned out if they had made their putbacks and 'bunnies,'" Woodard said. "We knew how they play and they'd use that continued pressure."

Truman (0-1) got 14 points

from Chris Johnson and 13 from Raphael Sanders.

"Even though they (Truman) were bigger, we brought in Daniel (Hill) and Nick (Mills) to neutralize the middle," Woodard said of his senior inside tandem. "They were going smaller and us bigger. We had to see how it worked out."

It was a far cry from last year's opener when host Truman built a sizeable halftime advantage and coasted to victory.

"As sloppy as it's been, last year we were down 37-15 at the half," Woodard recalled.

The Zebras' next test comes Tuesday at home against an always formidable Belleville squad. Game time is 7 p.m.

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PATRIOTS

FROM PAGE B1

Other individual winners for the Patriots included Gabe Martinez (119), Ryan Derry (130), Josh Hatfield (152), Matt Roos (160) and Zach Leuenberger (160).

"We have 12 new people in the lineup from last year's City meet team," Chiola said. "Both Leuenberger and Hatfield were not expected to win, and won. Our 103-pounder (Jack Newa) barely breaks 90 pounds and took a third. Both (Jordan) McGuire and (Avery) Opperman just learned how to wrestle last year and they went toe-to-toe with two of the better kids from Stevenson (Charlie Kokenakes) and Churchill (Bannoura)."

The Spartans, vying for their first City meet title since 2002, came up with nine runner-up finishes, but had only two individual winners - Kokenakes (145) and Andrew Schramm (215).

"We came out on fire," Stevenson coach Dan Vaughan said. "But it's the old saying, 'It's not how you start, it's how you finish.' Franklin is tough, but we kept people guessing

for awhile.

"We had five JV kids wrestling and had two freshmen make the finals - our 152 (Jake Kelley) and 135 (Kody Roy). We also had a couple of sophomores who took advantage of their opportunities."

"We're young. It's the tale of two teams. We have a lot of freshmen and sophomores in the lower weights, while most of the juniors and seniors are in the upper weights."

Churchill, claiming four individual titles, was led by tournament MVP Curtis Castleberry (171), who edged Stevenson's Jacob Burns in the finals, 4-2.

The Chargers also received first-place efforts from Jacob Meadows (112), Jonny Bannoura (140) and John Shekell (285).

"We're young," Churchill coach Marty Altounian said. "You can't fault their heart. They have heart, they are just young."

Clarenceville's lone title came from freshman 103-pounder Michael Weiss, who pinned Franklin's Jack Newa and earned a major decision over Churchill's Jon Locklear, 15-5.

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T'birds roll by C'ville

Three players scored in double figures Thursday as Dearborn Edsel Ford used a big third quarter to subdue host Livonia Clarenceville, 61-50, in a non-conference boys basketball game.

Hamen Maflahi led the way with 14 points, while Obad Mawry and Charles Melekian added 12 and 10, respectively.

Clarenceville, which trailed by only two a halftime, 32-30, got out scored 18-4 in the third quarter as the Thunderbirds connected on four 3-pointers.

Damien Quarles led the Trojans, who shot 10-of-20 from the foul line, with 14 points. David Jones and Adrian Myers each added eight.

BOYS BASKETBALL

OAK. CHRISTIAN 62, LUTH. WESTLAND 34: The Perrin brothers, Drew and Chris, combined for 32 points Friday as host Auburn Hills Oakland Christian (1-1, 1-1) downed Lutheran High Westland (0-2, 0-2) in a Michigan Independent Athletic Conference Blue Division game.

Drew Perrin poured in 19 points, while Chris added 13. Nathan Piaseki chipped in 12 for the Lancers.

Austin Baglow bagged 10 to pace the Warriors.

"Oakland Christian executed well offensively and had success attacking the basket," Lutheran Westland coach Doug Haller said. "They also played well defensively taking us out of our rhythm offensively which led to just 15-of-44 shooting."

CHURCHILL

FROM PAGE B1

only 20.9 seconds remaining put the Chargers ahead to stay, 56-55.

Churchill's 6-5 senior forward D'Juan Cooks then came up with a key steal and his third dunk of the night with only 10.4 seconds to go to seal the win.

Cooks finished with 16 points, seven rebounds and four steals.

The Chargers were able to offset the sterling play of Stevenson's 5-11 senior guard Bobby Naubert, who finished with a game-high 34 points.

"I'm proud of the guys," Churchill coach Jim Solak said. "They stuck in there and found a way to win. Bobby (Naubert) is flat-out a good player. I thought Adam (Bedell) and D'Juan (Cooks) fed off each other. They kept us in the game."

Naubert's layup with 1:30 left put Stevenson ahead, 55-53, but the Spartans couldn't close it out committing three costly turnovers in the final 2:19.

"We're a senior-laden team and the expectation is to take care of the ball at the end of the game," Stevenson coach Mike Allie said. "We knew they would double-team Bob. We knew we would not be able to get him the ball. The possession arrow was going our way and our job was to run out the clock and make them foul us, but we were not able to do it."

Naubert, a left-hander, scored in a variety of ways.

He was 11-of-16 from the floor and 11-of-12 from the foul line.

"Bobby played a heck of a game," Allie said. "He showed why he's the best point guard in the league. I'm proud of the way all the kids played. They played hard."

Stevenson, playing in its season opener, led 13-8 after one quarter.

"We never got into the flow of the game," Churchill coach Jim Solak said. "We missed a couple of shots the first couple of possessions and it got us rattled. They were easy shots, layups."

"We also got into early foul trouble. We hung on and hung on. We just finished the last minute better than they did and that's what it came down to."

Churchill led 27-24 at halftime, but Stevenson regained control in the third quarter outscoring the Chargers 22-15 by hitting four 3-pointers, including two by Naubert and two by senior guard Nick Tomasi, who finished with nine points.

The lead seasawed during the fourth quarter with the Spartans leading on four different occasions in the final 5:11, but Churchill's one-two punch of Bedell and Cooks combined for 14 points.

"This is the best team Churchill has had since Jimmy Solak has been there," Allie said. "He put his kids in position to win and he's done a great job. We look forward to seeing them again at our place and in the districts."

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BOYS SWIM RESULTS

WESTLAND JOHN GLENN 76 LINCOLN PARK 55

Dec. 10 at John Glenn

200-yard medley relay: 1. John Glenn (Dave Vader, Brad Alholinna, Duron Govates, Josh Jenderate), 2:11.68; **200 freestyle:** 1. Ryan Boes (WJG), 2:21.11; **200 individual medley:** 1. Josh Wakeford (WJG), 2:31.22; **50 freestyle:** 1. Chase Glover (WJG), 25.62; **1-meter diving:** 1. Cody Roe (WJG), 207.15 points; **100 butterfly:** 1. Wakeford (WJG), 1:09.61; **100 freestyle:** 1. Aaron Alholinna (WJG), 1:04.68; **500 freestyle:** 1. Jake Ferguson (WJG), 5:25.53; **200 freestyle:** 1. John Glenn (Steve Kastler, Nick Hubbard, Glover, Nick Stone), 2:07.08; **100 backstroke:** 1. Vader (WJG), 1:15.15; **100 breaststroke:** Levi Cavender (WJG), 1:16.33; **400 freestyle relay:** 1. John Glenn (Tim Moran, Boes, Aaron Sabal, A. Alholinna), 4:15.1.

Dual meet records: John Glenn, 1-0 overall; Lincoln Park, 0-1 overall.

WALLED LAKE WESTERN 115 LIVONIA CHURCHILL 65

Dec. 8 at Churchill

200-yard medley relay: 1. Western (Andrew Garcia, Jason Sherbel, Zack Rashid, Josh Foster), 1:50.3; 2. Churchill (Jacob

Rimatzki, John Y., David Vincentini, Mark Freyberg), 1:59.33.

