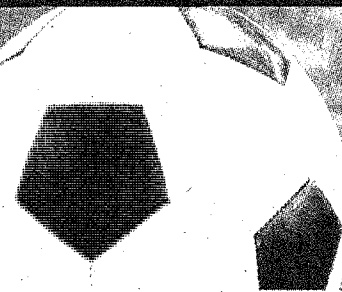


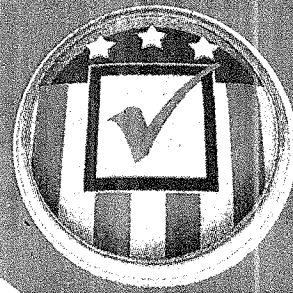
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VILLAINS, SUPERHEROES DRESS UP TO HELP HOSPITAL



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THURSDAY
October 28, 2010

The Observer & Eccentric
Newspapers

Volume 46
Number 45

\$1.00

WESTLAND OBSERVER

hometownlife.com

IN BRIEF

Halloween candy check available

Parents can make sure the Halloween treats their ghosts, goblins and princesses receive while trick or treating are safe by stopping by to the 18th District Court for a free check. The candy screening will be 6:30-10 p.m. Halloween (Sunday, Oct. 31) at the courthouse at 36675 Ford. For more information, call (734) 595-8720.

Comedy with a Cause

Enjoy a little relaxation and laughter when the Westland Rotary Club presents Comedy for a Cause at 8 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 4, at Joey's Comedy Club, 36071 Plymouth Road, Livonia.

Enjoy a fun evening and help the community. Proceeds will go to the Westland Rotary Charities. Tickets are \$15 each and are available through Westland Rotary members. For more information, call Noel at (734) 718-7328 or Mary at (734) 729-5401.

The Westland Rotary Club meets at 12:15 p.m. every Thursday at the Salvation Army, 2300 Venoy, Westland.

Luncheon fund-raiser

Chef Tony Paquette, along with his staff and students in the culinary arts program at the William D. Ford Career Technical Center, will be preparing the food for a fund-raising luncheon buffet to benefit the Wayne-Westland Family Resource Center.

The luncheon will be from 11:20 a.m. to 12:50 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 17, at the Career-Technical Center, 36455 Marquette, west of Wayne Road, Westland. The cost for the all-you-can-eat buffet is a minimum donation of \$10 per person.

This is the fourth year that Paquette and his students have hosted the buffet. The money raised will be used to provide Thanksgiving meals for Wayne-Westland families who are experiencing financial difficulties during the holiday season.

People who are unable to attend can make a donation by sending a check, payable to WWCS Family Resource Center, to 36745 Marquette, Westland, MI 48185 ATTN: Family Resource Center. For more information, call Amanda Faughnan at the Family Resource Center at (734) 419-2709 or send her an e-mail at faughnana@wwcsd.net.

Vote for favorite Halloween photo

Go to hometownlife.com and vote for your favorite Halloween photo. See the contest link in the Get Published area on the homepage at www.hometownlife.com.

Deadline to vote is midnight Sunday, Oct. 31.

Check out the spooky, funny, zany and cute photos submitted by readers.

Then vote!

Waiting to play: Ground broken for Central City Park remediation

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Most of the people attending the official ground-breaking for the Central City Park remediation and restoration project had some connection to the project — Westland and Wayne County staff, elected officials and contractors.

Wearing his Wayne-Westland Soccer T-shirt, it was clear what brought Keith Tilley to the ground-breaking.

"I'm actually looking forward to the soccer fields, I'm excited," said Tilley, president of the Wayne-Westland Soccer League and father of three players.

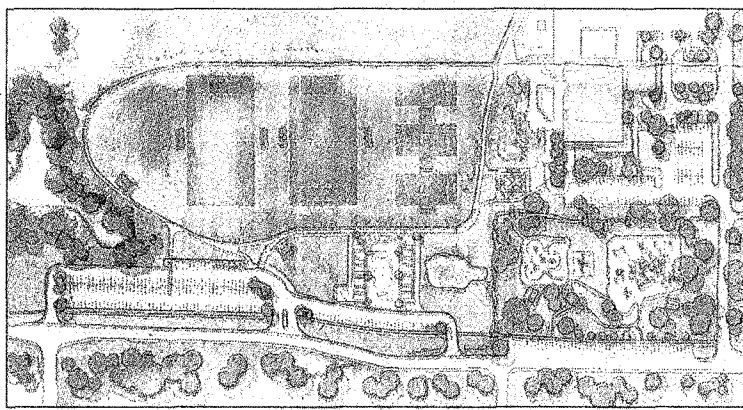
The closing of Central City Park in January 2006 due to lead contamination meant the league could no longer use the soccer field. That means teams have been playing at various fields in Westland and Wayne.

"With the new fields, we will keep most of the older age groups in one area, if not all the teams," said Tilley. "There are



The stumps of trees mark the spot where work will begin on creating a new 12-acre Central City Park.

Please see **PARK, A2**



About 12 acres of Central City Park is being remediated and when done, will have walking paths and soccer fields.

Agreement would let city buy park for \$10

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

For \$10, Westland could soon become the owner of 33-acre Central City Park.

Council members recently got their first look at a proposed intergovernmental agreement to transfer ownership of the park, long leased and operated by the city, from Wayne County to Westland. The draft agreement was provided at a recent council study session on the remediation and restoration of the park,

which has been closed since 2006 due to lead contamination.

At the sparsely attended meeting — only four residents turned up — some concern was expressed about Westland accepting ownership of the park on an "as is" basis.

About 12 acres of the park are being remediated and will be available for recreational use, including walking paths and soccer fields. That remediation

Please see **AGREEMENT, A2**

Absentee ballot requests on record-setting pace

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Already on a record setting pace, the Westland clerk's office will be open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday to give voters a last chance to get their absentee ballots mailed out for the Tuesday, Nov. 2, general election.

"We have already sent out just under 7,000 absentee ballots, which is a record for a state election," Clerk Eileen Dehart Schoof said. "Saturday is the last day

we can mail out ballots. People can pick them up until 4 p.m. Monday, but then they have to be filled out at City Hall."

Voters can drop off their completed absentee ballots at City Hall up until the polls close at 8 p.m. Tuesday.

Westland currently has just under 16,000 registered voters with a population of nearly 86,000 based on the 2000 U.S. Census.

"We're getting absentee ballot applications from all political parties. I think they know it is an important election,"

Schoof said.

Along with choosing between Democrat Virg Bernero and Republican Rick Snyder for governor, voters will also be casting ballots in other state and federal races, along with county elections.

Westland voters will be choosing between incumbent Glenn Anderson (D-Westland) and Republican candidate John Pastor, a Livonia councilman, in the Michigan Senate 6th District, which also includes part of Redford.

In the 18th District state House race, incumbent Richard LeBlanc (D-Westland) is being challenged by Republican Floyd Collins, a Westland resident who works as a truck driver.

Finishing her first term, Joan Gebhardt (D-Livonia) is seeking reelection as 12th District Wayne County commissioner. She is being challenged by Westland Republican Michael Case, who works for an auto dealership.

