

SUNDAY
December 27,
2009

The Observer & Eccentric
Newspapers

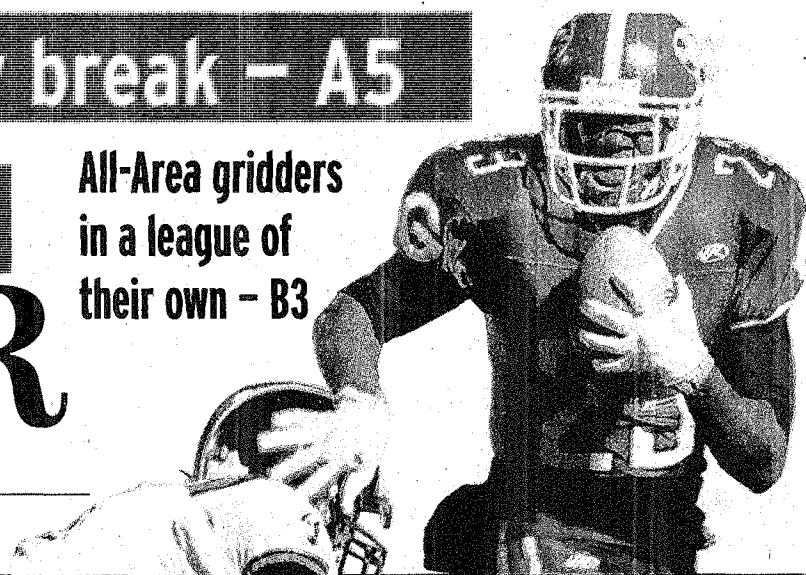
Volume 45
Number 62

75 CENTS

50 things to do over holiday break - A5

WESTLAND OBSERVER

All-Area gridgers
in a league of
their own - B3



online at hometownlife.com

AROUND TOWN

MLK breakfast

Redford Township and the Redford Ministerial Alliance will host the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Community Prayer Breakfast at St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church, 27201 West Chicago, at 7 a.m. Jan. 18.

The featured speaker is the Rev. Faith Fowler of Cass Methodist Church. The pancake breakfast includes sausage, fruit, muffins and beverages, with entertainment by the Thurston High School Concert Choir.

Admission is \$8, and organizers are asking attendees for a donation of a personal care item such as laundry detergent, soap, shampoo or dish soap. All items will be donated to the Redford Interfaith Relief Food Pantry.

For more information, call (313) 387-2787. Make checks payable to: Redford Township, 12121 Hemingway, Redford, MI 48239. Deadline for registration is Jan. 13.

Contest winners

There's an art show of sorts on the second floor of the Bailey Recreation Center in Westland where the entries in the Westland Parks and Recreation's annual "We Promise You A White Christmas" poster contest are on display.

Elementary-age youngsters were asked to draw a poster showing their homes covered in snow on Christmas Day.

This year's winner was Noah Delrose, 10, a fourth-grader at Edison Elementary School. His poster showed a sense of whimsy as well as clearly depicting his home covered in snow.

Honorable mentions went to Emmalee Sample, 10, a fifth-grader at Hamilton Elementary; Abigail Attereld, a third-grader at Hayes Elementary; Zachary Greenshields, 8; Toni Alicia Davis, 9, a fourth-grader at Wildwood Elementary; Sarah R. Jaworski, a fifth-grader; and Riley Hunt, 9, a fourth-grader at Edison Elementary.

The posters will be on display at the Bailey Center in the Westland civic center complex at Wayne and Carlson throughout the holidays.

Youth Choir auditions

Auditions for the Livonia Youth Choir will be held 4-6 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 9, at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, 27475 Five Mile Road (at Inkster), in Livonia.

No appointment is necessary. Students in grades 3-8 are invited to audition for placement at two levels of musical participation with the Lyric Choir or the Bella Voce Choir.

Contact Tina O'Donnell at (734) 748-3415 or livoniayouthchoir@sbc-global.net for more information.

Not worth the cost

Penalties make drinking, driving an expensive endeavor

For related story, see Page A14.

With the calendar having passed Christmas and inching toward New Year's Day, revelers around the metro Detroit area are moving into one of the biggest party seasons of the year.

And with most local police departments on the lookout, drivers should be aware of the chance of — and penalties for — getting caught driving under the influence.

Fines, fees and sentences vary from court to court, with issues largely being solved on a case-by-case basis, but everyone agrees on one thing: Driving under the influence is going to cost the driver.

In the 35th District Court (which covers Plymouth, Canton and Northville), for instance, a first offender with a relatively low (but still illegal, for drivers) blood-alcohol content who does not appear, after an evaluation, to have a drinking problem can expect to be sentenced to six months' nonreporting probation, five days of community service, participation in an alcohol awareness program and a 90-day license restriction, plus fines and costs.

On the high side, repeat offenders can get up to 93 days in jail, two years' probation and community ser-

Please see **PENALTIES, A14**



Police departments often stage mock drunken-driving accidents to warn youngsters of the dangers of drinking and driving. Here, Livonia police Officer Jim King checks the pulse of Clarenceville student Amber Mills, who portrayed a victim thrown from the vehicle in just such a mock drunken-driving accident.

Drunken driving costs add up financially, personally

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
CORRESPONDENT

Ron W. is learning the hard way that he can't afford to drink and drive. The \$2,000 in fines and court fees, \$20 a week for alcohol testing and the loss of a job were only the financial costs imposed on him when he was sent to jail for 90 days over the holidays last year.

The emotional impact is another story. Imagine trying to explain to your 15-year-old daughter, wife and in-laws why you won't be home to celebrate Christmas and that attorney fees are taking another \$2,000 out of the family budget.

Ron W. (not his real name) wants to spare his family from further embarrassment. He does, however, want to share his experience with others in hopes they will learn from it.

His time hasn't been his own. In addition to undergoing inpatient and outpatient treatment and counseling, Ron W. has completed 234 hours of community service. He goes for alcohol testing three times a week and meets with his probation officer twice a month.

In the beginning, he saw the probation officer once a week and appeared before the judge twice a month. He also attends AA meetings



FILE PHOTO

Judges agree the penalties are higher if drivers under the influence cause an accident.

and has to go to marriage counseling ordered by the court. The rest of the time he is on work detail at 35th District Court in Plymouth.

"It's pretty embarrassing," said Ron W. "Nobody trusts you. I was in jail through the holidays last year and you can't hide that."

This wasn't his first offense. Ron W. has been arrested three times for driving under the influence (DUI), the first time years ago.

After the first offense, he was arrested twice within six months. He received 90 days in jail for the third offense when he violated probation

by drinking and driving. He's been sober since March.

THIRD OFFENSE

Ron W. kept his license until the third offense when the judge ordered an ignition interlock.

"I vaguely remember the day of being pulled over," Ron W. said.

"I have three children and my biggest fear as a father is my daughter is 15 and she'll be driving soon. I told her how the problem with alcohol is hereditary and DUIs are bad enough

Please see **COSTS, A8**

WHAT IT COULD COST

Fines and penalties at local district courts for alcohol-related driving offenses (arrest statistics from 2008):

COURT	AREA	ARRESTS	FINES (1st Offense)
16 th	Livonia	273	\$500 - \$2,000
35 th	Plymouth Canton Northville	1,021	\$500 - \$2,000
21 st	Garden City	78	\$300 - \$1,000
18 th	Westland	606	\$500 - \$2,000
47 th	Farmington Hills	433	\$1,500
17 th	Redford	151	\$500 - \$2,000

Index

CLASSIFIED... ..B12-16
HEALTH... ..B10
MILESTONES... ..B5
NEIGHBORS... ..B6-9
OBITUARIES... ..B5
SPORTS... ..B1

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Help wanted: Warming Center puts out call for volunteers

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Thelma Ivey puts her faith in God. When the Lighthouse Home Mission opens the doors of its warming center to the homeless at 7 p.m. Jan. 1, she knows there will be warm food, a shower and a place to sleep and volunteers to help.

She also knows that the faces of those coming there will be changing.

"The need is great, as everyone knows," said Ivey, a Garden City resident who has been working with the homeless, first in Detroit and now in the western suburbs for more than 20 years. "I think for the first time families facing eviction will turn to us for help and through the grace of God we'll be able to provide it. Families that used to help us are now the ones coming to us seeking our help."

For three months, Jan. 1 through March 31, the center provides the homeless with a place to stay 7 p.m. to 8 a.m. at Full Gospel Temple on Palmer

Road in Westland.

According to Ivey, the outreach coordinator, some of the people who come to the warming center and a soup kitchen that's open at lunchtime each day aren't homeless in the strictest sense of the word. Some might have jobs; but can't afford to have a place to stay. The heartbreaker, she said, are those who chose to be homeless.

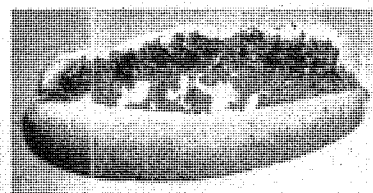
Ivey has worked on the warming center since 2004 with the Rev. B.C. Beneteau, director of the Lighthouse Home Mission. The mission covers the electric and heating bills, but it's donations that provide clothing and bedding for the center. Volunteers serve as the night watchmen at the center or help launder the bedding.

FEED MY PEOPLE

The mission also relies on donations to feed the homeless. Ivey's name is synonymous with

Please see **WARMING, A13**

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Lois Panackia of Livonia enjoys the tea.



Marie Preuss is vice regent for the DAR's Plymouth and Northville chapter.



Bonnie Berg of Canton and Doris Richard of Plymouth share a spot of tea.

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DAR takes a tea at Greenmead

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
 OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Lois Panackia of Livonia spent time Monday with other members of the Daughters of the American Revolution, celebrating the group's lineage to the Revolutionary War that founded the United States. And it was all a little fun, a holiday tea complete with Christmas carols at Greenmead Historical Park in Livonia. The 30 members enjoyed tea sandwiches, vegetables and dip and cookies at the private luncheon. "The food is excellent," Panackia said.

It was just a fun little gathering for the historical society for the holidays, said Marie Preuss, vice regent for the DAR's Plymouth and Northville chapter.

Preuss is a descendant of Nicholas Stansell of New York. After joining the DAR, she found out that Stansell's son is buried at a cemetery at a Northville church on Eight Mile Road, not far from where Preuss lives.



Barbara Hudgins of Northville and Mary Hazlett of Plymouth pass the tea sandwiches.

The group promotes historical events. Constitution Week is the third week in September. "We get involved with reading the Constitution," Preuss said. A speaker appeared recently before the group to discuss the signers of the Constitution and what lengths they went through to sign the document, she said.

Sue Daniel, chair of the Livonia Historical Commission, said the DAR was a natural fit for Greenmead, given the park's history. "That's what this building is for," Daniel said of the Alexander Blue House.

Jean Hill, former owner of the Greenmead property who

sold it to the city of Livonia in 1976, was a member of the DAR, Daniel said. "She belonged to this chapter and was a member of this group," Daniel said.

Kathleen Ripley Leo's grandmother was a member of the DAR, as she was a descendant of soldier Elkanah Dyer. Leo has been a member for 25 years. "I participate for my grandchildren," she said.

She planned to sing Christmas carols for the group that day, including *Oh Holy Night*, *Conventry Lullaby* and *God Bless America*.

Panackia thinks this nation's history is important to remember. "Our future depends on our heritage," she said. "You know where you came from."

"It's important to me in different ways. I think about them when I turn on the hot water, or even cold water. They survived all the hard times. I appreciate everything they went through."

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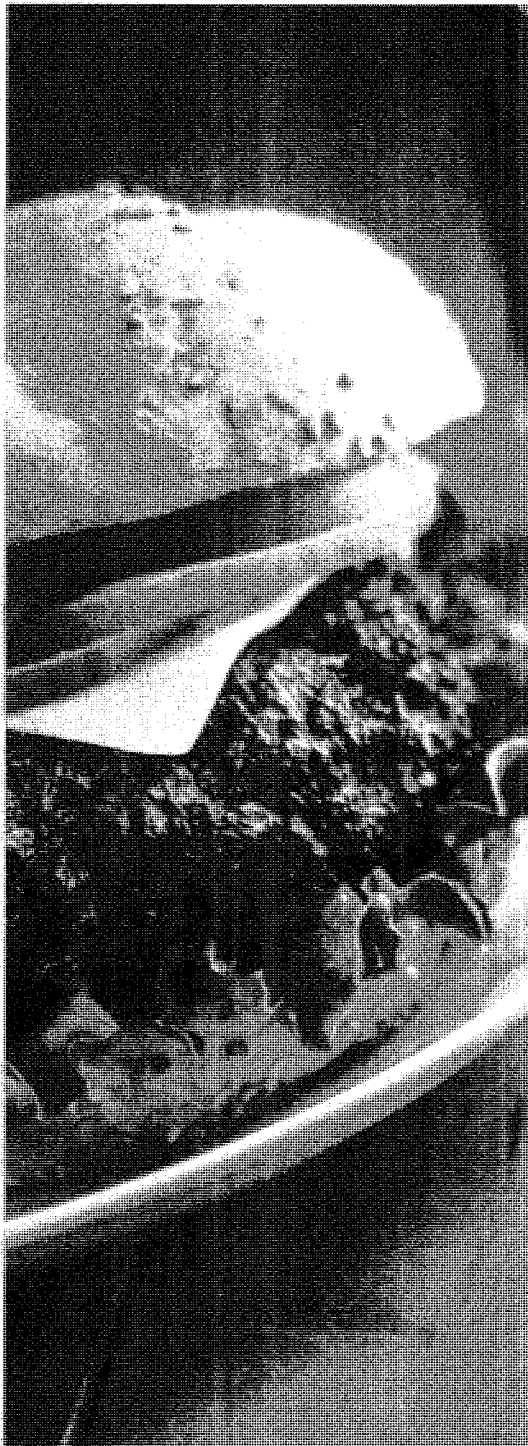
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Livonia residents can sign up for crime alerts

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

City residents can now sign up for community alerts from the Livonia Police Department.

This community information service, created by Nixle, delivers neighborhood-level public safety and community event notifications by Web, e-mail and cell phone. Residents can sign up at nixle.com.

Sgt. Patrick Moug of the Detective Bureau/Crime Prevention Bureau at the Livonia Police Department has sent out notices of specific crimes and safety tips since October and is planning on using the service as much as possible.

Moug said Nixle is an excellent way for the department to get information to the community instantly.

Moug used Nixle last week to warn residents to watch their purses and money while holi-

day shopping after a purse was taken out of a shopping cart at one of the retail stores. A second one was taken at about the same time Moug was dispatching the information to Nixle users.

A woman who said she was rushing to complete her Christmas shopping had left her purse in the child seat of a shopping cart at Walmart, 29555 Plymouth, shortly after 6 p.m. Dec. 16. She left the store, realized she had left her purse and returned to the store. She called the store, but no one had turned in her purse and it was gone.

While there wasn't an arrest made in either theft, Moug said Nixle is an excellent way for the department to get information to the community instantly for public safety purposes.

"My goal is to encourage as many citizens and business owners within the city of Livonia to register with Nixle," Moug said. "I have already used

it to inform of recent criminal activity in our area and also for general safety tips during the holiday season."

Craig Mitnick, founder and CEO of Nixle, said Nixle differs from current services such as Facebook, MySpace and Twitter, which provide unauthenticated platforms for connections. Nixle solves that problem by providing a single standardized service for consumers to receive immediate and credible neighborhood-level public safety and community information.

"Nixle is a first-of-its-kind tool for communities that need to provide critical information to their residents," Mitnick said. "When it comes to public safety information, you have to trust the source. Residents of Livonia can rest easy that the local messages they receive are authentic."

kabramcz@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2119

POLICE BRIEFS

Livonia

Garage fire reported

No one was injured in a garage fire Saturday, Dec. 19, at a home at 30628 Greenland.

The fire occurred shortly before 4 a.m. A neighbor was leaving for work at about that time when he smelled a fire in the area. He saw white smoke drifting from the house and saw flames coming from a neighbor's garage. He went to the home and began beating on the door. The father of the household woke up and awakened three other members of the family.

All of the family members got out of the house safely. Firefighters responded and extinguished the blaze. Fire officials continued their investigation.

Garden City

Larceny

An estimated \$40 in returnable cans was taken Dec. 17 from the garage of a home in the 200 block of Venoy Circle. The homeowner told police that the garage was unlocked

and that the returnables were the only items taken. She suspects that several boys who live in the neighborhood may be responsible. The boys had been caught in the garage before taking the cans.

Vandalism

A woman told police that someone had damaged her car Dec. 19 while it was parked in front of a residence in the 6700 block of Henry Ruff. The driver's side rear-view mirror was hanging by electrical wires and there were several dents above the wheel well and on the hood of the car, apparently done by a hand or foot. Damage was set at \$1,500.

Disorderly person

An Inkster man was arrested for assault and battery and being a disorderly person Dec. 18 after he threatened to kill patrons at Albert's on the Alley, 5651 Middlebelt.

The manager told police he had asked the man to leave the restaurant after he became aggressive and started threatening the staff. He said

the man stated that he had a handgun on him and that he was going to shoot everyone inside.

The man left the restaurant, but stood in the parking lot, yelling at the staff and patrons. When police arrived, he was found walking across Middlebelt. When he was arrested, police noted there was a strong smell on intoxicants on him and his speech was slurred.

Shoplifting

The owner of the Fast Track Convenience Store in Garden City Hospital, 6245 N. Inkster, told police over the past six months the same two suspects have entered his shop and taken approximately \$50 in merchandise each time.

The store is open 24 hours a day. It has no employees and uses a self-scan cash register. The suspects come at different times of the day and the store has lost approximately \$1,000 in merchandise mostly because of the suspects, the man said.

- Compiled by Observer staff writers

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OAKLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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Schoolcraft College will hold an open house Monday, Jan. 11, for its Innovative Culinary Technology Certificate program designed to give professional chefs a leg-up in the restaurant and hospitality industries.

Interested candidates can tour the most advanced instructional kitchens in the Midwest and meet the instructors who will be able to answer questions and give an overview of the program.

The program is in response to the U.S. Department of Labor's projection that by 2016, there will be an additional 1.9

million jobs available in U.S. restaurants.

Many of these jobs will be in the commercial kitchens and will provide growth opportunities for cooks and professional chefs.

The Innovative Culinary Technology Certificate program is a three-course curriculum with an optional internship. The three courses are geared to progress a student quickly through the program while focusing on equipment and topics like combination ovens, rapid cook ovens, impingement, induction, holding, blast chilling/freezing, Sous Vide, "green" use of energy, kitchen design for various

business channels, quality control, food cost savings and more.

The open house will be held in the Culinary Arts Demonstration Lab in the VisTaTech Center on the main campus in Livonia, Haggerty Road between Six and Seven Mile roads.

Registration for winter semester is currently underway. Class sizes are limited. For more information, contact the Continuing Education and Professional Development Department at (734) 462-4448 or visit <http://www.schoolcraft.edu/cepd/culinarytechnology> or email CEPD@schoolcraft.edu.

NEWS BRIEFS

Blood drive

During the holidays, blood donations tend to drop with an increased number of people traveling or taking vacations. To help meet the demand, Garden City is holding a Community Winter Drive 1-7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 28, at the Maplewood Community Center, 31735 Maplewood, west of Merriman.

Donors can stop by or sign up online at www.givelife.org. Enter sponsor code gcommunity and have a chance to win a \$500 hotel voucher and two round-trip tickets to anywhere in the United States. Donors must be 18 years or older to win the trip.

Individuals age 17 who meet weight and height requirements (110 pounds or more, depending on height) and who are in good health are eligible to donate.

ACT workshops

Schoolcraft College is offering three separate ACT Prep Workshops to prepare high school juniors for the Michigan Merit Exam. The seven-week classes begin Saturday, Jan. 9, Monday, Jan. 11, or Wednesday, Jan. 13, and will finish just before the MME test in March.