200 freestyle: 1. Rimatzki (LC), 2:16.85; 2. Brian Sharp (LC), 2:25.52.

200 individual medley: 1. Vincentini (LC), 2:14.7.

50 freestyle: 1. Sherbel (WLW), 23.67; 3. Freyberg (LC), 27.17.

1-meter diving: 1. Scott Klein (WLW), 166.50 points; 2. Alan Robinson (LC), 112.05; 3. Christopher Sharp (LC), 84.30.

100 freestyle: 1. Daniel Tarockoff (WLW), 57.78.

500 freestyle: 1. Tyler Heitzeg (WLW), 5:52.16; 2. Yurgil (LC), 6:30.29; 3. C. Sharp (LC), 6:51.1.

200 freestyle relay: 1. Western (Garcia, Rashid, Heitzeg, Sherbel), 1:40.13.

100 backstroke: 1. Garcia (WLW), 1:03.58; 3. Rimatzki (LC), 1:07.58.

100 breaststroke: 1. Sherbel (WLW), 1:06.08; 3. Yurgil (LC), 1:18.04.

400 freestyle relay: 1. Western (Chris Ridenour, Foster, Tarockoff, Jason Krueger), 3:59.74; 2. Churchill (Vincentini, B. Sharp, Freyberg, Rimatzki), 4:03.38.

Churchill's dual meet record: 0-1 overall.

PREP MAT RESULTS

LIVONIA CITY WRESTLING TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Dec. 9 at Stevenson H.S.

TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Livonia Franklin, 204.5 points; 2. Livonia Stevenson, 161; 3. Livonia Churchill, 122; 4. Livonia Clarenceville, 79.

FINAL INDIVIDUAL RESULTS

103 pounds: Michael Weiss (C'ville) won by major decision over Jon Locklear (LC), 15-5; **consolation final:** Jack Newa (LF) won by major dec. over Sheldon Kabrovich (LS), 14-6.

112: Jacob Meadows (LC) won by major dec. over Dan Martinez (LF), 13-5; **consolation:** Bradley Martin (C'ville) won by void.

119: Gabe Martinez (LF) pinned Omar Mostafa (LS), 3:12; **consolation:** James Locklear (LC) won by void.

125: Steve Tuyo (LF) p. Robert Schramm (LS), 2:50; **consolation:** J. Hale (LC) won by void.

130: Ryan Derry (LF) dec. Corey Davis (LS), 9-7; **consolation:** double void.

135: Paul Hanni (LF) p. Kody Roy (LS), 1:48; **consolation:** Aaron Bibik (C'ville) won

by void.

140: Jonny Bannoura (LC) won by major dec. over Avery Opperman (LF), 12-4; **consolation:** Coy Sillanpaa (C'ville) dec. Zach Auner (LS), 8-4.

145: Charlie Kokenakes (LS) p. Jordan McGuire (LF), 4:20; **consolation:** Tyler Farnstrom (LC) won by void.

152: Josh Hatfield (LF) p. Jake Kelley (LS), 1:13; **consolation:** Brendon Groves (C'ville) won by injury default over Jared Buhugiar (LC).

160: Matt Roos (LF) p. Josh Siebert (LS), 2:58; **consolation:** Alec Jones (C'ville) dec. J. Wirick (LC), 17-14.

171: Curtis Castleberry (LC) dec. Jacob Burns (LS), 4-2; **consolation:** Alec O'Connor (LF) p. Justin Carl (C'ville), 1:17.

189: Zach Leuenberger (LF) dec. Dan McCarthy (LS), 6-5; **consolation:** Mike Harp (LC) won by void.

215: Andrew Schramm (LS) dec. Nick Simmonds (LF), 12-11; **consolation:** Travis Edwards (C'ville) p. E. Haddad (LC), 3:06.

285: John Shekell (LC) dec. Jake Range (LS), 2-1; **consolation:** Anthony Giordano (C'ville) p. Omar Haymour (LF), 5:58.

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Qualified candidates must have 1-5 years general office experience and be proficient in Microsoft Word and Excel, and possess excellent communication and organizational skills. Must be hands on and able to work independently. Please forward resume and salary requirements. We offer a competitive compensation and benefits package including a 401(k) plan.</p> <p>Interested candidates should submit resume with salary requirements to:</p> <p>Attn: HR/Payroll 24957 Brest Road Taylor MI 48180 or Fax: 734-946-7417 EOE</p> <p>Help Wanted-Office Clerical 5040</p> <p>DENTAL ASSISTANT For Westland office. Full-time, 2-3 yrs. exp. exp. Benefits. Please fax. Attn: Loretta (734) 722-5192</p>	<p>Help Wanted-Office Clerical 5020</p> <p>DENTAL ASSISTANT full-time. Reliable. Exp'd. only Livonia. Fax Resume: 734-427-1818 Email: lzdssoffice@gmail.com</p> <p>DENTAL INSURANCE COORDINATOR: DenTech Exp. Must know insurance billing. Friendly professional atmosphere. 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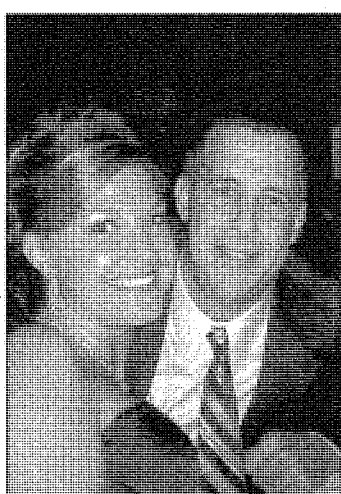
WHEELER-BORYSIAK

Pamela Wheeler of Livonia announces the engagement of her daughter Stefanie Lapenta to Robert Borysiak, son of Ann Borysiak of Dearborn and the late Bob Borysiak.

The bride-to-be graduated from Stevenson High School, earned a B.S. in education from Central Michigan University, and received a master's degree in administration from Madonna University.

Her fiancé graduated from Dearborn High School and earned a B.S. in finance from Central Michigan University.

Stefanie and Rob plan to wed in December 2009.



Wheeler-Borysiak

The couple will reside in Livonia.

ALLEN-GNIEWEK

Lindsey Allen and Michael Gniewek announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Patrick and Debbie Allen of New Hudson, graduated from Eastern Michigan University and teaches in the Wayne-Westland school district.

Her fiancé, son of Jim and Lynn Gniewek of Canton, works for Citi Group in Ann Arbor.

A June 2010 wedding is planned at St. Joseph Parish in South Lyon. The reception will be held at Summit on the Park



Allen-Gniewek

in Canton.

HEISER-BRUCE

Joy Heiser of Livonia and Timothy Bruce of Canton announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Edwin and Phyllis Heiser of Superior Township, is a graduate of Livonia Public Schools and Schoolcraft College. She is employed as an executive administrative assistant.

Her fiancé, son of Robert and Ruthann Bruce of Canton, graduated from Plymouth Canton High School and Western Michigan University. He's employed as an airline pilot.



Heiser-Bruce

They plan a June 2010 wedding.

WRIGHT-KONFARA

Justin Lee Wright and Stephanie Marie Konfara were married July 11, 2009 in Goshen, Ind. The Rev. Tim Rowland officiated.

The bride, daughter of Rick and Paula Konfara of Farmington Hills, is a Hope College graduate. She teaches third grade in Elkhart, Ind.

The groom, son of Edward Wright and Dorothy DuMars of Goshen, Ind., graduated from Bethel College in Mishawaka, Ind.

The bride's attendants were Michelle Rimmke, Brittany Konfara, Laura Heneveld, Carrie Dubin, and Stacy Smith. The groom's attendants were Josh Rowland, Derek Eller, Jeremiah Wright, Loren



Wright-Konfara

Rhude, and Jeff Konfara.