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Closet loans out medical equipment

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It's a different form of recycling. If you need to borrow reusable medical equipment, say a wheelchair or a cane, for a short period of time, the Westland Fire Department may be able to help you out.

The fire department's Loan Closet is housed in the former fire safety house.

"We had the Loan Closet established in the '70s and '80s. In the '90s, it kind of fizzled and wasn't that active," Fire Capt. John Adams said.

That changed after the Fire Department was able to purchase a fire safety trailer last

year through donations and fund-raising. That freed up the old Fire Safety House for a new use.

"We converted that to the Loan Closet. It's a better space for more donations," Adams said, noting the Loan Closet is another way the Fire Department can provide assistance to residents.

Firefighters recently raised the money to replace the roof on the old Fire Safety House, which is located next to Fire Station No. 1 at Ford and Carlson.

The idea of the Loan Closet is to provide help to people who need medical equipment on a

Please see **LOAN CLOSET, A2**



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Deadline nears to submit Halloween photo contest

More than 85 Halloween photos are posted online at hometownlife.com for readers to view and vote on. How about adding yours?

There's still time to enter the contest and win a prize. But hurry because you will want to give readers a chance to vote for your photo.

The top three vote-getters will win. First prize is two tickets (in a suite) to the Nov. 29 Carrie Underwood "Play On Tour" concert at the Palace with special guests Sons of Sylvia and Billy Currington.

Second prize is two tickets to Rock of Ages Nov. 9 at the Fisher Theatre featuring Constantine Maroulis, the American Idol finalist nominated for a Tony Award for his starring role in the Broadway production.

Third prize is four movie passes to Emagine Theaters in Canton or Novi or the Palladium/Birmingham Theater in downtown Birmingham.

Readers can view the Reader Submitted Photo Gallery on the homepage and recommend your



photo.

Be sure to include a first and last name and the town where you live. (Only contestants from Oakland, Washtenaw and Wayne counties are eligible to win prizes, but anyone can recommend a photo.)

Those who share photos that receive the most "recommend" votes as of midnight, Oct. 31, win prizes and will be published in the *Observer*.

PARK

FROM PAGE A1

about 600 kids playing in the league.

Remediation and restoration work on the nearly 13-acre eastern part of Central City Park will be getting under way soon and is scheduled to be completed in the spring. Tilley doesn't expect the soccer fields to be ready for use until 2012.

Parks and Recreation Director Robert Kosowski served as master of ceremonies for the official groundbreaking held Monday in the far eastern portion of the park along Carlson.

"This is a great day for Westland. I couldn't sleep last night, I was so excited," said Kosowski. "The team put this together and came up with an awesome plan."

In attendance were Westland Mayor William Wild, Westland Council President James Godbout, Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano, Wayne County Commissioner Joan Gebhardt, D-Livonia, state Rep. Richard LeBlanc, D-Westland, state Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, and other elected



Westland Parks and Recreation Director Robert Kosowski (right) introduces Mayor William Wild (standing) during the ground breaking ceremonies. Also on hand were State Rep. Richard LeBlanc, D-Westland (from left), State Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, Wayne County Commissioner Joan Gebhardt, D-Livonia, and Westland City Council President James Godbout. Also on hand was Assistant Wayne County Executive Alan Helmkamp.

and appointed officials.

"Welcome back to Central City Park. A lot of cities are developed around downtowns. Westland is not like that," said Wild. "When the city was put together 45 years ago, the park was part of that. There were fireworks, sports and a lot of us got married in this park. Closing this park was a shot in the stomach to many people."

Wild and other speak-

ers lauded the cooperative effort that resulted in the park remediation and restoration. Westland operated the park but it is owned by Wayne County, the Michigan Department of Environmental Resources and Environment and the federal Environmental Protection Agency were all involved in the project. That doesn't include attorneys,

engineers and now contractor ABC Paving of Trenton.

"It's a very special day for Westland, but also for Wayne County. The park has been closed and fenced off for 1,450 days, but who's counting," said Ficano, adding he was surprised to hear that Kosowski couldn't sleep the night before instead of the previous 1,449 nights.

The county's point man on the project was Wayne County Assistant Executive Alan Helmkamp, whose efforts were lauded by most of the speakers.

"The mayor and council have been outstanding to work with. On a personal note, I would like to thank Alan Helmkamp," said Ficano. "He lived and breathed this project and I compliment his ability to bring it to closure."

Kosowski also remembered late City Attorney Angelo Plakas, who had been involved with the Central City Park issues from the beginning and brought in attorney James Fausone, who represented the city and later became city attorney.

"I know Angelo Plakas is definitely smiling today. We all miss him," said Kosowski.

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LOAN CLOSET

FROM PAGE A1

short-term basis and/or may have trouble paying for the items.

"We have walkers, wheelchairs and crutches. We have received donations of equipment from various families," Adams said. "We recycle those items back into the community, like if someone needs crutches and they have no insurance or money for them."

Someone may have a family member visiting who needs a wheelchair or walker during the visit, something Adams said the Loan Closet can provide. As the name indicates, the items are loaned and need to be returned. To keep the Loan Closet operating, donations of items no longer needed

by patients, such as wheelchairs, walkers and crutches, are also accepted.

Information about utilizing the Loan Closet can be obtained by calling the Fire Department at (734) 467-3201. Adams recommends completing the short request form, including proof of Westland residency, online at www.cityofwestland.com through the Fire Department link, then click on the medical equipment supply icon.

"That's the most efficient way to contact us. We will contact you within 24 hours. We do respond on short notice — we're the Fire Department," Adams said. "The online request goes to the battalion chief who is on duty. The administrative office closes at 5 p.m."

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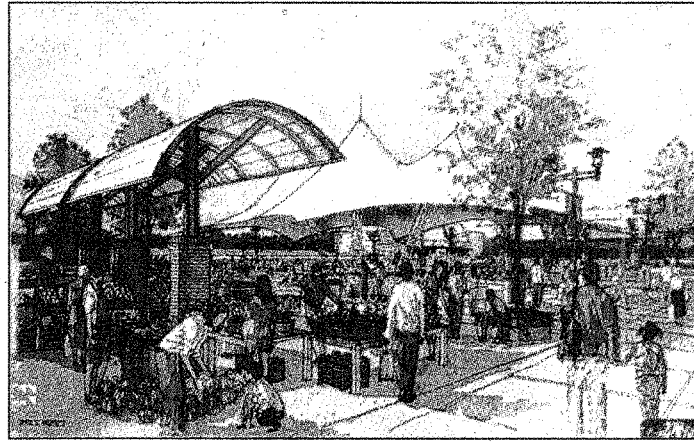
AGREEMENT

FROM PAGE A1

includes regrading and installation of a geotextile membrane with clean soil on top, a minimum 12 inches in nonparking areas and three or six inches of top soil or new asphalt walkway or concrete sidewalk in other areas.

The remaining property would be within a fenced restricted access. That area, which would have a passive ventilation trench on the north end to deal with concerns about methane gas, would not otherwise be remediated.