The cost is \$250. Go online to www.schoolcraft.edu/lac for more details and a registration brochure, or call (734) 462-4436.

Trash collection delayed

In Livonia, trash collection services will be on the normal schedule for Thursday's area, while Friday's area will be collected Saturday,

Jan. 2, due to the New Year's holiday.

In Westland, residents with a Friday trash pickup day will have their collection delayed one day.

Holiday closings

City of Livonia and city of Westland offices will be closed Thursday, Dec. 31, and Friday, Jan. 1, in observance of New Year's.

On Wednesday, 18th District Court will be closed to the public for case inventory. The Bailey Recreation Center will be open Thursday, New Year's Eve, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The Friendship Center will be closed until Monday, Jan. 4.

New Year's Eve at Rec Center

The registration deadline is Monday, Dec. 28, for New Year's Eve at Rec Center. Sponsored by the Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation, this event for all ages runs 4-7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, and includes swimming, playing on a giant inflatable, rock wall climbing, holiday crafts and face painting for kids, dodge ball, food, music and balloon twisters.

Cost is \$6 per person for Livonia Community Recreation Center pass holders, \$7.25 for Livonia residents and \$8.50 for non-residents. The maximum charge for families is \$24 for pass holders, \$29 for residents and \$34 for non-residents. Tickets must be purchased in person at the rec center. Call (734) 466-2900 for more information.

Was your Christmas present the wrong size?

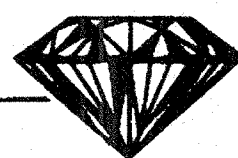
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Here are 50 things to do over holiday break

Whether you're trying to find activities to keep your youngsters occupied during their school break or entertaining family and friends visiting from out of town, here are 50 fun ideas. Always call ahead.

1. Marv'n's Marvelous Mechanical Museum, 31005 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills, is bound to make young and old smile. Admission is free, but bring quarters to this historical and modern arcade with sideshow. Call (248) 626-5020 for holiday hours or go to www.marvin3m.com.

2. Make your own cuddly friend at Build a Bear. Stuff it, dress it, make a wish and give it a heart. At Twelve Oaks in Novi, (248) 374-8987, Briarwood Mall in Ann Arbor, (734) 761-2285 or Somerset Collection in Troy, (248) 822-8988.

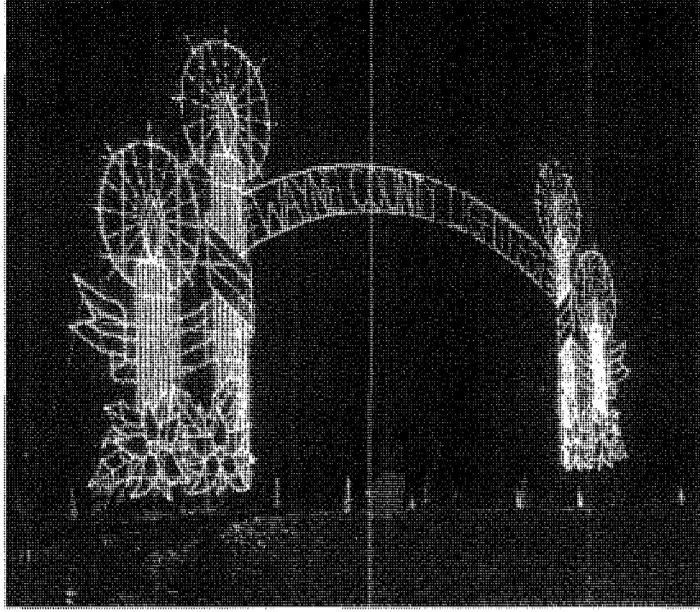
3. Visit the Wayne County Lightfest beginning at Hines Drive and Merriman. The display features 36 giant animated displays with more than one million lights along a four-mile stretch of Hines Drive. Open 7-10 p.m. daily through Dec. 31. A \$5 donation per car is requested.

4. Walk around downtown Plymouth and look at the Kellogg Park Walk of Christmas Trees. Bundle up the family and come stroll through Kellogg Park and enjoy one of the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce traditions, "The Walk of Trees." See more than 50 trees each decorated by a local family, club or business.

5. Check out the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum, 220 E. Ann St., which inspires everyone to discover the wonder of science, math and technology with imaginative and interactive learning experiences. Call (734) 995-5439 for holiday hours or visit www.aahom.org.

6. See the Detroit Zoo during the winter. Don't miss the Butterfly Exhibit and Arctic Ring of Life, the world's largest polar bear exhibit. 8450 W. 10 Mile Road, Royal Oak. (248) 541-5717 or www.detroitzoo.org.

7. Lace up a pair of skates and take a spin or two around the local ice skating rink. Area rinks offering open skate, drop-in hockey, sticks and pucks over the holiday break include: Eddie Edgar Ice



Lighted poinsettias and candles flank a sign welcoming residents to the annual Wayne County Lightfest, open through Dec. 31.

Arena, Livonia, (734) 422-5172; Redford Ice Arena, Redford, (313) 937-0979; Farmington Hills Ice Arena, 3500 W. Eight Mile Road, Farmington Hills (248) 478-8800; Mike Modano Arena, 6210 Wildwood, Westland (734) 729-4560; Garden City Civic Arena, 200 Log Cabin Road, Garden City (near intersection of Merriman & Cherry Hill Roads); Arctic Edge Ice Arena, 46615 Michigan Ave., Canton (734) 487-7777 or www.arcticarenas.com; Plymouth Cultural Center & Ice Arena, 525 Farmer Street, Plymouth, (734) 455-6620 or www.ci.plymouth.mi.us. The Mike Modano Arena in Westland will feature a special "New Year's Eve — Glow Open Skate" 5-6:30 p.m. Dec. 31.

8. Go to Compuware Sports Arena at M-14 and Beck roads in Plymouth and score a few tickets for the family. The Plymouth Whalers play the Erie Otters at 2 p.m. Monday, Dec. 28. (734) 453-6400.

9. Visit the Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Let yourself go at the DIA's Target Family Sundays featuring family performances, storytelling, art-making workshops and more. Closed Mondays and Tuesdays. Call (313) 833-7900 or visit www.dia.org.

10. Learn about the Mystery of the Christmas Star at the

Cranbrook Institute of Science through Jan. 3. An astronomical look at the Christmas story. Planetarium programs run Friday evenings, Saturday and Sunday, and daily Dec. 28-30. For other programs, visit <http://science.cranbrook.edu>. The 12:30 p.m. program is for ages 5 and above only. Call (248) 645-3200.

11. Take a day trip to Belle Isle and visit the Dossin Great Lakes Museum. A flagship of the Midwest's inland lakes maritime heritage museums, it stands on the shore of Detroit's historic Belle Isle. While on Belle Isle, feed the deer and enjoy the beautiful scenery and wildlife. (313) 833-5538.

12. Spend a day at a community recreation center or local YMCA including: Bailey Recreation Center 36651 Ford Road, Westland. (734) 722-7620; Livonia Recreation Center, 15100 Hubbard, (734) 466-2900; Livonia Family YMCA, 14255 Stark, (734) 261-2161; Farmington Hills YMCA, 28100 Farmington Road, (248) 553-4020.

13. Browse the Pewabic Pottery Museum and Education Center, 10125 E. Jefferson, Detroit. Founded in 1903, Pewabic is nationally renowned for its tile and pottery in unique glazes. You can make your pieces at the nonprofit ceramic art education center. Call (313) 822-0954 or visit www.pewabic.com.

14. Spend time in the kitchen. Teach your child how to make a cherished family recipe.

15. Make your own ceramic pieces. Create your own pottery at Creatopia Paint it Yourself Pottery, 924 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth, (734) 453-8797 or the Bee's Knees, 145 E. Main, Northville, (248) 347-6718.

16. Schedule a date for an old-fashioned fountain treat at Sander's, 37702 Six Mile, inside Laurel Park Mall, Livonia, (734) 591-2147 or in downtown Birmingham, 745 E. Maple Road, (248) 594-2056.

17. A Red Ryder Christmas Story exhibit continues through Jan. 24 at the Plymouth Historical Museum, 155 S. Main Street, just north of downtown Plymouth. The exhibit draws its inspiration from the popular 1983 movie, *A Christmas Story*, in which the main character, Ralphie, longs for a Red Ryder BB gun for Christmas. Period toys, clothing and other artifacts are on display. The museum is open 1-4 p.m. Saturdays, as well as Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays. Call (734) 455-8940 or go to www.plymouthhistory.org/.

18. Visit the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History. Current exhibits include: Legends of Music, the Photography of Leni Sinclair and Joe Louis: Hometown Hero. 315 E. Warren, Detroit. Call (313) 494-5800 or www.maaah-detroit.org.

19. Visit the Motown Historical Museum, 2648 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit, (313) 875-2264 www.motownmuseum.org. Celebrate Motown's 50th anniversary and see where it all began at Hitsville USA.

20. Plan a Ford Rouge Factory Tour (departs from The Henry Ford). Go to www.thehenryford.org/rouge.

21. Roller skating is a great way to spend the afternoon and burn a few calories, too. Area skating rinks have lots of holiday break activities planned. Check out Riverside Arena, 36635 Plymouth Road, Livonia, (734) 421-3540 (www.riversidearena.com); Bonaventure Roller Rink, 24505 Halsted, Farmington Hills, (248) 476-2200 or www.bonaventureskating.com.

22. Teach your children about history at the Holocaust Memorial Center, 28123 Orchard Lake, Farmington Hills. Watch presentations of the European Jewish com-

munity culture and the haunting history of the Holocaust during World War II. (248) 553-2400 or www.holocaustcenter.org.

23. Go bowling! Here are a few local spots to select from:

Please see **ACTIVITIES, A10**



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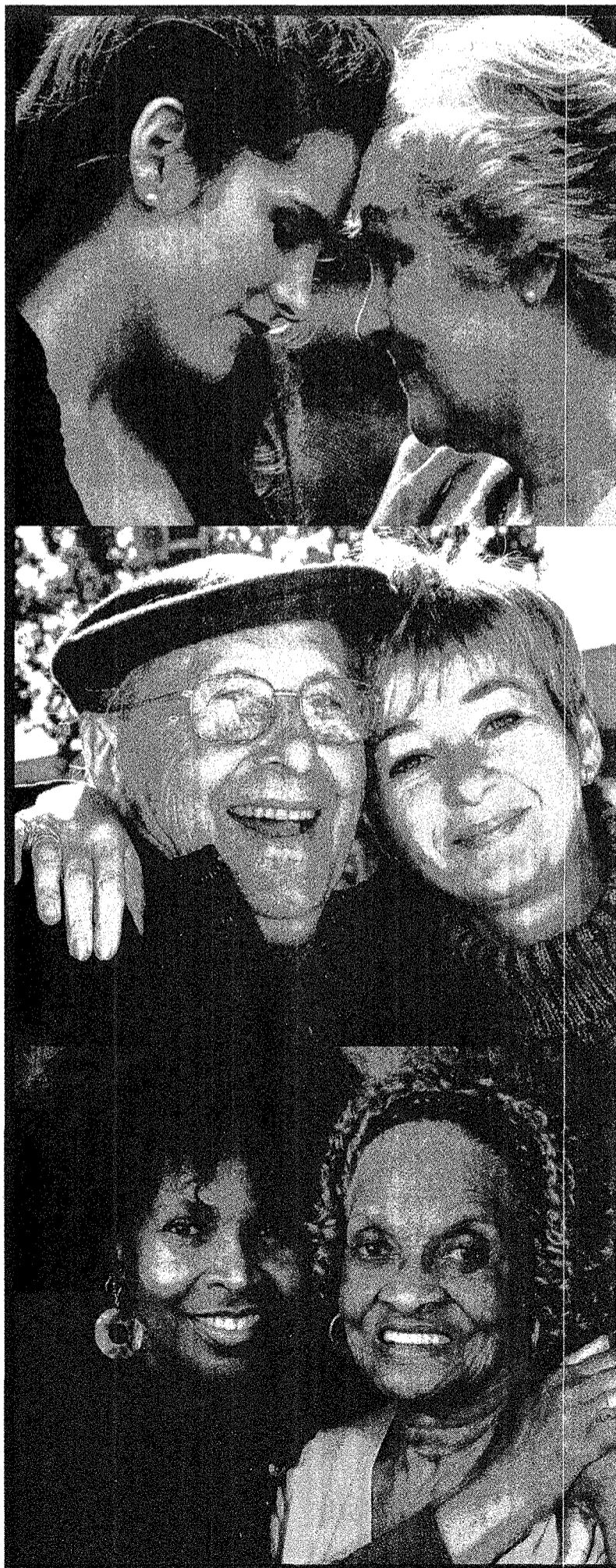
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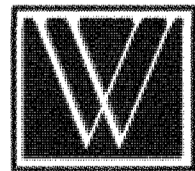


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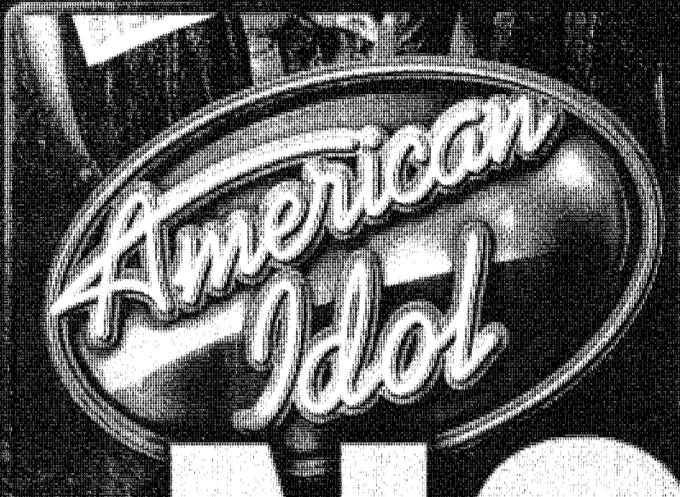
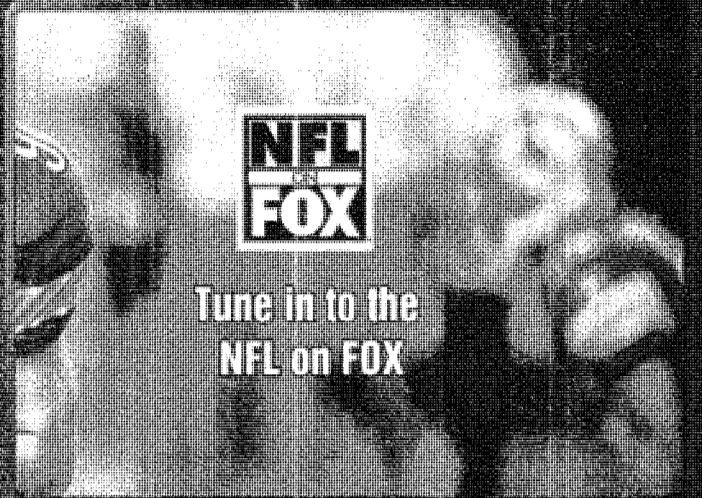
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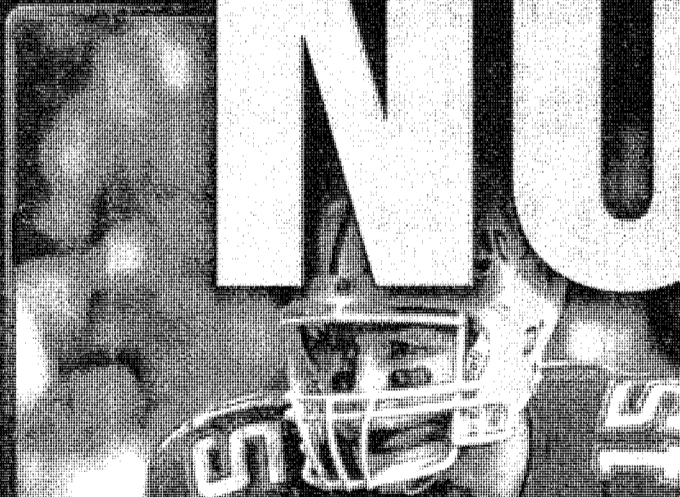


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VFW Post provides food, toys for needy families

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Members of the Harris-Kehrer VFW Post 3323 in Westland gave away 24 holiday food baskets to needy families, although the name might be a misnomer.

"We gave each of them a ham and a turkey — that's not counting canned food, drinks for the kids and toys," said Sheila Files-Gedman, who chairs the post's Ladies Auxiliary.

"It's probably a week's worth of food, if not more," said Greg Sloup, post commander.

Neither Files-Gedman nor Sloup knew how long the post had been providing food baskets to needy families at the holidays. A post member 30 years, Sloup said the food basket program went back at least that far.

"The money we spend to buy food that isn't donated comes from our post relief fund," Sloup said. "When we sell poppies, that money is earmarked for the relief fund that helps needy veterans and needy



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sheila Files-Gedman of the Ladies Auxiliary and Harris-Kehrer VFW Post 3323 Post Commander Greg Sloup stand in front of food boxes the post prepared for needy families.

families. When you see us out there selling poppies, that is what the money is for — it's not to repaint the building or for new floor tiles."

Along with the relief fund, the post also received cash donations from individual members, a local restaurant and a sizeable contribution from Dillon Jewelers, located just north of the post on Wayne

Road, and Spartan Stores.

"We use the money to buy food that isn't donated," Sloup said.

For the most part, the post relies on Wayne-Westland Community Schools staff to provide names of needy families. Families picked up their food baskets the Saturday before Christmas; baskets were delivered to those who

couldn't come to the post. "The schools screen the families. We've been assured that the families aren't duplicated (to receive assistance from another source)," Sloup said. "We ran into that problem last year. We had a family that was hurrying off to pick up things from another group."

Youngsters whose families got food baskets also received toys thanks to a special giving tree at Child Time Day Care Center in Canton.

"The tree had mittens with the age and gender of the child. Someone would take the mitten and that's who they bought for. They bought some awesome toys," Files-Gedman said.

"One of the toys cost \$40 — they weren't Happy Meal toys," Sloup added.

The 740-member post also provided Thanksgiving food baskets for 32 families.

"If there is a vet in need, we help them out throughout the year," Sloup said.

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COSTS

FROM PAGE A1

let alone killing or injuring anyone. You never think it's going to be you."

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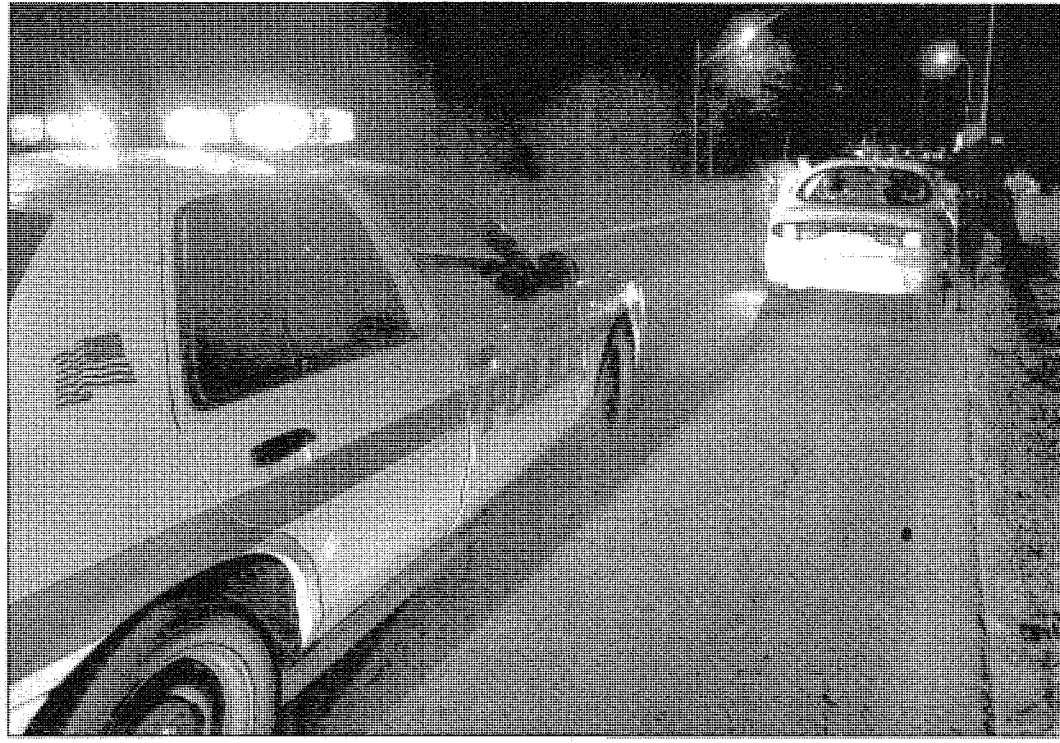
Although sentencing for drunken driving varies from judge to judge, offenders usually are not sentenced to jail for their first conviction, allowing them to make positive changes in their lives.