A reception was held in Elkhart, Ind.

The couple took a honeymoon trip to Aruba and have made their home in Elkhart, Ind.

STOKAN-GRACE

Elizabeth Grace and Terrance Flynn of Ann Arbor are pleased to announce the wedding of Rebecca Grace to Eric Stokan, son of Deborah and Christopher Moroni of Sterling Heights.

Rebecca, who grew up in Canton, was attended by Carmen Grace, Maid of Honor, and bridesmaids Jeanette Henry and Kristi Harry.

Best man was Robert Alger and groomsmen were Clarence Dass and Wassim Tarraf.

The couple wed Oct. 16, 2009 at St. Mary Student Parish in Ann Arbor, with the Rev. Dennis Glasgow as the celebrant. They celebrated their wedding with family and friends in Ann Arbor before taking a honeymoon trip to Chicago.

The bride and groom met



Stokan-Grace

while students at Wayne State University. Both are employed by Wayne State University.

ANDES-PRZYBYLSKI

Lisa Ann Przybylski of Zeeland and Michael Joseph Andes of Livonia were married Aug. 8, 2009 at St. Edith Catholic Church in Livonia, with the Rev. Michael Kazer officiating. A reception followed at St. Mary's Cultural Center.

Maids of honor were Darcy Kavanaugh and Alecia Carrocci. Bridesmaids were Sara Przybylski, Amy Przybylski, Stephanie Waalkes, and Jodie Long.

Jeffrey Andes was the best man. Groomsmen were Joshua Pike, Kevin Gessler, Brian Przybylski, Adam Kiwak, and Ryan McBroom.

The bride, daughter of Kevin and Carol Przybylski of Zeeland, graduated from Western Michigan University and University of Toledo. She is employed by Lakeshore Communication Disorders Center

The groom, son of Kirk and Luann Andes of Canton, graduated from Western Michigan University and is employed by the Canton Police Department.

The couple resides in Livonia.



Andes-Przybylski



Jacoby Mateo DaSilva

JACOBY MATEO DASILVA

Jacoby Mateo DaSilva was born Nov. 12, 2009, in Silver Spring, Md.

Proud parents are Eric and Lindsey DaSilva of Burtonsville, Md.

Grandparents are Keith and Linnea Garvey of Livonia, Wayne Jones of Westland, and Alice Garvey Schmitt of Stonelake, Wis.

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ANTOINE N. "TONY" FARRIS

December 8, 2009, Age 79. Beloved husband of Laurance. Dear father of Lina, Anthony, Corey and the late Joseph. Brother of Ann Makool and Seham Azar. Services & burial have been held. A.J. Desmond & Sons, 248-362-2500. Memorial tributes to the charity of donor's choice. View obituary and share memories at www.DesmondFuneralHome.com



DEL MARIE BURNS

Passed away at home December 5, 2009, at the age of 102. She was the beloved wife of the late Warren. Dearest sister of Elise Emrick. Dear aunt of J.P. DesCamp, Lynn DesCamp, Geraldine Robinson and Janice Robinson. Predeceased by her parents, Peter and Elise DesCamp; her siblings, Mary Milligan (wife of Hugh and John), Celia Drake (wife of Harold), Peter DesCamp (husband of June) and Andrew DesCamp (husband of Angeline). Del Marie retired from Michigan Bell Telephone as a telephone operator after 47 years of service; she loved her work. She was a resident of Melvindale since 1958. She did beautiful work crocheting and doing needlepoint. Funeral services were held Wednesday, December 9, 2009, at St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church, Melvindale, MI. Burial was in White Chapel Cemetery, Troy. Arrangements entrusted to Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, Plymouth. Memorials may be made to the charity of donor's choice. To share a special thought or memory, visit www.schrader-howell.com

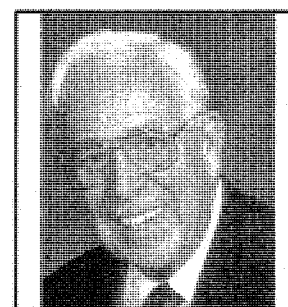


PAULA K. DUNCAN

Dec. 3, 2009 age 52, of Westland. Beloved wife of Charlie L. Dear mother of Christina (Jason) Parrillo, Samantha Duncan & Charlie Duncan III. Loving daughter of Sharon Morris & the late James Morris. Sister of Sherie Wells. Grandmother of Kaelee & Christopher Decker. Funeral at the Uht Funeral Home, 35400 Glenwood Rd., Westland Mon. 1 PM. Family will receive friends Sun. 1-9 PM. Memorial contributions may be made to the family. Please visit and sign a tribute at: www.uhtfh.com

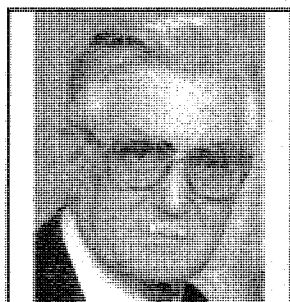
VIVIAN MAXINE HARRIS BIERMAN

Age 80, of Wixom, MI, died Nov. 25, 2009. Arrangements: THAYER-ROCK Funeral Home, Farmington, MI



WILLIAM R. UPTON

Age 84, of Plymouth, passed away December 7, 2009. He was born in Plymouth, and lived here his entire life. He graduated from Plymouth High School in 1943. While in the ninth grade, a young lady named Jean Crandell wearing a yellow flared skirt with a yellow polka-dotted blouse caught his eye. They were married on May 22, 1948. Bill retired from Ford Motor Company after 40 years as an engineer. He was an elder at First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth, where he was also a long-time member of the choir. He was a founding member of the Plymouth Community Band, and a member of both the Plymouth Historical Society and the Plymouth Oratorio Society. A University of Michigan graduate, he was also a member of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity. While at U of M, he marched in the 1948 Rose Bowl Parade with the marching band. He later became a founding member and longtime board member of the U of M Alumni Band Association. A devoted family man, he is survived by his wife of 61 years, Jean; his children, Karen (Clark) Chapin, Laura Upton, Carla (Greg) Gonther, and John (Alicia) Upton; his grandchildren, Bill Chapin and John Gonther; his brother, Lester (Delores) Upton; and many nieces and nephews. A Memorial Service will take place Saturday, December 12, 2pm, at Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, 280 S. Main St., Plymouth. Friends may visit beginning at 1pm. Memorials may be made to the Plymouth Community Band or the Plymouth Oratorio Society.



RICHARD WOOD

November 26, 2009 at the age of 94. A 55 year resident of Redford Twp. Passed on Thanksgiving to be with his wife Ruth and many others he deeply missed. Dear father of Richard (Joyce), Robert (Mona) and Dolly. Dear Gramps to seven grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. He was retired from Ford Motor Company for 38 years, he had also worked for Ford Rouge (Local 600) for 38 years. Services were held on Nov. 30th.

Please visit and sign a tribute at: www.griffinfuneralhome.com. The family would also like to thank all who came by to visit Dad with coffee, donuts, a talk, a hug and a kiss.