Wayne County is using parks millage and \$1 million in brownfield development



The new park will feature a pavilion.

money for the \$2.1 million remediation project. The city is contributing additional funding from grants and various fund-raisers.

Those efforts are confined to the 12-acre eastern portion of the park. If the restricted access area is to be developed, it would be the city's responsibility to handle any required remediation.

"I didn't realize how big the restricted access area is. If it's not developed, I'd like it graded with a geotextile membrane installed," Councilman Michael Kehrer said. "It's a major concern as we take it over. I understand it's a money value, but I would have liked us to get it ready for future use."

As plans for remediation of

Central City Park got under way, Mayor William Wild said it was cost-prohibitive to remediate the entire 33-acre site.

"The membrane is very expensive and that limits what we can do," Wild said. "It's all being done in accordance with what the MDNRE approved."

Since the contamination came from various sources, including disposal of storm sewer catch basin sediments and street sweepings along with a municipal landfill, City Attorney James Fausone said the county and Westland have already both been identified as responsible parties by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment.

"It's not like we are taking on new liability. We negotiated our best deal with Wayne County," Fausone said. "The restricted access area can be left alone. If the city chooses to develop it, it's the city's choice."

Excess contaminated soil that might result from the remediation project would be used to create a berm inside the restricted access area.

Under the proposed agreement, the county would share financial responsibility if, in the future, the MDNRE has a rule change affecting the remediated 12 acres.

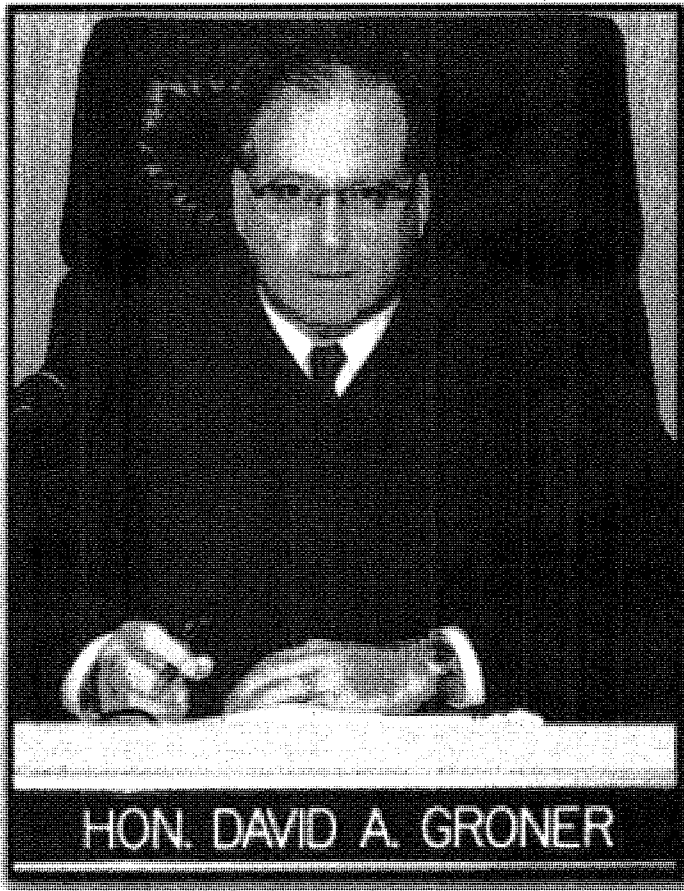
County and city officials began investigations into the contamination of the park after it was closed in 2006. It wasn't until January 2009 that the MDNRE approved the plans for remediation of the park in the Interim Response Plan.

"There is \$2.5 million coming from Wayne County. This has been on the table for years," said Alan Helmkamp, assistant Wayne County executive. "During that time, the bottom was falling out of the economy. It was a heavy lift to keep that money. If it was tripled for a global resolution, that money wouldn't be there."

ABC Paving of Trenton has been awarded the contract for the remediation and restoration, which is to be substantially completed by June 17, 2011.

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HAVE A STORY IDEA?

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Police arrest man for shooting off gun

Firearms charges

Police were called to a home in the 1600 block of Flynn at 5:30 p.m. Oct. 23 after neighbors reported a man shooting a gun. The 37-year-old resident came out while officers were arriving and quickly returned to his home. Officers ordered him outside and he eventually came out to be taken into custody.

The man, who was described as intoxicated, told the officers he had shot twice into the back yard but was not shooting at anyone. Officers confiscated a loaded .357 caliber revolver from which two shots had been fired, a .380 caliber revolver and a loaded rifle.

The man is facing charges of discharging a firearm and possessing a firearm while intoxicated. Numerous empty beer cans were found throughout the home and there was an open bottle of Crown Royal on the night stand, officers noted. The man had a .21 blood alcohol level.

Suspicious men

A 10-year-old Westland girl told police that at about 7 p.m. Oct. 25 she was walking on Glenwood between the entrances on Bentley when a vehicle that had been traveling westbound pulled onto the shoulder and stopped. She said the male front seat passenger yelled, "Hey, you, get in the van."

The girl told police she could only see his arm and that he was wearing a white T-shirt. She ran towards her home, she said, not looking to see the direction in which the van headed. She described the vehicle as a light green minivan

WESTLAND

with a lighter green square on the passenger side rear door area.

Westland police were adding patrols around the nearby Adams Middle School.

On Oct. 22, a 15-year-old Garden City girl told police that she was walking to a pawn shop near Warren Road and Lathers about 3 p.m. when a vehicle began following her westbound along Warren Road. The driver, described as a white male with curly brown hair wearing a tan baseball cap, rolled down the window and told her to get into the vehicle, the girl said.

Frightened, the girl said she ran southbound across Warren Road and hid in a back yard. A few minutes later, she said she called a family member to pick her up and the suspect was gone.

The suspect's vehicle was described as a small dark blue four-door, possibly a foreign car.

Peeping Tom

Police were called to an apartment in the 2000 block of South Venoy about 1:30 a.m. Oct. 23 after a resident reported seeing a man outside her window masturbating. The resident, 17, told police she heard a knock on her bedroom window and opened the curtain to see the man. The suspect was described as a white male, wearing a white hooded sweatshirt with a black baseball cap.

Break-in

About 3:30 a.m. Oct. 25, police were dispatched to

Dick's Sporting Goods, 35500 Central City Parkway, about a break-in. Officers found a window broken near the front doors and the glass broken on an interior entrance door. A rock was nearby on the floor.

Multiple golf clubs were found on the floor. The store manager arrived and estimated that \$1,000 worth of golf clubs had been stolen.

Arson

A Fenton man told police that he went out to his vehicle parked in the 900 block of South Dowling at 7:20 a.m. Oct. 23 to find a bottle burning under the rear of his 2007 Chevrolet Tahoe. The man said he put water on the fire and called police.

The officer noted it was a vodka bottle that appeared to have a flannel patterned material sticking out the neck. The bottle was half full of what appeared to be gasoline, the officer said.