JUDICIAL APPROACH

Judge Ronald Lowe, chief judge of the 35th District Court (serving the cities of Plymouth and Northville and the townships of Plymouth, Canton and Northville) believes incarceration is not the answer for substance abuse, at least at first.

"The rule of thumb is the third drinking offense you go to jail to be absolutely sure where alcohol is in their life and why they're abusing it," said Lowe.

"The first time is a penalty and fine and community service. The rest of the sentence is about helping the defendant address his substance abuse problem. The second offense steps up that. The punishment is more serious. By the third offense it's apparent this person is not going to take hold of this substance abuse problem."



FILE PHOTO

A familiar sight for drivers operating under the influence, particularly during the holiday season, when many police departments put extra emphasis on keeping drunken drivers off the roads.

Although 47th District Court (serving Farmington and Farmington Hills) Judge Marla Parker hears DUI cases against a variety of ages, she is especially alarmed by the increase in drinking by young drivers.

She too believes the focus should be on helping the offender overcome substance abuse but she wants to make sure they don't appear before her again on the same charge.

Every offender is required

to go through substance abuse screening and an interview with the probation department before sentencing.

YOUNG OFFENDERS

"I've been hearing drunk driving cases (for) 17 years and one of the things I'm noticing is particularly troubling to me, the younger drunk driver with high blood levels. They're not just drinking but drinking to great excess.

"Tolerance intends to increase over time unless addressed and alcohol affects their decision making," said Parker.

The result of a decision to drink and drive could result in a

maximum 93 days in jail for first offenders, up to one year for a second offense.

"My goal is to punish somebody and hope other people will get the message and stop others (from drinking and driving), make them think twice, then I look at what should be done," said Parker.

"We have a sobriety court program specifically for the drunk driver who more than likely is a repeat offender who has significant issues with alcohol."

Offenders are required to undergo alcohol testing, attend 12-step meetings like AA, appear for regular court reviews, and perform community service.

If they're not in compliance, they go to jail.

"The focus is getting somebody sober just by the testing first then helping with education, employment to stop the cycle," said Parker. "Fines for a first offender are between \$1,300 to \$1,500, subsequent offenders over \$2,000 in costs in addition to having to pay their lawyer, costs from Secretary of State for \$125 to reinstate their license, plus a driver responsibility fee ranges from \$1,000 to \$2,000. Insurance increases with a DUI and that's not counting the lives lost, medical expenses, property damage, deductibles."

CONSIDER CONSEQUENCES

Like Parker, Judge Mark McConnell of the 18th District Court in Westland advises anyone thinking of drinking and driving to consider the consequences.

McConnell handled drunken driving cases as an assistant prosecutor for 13 1/2 years in Westland before being elected to the bench last November.

"Michigan is pretty strict, one of the stricter states. Our courts we take them very seriously. Rehabilitation, some people it works, some doesn't. I've seen multiple teenage drivers, 17 and up. The oldest were people into their 70s," said McConnell. "It doesn't take a lot to hit .08 (blood alcohol level), especially an older female who usually weighs less and has a lower tolerance level. A couple of drinks and a person can be over that limit without realizing it."

Chief Judge Sandra Cicirelli of the 18th District Court refers each of her cases to the Westland probation department.

"I follow their recommendations most of the time, look at the blood alcohol content. If it's extremely high it tells me that the person isn't still able to function. It's on a case-by-case basis," said Cicirelli. "I have ordered alcohol tethers on the individual for the second-time offender, a repeat offender. I see my job as protecting the public."

According to Chris Raymond, chief probation officer of Westland's district court, an offender with a .25 blood alcohol is not someone who drinks once a month. Raymond, and probation officers Eric Lange and Melanie Sheridan thoroughly evaluate offenders before making recommendations to Cicirelli and McConnell. The first offense is usually \$1,500 fines and costs, restitution for police arrest, plus two to three days in the program which requires them to work off their debt to the city of Westland by cutting lawns or shoveling snow. They usually recommend drug screening as well since alcohol abusers often turn to other substances because they can't drink as part of probation.

"Offenders have lost marriages, jobs," said Raymond. "We see people their family wants nothing to do with anymore. Some have never been in trouble in their life. I'd like to see car makers put an alcohol device in every single car. The person would have to perform a test to start their car. To me, this would save lives."

Judge Lowe would like to see the return of an alcohol enforcement team. It would more than likely increase his caseload but for good cause.

Not much has changed since he's been on the bench in the last 15 years except for the period when federal grant money put an extra police car on the road on weekends to catch drunk drivers.

"I had three or four more cases," said Lowe. "Now there are either less drunk drivers or fewer getting caught."

Lowe's advice to those considering drinking and driving - don't.

"It surprises me how many people can come into court and if you ask them what they drank they can't remember, not because of intoxication but they don't pay attention to how much they drank. If you can't be aware of that put your keys back into your pocket. They don't realize how little it takes to get to .08."

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 Nominator: _____
 Telephone Number of Nominator: _____

The First Citizen Award recognizes a local person for outstanding volunteer community service. On a separate sheet of paper, outline the nominee's community service, including the impact on the population group or persons served, including length of time and offices held.

**Application deadline is 5 p.m. Wednesday, Jan 13.
Nominations can be e-mailed to Karen Smith at
ksmith@hometownlife.com,
faxed to her attention at (313) 223-4650
or mailed to her at the Livonia Observer,
615 W. Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226.**

**LIVONIA
2010
Outstanding Youth Nomination**

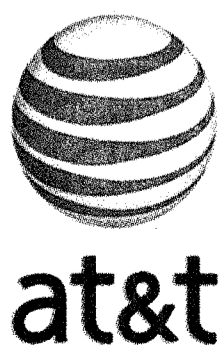
Name of Nominee: _____
 Home Address: _____
 City, State, Zip: _____
 Telephone Number: _____
 Name of Nominator: _____
 Age: _____ School: _____
 Telephone Number of Nominator: _____

The Outstanding Youth Award recognizes a local student for outstanding volunteer community service. On a separate sheet of paper, outline the nominee's community service, including the impact on the population group or persons served.

Student must live in or attend a Livonia public or parochial school.

**Application deadline is 5 p.m. Wednesday, Jan 13.
Nominations can be e-mailed to Karen Smith at
ksmith@hometownlife.com,
faxed to her attention at (313) 223-4650
or mailed to her at the Livonia Observer,
615 W. Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226.**

**Go to the chamber's website livonia.org for nomination details
for large and small businesses of the year!
For tickets call the chamber at 734.427.2122**



ACTIVITIES

FROM PAGE A5

Beech Lanes Bowling Center, 15492 Beech Daly, Redford, (313) 531-3800; Cloverlanes Bowl, 28900 Schoolcraft, Livonia, (734) 427-6410; Garden Lanes, 29145 Warren Road, Garden City, (734) 427-2200; Merri Bowl Lanes, 30950 Five Mile Road, Livonia, (734) 427-2900; Super Bowl, 45100 Ford Road, Canton, (734) 459-6070; Woodland Lanes, 33775 Plymouth Road, Livonia, (734) 522-4515; Westland Bowl, 5940 N. Wayne Road, Westland, (734) 722-7570, Drakeshire Lanes, 35000 Grand River Avenue, Farmington, (248) 478-2230; Country Lanes, 30250 W. Nine

Mile Road, Farmington Hills, (248) 476-3201; Mayflower Lanes Bowling Center, 26600 Plymouth Road, Redford, (313) 937-8420; Plaza Lanes, 42001 E. Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth, (734) 453-4880; Wonderland Lanes, 28455 Plymouth Road, Livonia, (734) 427-1060; and Vision Lanes, 38250 Ford Road, Westland, (734) 641-8181.
 24. The Henry Ford is a must destination if you have family and friends visiting. Enjoy Holiday Nights (www.thehenryford.org/holidaynights) and step back in time and walk through an old-fashioned village. Or enjoy hundreds of attractions in the museum, 20900 Oakwood Blvd., Dearborn, (313) 982-6001 or www.thehenryford.org/museum.
 25. Help your children open a bank account with money saved

or received over the holidays. Show them how deposits are made. This is a gift they will watch for a lifetime.
 26. Check out the holiday break camp at the Livonia Family YMCA. Y camp offers swimming, sports, crafts and more. Call the Livonia Y at (734) 261-2161.
 27. Take the whole family to play laser tag at Zap Zone in Canton, 41953 Ford Road, (734) 844-7746 or Farmington, 31506 Grand River, (248) 471-6777.
 28. Visit and hike through a local park. See how many times you can walk around the perimeter. Then go home and make some hot chocolate.
 29. Check out the lunch or dinner theater at Genitti's Hole in the Wall, 108 W. Main Street, downtown Northville. Visit www.genittis.com for a schedule of events or

call (248) 349-0522.
 30. Spend a day volunteering at a food pantry or soup kitchen. Visit an area nursing home and take a plant or flowers to brighten someone's day.
 31. Visit a bead shop and let the kids make what they want. Pam's Bead Garden, 550 Forest, Suite 1, Plymouth, (734) 451-7410 and Bead Bohemia, 33321 Grand River, Farmington, (248) 474-9264.
 32. Bring out all of your holiday pictures that need to be put into albums. Let your children design a holiday photo keepsake.
 33. Have a family meeting and decide on a charity you would like to support for the new year.
 34. Have your kids make cards and send them to U.S. troops overseas.
 35. Go to the local library or

a bookstore and start planning vegetable and flower gardens. Let the kids draw a diagram and brainstorm about what they want to grow.
 36. Go to The Village Theater at Cherry Hill in Canton and see Las Vegas magician Aaron Radatz, who will perform two holiday magic shows Dec. 27. Call (734) 394-5460 or www.canton-mi.org/villagetheater.
 37. Encourage teens to start thinking about summer jobs. Send them out to start applying and/or working on a resume.
 38. Have your child call an elderly relative, cousin, grandma or even a friend at school who wouldn't otherwise get a friendly message.
 39. Take a day trip to Frankenmuth and enjoy the famous chicken at Zehnder's

or spend the night in Zehnder's Splash Village Hotel and Waterpark (more than 30,000 square feet of aquatic fun). Call (800) 863-7999 or go to www.zehnders.com.
 40. If you love planes, the Yankee Air Museum in Belleville won't disappoint. Includes several authentic 1940s aircraft, including the legendary B-17G Flying Fortress. Call (734) 483-4030 or visit www.yankeeamuseum.org for more information and directions.
 41. Visit the Arab American National Museum, 13624 Michigan Ave., Dearborn. (313) 582-2266. Learn about Arab American history and culture.
 42. Spend the afternoon at the Putting Edge, Fountain Walk 44225, 12 Mile Road, (248) 348-4022 or www.puttingedge.com or Glo Golf, 41969 Ford Road, Canton, (734) 844-2244. Experience 18 holes of glow-in-the-dark mini-golf. Don't forget to wear white and you'll glow, too!
 43. Jungle Java, 1200 S. Canton Center Road, Canton, (734) 397-6960 or 27658 Middlebelt, Farmington Hills, (248) 919-3284 gives the kids a chance to exercise and have fun while parents mingle with other parents.
 44. Want to entertain children ages 3 and older? See a live performance of the classic *Pinocchio*, the story of how a wooden puppet becomes a real boy, at the Marquis Theatre in downtown Northville, (248) 349-8110 or www.northvill-lemarquisttheatre.com.
 45. Go see a first-run movie. Check out the offerings at AMC-20 in Livonia, 19500 Haggerty Road, Livonia, (888) AMC-4FUN; Emagine Theater in Canton, 39535 Ford Road, (888) 319-FILM and Novi, 44425 W. 12 Mile, (888) 319-FILM.
 46. Ski and snowboard close to home at Alpine Valley in White Lake (www.skiplinevalley.com), Mt. Brighton in Brighton (www.mtbrighton.com), Mt. Holly (www.skiholly.com) or Pine Knob in Clarkston (www.skipineknob.com). Check on snow conditions.
 47. High Velocity Sports, 46245 Michigan Avenue, Canton, (734) HV-SPORT or www.hvsports.com offers camps by the day during school breaks. The All-Sport Camp includes soccer, flag football, basketball, volleyball, dodge ball, kickball and much more.
 48. Watch a movie at the historic Penn Theater in downtown Plymouth. *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs* (rated PG) plays Dec. 27 and 31 at 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. All seats are \$3. www.penntheatre.com. Catch a movie at the Farmington Civic Theater, 33332 Grand River Avenue, Farmington, (248) 474-1951 or www.farmingtoncivictheatre.org.
 49. The Detroit Science Center, 5020 John R, (313) 577-8400, www.detroitssciencecenter.org is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dec. 26-31. Enjoy planetarium shows, hands-on exhibits and more.
 50. "Walking With Dinosaurs — The Arena Spectacular," based on the award-winning BBC Television Series, returns to Cobo Arena for eight performances Dec. 29 through Jan. 3. Ten species are represented from the entire 200 million-year reign of the dinosaurs' evolution, complete with the climatic and tectonic changes that took place, which led to the demise of many species. Tickets at all Ticketmaster locations and Ticketmaster.com. Call (800) 745-3000. For additional information, call (313) 471-6611.