CORRINE CLARK

Age 84 of Canton, passed away Thursday, December 3, 2009. She was born May 7, 1925 to Walter and Agnes Schifle and was a life long resident of the Plymouth-Canton area. Married Wilbert (Bill) Clark on June 28, 1944 and had celebrated their 65th Wedding Anniversary this last year. She was a loving wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother who enjoyed traveling, bowling, gardening and family functions. She was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth, Nankin Eastern Star, the VFW Auxillary, a Charter member of the Elks Vivian Club of Plymouth and belonged to the Trailwood Garden Club. She volunteered for the American Red Cross for 15 years. Dear mother of Terry (Susan) Clark of Ft. Wayne, IN and Carol (Bill) Barringer of Canton. Loving grandmother of Kelly (Chris) Steffen, Greg (Erin) Clark and Brent Clark of Ft. Wayne, IN and Grant (Jaime) Gardner and Mike Gardner of Plymouth and five great-grandchildren. Visitation 2-5pm and 6-8pm Sunday, December 6, 2009 at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, 280 South Main Street, Plymouth. Funeral Monday 1:30pm at the funeral home. Share your special thoughts and memories at www.schrader-howell.com



JUDY Y. SOCKS HANBY

Age 94, passed away Dec. 6, 2009. She was a devout Catholic, friend, devoted wife and mother, proud grandmother and great-grandmother. She is survived by her daughter Barbara (Jack) Hughes; sons Arthur and Robert; grandsons Ken, Craig, and Erik (Dina); great-grandchildren Ken Jr., Gabriel, Natalie, and many nieces and nephews. She will be truly be loved and missed. On Dec. 19, Saturday there will be a family visitation at 11:30 at Holy Name Church in Birmingham, followed by a memorial mass at noon. In lieu of flowers the family requests donations to either the Arthritis Foundation or Guardian Angel Organization.

MARGORIE MCGREGOR

Age 80, of Stockbridge, GA died Tuesday, December 8, 2009. She was born in Garden City, MI to the late William and Meda Tedlock Maylen. She loved reading, crafts, and taking care of her family. Margorie was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, and friend. She will be missed by her family and many friends throughout Michigan and Georgia. Mrs. McGregor is survived by her husband, Ralph McGregor, Stockbridge, GA; son, Gary (Laurie) McGregor, Stockbridge, GA; daughter, Tracy (Pat) McHugh, Plymouth, MI; and grandsons, Steven McGregor and Dylan McGregor, Stockbridge, GA. Memorial services will be held at 2:00 PM on Sunday, December 13, 2009 at The Chapel of Cannon Cleveland Funeral Directors with Rev. Dudley Rose officiating. The family will receive friends Sunday, December 13, 2009 one hour prior to service at the funeral home. Those who wish may sign the on-line guest registry at www.cannonclevelandfunerals.com. Cannon Cleveland Funeral Directors, 770-914-1414

May You Find Comfort in Family & Friends

GERALD D. HARDER

Age 78, passed away at the VA Nursing Home in Tampa, FL, December 9th. He is survived by Mildred, his wife of 52 years; three children, Diane Wardwell, Gilbert & Jacque Baker, Terrence Harder & six grandchildren. Gerald moved to Rosedale Garden in 1939, attended Plymouth Schools, participating in band, baseball & football. During the Korean War, he was stationed at the Chateauroux, France Air Depot. He had "The Gentlemen Salon" Barber Shop on Forest St. A member of the Plymouth Optimist Service Club & attended Canton Calvary Baptist Church.

RUTH ELEANOR FULTON

69, of Atlanta, MI and Sun City, AZ, passed away on December 8, 2009. She was born on February 8, 1940 to Joseph and Ethel (Foreman) Skaggs in Plymouth, MI. She worked at South Lyon Schools as a secretary for many years before retiring in 1986. She enjoyed spending her summers on Canada Creek Ranch in Atlanta, and her winters in the snow free Sun City, AZ. She enjoyed crafting, especially card embroidery, knitting, and scrapbooking. She loved to spend time on the beach. She enjoyed rides out back at Canada Creek Ranch looking for Elk. Above all else came spending time with her family, grandchildren and great grandchildren. Eleanor is survived by her husband, Harold of Atlanta, MI and Sun City, AZ; son, Dan (Gayle) Fulton of Austin, TX; daughters, Dawn (Jack) Schaible of Atlanta, MI, and Pam (Kevin) Lear of South Lyon, MI; grandchildren, Scott, Jeff, Jim, Benjamin, and Justin; great grandchildren, Kaylee and Nicklas; and a sister, Joan Rogers of Sun City, AZ. She was preceded in death by a brother, Bill Skaggs. As were the family wishes, cremation has taken place and there will be a memorial service for Mrs. Fulton on Saturday, December 12, 2009 at 4:00 PM at Plymouth Church of the Nazarene on Ann Arbor Road. Arrangements were entrusted to the Green Funeral Home. Condolence messages can be sent via our website, www.greenfuneralhomes.com

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NEIGHBORS

Seasonal sweaters

A fashion 'don't' becomes a 'must-do'

BY WENDY VON BUSKIRK
CORRESPONDENT

Every holiday season, Yalla Villarreal and her friends get dressed up and gather for a festive girl's night out. This year, instead of party dresses, they plan to wear the tackiest tops they can track down.

She and her friends are among a growing number of revelers who plan to celebrate the season with Ugly Christmas Sweater Parties.

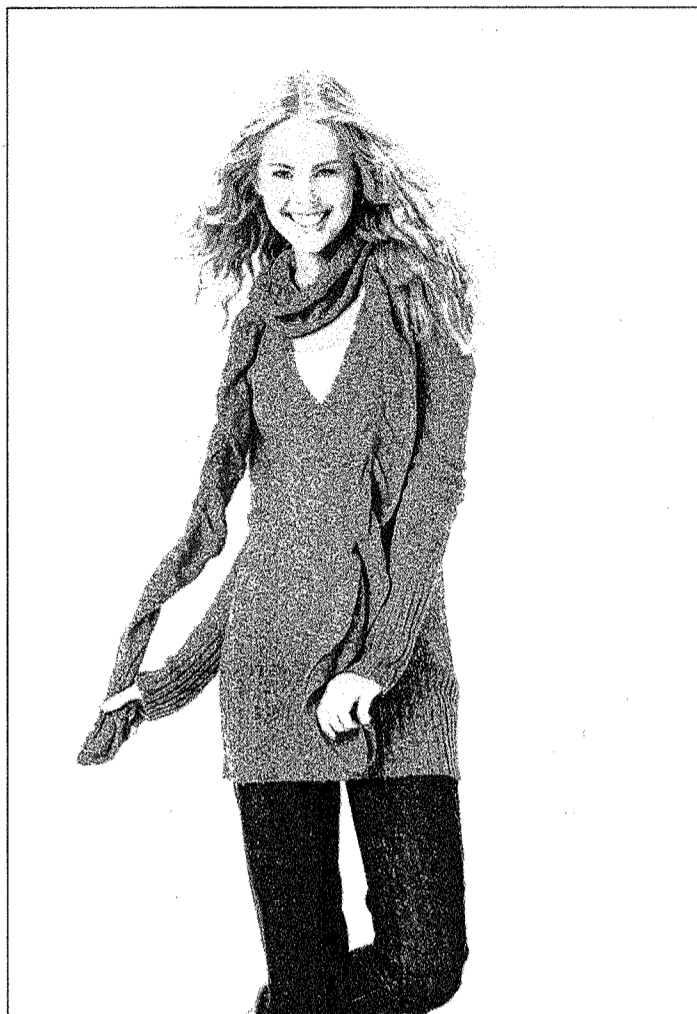
"This year we just decided we'd be a little silly and mix it up," said Villarreal, 28, of Canton. "We all said be as cute as you possibly can with shoes, pants, hair, makeup and everything like you're going out and then find the ugliest top possible."

Villarreal said she has relatives who inevitably show up to family gatherings in holiday-themed sweaters, complete with appliques of skiing Santas, dancing penguins or cardinals perched on branches covered in glittery snow.

"For sure most of the grandmas do, that's just a given ... some of the aunts," Villarreal said. "I usually get one each year for Christmas and I usually give them away. Now I regret it."

If only she still had that Snoopy number with the flashing lights, it would have been perfect for her upcoming girl's gathering at Grape Expectations in Plymouth. Instead, Villarreal plans to troll the racks at Kohl's and J.C. Penney looking for a completely un-fabulous find. She's also heard Value World in Wayne has a great selection.