The man said it could have been a random act, adding he previously had problems with his girlfriend's ex-boyfriend but hadn't had contact for over a year. Damage to the undercarriage of the vehicle was listed as minimal.

Break-in

On Oct. 25, a Canton man told police that he had been working for several weeks on a home in the 30000 block of Grandview and returned to find scrap material missing from the back yard. Entering the home, he said he saw that the central air conditioning unit was missing. Pry marks and a partial footprint were on the rear door, he said.

Tools and a ladder also were reported missing along with the kitchen window and several window screens. The stolen items were valued at \$2,650.

ATV stolen

On Oct. 25, a resident in the 38000 block of Belliveau told police that her son's 2008 Baja Quad, valued at \$850, had been stolen from their unlocked backyard shed. She said her son had ridden the ATV the previous day.

Break-ins

A 101-year-old resident in the 33000 block of Grand Traverse Court told police Oct. 23 that someone had forced open her rear door and stolen a plasma television, valued at \$1,000. The woman said she doesn't hear well and hadn't heard anyone in the house.

The woman had been pushing her LifeLine emergency assistance button without response. The officer said that he checked the system and found it was not working. The woman was able to flag down a person walking a dog and asked them to call police. The officer contacted the woman's son.

A resident in the 32000 block of Menominee Court told police Oct. 26 that someone had stolen her flat screen television while she was sleeping. The television, valued at \$367, was there at 12:30 a.m. but gone 30 minutes later, she said. There was no sign of forced entry, so the officer noted the suspect may have entered through the open front door.

A couple living in the 2600 block of Cascade Court told police that someone had entered their home through an unlocked kitchen window while they were sleeping between 9 p.m. Oct. 23 and 2 a.m. Oct. 24.

The woman reported her purse, containing identification, credit cards and \$16 in cash stolen. The keys to a 2007 Chrysler Sebring were also in the purse, the couple said, and the vehicle was also stolen.

Larceny

On Oct. 23, a resident in the 31000 block of Hiveley told police that the floors were being redone at the home and the furniture, including a three-piece Italian sofa, ottoman, recliner, three rugs, two end tables and a chair, valued at \$5,800, had been placed in the driveway under a tarp. The man and his wife spent the night at another location due to the fumes and returned to find the furniture had been stolen.

A neighbor walking his dog told the man that he had seen a large van backed into the driveway during the late evening.

-By LeAnne Rogers

Police officer gets help arresting drunken driver

Assist officer

Garden City and Westland officers came to the assistance of a Garden City police officer about 11:30 p.m. Oct. 23 after he radioed for help.

The officer was trying to handcuff and restrain a drunken driver he stopped in the area of Ford and North Venoy. A caller reported that the 32-year-old Canton man had appeared drunk and had almost struck the curb several times. The caller remained on the line and followed the man until police arrived.

The trouble began when the officer ordered the man out of his Ford Taurus so that sobriety tests could be administered. The driver refused to take a preliminary breath test although he showed obvious signs of intoxication.

The driver turned on the officer and the officer tried to pin the man against his vehicle to keep him from fleeing the scene. When the man grabbed hold of the officer's gun belt near the area of his handgun, the officer radioed for assistance.

The man continued to grapple with the officer even though he was ordered several times to refrain from resisting. By the time the other officers arrived, the officer was lying completely on top of the man still trying to handcuff him.

The man kept one leg under him which the officers pulled out and handcuffed him with two cuffs.

The man had threatened to kill the officer and struck the officer on the left side of his head.

"I have a gun and a camera recording you as I kill you," the suspect reportedly said.

The officer noted that he and the man had moved 15 feet on the ground during the struggle.

The suspect, who also had a suspended license, was arrested for assault on a police officer. He was transported to Garden City Hospital for treatment and to have blood drawn.

Disorderly man

Garden City police used a Taser on a man in the 6760 block of Helen about 3:15 p.m. Oct. 22. The man was known to police as having "mental issues." The 23-year-old man's mother called police because she said that her son had gasoline, adding that they "should get there quickly."

The police found the man sitting in the passenger seat of his mother's car with a knife in his pocket.

GARDEN CITY

He was ordered out of the vehicle and ended up on the roof of the vehicle where he refused to comply with the officer's orders to get off the roof.

"Shoot me," he said to the police officer. A command officer radioed the officer, informing him that the suspect was known to have weapons in his house. He was reaching into his clothing when the officer arrived and was Tasered. He fell off the roof of the car, closing the hood which was open.

His mother, who owns a Canton Township home, was told to remove weapons the suspect had in that residence, and officers met with Canton police officers at that home to retrieve the weapons.

The mother also told police that her son had burned the porch railing of her Garden City home.

Home invasion

A woman who returned to her home in the 36700 block of Barton about 4 p.m. Oct. 21 reported that someone stole all of her jewelry from her bedroom. The stolen items included numerous rings, necklaces and bracelets.

The police found no signs of forced entry.

The owner thought that the thief might be her son's ex-girlfriend because that woman knew that the family kept the house key in a shoe on the porch.

Stolen car

A Garden City resident reported that his 1992 Buick which was locked in his driveway was stolen sometime before 4 a.m. Oct. 28. The police found broken glass at the scene.

Vandalism

A woman in the 6600 block of Cardwell reported that someone damaged two bedroom screens and three pieces of aluminum siding sometime before 1:30 p.m. Oct. 21.

The police are looking for four or five people who were inside a dark colored vehicle driving in the 460 block of Cardwell at 10 p.m. Oct. 24.

The owner of a 1998 Dodge pickup saw a male in his teens hanging out of the vehicle. The suspect struck the owner's car which was parked on the street and damaged the rear passenger side of the vehicle.

-By Sue Buck

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Villains, superheroes dress up to help GC Hospital



Jim Lepping of Livonia took off his Darth Vader mask to get a better look at some of the silent auction items.

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

There was nary a problem with the villains and superheroes that gathered at Laurel Manor in Livonia last Friday.

Batman, Superman and Spider-man, not to mention Superwoman rubbed shoulders with the likes of "a really good Joker" and a "pretty creative Computer Virus for the Garden City Hospital Foundation's 19th annual Fall Fundraiser.

"There were a lot of people in costumes, I think it was the most we had with a themed event," said Judy Wernette, foundation director. "And there were quite a few villains."

An estimated 570 guests enjoyed a strolling supper and music by the Sunset Boulevard Band while bidding on a variety of items during the silent auction.

The auction raised an estimated \$14,000, according to Wernette. Available to the highest bidder were a dinner for eight cooked in the winner's home by Chef Marcus Haight, former executive chef of the Lark and now a postgraduate instructor at Schoolcraft College, gold with Steve Courtney, WJR radio's "popular sports guy," and a private tour for two with WWJ's Auto Beat reporter Jeff Gilbert before the opening of the 2011 of the North American International Auto Show.

Money raised at the benefit helps renovate and improve the hospital's facilities. This year's event benefited Garden City Hospital's "Raise the Roof" campaign. Some \$130,000 was raised to upgrade and renovate the hospital roofing system.