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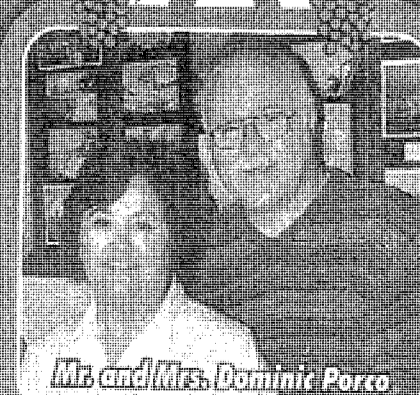
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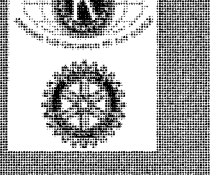
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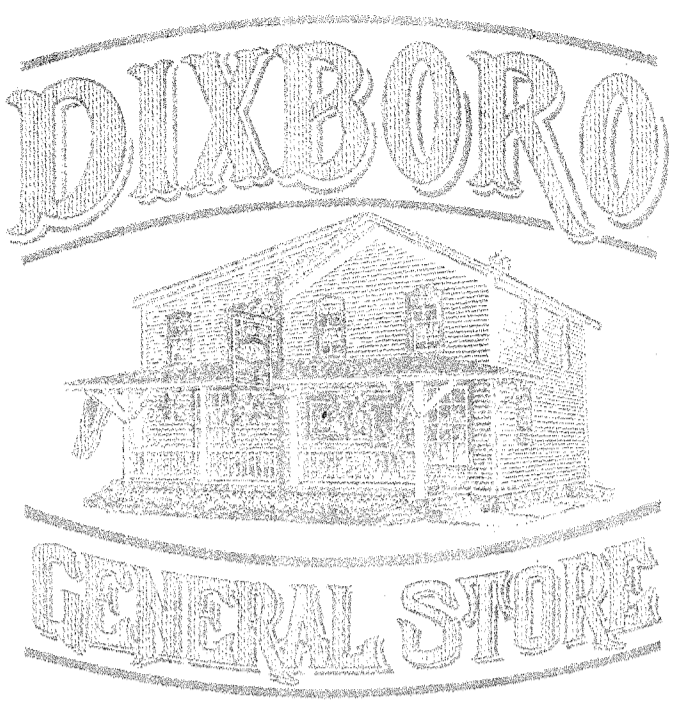
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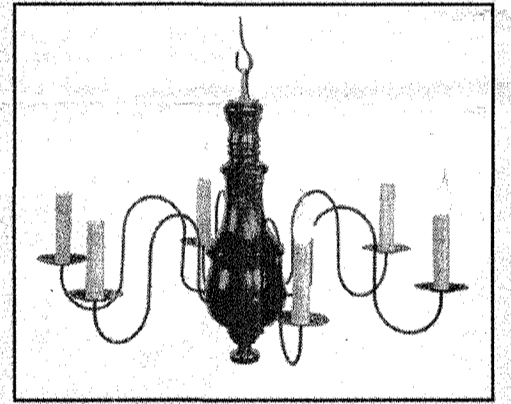
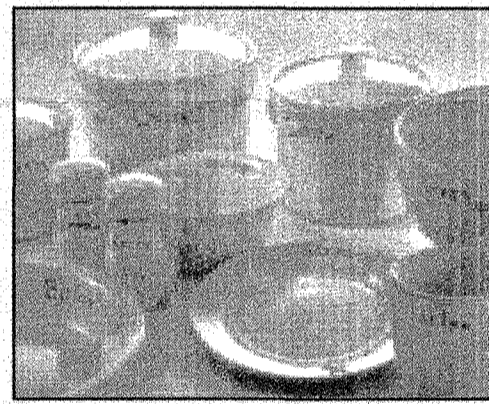
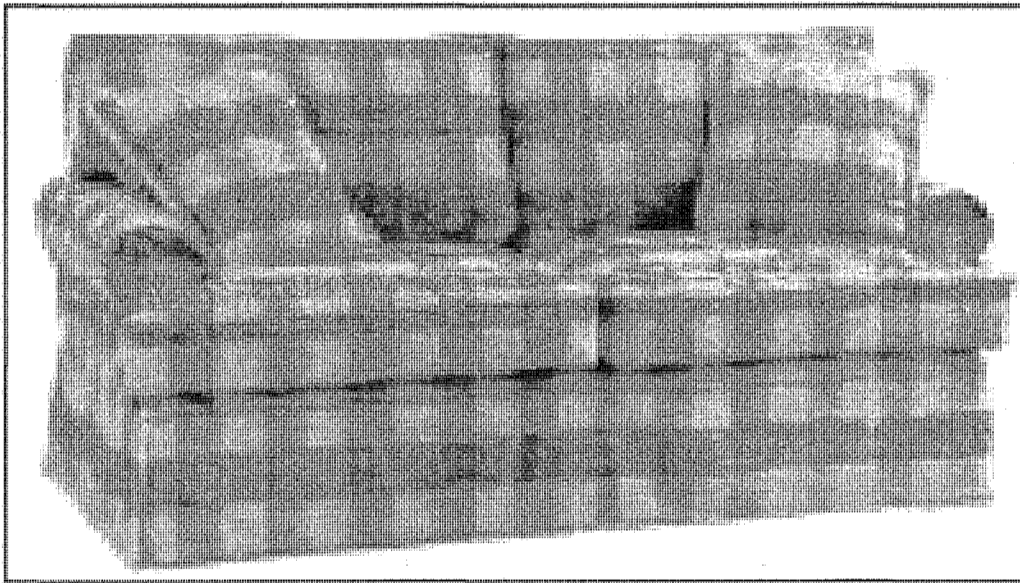
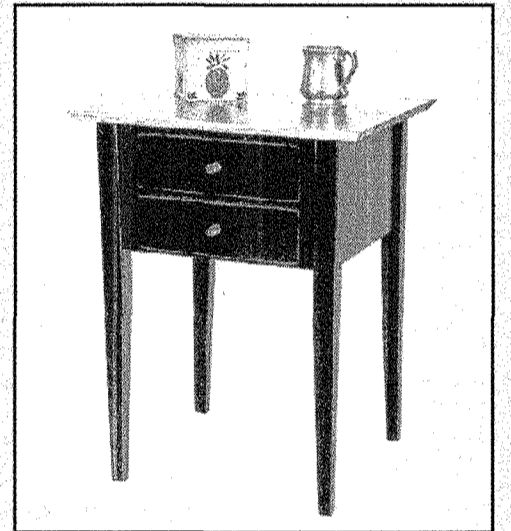
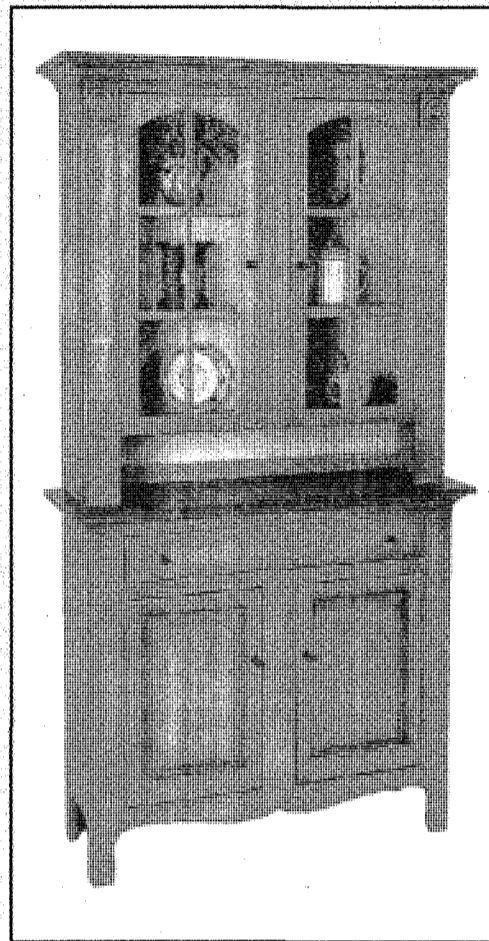
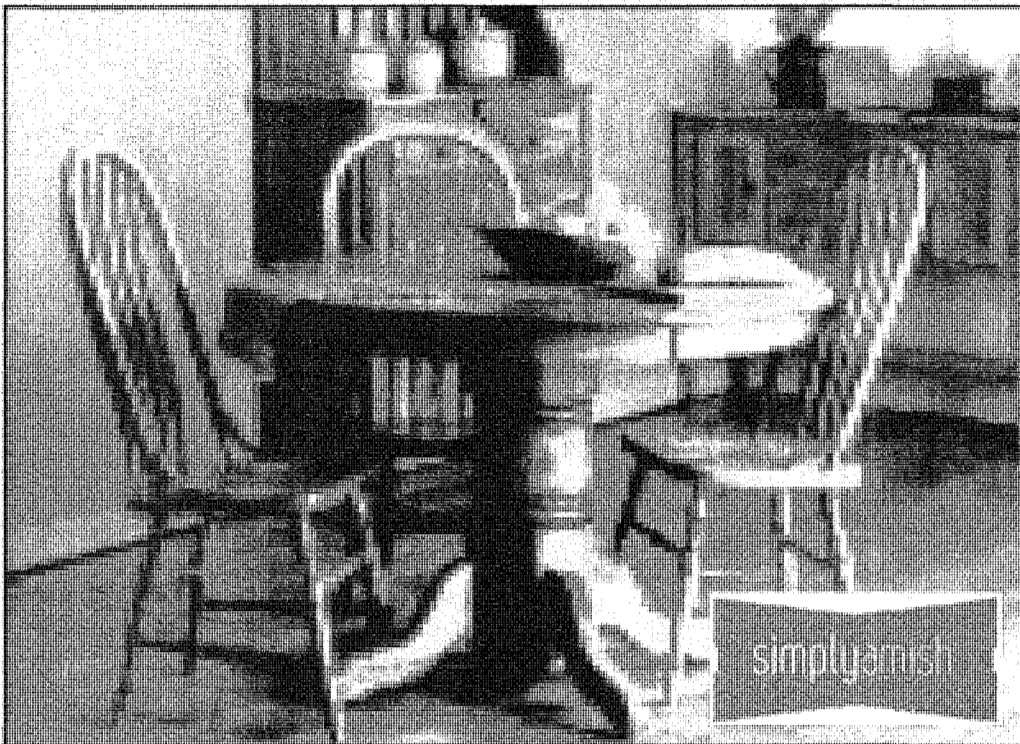
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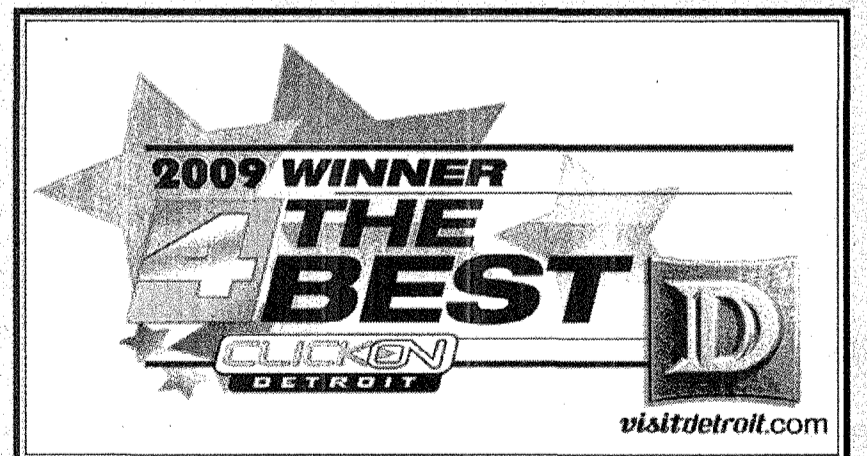
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WARMING

FROM PAGE A1

bologna sandwiches. The first Wednesday of each month, volunteers at her church, Warren Road Light and Life in Westland, prepare more than a thousand bologna sandwiches that are served at the warming center and at the soup kitchen. Donations of leftover soup from area restaurants fill out the menu for the evening meal although the later donations have dwindled as restaurants have downsized to cut costs.

Ivey is looking for another church to also make sandwiches so the warming center and a soup kitchen open 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily can handle the increasing demand.

"I've shared that with churches in the past, but none have ever picked it up," she said.

The warming center has a wish list and the top of it is volunteers. There's a need for men with vans and trucks to pick up donations from businesses and people as well as help unload the trucks from Gleaners and Forgotten Harvest on Mondays. The church serves as a drop-off site for those who get help from the two organizations.

GREAT NEED

But what is desperately needed are men and women to work in the soup kitchen, which is open 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., and serve as night watchmen at the warming center. Two shifts are available — 6-10 p.m. and 10 p.m. to 8 a.m.

Also on the list are socks, especially white tube socks that fit both men and women and all sizes of feet; any warm clothing in sizes medium to extra-large, including thermal underwear; men's clothing, especially blue jeans; sweat shirts and pants for men and women, which can be used for sleepwear at night and worn under clothing during the day; warm hats, gloves and boots and pillows with plastic sanitary covers.

The center also is in need of travel-sized toiletries and Ivey is looking for a church that will take on the job of creating plastic bags filled with those items to give out to the homeless.

Likewise, backpacks would be a welcome donation. The people who turn to the shelter at night can only bring in one bag of clothing.

And always welcomed are cash donations that will be used to help the needy throughout the year.

According to Beneteau, Lighthouse's mission "is

WARMING CENTER

What: Lighthouse Mission Warming Center, a temporary overnight shelter for homeless men and women during the winter months, and a soup kitchen.

When: The warming center is open 7 p.m. to 8 a.m. daily Jan. 1 through March 31. The soup kitchen is open 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Where: At the Full Gospel Temple, 34033 Palmer, east of Wayne Road, Westland.

What: The center provides a hot meal, showers and a place to sleep for up to 50 homeless individuals. It is staffed by volunteers and operates with the help of donations from individuals and businesses and the support of several area churches and organizations — Westland Free Methodist, Warren Road Life and Life and the Full Gospel Temple in Westland, Merriman Road Baptist in Garden City, Abundant Life Church in Canton, First Methodist in Wayne and Safe Stay.

What: Volunteers are needed to work in the soup kitchen 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday, to help sort and size clothing and prepare food boxes 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday, or work at the warming center, laundering bedding once a week on Tuesday or Thursday or serving as watchmen when the center is open.

Information: To make a donation or to volunteer to help, call Thelma Ivey at (734) 326-3885.

to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and shelter the cold."

"This isn't a very popular thing for churches to do these days. However, we believe that it is our responsibility not the government's," she said. "We will reach all who come to us with Jesus."

People interested in donating or helping the warming center and soup kitchen can call Lighthouse Home Mission at (734) 326-3885.

"If every church united together to help someone in need, they wouldn't need to come to Lighthouse," Ivey said. "They would know to go to their local church. It's what churches did in the past. We have 20 churches that have signed up through Churches United Against Hunger."

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

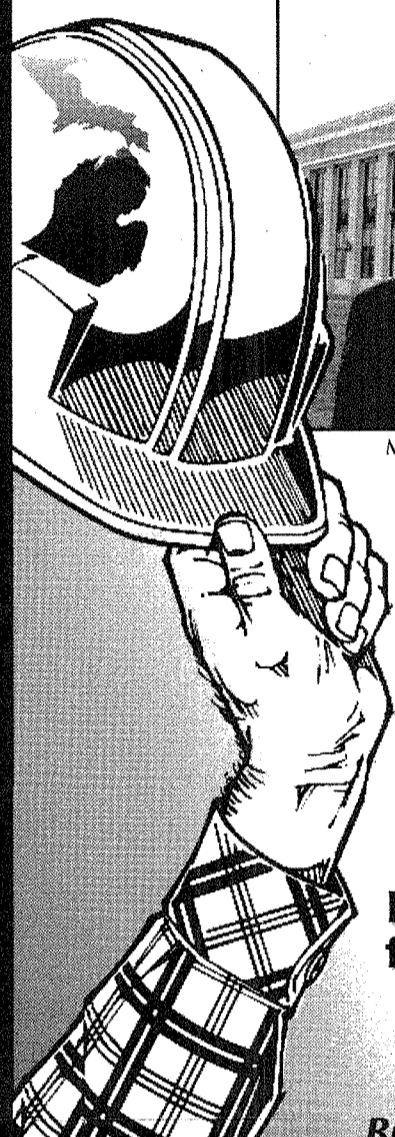

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Mayor Jack Kirksey, Steve Dailey and Mark King outside of the new 16th District Court House.

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Bright House Networks has launched a new digital video delivery technology known as **Switched Digital Video (SDV)**. SDV is a robust bandwidth-management system that makes it possible to offer more digital video programming services than before including new HD channels. To be able to offer more new video services, Bright House Networks will be moving some existing programming services to the SDV system.

Beginning **February 8, 2010**, the following services will be delivered on the SDV system:

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Adult PPV - channels 881-886
HD Pack - channels 690, 691, 693, 694 & 695
International Channels - channels 580-585

These services will not be available on uni-directional retail devices as of the date(s) noted above. If you want to subscribe to these services, you will need a digital set-top box or similar bi-directional (two-way) equipment from Bright House Networks. Customers may continue to use their uni-directional retail device and CableCARD to receive video programming other than the programming delivered on the SDV system. Customers will be notified in advance of any other programming changes.

For more information on Bright House Networks programming, please call 1-866-898-9101 or visit our website at www.brighthouse.com.

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PENALTIES

FROM PAGE A1

vice in addition to fines and costs — and a license suspension, typically for a year. Vehicles can be immobilized.

An offender with two or more prior convictions, or a defendant suspected of causing death or serious injury while driving drunk, can be charged with a felony, which means the case would move to Wayne County Circuit Court.

"You have to give great weight to an accident when it's time for sentencing," said first-year Judge Jim Plakas of the 35th District Court.

In many areas, alcohol-related arrests are rising. Livonia's 16th District Court, for instance, processed 273 drunken driving arrests in 2008; through October 2009, the court already had more than 300 alcohol driving offenses, including both operating under the influence and driving while impaired cases.

The 35th District Court processed 1,021 cases in 2008. In Westland, 606 drunken driving cases were disposed generating fines and costs of more than \$883,000.

The penalties including

punishment and fines are determined on a case by case basis with a range that could go from \$750 to more than \$2,000 depending on the case, according to 16th District Court Administrator Dennis Epler.

But the costs could extend well beyond the court, Epler said.

"The person could incur increased insurance costs or even cancellation," Epler said. "Attorney fees can go from \$500 to over \$3,000 depending on the case and its complexity."

Drivers can be assessed the Secretary of State driver's responsibility fee which can be either \$500 or \$1,000 a year for two years. Driving restrictions are handled by the Secretary of State with each type and severity of charge having its own set of restrictions, Epler said.

"It may be a 30-day restricted license, a one-year loss of license or a five-year loss of license," Epler said. "These restrictions or actual loss of license cause economic problems of their own. This is especially true since public transportation in this state is lacking."

Most police departments work hard to reduce the number of impaired drivers on the road at a given time. Of Garden City's 78 arrests in 2008, 11 drivers were under the age of 21, and 17

were repeat offenders. Fourteen drivers were driving on suspended licenses.

In early 2009, road patrol officers and their supervisors analyzed the data from 2008 and formed a plan to focus on reducing the number of impaired drivers on the road.

"The results have been impressive," said Garden City Deputy Police Chief Bob Muery.

"As of Nov. 30, officers have arrested 151 impaired drivers. That is nearly double the total for 2008, and there is still another month to go," he added.

Of course, the highest cost of drunken driving isn't a monetary issue at all. It comes when there is a fatality. The deaths of Judy Weinstein and her sons, Alex and Sam, caused by a drunken driver in Farmington Hills in May 2005 is one such case.

It's a reason penalties and fines are so high, and also something that could so easily be avoided.

"Many people don't think of themselves as someone who could be a drunk driver," said Judge Marla Parker of the 47th District Court in Farmington/Farmington Hills. "But a drunk driver is really anyone who has had too much to drink and gets behind the wheel of a car." Of course, judges and court



How many drinks does it take to reach a blood alcohol concentration of .08?

A 170-pound man would have to drink approximately four drinks in one hour on an empty stomach or a 137-pound woman would have to drink approximately three drinks in one hour on an empty stomach. At .08, a person is 11 times more likely to be involved in a fatal crash than someone who has had nothing to drink.

SOURCE: Studies cited by MADD

Families, friends grieve for victims

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
CORRESPONDENT

Linda Bernhardt brushes aside the memory of the drunken driver who put her in the hospital with facial injuries that required plastic surgery. The experience was painful but not as heart-wrenching as the thought of the drunken driver who killed her friends, Rick and Cindy Cameron of Canton, in 1984.

The Camerons and their unborn baby boy died after being hit head-on on Sheldon Road at Ann Arbor Trail in Plymouth.

Bernhardt had become friends with the Canton family in prenatal classes. The two women were both first-time mothers-to-be who bonded with two others in yoga and Lamaze classes. Together, the four women planned to start a play group after their babies were born.

Today, Bernhardt tells their story as a victim advocate speaking to offenders in the 18th and 29th District courts.

Once a month, 75 offenders or more gather as part of a court order to hear a victim's advocate panel put together by Mothers Against Drunk Driving. It is estimated that MADD has helped save 330,000 lives since the non-profit was established in 1980 to stop drinking and driving.

"The purpose is to tell them the consequences of drunk driving," said Bernhardt.

"The offender has to live with this. You don't have intentions of hurting people, but it's not an accident when you put that liquor to your lips and then drive. You can be involved in a crash."

Once every 45 minutes a person is killed by a drunken driver. That is just one of the statistics victim impact speakers like Bernhardt and Paulette Gibson use to dissuade first-time offenders from drinking and driving again.

SPEAKING OUT

Gibson spoke at the Tie One On For Safety kick-off campaign presented by MADD at Westland Shopping Center Dec. 5. MADD is urging drivers to tie a red rib-

bon onto their car's antenna as a reminder not to drink before getting behind the wheel.

Gibson's 19-year old daughter April was killed by a drunken driver in 1992. April was so badly disfigured Gibson couldn't recognize her.

"She had a habit of chewing her nails. I picked up her hand in the hospital and knew it was her," said Gibson of Milford.

April not only left behind her grieving mother, but a 4-year-old daughter, Savannah. April's younger sister, Amy, is just now finally coming to terms with the fact April died before she had a chance to say goodbye. April had dropped Amy off at work and was on her way back home when she was killed.

"I didn't know anything about it until it was too late and that made it hard for me," said Amy Gibson of Canton.

According to MADD statistics, more than 16,000 people were killed in alcohol-related traffic crashes in 2007 in the U.S.

Homier Smith, executive director of MADD for Michigan, is working to encourage judges to order ignition interlocks on the vehicles of offenders.

"We are grateful there has continued to be a decline in fatalities and injuries over the past decade, but there are still too many tragedies," said Smith.

"I'd like to see judges using the ignition interlock that the court can require even on a first-time offender. New Mexico law mandates ignition interlocks. In three years, they've seen a 30-percent reduction in crashes. Twelve states now require the locks for all offenders. Michigan does not.

"The scary thought is 80 percent of offenders continue to drive. We believe every drunk driver has earned the right to have an ignition interlock on their vehicle and judges can make that happen without changing the laws."

For more information, visit www.madd.org/mi/semichigan or call (586) 997-6504. Twenty-four hour victim assistance is available at (800) 323-6233.



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ADVERTISING FEATURE

A place to call home...

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BY ALISON BERGSIKER
ADVERTORIAL WRITER

When Rita Stubbs moved out of her three-story condo last January into a two-bedroom apartment at Abbey Park at Mill River, she was finally relieved from climbing the stairs.

"I have never been so comfortable in any place in my life," the 82-year-old said. "It reminds me of home. The only things missing are the stairs."

Stubbs loves participating in Nintendo Wii bowling tournaments, playing bingo and coming and going in her own car for shopping and doctors appointments — and said she is happy and safe in her new home.

With nine new residents moved in this month and more on their way, more seniors are choosing the luxury retirement community, Abbey Park at Mill River in Lyon Township.

The vast 195,000-square-foot luxury retirement community has all of the necessities for a comfortable, active senior lifestyle — 24-hour staffing, a medical alert system, dining room, café, theater, chapel, library, hair salon, fitness center and full-facility generator.

"It's a whole lot more than bingo around here," said Tamra Ward, Abbey Park Administrator. "Anything our seniors are willing to do, we make available to them. We keep them as active as they can be for as long as possible so they can maintain their independence."

Never a dull moment

A typical week at Abbey Park kicks off on Sunday with an elegant Champagne Brunch, all-faiths church service and relaxing time with family and friends.

Then its on manicure and pedicure Mondays, Wii bowling league Tuesdays, dinner night out Wednesdays, ice cream social Thursdays, Happy Hour Fridays and Grand Kids Day on Saturdays once a month.

Every day of the week is filled to the brim with planned entertainment or trips, a two-course dining menu and activities to encourage

seniors to live for the best of their lives.

"I'm busy all the time," Stubbs said. "We love going out on the bus on Wednesdays to dinner. We've been to the South Lyon Hotel, the Cantina and most of the restaurants in the area."

Family visits at Abbey Park are strongly encouraged. Stubbs said many of her grandchildren attend every Grand Kids Day and look forward to visiting. Her family in Salem Township and Novi are just a phone call or short drive away.

"All eight grandchildren that live nearby came to the grandkids day," Stubbs said. "The ones that can get around love to go up in the playroom and they like to play the piano. They love it."

Trips once a month to the casino, attendance at local plays and visits to the shopping mall are just the cusp of activity going on at Abbey Park.