"Personally I'm looking for something that lights up or plays music. Something battery-operated would be my best choice, but if not, something with puffy paint or puffy balls, something 3-D, the



DO: For women, this Heart-n-Crush, red and white V-neck from Parisian will keep you cozy during the holidays and beyond. The Junior's sweater with scarf, originally retailed for \$40. Sale price: \$16.

gaudier the better."

WEAR IT FOR FUN

Seasonal sweaters — or worse, sweat shirts — often boast iron-on illustrations, country-style patchwork, or sassy slogans like "Bah Humbug!" They are best paired with loud print turtle-necks.

Holiday sweaters have earned such an infamous reputation as fashion don'ts, they've actually become "dos." Web sites like www.uglychristmassweaterparty.com have cropped up to serve men, women and children "looking to buy the ugliest Christmas sweaters of all time."

The Magic Bag in Ferndale has hosted an annual Turtleneck & Sweater Holiday Extravaganza for the past decade, and spin-offs have spread to San Diego, Chicago,

Texas, Florida and even West Africa with proceeds benefitting various charities.

"The goal was to reproduce that awkward family gathering in 1981 when your Uncle Phil drank too much and slept in the garage and your weird cousin waited under the mistletoe all night with expectant eyes," said Cort Johns, an organizer of the event. "But one thing everyone had in common was a gauche reindeer sweater and contrasting turtleneck."

Set for 8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 23, The Magic Bag's 10th anniversary bash will feature a fashion show, coronation of an ugly sweater Prince and Princess, and plenty of spiked eggnog. Admission is \$10.

AVOID HOLIDAY THEME

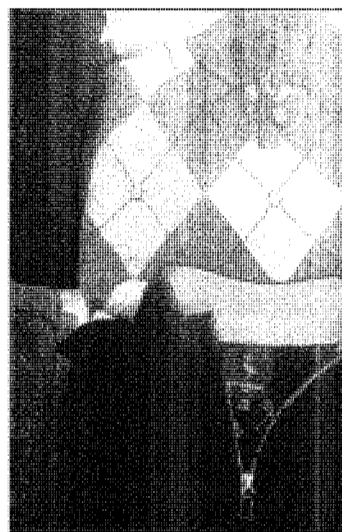
Yet even as ironic Ugly Christmas Sweater Parties



DON'T: This patchwork sweater vest (\$25 at uglychristmassweaterparty.com) is not a good choice unless you're invited to an Ugly Sweater Party.

WEAR SWEATER PROUDLY

What: 10th annual Turtleneck and Sweater Holiday Extravaganza
When: 8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 23
Where: The Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale
Cost: \$10, benefits charity
Information: Call (248) 544-3030 or visit www.themagicbag.com



DO: For men, zip mocks are a good sweater choice. Pick any two select sweaters and cords for \$89 at The Shirt Box in Farmington Hills.

gain popularity, some people continue to wear the garments as seemingly serious fashion statements.

Rod Brown, co-owner of The Shirt Box in Farmington Hills, said sweaters are a great choice for any holiday party, but he cautions against anything with an overtly seasonal theme.

"You don't have to go walking into a party with a bright red or green sweater," he said. "We can give you a little bit more of a sharp look that

with shawl collars, double-breasted cardigans, sweater vests and argyles. The most popular style right now is the "zip mock," which can be worn underneath a blazer or alone.

Cardigans, with either zippers or buttons, are actually taking the place of the casual sports jacket, Brown said.

"There has definitely been a resurgence in the sweater," he said.

For women, Suzy Brown, store manager at Parisian Laurel Park Place in Livonia, suggests sweaters with some extra sparkle or indulgent fabrics for the holidays.

"You could tackle it with cashmere, embellishments, metallic, lurex or sequins," she said.

Buying a simple sweater that fits and flatters, instead of something with a seasonal motif, means you can wear it well beyond the holidays. Best of all, you won't become a walking fashion faux pas.

That is, unless you mean to.

will still be fun and get you noticed."

For men, The Shirt Box carries standard crew and V-necks in virtually every color, as well as sweaters

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- Varicose veins
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Arthritis Today

JOSEPH J. WEISS, M.D. RHEUMATOLOGY
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Livonia, Michigan 48152
Phone: (248) 478-7860

TREATING JOINT INFECTIONS

The first step in treating joint infections is diagnosing its presence. Making a diagnosis is not easy because many joint problems begin with pain and swelling, the hallmarks of infection. However, several characteristics of joint infections help a doctor determine that bacteria are the cause. Often fever and chills accompany infections. In the instance of infections arising from the knee or ankle, the person may have experienced a scrape of the skin or suffered a thorn puncture beneath the skin. In infection, the tissues surrounding the infected joint are thickened and red in a manner called "brawny edema," a finding not found in other causes for a swollen joint.

When a doctor suspects joint infection, the next step is to obtain a sample of the joint fluid and analyze that sample for the presence of bacteria. This requires joint aspiration.

After the physician obtains joint fluid for evaluation, he needs to handle the specimen carefully. The tube carrying the synovial fluid must be kept warm and the fluid when received by the laboratory should be plated on agar immediately. Several days many lapse before the laboratory can identify the bacteria if it is present, and the laboratory requires further time to learn to which antibiotics the bacteria is sensitive. During this waiting period the doctor gives care by repeating joint aspiration if needed, prescribing medication for pain, and possibly starting an antibiotic that may be changed if the infection is susceptible to an antibiotic different than the one he chose.

Only when all the above is in place, can the physician confidently treat the patient.

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37th Annual Old Moravian Love Feast

Metropolitan United Methodist Church invites you to an Old Moravian Love Feast. Bring the whole family to celebrate the birth of Christ through scripture, beautiful music, candlelight and a traditional simple meal of a Moravian bun and water.

Sunday, December 20, 2009 • 7:00 p.m.

Metropolitan United Methodist Church
8000 Woodward Avenue • Detroit
(North of Grand Boulevard in the New Center area)

FREE Admission
FREE Supervised, Lighted Parking

For more information call...313-875-7407
or www.metroumc.org

Saint's celebration signals start of Christmas season



Donning an elf costume and dancing around a Christmas tree is part of the fun at the St. Lucia Day breakfast.



Paige Setsuda lights the candles in Allie Swanson's crown at Faith Covenant Church's annual St. Lucia breakfast. Swanson portrayed St. Lucia in the second of three breakfast seatings at the Farmington Hills church.



Diane Berg from Farmington Hills attends the breakfast every year.

PHOTOS BY JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

Kristin Carlson walked through the darkened church, dressed in a white robe and carrying a coffee pot and bread on a serving tray.

The only light helping her navigate around the breakfast tables that had been set in Faith Covenant Church's sanctuary glowed from atop her head and on her tray.

Her "court," other teens dressed in robes and carrying candles, along with young "star boys" wearing tall pointed hats and grasping golden star-shaped wands, trailed behind and assembled around her as Kristin stopped to face her audience.

"He will make you a light of the nations so that his salvation will reach the end of the earth."

With those words, the North Farmington High School junior signaled the start of the 30th annual St. Lucia Day breakfast celebration at Faith Covenant, in Farmington Hills.

The event celebrates the saint who, wearing candles on her head to light the way, carried food

to Christians hiding in the catacombs. She serves as a symbol of service and light, a reminder to Christians at Advent to anticipate Christ's light.

Faith Covenant's event included three breakfast sittings, choir performances, a handbell choir, youth dancers, comments from the Rev. Ken Larson and an opportunity to visit the church Christmas Shop, which included Swedish foods, crafts and gently used seasonal decorations. Nancy Bergstrom of Farmington founded the celebration 30 years ago; Jeannine McFadyen of Westland now coordinates it.

Each breakfast procession included its own St. Lucia, played by Kristin at 8 a.m., Allie Swanson at 10 a.m. and Emily Hand at noon.