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



Chris Hunt, director of library services at Garden City Hospital, tests out the props at last week's fund-raiser.



Starship Enterprise Captain Tim Jodway, who is really CFO at Garden City Hospital, and his wife, Alaina, check out the silent auction items at last week's fund-raiser.



"Superheroes and Villains" was the theme of this year's fund-raiser which featured live music, strolling dinner, raffle baskets and silent auction.



Livonia residents David Simpson and Anne Pawlak, physicians at Garden City Hospital, enjoy the food stations places throughout the Laurel Manor Banquet and Conference Center.



Taking a break to enjoy food, drinks and dessert and show off their clever costumes were (from left) Jaskiran Jhaggi of Westland and Jessica and Bill Mataverde of Livonia.



Guests were encouraged to dress up so Debra Williams of Livonia did just that. Here she is in her V for Vendetta costume checking out the silent auction items.



Susan Adkins of Milan, aka Catwoman, poses with Queen Rachel Seconsky of Canton.



Garden City Hospital employees Shannon Waid of New Boston and Shelly Watts of Garden City along with their friend and gala guest Lori Lawson of Dearborn Heights take time out to pose for a photo in one of the booths set up around the room.



Hospital staff members (from left) Jim Williamson of Garden City, Sue Methner of Livonia and Julie Carriagan of Plymouth were part of the committee that organized the "Superheroes and Villains" benefit.



Hospital employee Dan Newhouse and his wife, Nicki, of Redford Township came dressed for a fun evening.



Canton resident Val Evers Bernacki, dressed as an FBI agent, takes a turn on the dance floor. Bernacki works for United Home Health Services.

STRICTLY BUSINESS

Thursday, October 28, 2010

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HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Contact Editor Sue Mason

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Displaying the numerous marketing awards for Co-op Services' Project 100 community initiative are marketing team members (bottom row) Kathy Hurt and Jeremy Cybulski and (top row, from left) Bryan Feldpausch, Marketing Director Lisa Fawcett, CUES President/CEO Fred Johnson, Co-op Services President/CEO Anthony Carnarvon, Beverly Outland and Jay Jackson.

Co-op's Project 100 wins CEU's best of show honor

By winning the "Best of Show" award in the 2010 Credit Union Executives Society Golden Mirror Awards, Co-op Services Credit Union has achieved something that has never been accomplished in the Credit Union industry.

Co-op Services popular Project 100 community initiative has taken the top honors in both major credit union industry award competitions. Earlier this year Co-op Services Credit Union also topped CUNA's Diamond Awards competition, winning the coveted "Competition's Best." In total, Project 100 has won 12 industry awards in 2010, making it the most awarded project in the 50 plus years of the credit union's existence.

"In the more than 15 years that these awards have been tracked, there has never been one project or even one credit union that has taken top honors in both competitions," said Greg Wohler, president of edge creative group, the agency that worked with Co-op Services Credit Union on Project 100. "We were so proud of the credit union and what they achieved. This is truly a big honor."

Originally developed in 2009, Project 100 (www.whatisproject100.com) was a community initiative whose



Lisa Fawcett, marketing director of Co-op Services Credit Union, receives the prestigious "Best of Show" market award from Fred Thompson, president and CEO of the Credit Union Executives Society.

primary goal was to encourage giving throughout southeast Michigan. The Project 100 team, made up of credit union employees, randomly distributed \$100-dollar bills to 100 people over 100 days with no strings attached. Recipients could do whatever they liked with the money but were encouraged to think about how they could give in their communities.

Out of more than 1,000 entries in both competitions,

Project 100 was selected to receive top honors in both. Earlier this year, the Credit Union was honored at an awards ceremony in Washington, D.C., where they picked up four awards, including the Competition Best, Diamond Award.

Then, several weeks ago, they were surprised by Fred Johnson, president of the Credit Union Executives Society (CUES), who traveled across the country to the credit union's headquarters in Livonia, to personally deliver their five Golden Mirror awards and the "Best of Show" award.

"In the midst of a severe economic environment, we were able to offer assistance through a program that not only received national recognition from our peers but made a real impact in our community," said Lisa Fawcett, marketing director at Co-op Services Credit Union. "It demonstrates that there is tremendous value in giving and encouraging others to do the same."

Co-op Services Credit Union is a full-service, non-profit, financial institution founded in 1954. For more information about Co-op Services, visit the credit union's website at www.cscu.org.

BUSINESS NEWSMAKERS

Now on staff

Dr. Gregory Weigler has joined the medical staff at Botsford Hospital.

Board certified in Urologic Surgery, Dr. Weigler is a member of the American Osteopathic Association, the Michigan Osteopathic Association, the American College of Osteopathic Surgeons and the Christian Medical and Dental Association.

Dr. Weigler received his medical education from Pikeville College School of Osteopathic Medicine in Kentucky. He completed his urologic surgery residency at Garden City Hospital. He has a practice at 6255 Inkster Road, Suite 201, in Garden City.

Botsford Hospital is a multi-specialty community hospital with 330 licensed beds located in Farmington Hills, Michigan. The hospital, founded in 1965, each year cares for more than 17,000 inpatients and almost 60,000 emergency patients with a team of 2,400 employees, 400 volunteers and more than 600 physicians.



Weigler

Buy-Back Day

Dr. Nawaf Masri and his staff collected 650 pounds of Halloween candy during a Buy-Back Day last year at his office in Livonia. The days after Halloween are usually an orthodontist's busiest time for emergency visits as certain types of candy damage braces. The Buy-Back helps children avoid injury.

Dr. Nawaf Masri and his staff are once again reaching out to the community. This time they're celebrating National Orthodontic Health Month with presentations in elementary schools, a Halloween candy buy-back day, and contest to guess the weight of the huge pumpkin in the lobby of Masri Orthodontics in Livonia.

Kendall Goddard, one of Masri's chair side assistants, is visiting schools in Livonia, Westland, Redford, Plymouth, and the surrounding area. With the help of Dudley the Dinosaur, Goddard presents a 45-minute slide show to students from kindergarten through third grade.

"The kids have a lot of fun with that," said Dolly Emmett, office manager.

At the end of the presentation, children take home

an activity book and goody bag filled with toothbrush, paste and floss to reinforce the message to take care of their teeth and visit the dentist regularly. The American Association of Orthodontists recommends an orthodontist check a child no later than age 7 to spot problems with emerging teeth and jaw growth.

Laurie Johnson knows the importance of a healthy smile to overall wellness. Her son, Connor, 13, and daughter, Caitlin, 11, have full-mouth braces, daughter Morgan, 11, temporary braces.

"I want their teeth to look nice. They have to last them their lifetime," said Laurie Johnson of Garden City.

On Monday, Nov. 1, children can bring in their Halloween candy from 4-6 p.m. when Masri buys back the goodies at \$2 a pound. Children receive \$1, the Livonia Goodfellows the other \$1 to help local families in need.