"I have never been so comfortable in any place in my life. It reminds me of home."

— Rita Stubbs
Abbey Park at Mill River resident

Like a community all their own, residents operate a small Country Store with basic grocery and personal items, and participate on a council that weighs in on the daily menu and activities schedule.

"People call my office looking for their loved ones and say they're never in their rooms," Ward said. "There's so much to do here that most of our residents are busy socializing, watching a movie, playing a game of cards or something else going on that day."

With the standard of living at an all-time high in Lyon Township, Abbey Park fits right in with a well-maintained outdoor landscape and a vast indoor entranceway, complete with fireplaces, comfortable sitting area, water fountain and piano.



Rita Stubbs gets cozy in her two-bedroom apartment at Abbey Park at Mill River.

Recent News

Abbey Park is now on Facebook

Check out Abbey Park's Facebook page at www.facebook.com, search: "Abbey Park at Mill River" to become a fan. Check out photos from year-round events, offer feedback or keep up on scheduled events.

Kudos to senior spellers

At a recent Livingston County Senior Spelling Bee, the regional finalist was an Abbey Park resident. Three residents participated in the finals after preparing in mock spelling bees for almost two months.

Happy ever after

At Abbey Park at Mill River's sister community in Grand Blanc, residents Dora Mayo and Joe Ashley recently married in the community's lobby after a courtship of one year.

Mayo moved into Abbey Park November 2008 after losing her husband of 57 years and four of her five children. Ashley moved in weeks later after losing his wife of 63 years. After meeting in Abbey Park, the two are now inseparable and happily married.

Grandkid's Day a success

At Grandkid's Day on Nov. 7, children enjoyed coloring and games in the activity center, puzzles in the café, letting loose in the playroom, Nintendo Wii bowling, a movie and ice cream and a presentation about safety dogs!

Bowling banquet

Abbey Park at Mill River recently held its second annual Nintendo Wii Bowling Tournament with an awards banquet and trophies. Congrats, winners!

Affordable luxury

The service at Abbey Park is similar to what you'd find in Lyon Township and South Lyon — businesses going the extra mile with friendly staff and affordable prices.

Residents have access to a number of complimentary conveniences that are often an added expense at other retirement communities. On a daily basis, staff offers to make beds, empty trash and prepares two delicious meals. Once a week, Abbey Park residents are treated to a full cleaning service of their apartment, including bed linens and towels.

The community's apartments vary from one or two bedrooms with or without a den, kitchen, living room, bathroom and walk-in closet options. An emergency pull cord is accessible in each room of the apartment in case a resident needs assistance from a nurse. Each apartment has an enclosed patio or balcony as an added safety feature, and all top floor apartments have cathedral ceilings as an added amenity. Even heat, water and basic cable are included.

Stubbs said she recommends Abbey Park as a comfortable place to live, and welcomes any opportunity to make new friends.

"I'm definitely, positively absolutely at home," she said. "My kids come to visit and say 'Mom, we sure made the right decision when you decided to move here.' I just love it. They treat me wonderful."



A group of seniors prepare for a trip into town on the Abbey Park bus.

Abbey Park at Mill River

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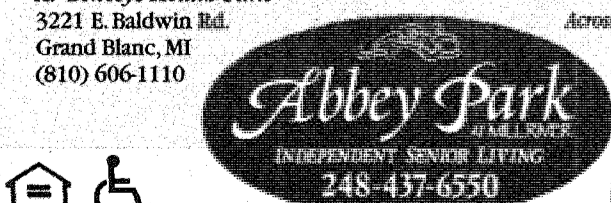
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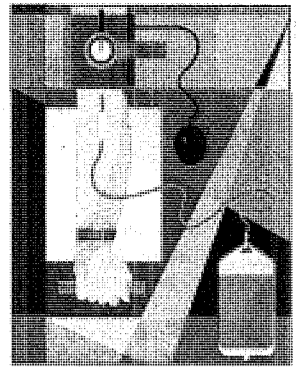
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HOMETOWN LIFE



Hail to the Chiefs

Canton runs roughshod over Marlins, 56-24

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Talking about facing a strong opponent is one thing.

But Farmington Hills Mercy's girls basketball team found out that facing such a team — Canton — is something completely different.

The host Chiefs blitzed the Marlins from start to finish Tuesday night, rolling to a 56-24 non-conference victory.

"I think it's indicative of how good Canton is," Mercy coach Gary Morris said about the 32-point defeat. "You can talk about a team being very good, being physical, with the ability defensively to take you out of your offense."

"But until you actually play them and see them doing it to you, I think it's hard for the kids to relate."

Keying Canton (4-1) to an insurmountable 27-10 halftime lead was junior forward Kayla Bridges, who tallied all nine Canton points over a three-minute stretch late in the first and early in the second quarters.

Bridges (15 points, six rebounds) tallied a nifty reverse layup to start the string, making it 14-4 after one quarter. To

open the second, she connected on a putback, short hook shot and a layup.

"She (Bridges) had a great game, really a great first half. She came in and sort of sparked us," Chiefs head coach Brian Samulski said. "And that's what Bridges does. I thought her putbacks were good, she ran the floor well and she scored inside."

Also providing offensive punch were the Schmitt twins. Kari scored 12 points and also grabbed six boards, while Sara registered 10 points and four rebounds.

For Mercy (4-2), Elena Vlachos and Janelle McQueen led with eight and seven points, respectively.

According to Samulski, getting defenders in the way of McQueen and the other Marlins went a long way toward the outcome.

"It comes down to defending and rebounding," Samulski said. "I thought we did a nice job of that. I thought we kept McQueen in front of us and didn't let her get going."

"And I thought we defended their other players well and kept them off the glass."

Mercy switched to a zone

defense in the second half and played the Chiefs relatively even for the first portion of the third quarter.

A bucket by Diana Jasser cut the Canton lead to 35-15 with under three minutes to go in the quarter.

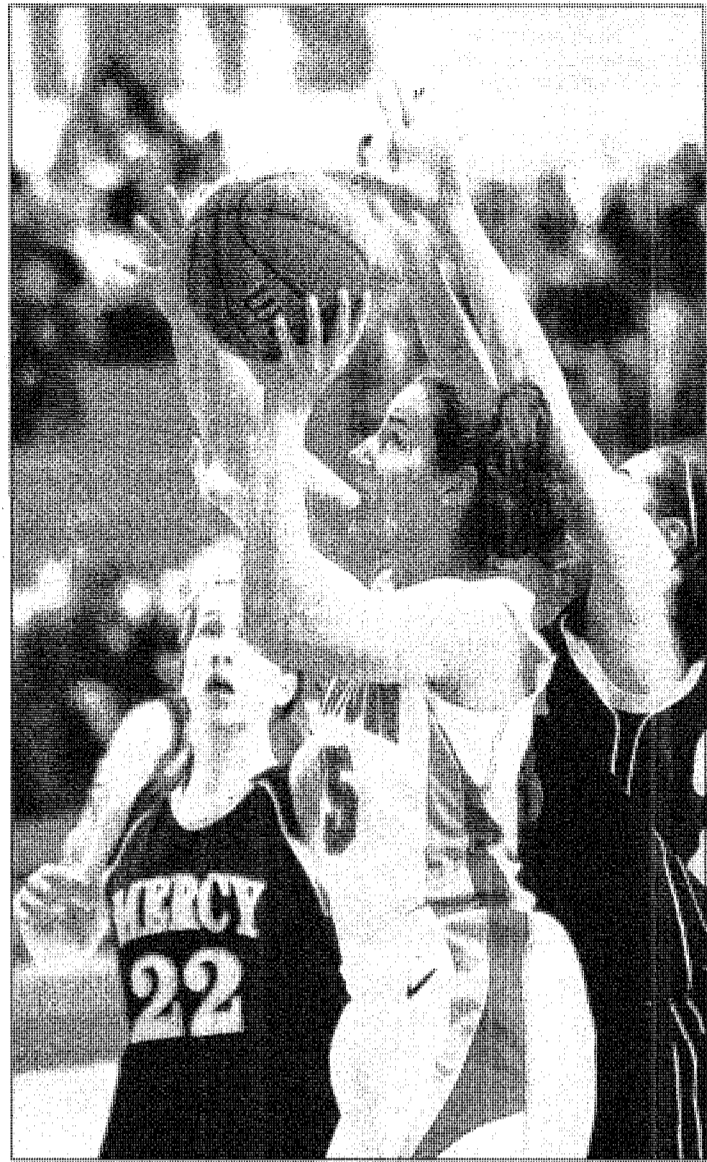
But that edge was bumped up to 40-17 after the third quarter, following baskets from senior guard Lindsey Winters (eight points) and Kari Schmitt.

For good measure, the Chiefs went on a 14-0 scoring spree during the fourth with points scored both inside (Bridges, Sara Schmitt) and beyond the arc (triples by Winters and junior forward CarolAnn Sexauer — seven points).

"We adjusted to that well, started attacking their zone," Samulski said. "Winters got some shots, CarolAnn got some shots and we continued to get looks inside from those kids."

Morris said he was hopeful that his squad would learn from the blowout loss, particularly with another tough matchup (Jan. 5 at Birmingham Marian) to open Catholic League action.

"We're a fairly young team," he said. "So next time we get in a similar situation, we'll react better."



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton junior guard Melanie Pickert focuses on making her shot despite defensive attention from Sarah Benson (22) and Alexa Bahoura of Farmington Hills Mercy.

GAME WRAPS

Patriot cagers in OT

Senior guard Andy McCaffery scored a game-high 19 points Wednesday as host Livonia Franklin edged Farmington, 45-43, in the consolation final of the Patriots' Holiday boys basketball tournament.

McCaffery's desperation three-point banker with only 1.7 left in regulation sent the game into OT at 41-all.

Jack Chinavare added 10 points for the Patriots, now 1-3 overall.

Mitch Sanders scored a team-high 15 for the Falcons (2-3).

Franklin iced, 4-1

Benny Iaquinata made 32 saves as Wednesday night as Walled Lake Western downed host Livonia Franklin in a KLAAs Kensington Conference boys hockey game, 4-1 at Edgar Arena.

Kyle Shreve had a pair of goals for the Warriors, who improved to 3-6 overall and 3-2 in the KLAAs Central.

Zach Powell added a goal and assist, while Jarrad Wysong had an empty-netter. Dustin Brewer also had two assists.

Tyler Satkowiak scored for Franklin (0-7, 0-3) from Tyler Hewitt and Kevin Webb.

Anthony Crechiolo had 35 saves for the Patriots.

Crusaders edged

In a game marred by cold shooting from both sides, it was the Madonna University women's basketball team that went cold at the wrong time, falling 59-56 Tuesday night to host Calvin College inside Van Noord Arena in Grand Rapids.

Junior guard Tabatha Wydryck led the way for the Crusaders, now 4-6 overall, with 18 points to go along with six rebounds and a like number of assists.

Freshman center Kaylee McGrath (Livonia Stevenson) added 13 points, including 3-of-4 from double-figures from behind the arc to go along with five rebounds. It was McGrath's seventh double-double of the season.

Kim Olech also pulled down nine rebounds to go along with seven points.

Carissa Verkaik led all players with 19 points and 14 rebounds for the 11-1 Knights, who are ranked No. 19 in the latest NCAA Division III poll. Kelsey Irwin came off the bench to score 12 points.

Calvin led 36-33 at intermission.

The Knights shot 36.1 percent from the floor (22-of-61), while MU was 18-of-55 (32.7 percent).

All six MU losses have come against ranked teams including four NAIA opponents and two NCAA Division III schools.



Franklin's Jack Chinavare (32) works the baseline against Rochester's Taylor Perry during Tuesday's holiday tournament.

Rochester FTs sink Patriots, 66-62

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Rochester got to the rim and the foul line with an alarming frequency Tuesday night to advance into the finals of the Livonia Franklin Holiday Tournament.

The Falcons, who evened their boys basketball record at 2-2 overall, downed host Franklin in the second game of a double-header, 66-62.

Rochester held a 24-21 scoring edge in the final period thanks to a 14-for-14 showing at free throw stripe.

"Free throws and layups are called the little things, but tonight they were not so little — this time they turned out to be pretty big," Rochester coach

John Pleasant said.

The Falcons shot 25-of-32 from the line (78.1 percent), but were only 19-of-51 from the field (37.2 percent).

Senior guard Nick O'Neil tallied 10 of his game-high 20 points, including 6-of-6 foul shooting, during the final eight minutes after the Falcons seized a slim 42-39 advantage after three quarters.

Paris Periera, a 5-foot-3 sophomore guard, and Taylor Perry, a 6-3 sophomore forward, added 11 each. Senior guard Billy Klotz chipped in with 10.

Senior guard Alontae McElhane came off the bench to score 10 of his team-high 17 points in the first quarter to lead the Patriots, who were tied at 17-all.

Franklin, which led 30-20 at intermission, also got 14 points from 6-3 senior guard Andy McCaffery and 13 from 6-3 senior forward Jack Chinavare.

"We wanted to come out and pressure," Pleasant said, "but number 14 (McCaffery) does a nice job and that took away our ability to that defensively. We had to go with a small lineup, and tried to isolate against their big man."

Many of Rochester's 22 field goals came off uncontested layups off the half-court set.

Meanwhile, Franklin was 15-of-24 from the foul line (62.5 percent) and a respectable 22-of-46 from the field (47.8 percent).

"This is extremely disappointing," said Franklin coach Jeremy Rheault, whose team slipped to

0-3 overall. "They (Rochester) wanted it more. There were not many bright spots. We were careless with the ball (17 turnovers) and we did not execute. The other team wanted it more. Our guys even said it themselves — they were overconfident and thought they'd already in the finals against (Taylor) Kennedy."

The loss put the host Patriots in the 5:30 p.m. Wednesday consolation game for the second straight year against 2-2 Farmington, which was shelved by unbeaten Taylor Kennedy in the first game of the twinbill, 61-36.

Rochester and Kennedy (4-0) met in the 7 p.m. Wednesday championship game.

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Falcons fall flat in holiday tournament loss

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Farmington High boys basketball team went out for some last-minute Yuletide shopping and came back empty-handed in the opening round of the Livonia Franklin Holiday Tournament.

The Falcons seemed lost at the outset and it showed as unbeaten Taylor Kennedy roared out to a 14-0 lead before coasting home for a 61-36 triumph.

"We knew they were athletic and they could get up and down the floor," Farmington coach Steve Norgrove said of the 4-0 Patriots. "But I'm more disappointed with our energy level. We did not play

with any passion. We acted like we were on winter break."

Farmington, which slipped to 2-2 overall, missed its first 10 shots from the floor before junior guard Jason Wilson broke the ice with a hoop with 59.4 seconds left in the first quarter.

Kennedy led 16-5 after one quarter and built a 31-12 halftime lead.

"They forced us into tough shots during that stretch and we did not play with any poise," Norgrove said. "And due to their aggressiveness, we took bad shots. So consequently there were long rebounds, and they got some run-outs."

Farmington was 4-of-18 from the field in the first half (22.2

percent) compared with 14-of-23 for the Patriots (60.8 percent).

Brandon Jordan, a 6-foot-3 junior forward who wore jersey No. 23, soared like Michael Jordan with three dunks, including a couple of alley-oops to spark Kennedy.

He finished with a game-high 16 points, while Ryan White and Josh Holder added 10 apiece. Dominic Morrow chipped in with eight.

Farmington's best quarter was the third as the Falcons shot 8-of-13 from the floor and held a 17-16 scoring edge.

But the final numbers told the story — 13-of-41 shooting from the field (31.7 percent) and 18 turnovers.

And no Farmington player notched double figures.

Darrin Jackson led with eight, while Charles Anthony and Anthony Rutledge each tallied six.

"I'm very disappointed because there was a lack of enthusiasm, it seemed we did not support each other," Norgrove said. "We acted like a bunch of individuals."

The loss slotted the Falcons into the 5:30 p.m. Wednesday consolation game against host Franklin (0-3), which was edged by Rochester, 66-62, in the nightcap. The championship final between Kennedy and Rochester (2-2) starts at 7 p.m.

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Farmington's Charles Anthony controls the rebound during Tuesday's opening round of the Livonia Franklin Holiday Basketball Tournament.

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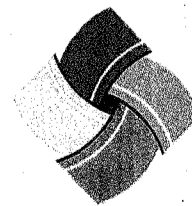


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THE WEEK AHEAD

GIRLS BASKETBALL
Monday, Dec. 28
 (Country Day Roundball Classic)
 N. Farmington vs. Flint N'western, noon.
Tuesday, Dec. 29
 (Wayne Memorial Holiday Shootout)
 Frankfort vs. Det. Western, 11:30 a.m.
 Ferndale vs. Redford Union, 1 p.m.
 Farmington vs. Thurston, 2:30 p.m.
 John Glenn vs. Berkley, 4 p.m.
 Wayne vs. Willow Run, 5:30 p.m.
(Livonia Ladywood Holiday Tournament)
 Southgate vs. A.A. Huron, 4 p.m.
 Ladywood vs. South Lyon, 6 p.m.
(Pontiac Notre Dame Prep Invitational)
 Stevenson vs. Warren Regina, noon.
 Notre Dame Prep vs. Det. Univ. Prep, 2 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 30
 Notre Dame Prep Invitational, noon & 2 p.m.

Ladywood Holiday Tournament, 4 & 6 p.m.
(Wayne Memorial Holiday Shootout)
 Albion vs. Frankfort, 11:30 a.m.
 Thurston vs. Ferndale, 1 p.m.
 Franklin vs. Berkley, 2:30 p.m.
 Farmington vs. Willow Run, 4 p.m.
 Redford Union vs. Det. Western, 5:30 p.m.
(Country Day Roundball Classic)
 N. Farmington vs. Det. Pershing, 3:10 p.m.
PREP HOCKEY
Wednesday, Dec. 30
 Franklin vs. Novi at Edgar Arena, 6 p.m.
PREP WRESTLING
Tuesday, Dec. 29
 Salem Invitational, 9 a.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 30
 Brother Rice Invitational, 9 a.m.
 Trenton Invitational, 9 a.m.
 Canton Duals at EMU, 9 a.m.

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Tuesday, Dec. 29
(Hope College Russ DeVette Tourney)
 Davenport vs. Grace Bible, 6 p.m.
 Hope College vs. Madonna, 8 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 30
 Hope College DeVette Tourney, 6 & 8 p.m.
WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Tuesday, Dec. 29
 Madonna at Wayne State, 1 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 30
 Mercyhurst (Pa.) at Madonna, 3 p.m.
ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE
Monday, Dec. 28
 Erie Otters vs. Plymouth Whalers at Compuware Arena, 2 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 29
 Whalers at Sarnia Sting, 6 p.m.

Plymouth grapplers 1st at Ida

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Undeclared performances from a handful of Plymouth wrestlers keyed the Wildcats Dec. 19 to the Ida Invitational championship. Plymouth finished 4-1, as did the host Bluestreaks (the lone team to defeat the Wildcats) and Dexter. But the 'Cats were awarded overall champion because of the tie-breaker — point differential among the three squads. "It would have been nice to beat Ida and win the tournament outright, but they provide a very difficult matchup for us," said Plymouth head coach Quinn Guernsey, referring to his team's 41-32 loss to Ida. "Dexter's team has the matchups to beat Ida and we were lucky enough to have that happen."