"I was in total darkness and couldn't see," said Kristin, who said she felt relieved when the dramatic opening procession was over. "The biggest challenge is not tilting your head if you don't want to get wax in your hair."

Most teens who play St. Lucia have been active in the saint's court or as a



Nancy McHutchion of Canton (left), checks out items for sale in the church Christmas Shop with daughter, Christina Johnson, her daughter Kierstyn, 6, and Rachel, 9. Leaning over between the girls is their aunt, Jennifer McHutchion of Westland.

youth dancers at previous celebrations. They've grown up in the church and look forward to the day they can wear the glowing crown and recite words of Scripture.



Faith Handbells perform at the St. Lucia Day breakfast at Faith Covenant Church, Farmington Hills.



St. Lucia Singers perform during the breakfast at Faith Covenant Church, Farmington Hills.

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Schoolcraft College Livonia Campus in the VisTaTech Center
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If your business or organization serves seniors, you'll want to be a part of this exciting event!



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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!

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Expo table plus two chairs

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Two complimentary boxed lunches for exhibitors.

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If you're looking for the perfect holiday gift for the pet lovers and animals in your life, shop the Michigan Humane Society's expanded online store.

Visit www.michiganhumane.org and click on "Shop" to view the MHS Holiday Cards, 2010 Pet Calendars, one-of-a-kind T-shirts, pet toys, treats and travel gear.

The MHS 2010 Pet Calendar, featuring hundreds of metro Detroit's most adorable pets, is \$15. Conversation-starting MHS T-shirts including "Adopted is My Favorite Breed," "Certified Pre-Owned Cats" and "If You Don't Talk To Your Cat About Catnip, Who Will" are available for \$14.95 and up. Travel gear starting at \$24.95 will help keep your pets safe while traveling this holiday season and beyond.

Place orders online or by calling the MHS Shop Line at (800) 866-9189, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Orders of non-personalized items placed by noon on Dec. 22 will be shipped in time for Christmas.



SAY 'CHEESE'

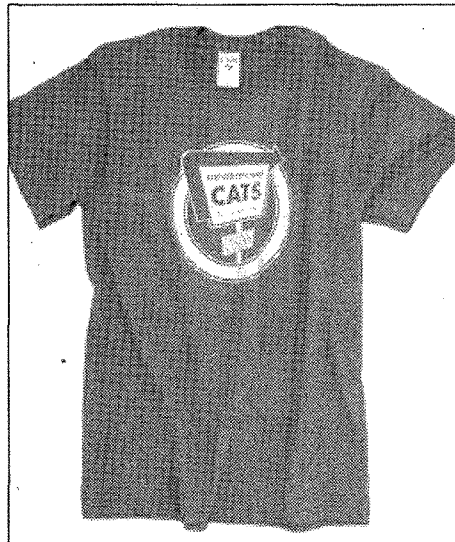
Take your pet to see Santa and get a photo, too, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 19, at Pet Supplies "Plus," 29493 W. Seven Mile, Livonia.

Photos cost \$8 for a 4- by 6-inch print and \$13 for a 5- by 7-inch print. Proceeds will benefit the Michigan Animal Adoption Network.

Other Pet Supplies "Plus" events:

- Low Cost Wellness and Vaccine Clinic, 5-7 p.m., every Thursday at the Canton store, 43665 Ford Road. Dr. John Hermann administers the vaccinations.
- The Canton store holds an adoption event noon to 4 p.m., every first and third Saturday of the month. Call (734) 981-9191 for more information. Homeward Bound Rescue League sponsors the event.

- The Michigan Pug Rescue holds a adoption event, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., every second Saturday of the month at the Farmington Hills store, 31130 Orchard Lake Road. (248) 932-3113 or visit www.michiganpugrescue.com
- Home Fur-ever Animal Rescue



This 'Certified Pre-Owned Cat' T-shirt proclaims the owner's preference in adopting rather than buying a pet. The Michigan Humane Society has several T-shirt styles and other merchandise online.

shows its adoptable animals every other Saturday at the Farmington Hills store. Call the store for more information.

- Greyheart Greyhound Rescue shows its adoptable greyhounds noon to 4 p.m., the first Saturday of the month, at the Livonia store. Call (248) 615-0039 for more information.



The Michigan Humane Society's 2010 calendar is available online.

RELIGION CALENDAR

Religion calendar items appear on Thursdays on a space available basis. To submit an item, e-mail sdargay@hometownlife.com or write: Religion Calendar, Observer Newspapers, 615 W. Lafayette-2nd Level, Detroit, MI 48226, Attn: Sharon Dargay. Item must include the venue address and phone number and any admission costs for events. Items must be submitted at least a week in advance of publication. Feel free to send a related photo in jpg form. For a complete listing online, go to hometownlife.com.

DEC. 13-16

Advent celebration

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

Advent service

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

Christmas musical

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

Christmas open house

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

Christmas ornament

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

Concert

- The St. Aidan Adult Choir, directed by Ray Schmidt, will present its 28th Annual Christmas Concert, 4 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 13, at the church, 17500 Farmington Road, north of Six Mile, in Livonia. Admission cost is \$5 and two non-perishable food items. This event is held annually to assist the St. Aidan Christian Service Commission in its efforts to aid those in need during the Holiday Season. (734) 425-5950.
- Christmas Cantata, "Only Love," 3 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 13, at Milford Presbyterian Church, 238 N. Main, Milford. (248) 684-2805.
- The Detroit Handbell Ensemble performs Christmas music 4 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 13, at First United Methodist Church of Garden City, 6443 Merriman, Garden City. Directed by

Susan Berry. Donations accepted. For more information call Susan Berry at (313) 278-7387 or visit www.detroitandbellensemble.org.

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

Readings and carols

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

DEC. 17-23

Breakfast

St. Theodore Men's Club presents a Pancake and French Toast Breakfast, 8:30 a.m.-noon, Sunday, Dec. 20, at St. Theodore Catholic Church social hall, 8200 N. Wayne Road, Westland. Cost is \$3 adults; \$1.50 children ages 2-10. Menu includes pancakes, French toast, ham, sausage, scrambled eggs, apple-sauce, tea, coffee, milk, and juice. For more information call (734) 425-4421.

Concert

Hear the Chancel Choir of St. James Presbyterian Church sing "A Carol Fantasia" at the 10 a.m. worship service, Dec. 20, at the church, 25350 West Six Mile, Redford. (313) 534-7730

DEC. 24-30

Concert

Hear "Quiet Noels and Carols for Organ," at 6:45 p.m., Dec. 24 at St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 West Six Mile, Redford. (313) 534-7730

ONGOING

AWANA

Faith Bible Church offers an AWANA program for children from kindergarten through fifth grade 6:30-8 p.m., Wednesdays, at the church, 23414 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills. For information, call (248) 426-0096.