The Halloween Candy Buy-Back takes place at Masri Orthodontics, 35200 Schoolcraft, between Wayne Road and Levan, Suite 104, Livonia. For more information, call (734) 261-8860 or visit www.masriortho.com.

MILESTONES

Open House

Time/Date: Monday, Nov. 1, through Saturday, Nov. 6

Location: Guardian Martial Arts and Fitness Inc., 30942 Ford, Garden City

Details: Guardian Martial Arts and Fitness is hosting a week-long open house in observance of its 12th anniversary. Classes are free all week. The studio offers American Kenpo, STOTT PILATES, Kickboxing, Tai Chi, Pole Dance Fitness and CPL (formerly CCW) Classes. American Kenpo specializes in practical and effective self-defense. In addition, American Kenpo classes help children and adults with focus, confidence, goal building, discipline and physical fitness. Pilates, often recommended by physical therapists and chiropractors, builds strength in the core, as well as toning and tightening muscles.

Contact: For more information, call Guardian Martial Arts & Fitness at (734)266-0565 or visit on the website at www.guardianmartialarts.com.

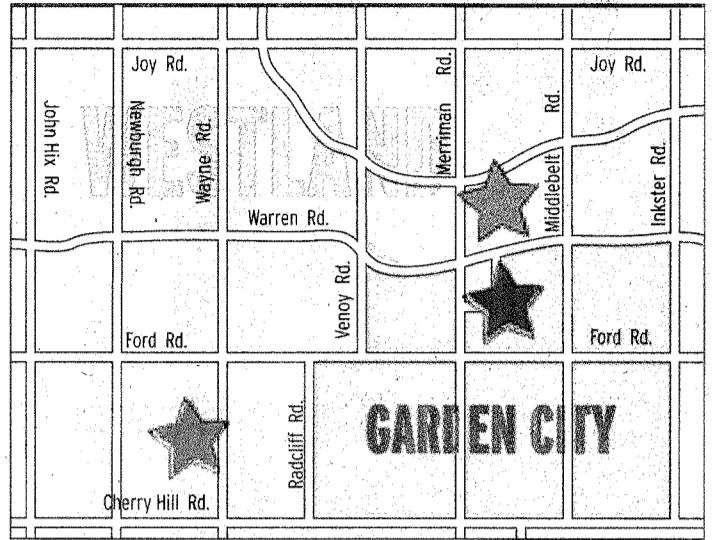
Hunters special

Time/Date: 7 p.m., Friday, Nov. 5

Location: Hawthorne Valley Country Club, 7300 Merriman, north of Warren Road, Westland

Details: Join to Salute to the Superstars and the Hawthorne Valley Country Club for a pre-Deer Hunters Show, with live Vegas style tributes to Waylon Jennings, Willy Nelson, Toby Keith, Patsy Cline. Master of Ceremonies for the evening is none other than Larry the Cable Guy. All backed by the Radio City Show Band. Tickets are only \$37.00 per person. Dinner is at 6 p.m., with the show at 7:30 p.m.

Contact: For more information, call



(734) 422-3440.

Senior Partners

Location: Choice Insurance Agency Inc., 201 N. Wayne Road, Westland

Details: Choice Insurance Agency has earned Senior Partner status from Grange Insurance, the company's highest designation. This

honor recognizes the best independent agencies that sell Grange products based on their experi-

ence, professionalism and superior performance. Choice Insurance Agency Inc. serves customers in Westland. Grange only sells its products through independent insurance agents because they offer the best local insurance counsel, can offer coverage from a variety of companies to find the best fit for each individual, family or business and support the community where they live and work. "Our view is that customers would rather do business with an independent agent in their community than with a big company website, 800 number or captive agent," said Bob James, Grange President and CEO. "We believe our independent agent partners -

especially our Senior Partners - are people you can trust and count on when needed."

Contact: For more information, call (734) 641-4200.

CPA Conference

Time/Date: 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Registration and Refreshments at 8 a.m.), Wednesday, Nov.

Location: Laurel Manor, 39000 Schoolcraft, Livonia

Details: The Michigan Association of Certified Public Accountants is Financial Planning and Advanced Federal Tax Conference. More than ever, Americans are looking to create a sound, secure financial plan for themselves and their dependents. Learn strategies that bridge federal tax strategy with financial planning to create a plan for your clients that will keep their portfolio secure and growing. Cost is \$215 for MACPA members, \$315 for registrants. To register, go online to www.michcpa.org.

Contact: For more information, contact the Michigan Association of CPAs CPE Department at (888) 877-4273 or by e-mail at cpe@michcpa.org.

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Sue Mason,
Community Editor
Susan Rosiek,
Executive Editor
Grace Perry,
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OUR VIEWS

Observer endorsements

Vote no on state proposals on constitution, felons

Voters will be asked to decide two state proposals on the Nov. 2 ballot. Proposal 2010-1 asks voters whether to convene a constitutional convention to re-write the state constitution. The current constitution is the fourth in state history. Voters overwhelmingly rejected proposals to rewrite it in 1978 and 1994. Voters should say no again and reject Proposal 2010-1.

The estimated \$45 million cost along with two years of political and economic uncertainty are not what Michigan needs at this time. Changes can be made by the state Legislature and voters without a significant rewrite of the basic government document.

Proposal 2010-02 is a legislatively proposed constitutional amendment that would add a Section 8 to Article XI of the 1963 Michigan Constitution.

Michigan's Constitution currently forbids anyone convicted of a felony involving a breach of the public trust from serving in the Legislature for 20 years. The ballot proposal would add language to also put a 20-year ban on anyone convicted of a felony involving dishonesty, deceit, fraud or a breach of public trust while in office from seeking election or appointment to a position with authority over public assets.

The amendment on the Nov. 2 ballot was reported to have been drafted to preserve public trust in government.

Although the proposal sounds like a good idea, we agree with those who point to "the vagueness of some of the language."

A candidate's criminal record is generally an issue in any electoral contest and elected officials who appoint people with criminal records know they will be held accountable.

Vote No on Proposals 2010-1 and 2010-2 on Nov. 2.

Yes on parks millage

Wayne County is asking voters to renew, for another five years, a tax levy for parks that comes in at just under 0.25 (0.2459) of a mill.

Proposal P, the millage renewal, is projected to generate \$10.62 million in 2011 to operate several parks and related facilities, including major improvements to Hines Park, Elizabeth Park, Chandler Park and Fort Wayne.

In addition, some 15 percent of the millage has been rebated back for local park improvement projects.

It's a millage that western Wayne County residents can actually see and enjoy their tax dollars at work.

Vote Yes on Proposal P.

On Election Day, get out and vote

Tuesday is Election Day, and if statistics hold true, more people will stay home than go to the polls to vote.

The enthusiasm that brought 64 percent of voters to the polls in the 2008 presidential election is nowhere to be found in 2010, but the decisions that will be made next week are just as important. Michigan is at a crossroads, and it will be up to voters to decide who will be charged with charting a new course for the state.

If residents want a voice in that change, they have to get up and get involved. That means voting in Tuesday's election. According to Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land, 7.28 million Michigan residents have registered to vote. That amounts to 95.5 percent of the voting age population. Want to guess how many will actually vote? Certainly, not 7.28 million.