"Almost any criteria that was used would have been used to break the tie had us come out the tournament champions, we were the most complete team there that day." Undeclared days by heavyweights Jordan Birman and Wally Eppler, Alec Breckenridge (112) and Jimmy Ahearn (135-140) keyed Plymouth's productive showing at the round-robin tourney. In the opening round, Plymouth toppled Jonesville, 55-15 and went on to a 48-33 win over Adrian-Madison Sand Creek in Round 2. The Wildcats then defeated Dexter in Round 3, 48-33, sparked by pins registered by Eppler, Shadi Jammoul, Breckenridge, Ziad Tamimi, Ahearn and (in comeback fashion) Tate Braboy. Next came the big matchup of the day, with Plymouth

facing Ida — ranked No. 8 in Division 3. It was a back-and-forth tilt, with Plymouth victories scored by Eppler, Breckenridge, Ahearn, senior captain Brandon Crowther, Jackson Chalmers and Curtis Crosier. Plymouth finished off the tournament with a 76-4 man-handling of Summit Academy. "The team was really pleased with how we did," Guernsey noted. "Winning the tournament came at a good time and we look forward to working over the holiday break as we get ready for our conference season to start at home on Jan. 6 against Salem and Novi." Other Plymouth wrestlers to earn wins were Chase Kallil, Rob Barackman, Brendon Varner, Said Youssef and Brett Echols.

tsmith@hometownlife.com

Trojan cagers fall to 0-5 on season

The Waterford Kettering boys basketball team made a 17-8 first-quarter advantage stand up Tuesday to beat Livonia Clarenceville, 64-53, in Tuesday's second annual Rocket Roundball Classic hosted by Westland John Glenn. Ryan Dingman led the victorious Captains, who improved

to 4-0 overall, with 17 points. Brandon Carlson and Brett Hoffman chipped in with 13 and 10, respectively. Clarenceville senior guard Ben Watts paced all scorers with 19 points. Senior guards Levonte Brooks and Mike Schiffman contributed 10 and eight, respectively, as the Trojans

slipped to 0-5 overall. Clarenceville trailed 31-25 at halftime and scored the first five points of the third quarter to pull to within one, 31-30. But the Captains regrouped to lead 49-41 after three periods and held off the Trojans. Kettering shot 7-of-14 from the foul line, while Clarenceville was 13-of-19.

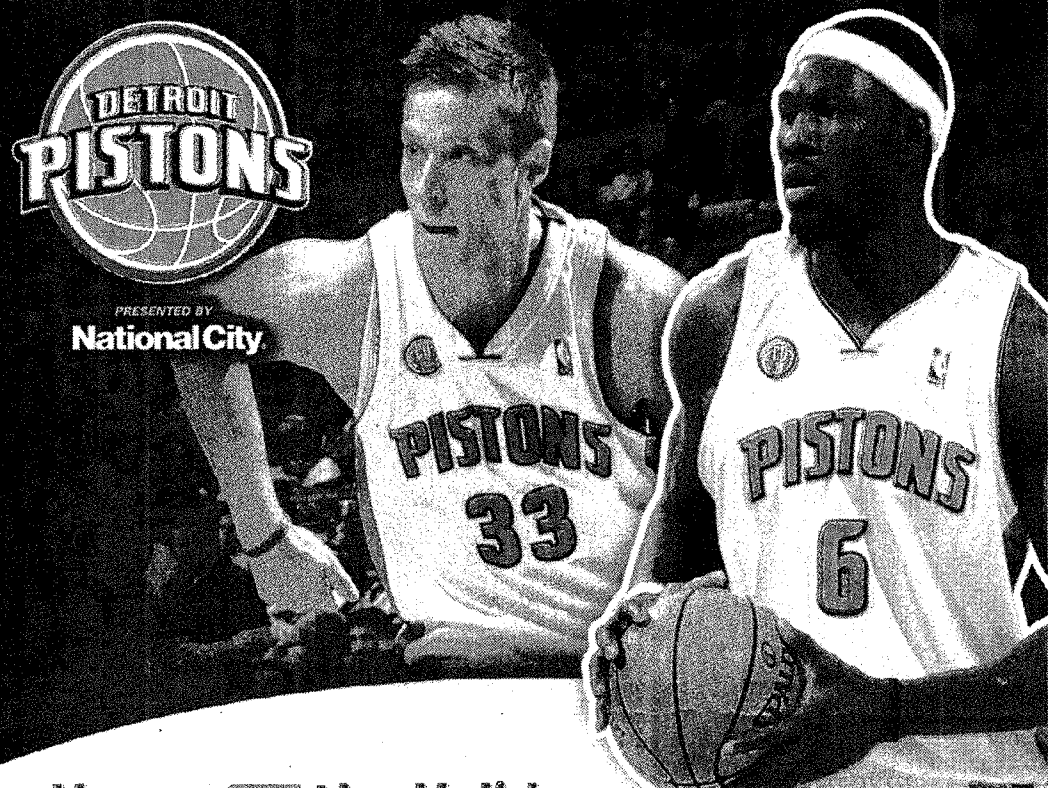
Whalers Seguin picked for CHL/NHL Prospects Game

Plymouth Whalers forward Tyler Seguin didn't make the final cut for the Canadian World Juniors Team, getting the bad news last week. But he did get named to the 2010 Home Hardware CHL/NHL Top Prospects Game. The game will take place at the WFCU Centre in Windsor, Ont., beginning with a skills competition on Tuesday, Jan. 19 followed by the game the next night. Rosters were selected by the 30 NHL General Managers with NHL Central Scouting and include 18 players from the Ontario Hockey League, 13 players from the Western Hockey League and nine players from the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League. "I'm excited about playing," said Seguin, who was listed first in the OHL by NHL Central Scouting in their November preliminary rankings. "It's an opportunity to

play among the best players in the (Canadian Hockey League). "The game is something we all dream about when we're growing up, so we're all looking forward to play. It should be a lot of fun." Home Hardware continues as the title sponsor of the Home Hardware CHL/NHL Top Prospects Game for the eleventh straight year. Associate sponsors include Bank of Montreal, Subway, and NeilMed. The game will be broadcast nationally live on Rogers Sportsnet and RDS. More information can be found at the official event website: www.homehardwaretopprospectsgame.com. **WALERS SPLIT PAIN:** Four goals by Guelph's Mathew Sisca proved too much for visiting Plymouth Saturday, as the Storm earned a 4-3 Ontario Hockey League victory. The game at Sleeman Centre got off to a positive start for the Whalers, when forward Tyler G. Brown scored his fifth goal of the season at the

4:45 mark of the opening period. But Sisca put Guelph up 2-1 with a pair in the middle stanza. Tyler Seguin, back from an unsuccessful bid to make the Canadian World Juniors converted a feed from Robbie Czarnik at 19:14 to knot the contest at 2-2. The teams traded markers in the third, with Sisca's third making it 3-2 at 5:52 and Plymouth's Beau Schmitz scoring at 16:34 to tie it up again. Guelph then won the game when Sisca drilled a shot past Plymouth goalie Matt Hackett (also back from a bid for the Canadian World Juniors) at 16:51. Despite the loss, Hackett played well, stopping 39 of 43 shots for the Whalers (20-16-0-1). Guelph improved to 14-18-2-1 with the victory. Meanwhile, on Friday, Dec. 18, goals by Mitchell Heard and Josh Brittain, coupled with a 34-save night by Hackett, enabled Plymouth to earn a 2-1 win over host Oshawa. The Whalers are idle until 2 p.m. Monday, Dec. 28 when they host Erie at Compuware Arena in Plymouth Township.

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SPORTS ROUNDUP

Soccer openings
 The Livonia City Soccer Club has immediate openings for a second team in the under-18 age group. Schoolcraft College men's soccer assistant and LCSC staff member Eric Scott will coach the team. For more information, call (734) 464-8575.

Westland Holiday Hoops
 The City of Westland Parks and Recreation's second annual 1-on-1 Holiday Hoops Champ will offer a second session for ages 5-13 (grades K-6) from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. — Monday through Wednesday, Dec. 28-30, at the Bailey Recreation Center. The cost is \$75 for Westland residents and \$82 for non-residents. For more information, call (734) 418-3190; or visit www.lionbasketball.com/michigan.

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

Fundamental No. 1 — 9-11:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 9, 16, 23, 30 (cost \$150);
Fundamental No. 2 — noon-2:30 p.m. Sundays, Feb. 7, 14, 21, 28 (cost \$150).
 For more information, call MU head coach Al White at (734) 432-5783; or Steve Gentilia at (734) 776-1716. You can also e-mail awhite@madonna.edu.

Need lacrosse coach
 Livonia Ladywood is seeking a varsity girls lacrosse coach for the 2010 spring season. If interested, fax a resume to Ladywood Athletic Director Sal Malek at (734) 591-2386.

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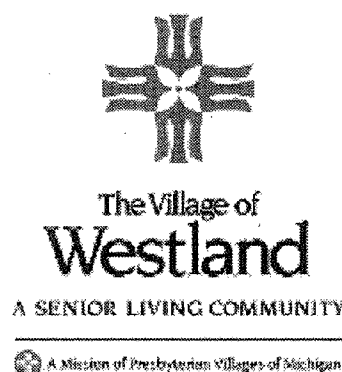
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NEIGHBORS

Friends for life

Psychologist touts benefits of friendship

Lisa Schirmer, a psychologist at St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia, knows friends matter.

"Absolutely," she said. "Friendship develops a sense of belonging with others." It can boost self-worth and feelings of security.

"It can just improve your overall mental outlook."

Schirmer said a good friend's a good listener, nonjudgmental and listening with full attention. A good friend shares his or her own thoughts and feelings, and asks questions to clarify.

"I think there's something to be said for having a social support network," Schirmer said. Family, friends and co-workers can all fill those roles in different ways, with friends being especially helpful with the nonjudgmental part. Schirmer doesn't have that problem in her family, but some families do.

"I think men do have close friends," she said. Some men share a common interest but also would do anything for each other. "But if one person needed help the other would pitch right in," Schirmer said.

We look to different friends for different roles, she said, with one friend often the truth teller. Another will distract and offer a hug no matter what.

"I think all of those friends serve important roles for us," she said. Schirmer relies on her friends: "Every day."

-By Julie Brown

The gift of friendship comes first in their lives

BY JULIE BROWN
O&E STAFF WRITER

Like many busy "fifty-somethings," Pam Young of Redford gets by with a little help from her friends.

"Oh, my God, I couldn't have done anything without my friends," said Young, who lost her husband, Phil Setla, a physician, to multiple sclerosis in December 1998. Her brother, Chris, died in January 2008.

Chris had been serving with the military as a civilian in Iraq, and was shipped to Germany for medical treatment when he became ill. His sister recalls getting help with tasks for his funeral Mass at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Detroit, much as friends had rallied around in 1998 for her husband's funeral.

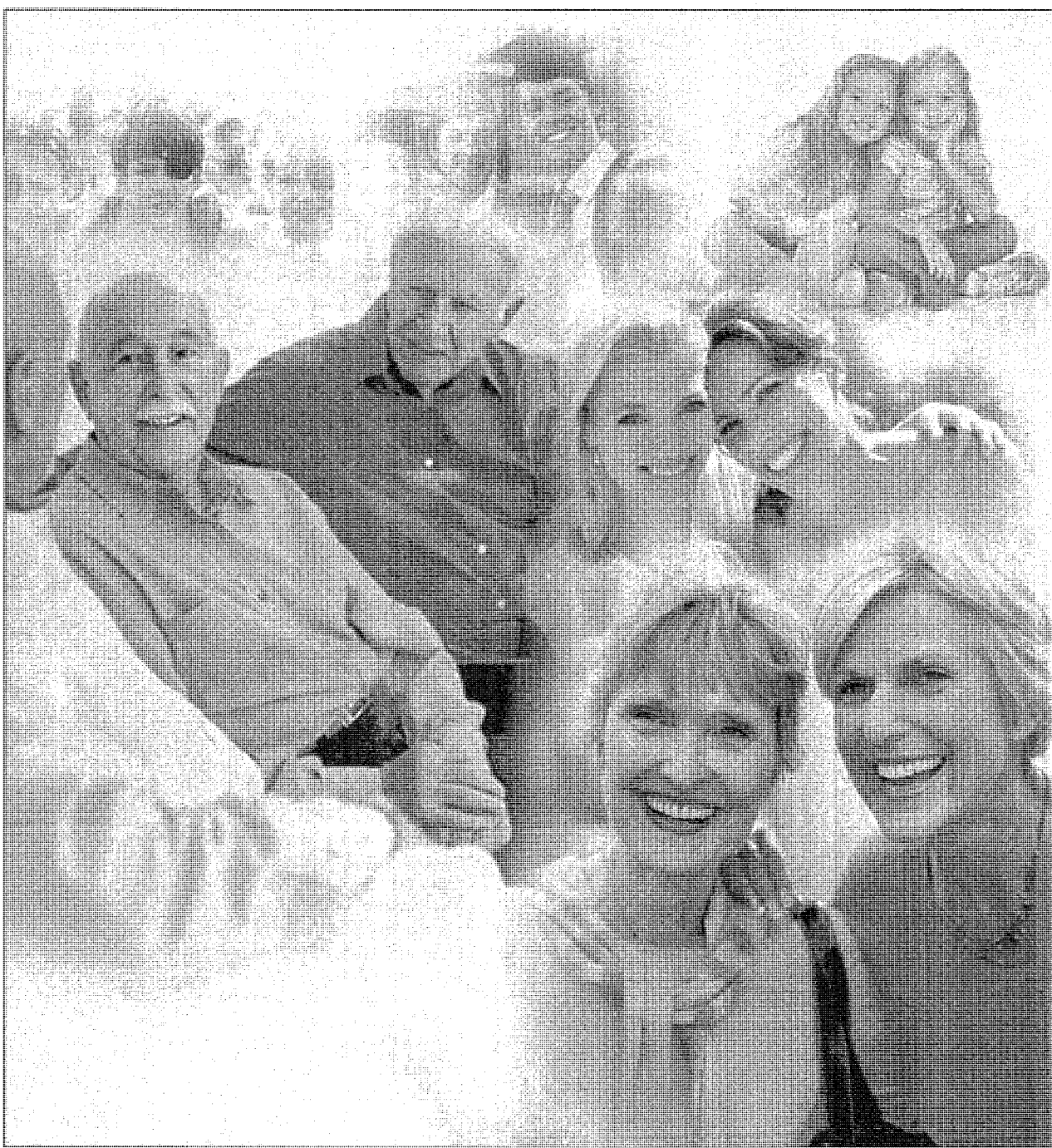
Young, director of communications at Eastern Michigan University, isn't alone in getting help from friends. She has basic advice on how to be a good friend: "Always being there when they need your help and also celebrating their achievements."

Jokingly, she adds remembering to check your phone messages to see who has called. "You have to make the effort in friendships," Young said. You need to understand what's going on in friends' lives.

"It's like a give and take with them," she said. "Most of my family lives out of town. My friends have become like my family. I'm very lucky."

LIFELONG FRIENDS

Don Bain of Plymouth Township said of a good friend, "You're always there to advise, assist, consult, commiserate." That's true of all life brings, he said, "even if they hit a bad



golf shot. A true friend is a friend for life."

He and wife Elaine have three grown children. She's been fighting a bone marrow disorder that causes problems with red blood cells, along with colon cancer.

"The help they've given has just been tremendous," he said, referring to friends of Elaine, a retired Plymouth-Canton middle school teacher. That helps to brighten her spirits, said Don Bain, 66, a Ford Motor Co. retiree.

"A little variety's kind of nice," he said of when Elaine tires of looking at him. One of her former colleagues and the colleague's husband stop by for card playing or visits.

The Bains have friends from their days at Penn State. He recalled a fraternity brother who helped daughter Elizabeth, an attorney, when she went to Las Vegas for a deposition.

"I haven't seen this guy in 40 years," he said of the fraternity brother. The man and his wife took Elizabeth to dinner and he told her

college stories of her dad, with the wife saying, "Should you be telling her all these things?"

Elaine has lifelong friends from Girl Scout camp in Pennsylvania where they were campers and later counselors. "They actually got together and had a couple reunions" in the last five to 10 years, he said.

He appreciates friends like the couple from Ford they hadn't seen for years now living in Arizona. The

Please see **FRIENDS, B7**

Unique glasses help vision impaired see better

Low vision doctors Sheldon Smith and Donald Haiderer prescribe spectacle aids for the visually impaired.

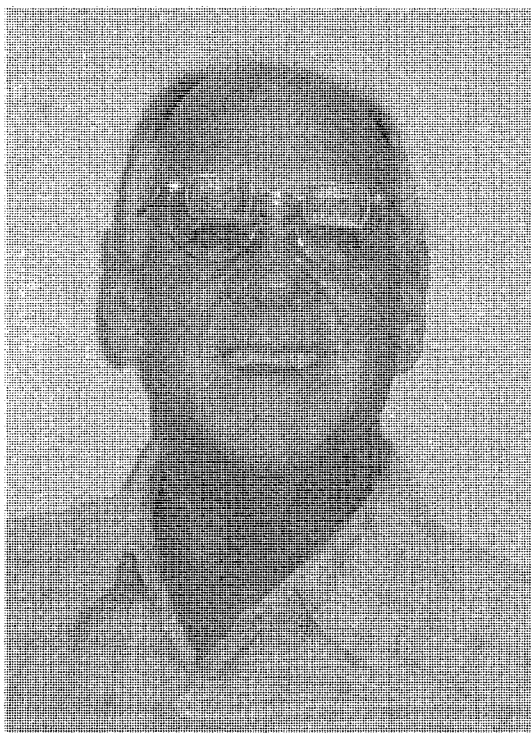
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Desmond Roberts lost his license to drive. He saw Dr. Sheldon Smith of Low Vision of Michigan desperate to maintain independent driving. With telescopic driving glasses prescribed by Dr. Smith his license was reinstated.

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David Welch sought to read without hand magnifiers and drive with confidence. The doctor prescribed one pair for driving and another for reading. "No other specialists helped me like Dr. Smith," said Welch, moved to tears by seeing better.

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David Welch with driving glasses

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Cousins Ellery Long and Mya McEvilley of Farmington Hills show that friendship can start at a young age.

FRIENDS

FROM PAGE B6

couple was coming to west Michigan to visit a dying friend, and had a good visit with the Bains, staying at their home and even using a family car. It's nice to be able to call and say, "Hey, I'm coming through," Don Bain said.

Younger but equally wise about the value of friendship is Sydney Bartell, 13, an eighth-grader at New Morning School in Plymouth Township. "I think they have to let the person be themselves and not try to change them," said Bartell, a Plymouth Township resident. She values her friends.

"They help me when I'm upset. They're always there to listen." She has friends from school as well as volleyball, soccer, "and Girl Scouts and volunteering."

She's looking forward to having more friends next year in high school, possibly Greenhills in Ann Arbor. "I try to be," Bartell said of being a good friend to her friends.

GIVE AND TAKE

High school was a few years back for Ralph and Bevis Richardson of Canton, married 55 years. She's a retired registered nurse from Ann Arbor Hospital, park of the Oakwood system, and he retired in 1997 from a subsidiary of Ford in labor economics.

"You have to like people and you have to be willing to give and take," said Bevis, who with her husband has four grown children and five grandkids. Ralph cited common interests. "Basically friendship is people you have common interests with and whose company you enjoy," she said. They agreed their retirement years mean more time for friends, including travel with another couple.

"Again it has a lot to do with having common interests," Ralph Richardson said. They have friends from their Colony Swim Club open in Canton in the summer.

She has friends from the Canton Public Library, where she volunteers, and he has volleyball and tennis friends. "The Lunch Bunch at church (Geneva Presbyterian) is really our circle at church," she said.

That senior group Dec. 9 had a Christmas lunch at Schoolcraft College's American Harvest Restaurant in Livonia, with Bevis noting, "Schoolcraft is always just a delight." The lunch draws seniors from the church.

Does plain old friendship get overshadowed by romantic love, so serenaded in song and verse? "Not at our age," Bevis said. "At our age, friendship matters."

"I consider Bevis my best friend," her husband added.

Humane Society offers winter care tips

The Michigan Humane Society urges pet guardians to bring their animals indoors, especially during extreme weather.

"Each winter, we respond to hundreds of complaints from concerned citizens regarding pets left outdoors without appropriate food, water or shelter to help them weather the brutal winter months," said Mark Ramos, Senior Cruelty Investigator for the Michigan Humane Society. "Providing proper care and provisions for our pets is not a luxury, it is a necessity."