Classes/study

- Antioch Preschool, an academic program complemented by Christian education, is enrolling 3- and 4-year-old children for the 2009-2010 school year. A new toddler class is offered Thursdays from 1-3 p.m. Extended stay enrichment for 3's and 4's is offered Wednesdays - children bring their lunch and enjoy literacy activities until 3 p.m. Antioch Lutheran Church is at 13 Mile and Farmington Road in Farmington Hills. For information contact Sharon Detter, preschool director, at (248) 626-7906, Ext. 28, or e-mail to antioch-preschool@sbcglobal.net.
- New Life Community Church, 42200 Tyler, Belleville, offers a jobs seminar, 8-9 a.m., Fridays, a reading program for students in grades K-12 and martial arts instruction, both at 10 a.m., Sundays. (734) 846-4615
- Orchard United Methodist Church, 30450 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills, is hosting a Tai Chi Class by Sam Purdy, Wu Style Tai Chi. This meditative form of Martial Arts is designed to reduce stress and is great for overall health memory and balance. Everyone is welcome from beginning to experienced participants at any time. Classes continue every Monday. Cost per class depends on number of participants. For information or to reserve space, call (248) 701-1587 or (248) 626-3620. Visit www.orchardumc.org for updates.
- Adult and English as a Second Language literacy classes are available for those who want to improve reading, writing and English conversational skills. Open to age 18 and over. Trained tutors available for day or evening. For information, call Merriman Road Baptist Church in Garden City at (734) 421-0472. Leave your name and phone number and someone will contact you.
- Scripture studies, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Mondays in the lower level of Our Lady of Loretto Church, Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford. Call (313) 534-9000.
- Learner's Bible study, 7 p.m., Mondays, in Room A101, at Ward Presbyterian Church, 40000 W. Six Mile, Northville. Call (248) 374-5920.
- Learn Qigong, the ancient form of Chinese energetic medicine - a safe and effective way to rid the body of toxic pathogens and years of painful emotions - at Livonia Unity, 28660 Five Mile. Classes include: Monday movement Qigong, 7-8:30 p.m.; Thursday Qigong meditation, 10-11:15 a.m., and Friday Therapeutic Qigong, 7-8:30 p.m. Call (810) 813-4073 for more information or send e-mail to gary@energeticarts.org.
- Men's Bible study, breakfast at 7 a.m. and study at 8 p.m., at Kirby's Coney Island, 21200 Haggerty, Northville Township. Call John Shulenberger at (734) 464-9491 for more information.
- Bible talks, 4 p.m. Sundays at the Friendship Center, 1119 Newburgh, Westland. Call (734) 728-9157.

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REUNION CALENDAR

The Reunion Calendar runs Sundays in the paper as space allows, and online in its entirety at www.hometownlife.com. Submit your announcement at least two weeks in advance to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com.

Cody High School
Classes of 1955-58
Holiday lunch, 1 p.m. Dec. 21, at Monaghan Knights of Columbus Hall, 19801 Farmington Road, Livonia. Contact: Vera at (734) 591-1305 or Irene at (248) 489-0415.

Detroit Pershing
Class of 1960
50th reunion festivities in September 2010 will be held at the Doubletree Guest Suites Fort Shelby in downtown Detroit. For more information call Sherry Forbush (Sharon Bailey) at (248) 994-0664 or Joan Harrington (Mazey) at (734) 595-7508.

Detroit St. Brigid
Class of 1959
Planning a reunion and looking for classmates. Contact szonyek@att.net with any information about classmates.

Farmington High School
Class of 1970
Planning reunion in 2010. Seeking classmates. Join the group on Facebook by searching Farmington High School Class of 1970 Reunion. Or e-mail Carla Campbell Lehn at dblenn@aol.com.

Garden City High School
Class of 1960
Mini-reunion luncheons held the second Saturday of every month at 1 p.m. in the banquet room in the Plymouth Denny's on Ann Arbor Road, east of I-275. Call Gary Simon at (734) 751-4101 or send e-mail to GCHS.MCLX@yahoo.com.

Garden City West
Class of 1970
40th reunion on Saturday, Oct. 9, 2010 at Hawthorne Valley Country Club in Westland. Dinner and DJ included for \$50 per person. Classmates from the classes of 1968-1972 also invited to attend. For more information, call Larry Conn at (734) 788-5254.

Dearborn Heights Haston High
Class of 1965
45-year reunion, 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. July 24, 2010; Contact Pat Beadle-Kopczyk, 3334 Kneeland Circle, Howell, MI 48843, at (517) 552-1182 or e-mail to her at patkopczyk@aol.com.

Ladywood
Class of 1984
25th reunion, Dec. 26; for information e-mail to Sara Czarnecki Levitsky at saralevitsky@comcast.net

Oak Park High School
Class of 1980
30th reunion, July 2-4, 2010; for information e-mail to ophighschool1980@yahoo.com

Accounting Aid Society needs help for tax season

Every tax season, Accounting Aid Society helps more than 13,600 struggling families in southeast Michigan recover more than \$14 million in tax refunds and credits.

The organization is recruiting volunteers now who can deduct a little of their own time in January through mid-April to help low-income people file their taxes and credits. Required training begins Jan. 9, 2010 and volunteers are encouraged

to register online at www.accountingaidsociety.org. Classes will be held at eight area colleges and universities, including Oakland Community College in Farmington Hills, Schoolcraft College in Livonia, University of Michigan-Dearborn and Wayne State University in Detroit.

The nonprofit agency will operate more than 25 free tax sites throughout Wayne, Oakland, Macomb and Livingston counties from late January through April 15, 2010. Eligibility for assistance will be based on annual household income - \$50,000 or less for families and \$25,000 or less for individuals.

Accounting Aid's tax training consists of learning tax law and tax computer software, and completing IRS certification.

The nonprofit agency will operate more than 25 free

tax sites throughout Wayne, Oakland, Macomb and Livingston counties from late January through April 15, 2010. Eligibility for assistance will be based on annual household income — \$50,000 or less for families and \$25,000 or less for individuals.

This year, more than 800 volunteers donated over 14,500 hours.

In addition to filing tax returns, volunteers also help clients receive tax credits such as the federal and state Earned Income Tax Credits, the Michigan Home Heating Credit, and the Michigan Property Tax Credit.

Through the recovery of taxes and credits, Accounting Aid helps families stay in their homes, keep their utilities turned on, put food on the table, and save for the future.

"It is very rewarding volunteer work. If Accounting Aid Society did not exist, many people in need would have an even harder time paying bills because they wouldn't have the tax refunds that Accounting Aid helps them obtain. Most probably they wouldn't fill out their tax forms on their own and couldn't afford to pay someone to do it," stated Amanda Luedtke, a hybrid analysis engineer for GM and a first-year volunteer with Accounting Aid Society.

As the largest provider of free income tax preparation in Michigan, Accounting Aid has returned more than \$170 million to low to moderate income households since 1972.

For more information, call (313) 556-1920 or (866) 673-0873.

KNOW THE SCORE: Check out the numbers in today's sports section

ZOO HOSTS WILDLIFE PHOTOS

The 2009 Wildlife Photographer of the Year exhibition, a collection of images from the world's largest and most prestigious wildlife photography competition, makes its North American premiere at the Detroit Zoo's Ford Education Center on Dec. 16, 2009. The exhibition is open during zoo hours and is free with regular zoo admission.

"The photographs in this spectacular exhibition are visually stunning, often thought-provoking and provide insight into the beauty and drama of the natural world," said Ron Kagan, executive director of the Detroit Zoological Society. The exhibition features 95 photographs dramatically displayed as illuminated large-format color transparencies. The winning images, chosen from a record 43,135 entries, represent 83 photographers from 24 countries. The North American premiere exhibition, which is taking place at the Detroit Zoo for the sixth consecutive year, will run until April 26, 2010.

An educational and interactive family learning guide corresponding to the exhibition can be downloaded and printed from the zoo's Web site beginning Dec. 16 to aid visitors in interpreting the exhibition. A hardback commemorative portfolio book of the 2009 Wildlife Photographer of the Year exhibition is available for sale in the Detroit Zoo's Zoofari Market.

London's Natural History Museum and BBC Wildlife Magazine have organized this annual exhibition for more than 40 years to showcase the finest wildlife pictures taken by photographers worldwide.