People have plenty of reasons why they don't vote. They're too busy; they're going to be out of town on Election Day; they're not interested in the candidate. Those are lame excuses.

Too busy? Tell that to the family who lost a son or daughter in a battle to protect our way of life. A lot of blood has been shed so we continue to have the right to vote.

Out of town? No problem. There's an absentee ballot available right up to Election Day. Certainly, there are requirements for requesting one, but last time we checked, there was no one knocking on doors on Election Day to see if a person was home.

Not interested in the candidate? Oh, get real. The best way to let a candidate know what you think of him is to vote for the other person. Our government was designed for citizen participation, so if you don't vote, other people are going to make the decisions for you. If you don't vote, keep your complaints to yourself.

Don't let a lame excuse keep you from voting. Turn off the TV, get out of the chair and get involved. Remember, in this country, our government is of the people, for the people and by the people.

LETTERS

Thanks for 'Good News'

So often I feel discouraged when I see the lead article on the front page of the paper because the news is generally negative. I was so pleasantly surprised to see some GOOD NEWS — your article — on the front page this past Sunday. As I am a Christian, the article was especially encouraging to me.

Somehow all the bad news — teens out of control, adults arrested for drugs and crime, children being neglected and abused — never gets connected with the loss of our morals and Christian standards in America. If people don't think they are anything more than an ape and that they will never answer to anyone greater than themselves for their behavior, why wouldn't they do whatever they wanted. And that is exactly where we are today.

I must thank you for covering the Thomases' ministry, and I hope you haven't received a lot of negative comment for it. In this day and age, it takes courage to print such good news. Kudos to Westland Observer for having that courage!

Nancy and Gene Bulka
Westland

Election? What election?

During a recent trip to central Vermont, I was pleased to see a high number of political signs promoting residents' favorite candidates in the upcoming Nov. 2 election.

In the small towns I drove through, some homeowners had anywhere from three to six yard signs on their front lawns. There were even more at major intersections.

This is a sharp and disturbing contrast to what I have observed in my own community of Westland and my neighborhood in the Wayne Road-Joy area. In driving around the north-central portion of the city, I have seen very few signs. The ones I have mostly seen are circuit and probate judges running for re-election. Even though I live walking distance from state Sen. Glenn Anderson, there are relatively few yard signs from his supporters. Not only are there few signs on front lawns, there is also fewer than usual number of signs at major intersections or on the edge of commercial districts.

Why are local residents not more interested in the upcoming election? I am sure that the economic recession is absorbing the energies and thoughts of too many residents. If they are out of work, they are busy looking for jobs. If they are employed, they may be worried a cut-back in their employer's workforce and trying to think ahead on how to protect themselves and their family. Those two groups are simply putting a low priority on listening to candidates for governor, Congress, and the state legislature or worry about candidates' policies on educational reform, tax policies, and environmental issues.

No one can question those persons' priorities, but it is sad to see a dearth of political signs. I foresee a smaller than usual voter turnout on Nov. 2 and that could lead to other problems.

Leonard Poger,
Westland

Questions about school sale

Regarding the sale of Patchin School/property:

In our opinion, if you watch or attend a Wayne-Westland school board meeting you will find no surprises when votes are cast. Four members acted as rubber stamps while two are independent voices.

No one claimed to know the potential net proceeds on this sale. The math, \$1 million minus sale and related expenses and don't forget subtract the district's debt on this building/property. What is the bottom line? Why were you in such a hurry to sell?

Robert and Nancy Froreich
Westland

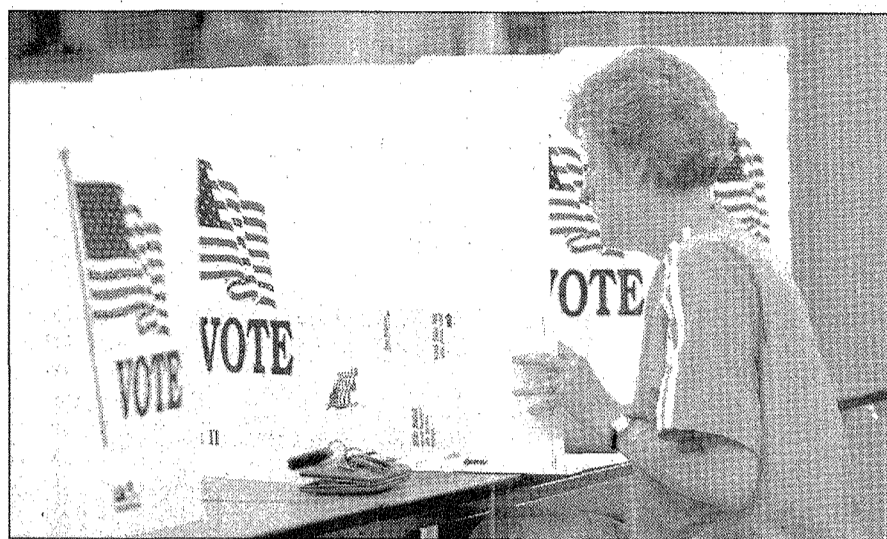
Supports Ruth Johnson

I urge everyone to join me in supporting the election of Ruth Johnson for Secretary of State (SoS) on Nov. 2. As a voter, I know Ruth will protect our constitutional rights as well as our voter integrity.

Ruth is the woman that exposed fraud and corruption scheme that was stealing money from our public schools and had those responsible, jailed. She was been vigilant in rooting out voter fraud and a continuing fight against ACORN. Ruth supports our troops and their right to vote.

Her opponent is a George Soros-backed candidate. Mr. Soros knows that the way to corrupt an election is to control the SoS offices. Additionally, her challenger has zero experience in this position. I hope you will join me in supporting Ruth Johnson for Michigan's next Secretary of State.

Phil Solarz
Westland



Tuesday's general election will see voters elect a new governor, secretary of state and attorney general, as well state and federal lawmakers and county officials.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

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

E-mail: smason@hometownlife.com.

Read or comment online:
www.hometownlife.com

Deadline: Letters must be received by 10 a.m. Monday to be published in the Thursday edition.

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

Mosher supporter

Congressman McCotter doesn't seem to realize that the American workers are hurting and need help from him to revive our economy and provide jobs. He has steadfastly opposed the efforts of President Obama to get the economy back on its feet.

He rejected the stimulus bill which gave three million workers jobs and prevented the layoffs of hundreds of thousands of government employees. He has also rejected bills that would have provided billions in loans to small businesses and has stubbornly opposed tax credits to industries that are investing in clean energy.

McCotter's solution to the economic crisis is the same as his approach to climate change and environmental pollution. Do nothing. Let the market place and thoughtless corporations decide what kind of country we live in.

But take heart, we can do something about our congressman's uncaring attitude by replacing him this election and voting for his Democratic opponent, Natalie Mosher. She has promised to be a champion for small businesses, seniors and workers, and fight to curb the destructive influences of greedy corporations in our government. Plus she thinks that protecting our environment and caring for the planet is a worthwhile endeavor. After all, it is our home.