Michigan state law requires adequate food, water and shelter be available to dogs and cats left outdoors for any length of time. Adequate shelter for dogs, as defined by state law, means a well-built, insulated, slant-roofed dog house. The interior should be just large enough for the dog to stand and to lie down comfortably. And it should be slightly elevated from the ground for air circulation. The door should face away from prevailing winds and have a protective flap to eliminate drafts.

Clean, dry straw should be provided for bedding rather than towels, rugs or blankets which absorb moisture and freeze.

Several kinds of inadequate shelter frequently encountered by investigators include an unheated garage or shed, a dog house that is too large or lacks straw, or dogs simply tied out to a porch, fence or deck with no shelter at all. Failing to provide proper provisions for pets can result in misdemeanor animal cruelty violations carrying a sentence of up to 93 days in jail, up to a \$1,000 fine, community service, and loss of pet ownership for a specified amount of time.

The Michigan Humane Society offers these tips to care for their companion animals responsibly during cold weather:

- When temperatures plummet, companion animals should not be left outside for any length of time. Bring small or short-haired pets in when temperatures reach 15-20 degrees. Larger breeds and thick-coated dogs may remain outside, with adequate shelter, to about zero degrees.
- Precipitation and wind chill should also be taken into account.
- Cats should be kept indoors or at least brought into a warm, animal proofed garage during severe weather.
- Roaming cats often seek the warmth of car engines, so

be sure to knock on the car hood or honk the horn before starting your car to give them a chance to escape.

• Increase food by 10-20 percent for dogs left outside during the winter months. The extra calories are needed to help an animal to stay warm.

• Regular access to clean, unfrozen water is also critical. Check drinking water every few hours to ensure that it is unfrozen.

• If an animal is cold to the touch, or his paws and ears are

pale, he may be suffering from frostbite. Move the animal to a warmer area and contact your veterinarian immediately.

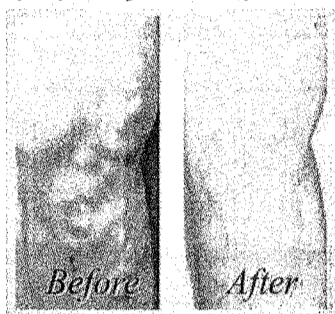
If you see pets left outside without proper shelter in the MHS service area of Detroit, Hamtramck or Highland Park, call the MHS Cruelty Hotline at (313) 872-3401. A confidential message can be left 24 hours a day. In other areas, animal cruelty should be reported to the local animal control or police.

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"I thought it was normal for my legs to ache at the end of the day."

You may have a medical condition covered by insurance known as Venous Insufficiency if you experience any of these leg symptoms:

- Pain/aching/throbbing
- Heaviness or fatigue
- Swelling of feet/ankles
- Restless legs
- Night cramps
- Itchy veins
- Varicose veins
- Non-healing ulcers



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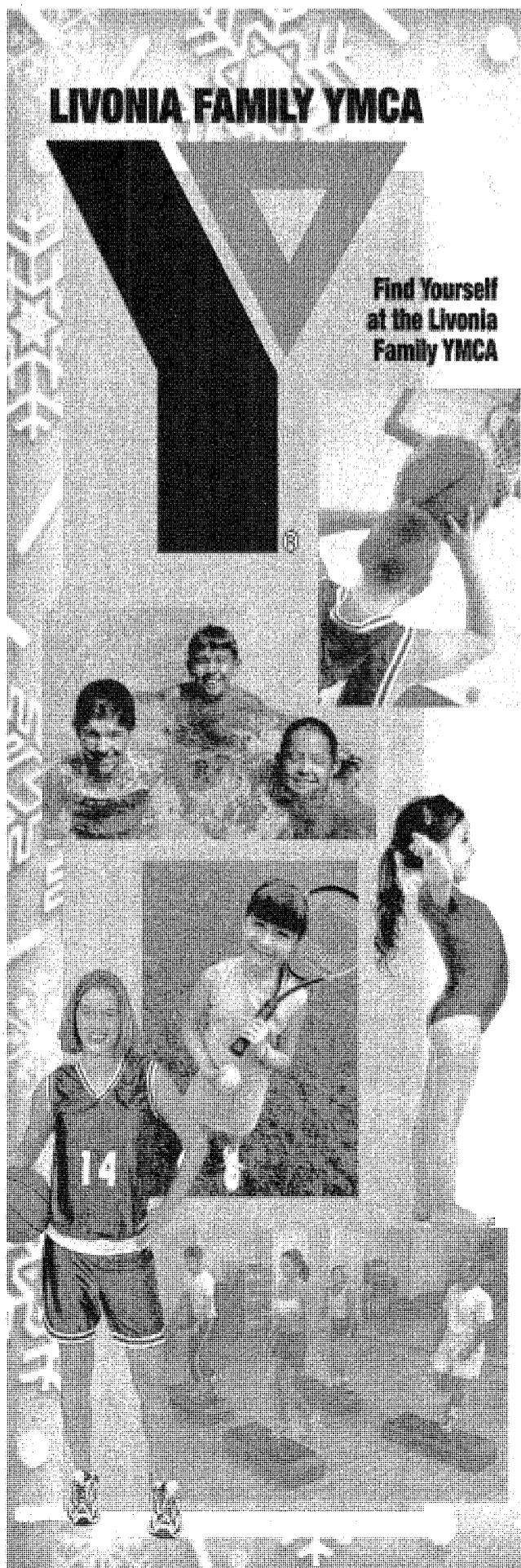
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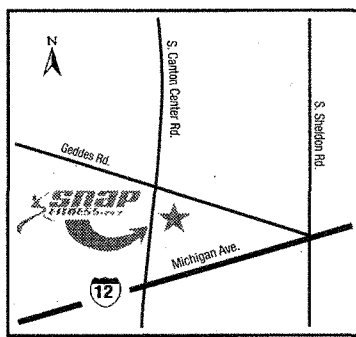
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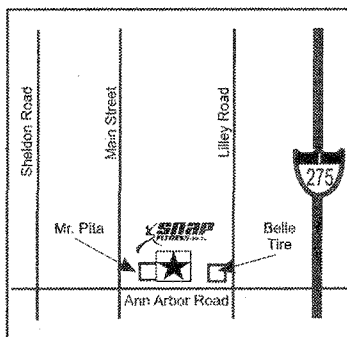


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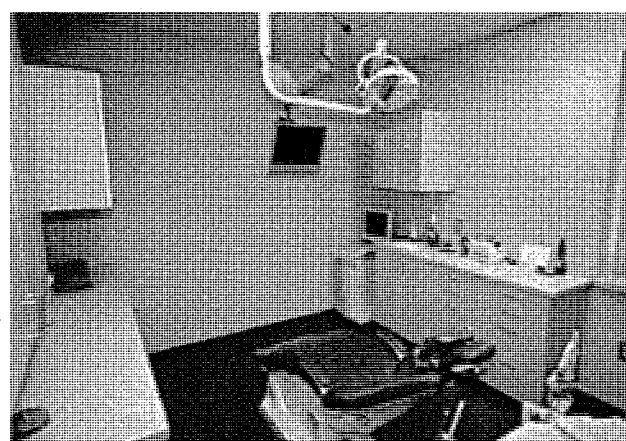
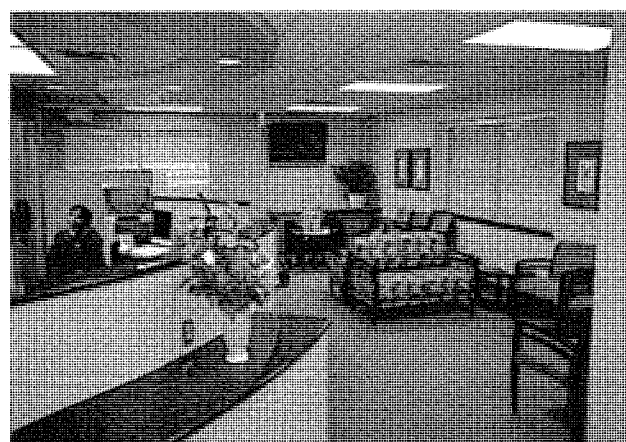
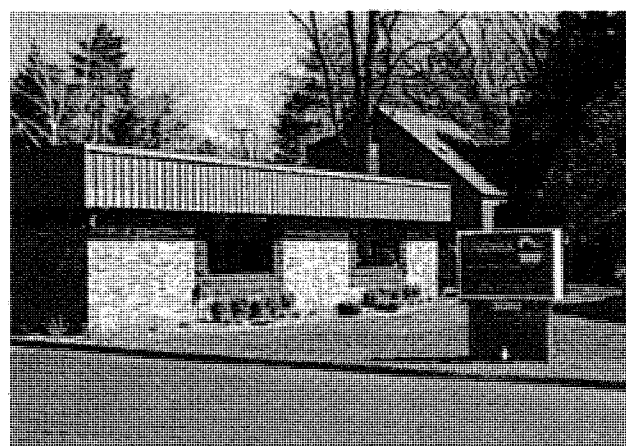
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OE0864602

Annual blood drive critical for boosting supplies

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

It's called the Farmington Freeway Industrial Park blood drive, but Joann Lindquist, donor resources development representative for the American Red Cross, says Farmington residency isn't a must if you plan to donate Monday, Jan. 4, 2010.

"It's a long-standing drive," said Lindquist, adding that the blood collection primarily is aimed at employees in the area and residents who live nearby. But anyone is welcome to participate and help bolster supplies after the "holiday slump."

It runs 9 a.m.-3 p.m., at the Holiday Inn and Suites, 37529 Grand River Ave., Farmington Hills. It's located off the southbound M-5 service drive.

"We've been doing this drive for 20-some years. We'll take walk-ins, too," Lindquist said. "We can hardly get anyone to hold a blood drive right after the New Year."

Lindquist lines up schools, businesses and churches to hold blood drives throughout the year, but late December and early January is a challenging time because of the holidays.

"Supplies take a drastic dip. Our shelves will basically be out. We aren't open on Christmas and New Year's. Normally we have 16 (blood donor) trucks and we use them every day. But come Dec. 21 there isn't much because businesses are usually closed and churches are not up for having blood drives during that period."

FEWER BUSINESS DRIVES

Lindquist said churches are the

most likely to respond to blood drive requests immediately after Christmas. She is appealing to churches, synagogues and especially to schools these days as businesses drop off her list of annual blood drives.

"It's a rough time for us in what has been a rough year with the economy and companies closing. A lot of our diehard good donors not working any more, but they're good enough to come to a donor center. They've not fallen off anywhere near as much as our business drives. I can't tell you how many companies I've lost."

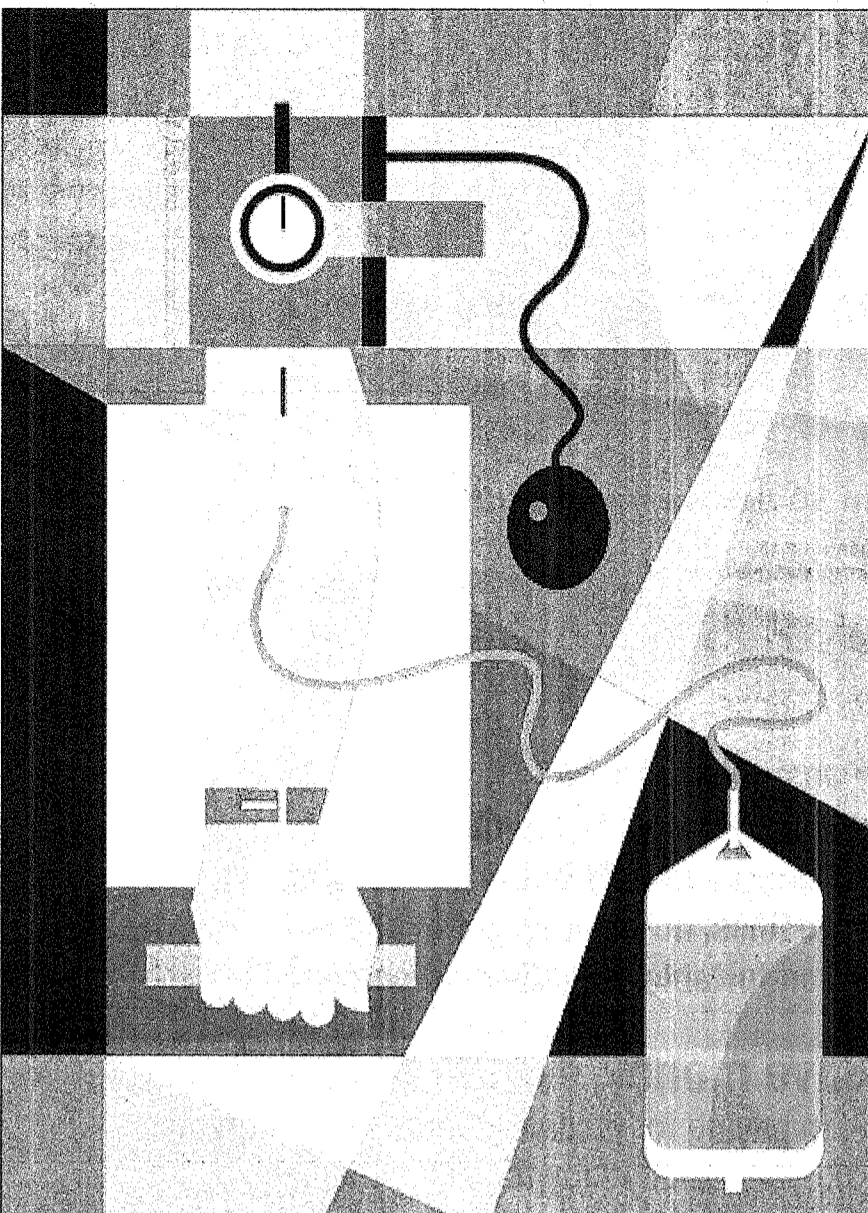
"It's just a scramble all the time to fill the 800 pints that hospitals need every day of the week. We have all of those large hospitals here."

She said the regional division of the American Red Cross that she represents supplies hospitals in five counties — Oakland, Wayne, Macomb, Washtenaw and St. Clair

The American Red Cross hopes to encourage blood donation through its "critical period," Dec. 11-Jan. 7, by giving away a raffle prize. Anyone who donates blood through Jan. 7 in the five-county area will be entered into a contest to win two round-trip plane tickets to their destination choice in the continental United States, along with a \$500 hotel voucher.

To schedule an appointment for the Farmington Freeway Industrial Park blood drive, call Lindquist at (517) 545-7712. Or sign up on line at www.givelife.org and enter the sponsor code: farmfwyindpk.

For directions to Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites, call (248) 477-7800.



Annual list cites Beaumont as technology user

Beaumont Hospitals has been named to the 2009 InformationWeek 500, an annual listing of the nation's most innovative users of business technology.

InformationWeek has identified and honored the nation's most innovative users of information technology with its annual 500 listing for 21 years. It also tracks the technology, strategies, investments and administrative practices of America's best-known companies. Top winners have included: Conway, National Semiconductor, Kimberly-Clark, Hilton Hotels and Unum.

"Working with more than 20,000 physicians and employees demands that we stay at the forefront of information technology to allow us to provide the best possible care to our patients," stated Paul Peabody, Beaumont's vice president and chief information officer. "So, we are proud to be recognized by InformationWeek with this honor."

Beaumont Hospitals is a three-hospital regional health care provider with a total of 1,711 licensed beds, 18,000 employees and 3,000 physicians in Oakland, Macomb and Wayne counties. In addition to its hospitals, Beaumont operates numerous community-based medical centers in Oakland, Macomb and Wayne Counties, five nursing centers, a Research Institute, home care services and hospice. Visit Beaumont on the Web at www.beaumont-hospitals.com.

AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD FACTS

- Last year, about 8 million people volunteered to give about 15 million units of whole blood and red blood cells.

- Every day, more than 39,000 pints of blood are needed in the United States to help patients undergoing care and treatment for serious diseases, trauma or accidents.

- A single whole blood donation may help save the lives of up to three people.

- All blood types are needed, but type O negative and B negative are in high demand.

- Type O is the blood most

requested by hospitals, and can be transfused to patients with other blood types such as A, B and AB.

- Blood donors with type AB are ideal for platelet donation. Platelets are the component in blood that is responsible for clotting. When bleeding occurs, platelets stick together to form a clot. Platelets have a shelf life of only five days so the need is constant. Platelets are frequently prescribed to help patients undergoing treatment for cancer, leukemia and other serious diseases, as well

as for babies in neonatal intensive care and burn victims.

- Individuals, age 17 and over, who meet weight and height requirements and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood.

- Donors may give whole blood up to six times per year or every 56 days, double red cells every 112 days or up to three times per year, and platelets every seven days or up to 24 times a year.

- For more information about blood donation, call (800) GIVE-LIFE or visit redcrossblood.org.

Free seminars focus on joint replacement

The Center for Joint Replacement at St. Mary Mercy Hospital offers free monthly educational seminars about joint replacement procedures.

Orthopedic surgeons are on hand at each meeting to answer questions, discuss joint pain and talk about implant options.

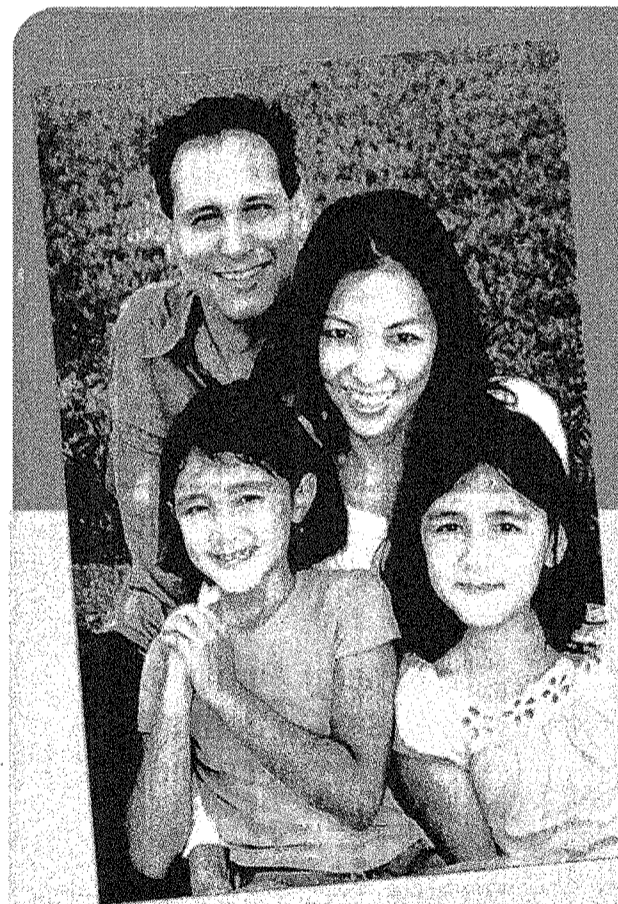
The Center offers a comprehensive group approach to its program, including pre-surgical classes and choosing a personal "coach"

to assist patients through the process.

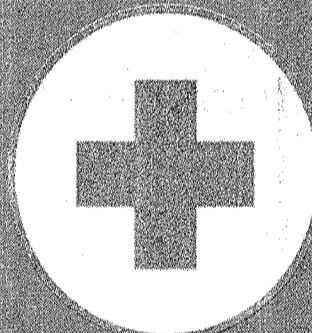
The seminars are offered from 6-8 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 28, 2010 and Thursday, Feb. 5, 2010 in classroom 10 and Tuesday, March 23, 2010 in the hospital auditorium.

To register call (734) 655-2400.

St. Mary Mercy Hospital is located at 36475 Five Mile Road, at Levan, in Livonia. For more information about physician and hospital services, visit www.stmarymercy.org.