Notice of Public Sale of Personal Property.
Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self Service Storage Facility Act, State of Michigan, **PS Orangeo, Inc. and/or Shurgard TRS, Inc.** will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage (formerly Shurgard) located at 9300 Pelham Rd., Taylor, MI 48180 (313) 292-9730 12/29/2009 at: 11:00 am Sales are for cash only. Removal within 24 hours. For sale and storage units in which rent and fees are past due. Personal property described below in the matter of:

- | | | |
|------|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1008 | Bobby Revis | boxes, chairs, tv |
| 1014 | Jamie Wolf | boxes, totes, tv |
| 3042 | Erma Austin | boxes, dresser, chair |
| 3050 | John F Zacchi | boxes, bags, sofa |
| 3087 | Jeremy Good | boxes, totes, tv |
| 4022 | Roberto Colvard | boxes, totes, sofa |
| 4051 | Antoine Murry | boxes, totes, speakers |
| 4082 | Jacqueline Jackson | boxes, bags, sofa |
| 5003 | Edwin Omev | boxes, dresser, snow blower |
| 5026 | Jason Height | boxes, chair, dresser |
| 5080 | David Elliott | boxes, bags, totes |
| 5106 | George Bojarski | boxes, totes, bike |
| 6023 | Rechell Smith | bags, toys, tv |
| 6028 | Ebony Boatman | tv, bike, grill |
| 6034 | Henry Isom | boxes, totes, sofa |
| 6037 | Tracie Breuer | Honda motorcycle
VIN HM319HM0B4501 |
| 6085 | Ron Bemby | bags |
| 6131 | Richard McNamee | boxes, totes, tv |
| 7048 | Sheila Ross | bags, bike, sofa |
| 7064 | Marcel Hunt | boxes, tv, sofa |
| 7108 | Deonte Barber | totes, dresser, chair |
| 9108 | Helen Nelson | washer, dryer, totes |

Publish: December 13 and 20, 2009

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Notice of Public Sale of Personal Property.
Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self Service Storage Facility Act, State of Michigan, **PS Orangeo, Inc. and/or Shurgard TRS, Inc.** will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage located at 3650 Enterprise Dr. Allen Park, MI 48101 (313) 441-3117 12/29/2009 at: 12:00pm. Sales are for cash only. Removal within 24 hours. For sale and storage units in which rent and fees are past due. Personal property described below in the matter of:

- | | | |
|------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| A015 | Samantha Sturgill | boxes, bags, sofa |
| A017 | Chauntel Byers | chairs, grill, tv |
| B019 | Robert Flemister | bags, totes, snow blower |
| B025 | Wendy McGough | boxes, bike, tv |
| B037 | Victor A Cruz | boxes, bags, picture |
| B048 | Keyanna Wafford | mattress, shelf |
| B054 | Pamela Skora | boxes, bags, totes |
| B129 | Linda Carter | boxes, bags, totes |
| B132 | Antwanya McKinley | chair, sofa, stove |
| B185 | Tabita Latham | boxes, dresser, totes |
| B208 | Cathandra Miller | washer, dryer, bike |
| B218 | Wendie Wilkins | boxes, chair, grill |
| B223 | Leon Scott | boxes, totes, chairs |
| B260 | Naeena V Love | boxes, sofa, tv |
| B267 | Dale Marie Griffin | boxes, bags |
| B288 | Barbara Hanson | boxes, totes, tools |
| C029 | Christopher Hass | boxes, grill, totes |
| C032 | Mohamed Ahmed | boxes, doors, shelving |
| E046 | Denise Beard | totes, dryers, washer |
| E050 | Omar Atallah | bags, sofa, tv |
| F005 | Channel Merideth | boxes, sofa, tv |

Publish: December 13 and 20, 2009

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BOOST YOUR LOCAL ECONOMY... SHOP LOCAL

What kind of community do you want to live in? How we spend our money makes a difference in the wellness of our residents and the overall success of our businesses.

Each time you shop, your decisions will impact your local economy. Choose locally owned businesses that are truly invested in your community's future!



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NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS AND ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF WESTLAND, COUNTY OF WAYNE, MICHIGAN, AND THE USERS OF THE CITY'S WATER AND SEWER SYSTEM OF INTENT TO ISSUE BONDS AND THE RIGHT OF REFERENDUM RELATING THERETO

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the City of Westland, County of Wayne, State of Michigan (the "City"), intends to issue and sell revenue bonds pursuant to Act 94, Public Act of Michigan, 1933, as amended, in an amount not to exceed Three Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$3,500,000), in one or more series for the purpose of paying all or part of the cost of acquiring and constructing additions, extensions and improvements to the City's sanitary sewer system, including improvements to reduce the amount of rainwater entering into the sanitary sewer system, to reduce unnecessary and costly wastewater treatment, and to minimize environmentally undesirable overflows into the Rouge River that result because of excess water in the sanitary sewer system (the "Project"). The Project is being undertaken in concert with certain water and sewer system improvements that the City intends to finance through the State Revolving Fund ("SRF") Loan Program administered by the Michigan Municipal Bond Authority.

SOURCE OF PAYMENT OF REVENUE BONDS

THE PRINCIPAL OF AND INTEREST ON SAID REVENUE BONDS SHALL BE PAYABLE from the revenues received by the City from the operations of the water and sewer system. Said revenues will consist of rates and charges for sewer service that may from time to time be revised to provide sufficient revenues to provide for the expenses of operating and maintaining the system, to pay the principal of and interest on said bonds and to pay other obligations of the system.

BOND DETAILS

SAID BONDS will be payable in annual installments not to exceed twenty (20) in number and will bear interest at the rate or rates not to exceed two and one-half percent (2.50%) per annum on the balance of the bonds from time to time remaining unpaid.

ALTERNATE SOURCES OF PAYMENT OF BONDS SOLD TO MICHIGAN MUNICIPAL BOND AUTHORITY

FOR REVENUE BONDS SOLD TO THE MICHIGAN MUNICIPAL BOND AUTHORITY IN CONNECTION WITH THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY'S SWQIF PROGRAM, THE CITY MAY PLEDGE ITS LIMITED TAX FULL FAITH AND CREDIT AS SECURITY FOR THE BONDS IN WHICH EVENT DEBT SERVICE ON SUCH BONDS SHALL BE PAYABLE EITHER FROM REVENUES OF THE SYSTEM OR, IN CASE OF INSUFFICIENCY OF SAID REVENUES, FROM AD VALOREM TAXES THAT MAY BE LEVIED ON ALL TAXABLE PROPERTY IN THE CITY, SUBJECT HOWEVER, TO CONSTITUTIONAL, STATUTORY AND CHARTER TAX RATE LIMITATIONS. THE CITY MAY ALSO BE REQUIRED TO PLEDGE FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE BONDS SOLD TO THE MICHIGAN MUNICIPAL BOND AUTHORITY THE MONEY RECEIVED OR TO BE RECEIVED BY THE CITY DERIVED FROM IMPOSITION OF TAXES BY THE STATE AND RETURNED OR TO BE RETURNED TO THE CITY AS PROVIDED BY LAW, except for money the use of which is prohibited for such purposes by the State Constitution. The City may enter into agreement providing for the payment of taxes, which taxes are collected by the State and returned to the City as provided by law, to the Michigan Municipal Bond Authority or a trustee, and such funds may be pledged for the payment of the bonds.

RIGHT OR REFERENDUM

THE REVENUE BONDS WILL BE ISSUED WITHOUT A VOTE OF THE ELECTORS UNLESS A PETITION REQUESTING SUCH A VOTE SIGNED BY NOT LESS THAN 10% OF THE REGISTERED ELECTORS RESIDING WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE CITY IS FILED WITH THE CITY CLERK OF THE CITY, 36601 FORD ROAD, WESTLAND, MICHIGAN 48185, WITHIN FORTH-FIVE (45) DAYS AFTER PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE. IF SUCH PETITION IS FILED, THE BONDS MAY NOT BE ISSUED WITHOUT AN APPROVING VOTE OF A MAJORITY OF THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS RESIDING WITHIN BOUNDARIES OF THE CITY VOTING THEREON.

THIS NOTICE is given pursuant to the requirements of Section 33, Act 94, Public Acts of Michigan, 1933, as amended.

Eileen DeHart, City Clerk
City of Westland

Publish: December 13, 2009

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