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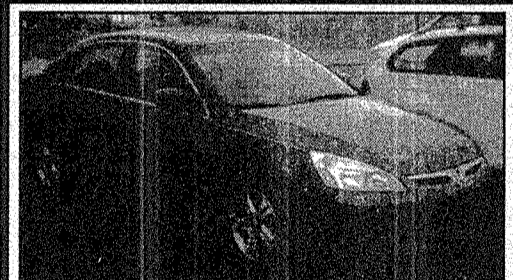
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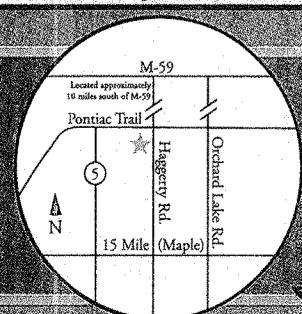


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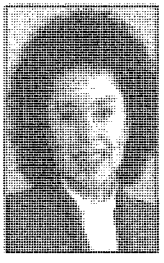
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PLAN NOW AS THE RECOVERY LOOMS



WORKWISE
by
Mildred L. Culp

Many people who still have their jobs have been trying to keep them. Planning for the recovery hasn't been a priority. Will you stay where you are?

If you won't stay, how can you mitigate risk? In either case, what are you currently doing with your earnings?

WORKING
You might be absolutely certain that you want to leave your company. Take a step back. Career counselor Anne Headley of College Park, Md., recommends making the most of your job by looking at increased workload demands as an opportunity, even if you're not confident about your ability. "Of course, you're doing it, because it beats being unemployed," she observes. "This does two things for you: it marks you a team player, even when the team is smaller than it used to be, and you just may get pushed into acquiring a new skill or two." That will make you more employable internally and externally.

Adam Lawrence brings similar perspective. He's vice president of Service Delivery program implementation and management at the Atlanta office of Yoh, a global staffing firm with 23,000 employees. Lawrence cautions you to be rational to avoid a precipitous move.

"Take your time," he says. "No one knows what type of recession this is. U-shaped recessions have us coming up the other side of the 'U.' That's a good thing. But if it's W-shaped, there's no way to predict. We have to go back. If you're really serious about job hunting, he advises you to review a company's financials. "Read the income statement," he says, "which is on the company web site if the organization is publicly-traded. Analyze the cash position and expansion potential. If a company is privately-held or venture-funded, politely ask for some level of disclosure, such as cash reserves." He adds not to sound suspicious.

Lawrence mentions that candidates rarely ask about the next step, something you might not want to do if you're applying for a job for which you're overqualified. Otherwise, "you should be able to ask that question," he states. "Does the company have a formal program in place for career progression? How is that executed? If it

does, you'll know the company is thinking that your talent is a real asset."

EARNING
Gerald Wernette, principal and director of Retirement Plan Services at Rehmann Financial L.L.C., in Farmington Hills, Mich., advocates rethinking how you distribute your salary. Although he works directly with employers in designing 401(k) plans all of the way through monitoring them, he brings insight to employees about investing.

If you haven't been investing, you may be "paralyzed by bad experiences and the continuing challenges," he says. "Too many people start where they are today, are afraid and feel that they don't have any money to save. Start with where you want to end up. It will show what you need to save and earn and what kind of risks you should be willing to take to generate that return."

Wernette, who claims to be a procrastinator, advises similar spirits to find a money-manager to alleviate the burden of managing your money. He points out that if all of it is in cash, you'll miss out on upturns in the market. It's not too late to invest and benefit from the emerging recovery.

"Everyone's finances are tight," he comments. "You have to start somewhere. You can't afford



Gerald Wernette offers helpful advice about how to allocate your salary. He's principal and director of Retirement Plan Services at Rehmann Financial L.L.C., in Farmington Hills, Mich.

not to. Take a first step and, every time you get a raise, carve out part of it." Wernette cautions, however, that you look closely at your company's fiscal soundness. Don't invest in a 401(k) if your company isn't likely to do well. The recovery might not save it.

(Dr. Mildred L. Culp welcomes your questions at culp@workwise.net. Copyright 2009 Passage Media.)

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<p>5000-3980 Employment Instructional Services</p>	<p>Help Wanted-General 5000 Delivery Drivers Reliable Delivery has immediate openings for delivery drivers w/ own vehicle. Must have good people skills and good knowledge of the Metro Detroit/Tri-county area. Only those with dependable transportation need apply. Apply in person at 6774 Brandt St., Romulus weekdays between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. weekdays.</p>	<p>Help Wanted-General 5000 PISTON MANUFACTURING TECHNICIAN Engine Manufacturer seeking energetic self-starting individual for our manufacturing / machine shop position located in Plymouth.</p>	<p>Help Wanted-General 5000 SOFTWARE ENGINEER FT Software Engineer - Plan & dev new comp systems & modifying existing systems to integrate upgrades & changes. Design & develop software systems using scientific analysis & mathematical models to predict & measure outcome & consequences of design. Consult with clients on project status, proposals & technical issues. Resp for requirement gathering, development of new reports, writing functional specification & program specification, tech design, coding reviews & drafting detailed unit test plans. Bachelors Degree in Comp. Science/related field or equiv. & 2 yrs exp req. Send CV Ltr & Resume to: Dearborn Group, Inc. Attention: Kathie O'Brien, 33604 W Eight Mile Rd. Farmington Hills, MI 48335</p>	<p>Help Wanted-Office Clerical 5020 BOOKKEEPER, FULL CHARGE/ ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT Minimum 5 yrs. exp. QuickBooks, Excel, Access Full-time plus position. Immediate Hire Email resume to: pcagents@comcast.net</p>	<p>Help Wanted-Food/Beverage 5080 WAIT STAFF, COOKS, FT/PT Pizza & Grill Exp. Apply at: Starting Gate 135 N. Center St., Northville</p>	<p>Observer and Eccentric Classified Early Deadline for New Year's Publications Please be advised due to the holidays, the Observer and Eccentric Newspapers will have early deadlines for the issues of Thursday, December 24th and December 31st. Please make note of these early deadlines, so your advertising will not miss these "well read" issues!</p> <p>Publications Of: Wayne County Observers • South Oakland Eccentric • Birmingham Eccentric Deadline for Issue of Sunday, December 27th: Liners: Wednesday, December 23rd at 3 pm Display: Tuesday, December 22nd at 5 pm Obituaries: Wednesday, December 23rd at 2 pm</p> <p>Publications Of: Wayne County Observers • South Oakland Eccentric • Birmingham Eccentric Deadline for Issue of Thursday, December 31st: Liners: Monday, December 28th at 2:30 pm Display: Friday, December 25th at 5 pm Obituaries: Tuesday, December 29th at 10 am</p> <p>Publications Of: Wayne County Observers • South Oakland Eccentric • Birmingham Eccentric Deadline for Issue of Sunday, January 3rd: Liners: Wednesday, December 30th at 3 pm Display: Tuesday, December 29th at 5 pm Obituaries: Wednesday, December 30th at 2 pm</p>
<p>Help Wanted-General 5000 A/P CLERK - ENTRY LEVEL Needed for Multi State Developer in West Bloomfield. Successful candidates must be proficient using computers with a strong skill set and experience working with Microsoft Excel. Candidate must be able to multi-task and experience using MRI software preferred. Duties require a self-starter who is highly organized and has the ability to work well independently. We offer a competitive compensation package based on experience. All responses must incl salary requirements.</p>	<p>Help Wanted-General 5000 INSTALLERS/DRIVERS Exp'd. & trainees for Office Furniture Installation. Valid drivers license & transportation req'd. Exp'd. with tools & driving trucks a plus. Apply in person: 29988 Anthony Dr., Wixom, MI 48393</p>	<p>Responsibilities include: Daily support in machine shop on maintenance tasks. Monitoring of consumable inventory for re-order. Operation of manual machines such as lathe and mill. Preparation of finished components. Other duties may be assigned.</p> <p>Candidate must have: At least 3 years experience in a machine shop environment with experience of manual machine operation. A high school diploma or equivalent. A knowledge and interest in automotive engines is a plus. Candidate will receive training on various equipment such as automatic machines. Basic computer skills mandatory.</p>	<p>Help Wanted-Dental 5040 Great Expressions Dental Centers Come join our expanding multi-practice organization as a FT ORAL SURGERY ASSISTANT 2+ years experience in position and computer literacy a must.</p>	<p>Help Wanted-Dental 5040 FT ORAL SURGERY ASSISTANT 2+ years experience in position and computer literacy a must.</p>	<p>Help Wanted-Dental 5040 Position Wanted 5340 IF YOU or a loved one need help w/daily activities or relief call us. 313-544-6434 We ALL could use a Break!</p>	<p>Observer & Eccentric Classified Early Deadline for New Year's Publications</p> <p>Classified HOMETOWNlife.com</p> <p>Contact Us: PHONE..... 1-800-579-SELL (7355) FAX..... 313-496-4968 ONLINE..... www.hometownlife.com EMAIL..... eads@hometownlife.com HOME DELIVERY/CIRCULATION..... 866-887-2737 BILLING/INVOICE..... 313-222-8748</p> <p>Deadlines: Sunday edition 4:30 p.m. Friday Thursday edition..... 2:00 p.m. Tuesday</p> <p>Offices and Hours: Eccentric office..... 6200 Metro Pkwy., Sterling Heights, MI 48312 Observer office 41304 Concept Drive, Plymouth, MI 48170 Hours 8:30 - 5:00 Monday - Friday</p> <p>POLICY All advertising published in the Observer and Eccentric Newspapers is subject to the conditions stated in the applicable rate card. (Copies are available from the advertising department, Observer and Eccentric Newspapers, 41304 Concept Drive, Plymouth, MI 48170 866-887-2737. The Observer and Eccentric Newspapers reserves the right not to accept an advertiser's order. Observer and Eccentric Newspaper sales representatives have no authority to bind this newspaper and only publication of an advertisement shall constitute final acceptance of the advertiser's order. When more than one insertion of the same advertisement is ordered, no credit will be given unless notice of typographical or other errors are given in time for correction before the second insertion. Not responsible for omissions. Publisher's Notice: All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 which states that it is illegal to advertise "any preference limitation, or discrimination". This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal housing opportunity basis. (FR Doc. 724983 3-31-72) Classified ads may be placed according to the deadlines. Advertisers are responsible for reading their ads) the first time it appears and reporting any errors immediately. The Observer and Eccentric Newspapers will not issue credit for errors in ads after THE FIRST INCORRECT INSERTION. Equal Housing Opportunity Statement: We are pledged to the letter and spirit of U.S. policy for the achievement of equal housing opportunity throughout the nation. We encourage and support an affirmative advertising and marketing program in which there are no barriers to obtaining housing because of race, color, religion or national origin. Equal Housing Opportunity slogan: "Equal Housing Opportunity". Table III - Illustration of Publisher's Notice.</p>
<p>Take a chance... "It's all about results" 800-579-SELL (7355) www.hometownlife.com</p>	<p>LOOKING FOR A CAREER (not a job) Real Estate Agent (Special pricing for Pre-licensing now only \$79) Salaried positions available if you qualify This is the time to buy homes in Michigan, be the one to sell the House. Change your life personally & financially register today. CALL ED BOWLIN AT 734-591-5940, EXT. 107</p>	<p>Ilmor Engineering Attn: Human Resources 43939 Plymouth Oaks Blvd Plymouth, MI 48170 Email: hr@ilmor.com</p>	<p>Help Wanted-Medical 5060 PHLEBOTOMY TRAINING Classes begin Jan. & March. Garden City, Dearborn, Wyandotte & Southgate. \$925. State Licensed. Gift Certificates Avail. 313-382-3857</p>	<p>Help Wanted-Food/Beverage 5080 COOK West Bloomfield Nursing Ctr. a Beaumont Hospital affiliate has a full time position available for an experienced cook. Health Care food service experience desired. Duties include cooking large quantities for an upscale client, banquet style food presentation and food line supervision. Health Care and other benefits available after 90 days. Fax your resume to: Kim Kaas at 248-661-2276 or apply in person at 6445 W. Maple West Bloomfield.</p>	<p>Help Wanted-Food/Beverage 5080 Out of Work or Laid-off? Find out how you may qualify for 100% PAID TUITION Military Spouse Tuition Assistance Available! Get certified in 6-12 months Medical Billing/Coding, Pharmacy Technology & Computer Training including Microsoft Certification programs starting now at New Horizons Livonia: 1-866-307-1436 Troy: 1-888-223-7972 Job Placement assistance available. VA Training provider. Associate member of MI Works.</p>	<p>Divorce Services 5610 DIVORCE \$75.00 www.CSRdisability.com CS&R 734-425-1074</p>
<p>APPOINTMENT SETTER Ideal for anyone who can't get out to work. Work from home PT, schedule pick-ups for Purple Heart, call 9-5, M-F. 734-726-4572 or email: phoneworkinfo@aol.com</p>	<p>Pictures Can Make A Difference! 1-800-579-SELL (7355) Observer & Eccentric Newspapers</p>	<p>Resident Care Associates, Receptionist & Dietary Servers For beautiful assisted living community located in Westland in need of Resident Care Associates, Receptionist & Dietary Servers. Please fax resumes to: (248) 350-9083</p>	<p>TAX PREPARER Free 1 week tax course. Day or night classes. Seasonal job opportunities in Livonia. Hourly wage plus bonus. Exp preferred but not required. Call Danny 248-935-2915 or Gus 248-943-9020</p>	<p>TRAVEL CONSULTANTS Quick learning, friendly, confident people to sell vacations using proven telephone sales techniques. No cold calling. \$8/hr. + \$500-\$1300 avg. mo. commission with over \$2500 commission potential. 35-40 hrs/wk. Benefits. Dearborn. 313-278-4100 ymtvacations.com</p>	<p>WAVER Get paid to wave in Livonia. Call Danny 248-935-2915 or Gus 248-943-9020</p>	<p>Divorce Services 5610 DIVORCE \$75.00 www.CSRdisability.com CS&R 734-425-1074</p>

> buildmydreamteam.com or 1-877-Fill-A-Job

QUALITY HAPPENS

Sometimes it's a blessing for your business. Replace departing employees with the contributors you need today. We know how to find them.

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careerbuilder.com


Bill Brown Ford CELEBRATES FORD YEAR END SALES EVENT

Bill Brown *sells* **FORD vehicles** *only Ford vehicles better than every other dealer in the U.S.A.*

#1 Ford Dealer in the Country!
 #2 Ford Dealer in Nebraska
 #3 Ford Dealer in California (they had been #1 for 19 years)
Total retail sales 2009 YTD, per Ford Division

Join the Bill Brown Ford Drive to finish 2009 as the #1 Ford Dealer in the Nation
 Visit Bill Brown Ford during this event to take advantage of our push to stay #1. Our Team will do whatever it takes to stay ahead and that's where you come out ahead.

Better service, better selection, more money for your trade. You can count on it!



NEW 2010 FORD F150 SUPER CAB STX 4X4
MSRP \$34,655

LEASE FOR
 \$1000 DOWN SIGN & DRIVE
\$322 ³⁶MO **\$362** ³⁶MO
\$1,447 due at signing \$0 DUE AT SIGNING

Buy For \$22,790*
Security deposit waived. Plus tax and license, includes acquisition fee.

Featuring SYNC, limited slip axle, sliding rear window, power equipment group, STX decor & plus pkg, trailer tow.
 6 at this price - 120 available



NEW 2010 FORD ESCAPE XLT
MSRP \$25,195

LEASE FOR
 \$1000 DOWN SIGN & DRIVE
\$307 ³⁶MO **\$357** ³⁶MO
\$1,694 due at signing \$0 DUE AT SIGNING

Buy For \$19,184*
Security deposit waived. Plus tax and license, includes acquisition fee.

Featuring moonroof, remote start, SYNC, power windows, locks, speed control and tilt wheel.
 17 at this price - 219 available



NEW 2010 FORD FOCUS SE
MSRP \$18,600

BUY FOR \$11,429*
LEASE FOR
 SIGN & DRIVE
\$192 ³⁶MO
\$0 due at signing

WE MAKE YOUR FIRST 2 PAYMENTS!

Featuring automatic, power windows, locks, speed control, Sirius satellite radio.
 100 at this price - 264 available



NEW 2010 FORD FUSION SE
MSRP \$22,500

LEASE FOR
 \$1000 DOWN SIGN & DRIVE
\$236 ³⁶MO **\$283** ³⁶MO
\$1,605 due at signing \$0 DUE AT SIGNING

Buy For \$16,566*
Security deposit waived. Plus tax and license, includes acquisition fee.

Featuring: remote start, power windows, locks, seat, speed control and tilt wheel.
 55 at this price - 329 available



NEW 2010 FORD EDGE SE
MSRP \$27,665

LEASE FOR
 \$1000 DOWN SIGN & DRIVE
\$299 ²⁷MO **\$357** ²⁷MO
\$1,578 due at signing \$0 due at signing

Buy For \$20,830*
Security deposit waived. Plus tax and license, includes acquisition fee.

Featuring remote start, power windows, locks, seat, tilt wheel, speed control.
 3 at this price - 100 available



NEW 2010 FORD TAURUS SEL
MSRP \$23,165

LEASE FOR
 \$1000 DOWN SIGN & DRIVE
\$369 ³⁶MO **\$419** ³⁶MO
\$1,700 due at signing \$0 DUE AT SIGNING

Buy For \$23,114*
Security deposit waived. Plus tax and license, includes acquisition fee.

Featuring: SYNC, remote start, power windows, locks, seat, speed control and tilt wheel.
 7 at this price - 101 available



NEW 2010 FORD FLEX SE
MSRP \$29,795

LEASE FOR
 \$1000 DOWN SIGN & DRIVE
\$317 ³⁶MO **\$369** ³⁶MO
\$1,795 due at delivery \$0 DUE AT SIGNING

Buy For \$22,198*
Security deposit waived. Plus tax and license, includes acquisition fee.

Featuring remote start, power windows, locks, seat, speed control and tilt wheel.
 3 at this price - 114 available.



NEW 2010 FORD TRANSIT CONNECT WAGON

LEASE FOR
 \$1000 DOWN SIGN & DRIVE
\$312 ³⁶MO **\$359** ³⁶MO
\$1,610 due at delivery \$0 due at delivery

Buy For \$19,054*
Security deposit waived. Plus tax and license, includes acquisition fee.

Featuring Nokia Bluetooth System, Reverse Sensing system, rear cargo 255-degree hinged opening, 3 passenger, Air, AM/FM w/CD, speed control, power windows, locks, remote keyless entry
 5 at this price - 52 available



SPECIAL SALES EVENT HOURS:
OPEN JANUARY 2, 9 AM TO 3 PM

800-611-2990

www.billbrownford.com

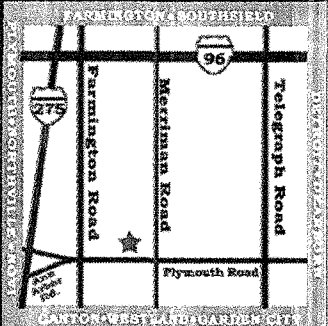
Monday and Thursday 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM
 Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM

If it doesn't say Bill Brown

Happy Holidays from

Bill Brown Ford

You paid too much!



3222 PLYMOUTH RD. LIVONIA, MI 48150

*All lease payments and buy prices are for qualifying A/Z planners. For qualifying non A/Z planners an additional \$500 to \$1500 would be required to keep the payments or price the same. F150 Edge, 10,500 miles per year. Taurus Flex, Escape, Focus, Fusion 12,000 miles per year. *Buy for price add tax, title, doc and destination fee. Subject to availability. All factory rebates assigned to dealer including owner loyalty or previous lease where applicable and may require Ford Credit financing. F150 includes F150 to F150 renewal. Not all buyers will qualify for lowest payments. Pictures may not represent actual vehicle. Payments and prices per program in effect at publication and are subject to change. All offers expire 01/04/2010. EPA estimated 23 city/34/hwy 27 combined mpg. Total retail sales 2009 YTD, per Ford Division.