Thaddeus J. Hejka
Canton

McCotter a no-show

It appears that Thaddeus McCotter shies away from attending public forums where he would have to explain his position on various subjects in an open debate with well-informed candidates.

I can understand that when Congress is in session he could possibly be working on issues in Washington. However, when Congress is not in session, shouldn't he be available to attend a forum sponsored by the nonpartisan League of Women Voters? Instead, according to a press release in the Sept. 19 Observer, he attended a meeting with a vice president of the Motor and Equipment Manufacturers Association. The press release also stated that "McCotter's official responsibility precluded his attendance" over attending the nonpartisan forum put on for the benefit of informing his constituents whom he is supposed to represent.

He, instead, attended a very special interest group that probably has access to him in Washington, D.C. He did this at a time when Congress was not in session and he had the opportunity of attending to his official responsibility of representing the people of his congressional district.

According to a Dec. 6, 2009, press release, Rep. McCotter was honored by the Michigan Bankers Association for doing what they considered very important work. Once again, he was available to a special interest group whose policies have negatively affected so many people in our State.

I can think of only two possible reasons why Rep. McCotter selects his availability to the public when Congress is not in session. The first may be that he would not be able to justify his position

under cross-examination by an informed candidate who would like to represent "unconnected" people.

The second reason is that there may be a form of future merit pay available for those who serve well-learned interest groups. Many members who leave Congress end up in high-paying positions in the private sector of the business world. We the people do not have the advantage of monetarily rewarding a representative in the future. Perhaps that is the reason we do not actually have very many representatives of the people, for the people.

Perhaps Natalie Mosher, a candidate who has no need to be concerned about future employment, should be given a chance to really represent the unconnected, common people in Congress.

William G. Cole
Plymouth

Won't vote for Pastor

Following the BP and Enbridge oil spills this summer, the need to protect our lakes and streams from pollution is more important than ever. That's why I won't be supporting John Pastor for state Senate.

This is a man who was sued by the Department of Natural Resources and Environment over damages his development company made to area wetlands. He violated state laws, and thought he could get away with it. Pastor even tried to use his power as a representative in Lansing to help get his company out of hot water. When people break the law, they should be punished, not rewarded with a taxpayer-funded job in Lansing. For the good of our state, I won't be voting for John Pastor this November.

Dan Fingas
Redford Township

Pastor's track record

I am a concerned citizen of Washtenaw County, who feels it is vital for the voters in the Michigan Senate's 6th District to be aware of Republican candidate John Pastor's track record on the environment.

To put it bluntly, John Pastor is bad for the environment. Pastor's construction company, George H. Pastor & Sons, has been charged with violating the state's Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act by failing to complete a 6.26-acre wetland mitigation site in Salem Township in Washtenaw County. This in effect resulted in the destruction of valuable wetlands and pollution of streams.

Attorney General Mike Cox has led the suit against Pastor for these violating wetlands protection and water quality laws, resulting in environmental degradation of Salem Township. Pastor has been fined \$35,000 and was ordered to clean up the destroyed wetlands and polluted waters in Salem Township. Yet, despite this suit, he claims he has done nothing wrong.

We cannot support politicians who have little regard for the environment and let them get away with polluting and destroying our land, water and air. How can a politician claim he supports the best interests of the state of Michigan, if he willingly works to destroy the integrity of our environment — a public commodity shared by all Michiganders? These environmental concerns are important to consider when casting your vote on Nov. 2.

Jennifer Wynn

Overpaid superintendents

Are people finally waking up to the fact that many superintendents are w-a-y overpaid? Imagine, \$9K bonus for getting a doctorate — at the district's expense. And if you believe that Dr. Liepa's current salary is \$148,000 I've got a bridge to sell to you.

I catch the faint odor of tar and feathers for the school board. Of course no one will go vote them out of office even if candidates could be found. Sad.

Mary Jane Schildberg
Garden City

STATE HOUSE 18TH DISTRICT CANDIDATES



ELECTION 2010

Democrat Richard LeBlanc and Republican Floyd Collins are running for a two-year term for the state House 18th District, which includes the city of Westland.

A Westland resident, LeBlanc was elected to the state House in 2006.

Collins, also a Westland resident, is employed by Brenner Oil as a gasoline tanker driver.

Members of the state House of Representatives receive an annual salary of \$79,650 and an expense allowance of \$12,000. However, they will take a pay cut in January 2011, when the base salary will drop to \$71,685 and the expense allowance will be reduced to \$10,000.

Name: Richard LeBlanc

City: Westland

Age: 52

Employment: Incumbent state representative, 18th District

Family: Married to Cheryl, two adult sons, one granddaughter

Education: Bachelor of arts degree, and nine credits toward a master of arts degree

Community involvement: Wayne-Westland Board of Education (one term), Westland City Council (three terms), state representative (two terms), Michigan Municipal League ER Policy Committee, Westland Cable Commission, Westland Library Board, Westland Youth Assistance Program, Nankin Transit Commission, Westland Historical Commission, reserve police officer with the Canton Police Department



Name: Floyd Collins

City: Westland

Age: 33

Employment: Brenner Oil

Family: Married to wife Loreale with two sons, Connor and Ethan

Education: Wayne Memorial High School and various military schools

Community involvement: Local church activities



1. How would you balance the state's budget? Be specific. If you favor cuts, where and how much? If you favor tax cuts, tell us what services you would reduce and/or eliminate and/or privatize?

1. Budget cuts to conform to the reality of 2010 (and beyond) revenues without reliance on federal stimulus funds. Elimination of non-essential services is necessary, and as vice chairman of the Procurement Reform Subcommittee, we're working toward meaningful legislative recommendations that will involve all departments and parts of the budget.

Utilize a large stick, small carrot approach to government consolidation efforts. Municipalities, school districts, 9-1-1 call centers and other government operated entities should be restructured and reorganized to adjust to economic and societal realities. Comprehensive structural adjustments are necessary.

Modify film credit provisions and eliminate certain tax credit loopholes.

2. There remains a wide disparity in state funds allocated per pupil for school districts throughout the state. How would you address this concern? What is your recommendation? Be specific.

2. It's important to support K-12 spending with stable revenues that will grow with the economy, but I disagree that a wide disparity exists.

During 2009-10, 80 percent of all districts received between \$7,100 and \$7,400 per student through the foundation allowance; 94 percent received between \$7,100 and \$8,500. Some districts also received state and federal "categorical funding." Equal per-pupil funding is politically appealing, but creating an inviting business climate will encourage investors to create jobs, thereby increasing Michigan's personal income rankings. Some residents and legislators have also suggested the authorization of local school millage elections and exempting millages from Headlee provisions.

3. What are the top three ideas you would support to make Michigan's business climate more competitive?

3. Comprehensive restructuring of existing tax policies. A thorough review, combined with the potential for an opportunity for voter approval, should be placed above other legislative matters involving partisan politics. Included should be an elimination of the personal property tax, while ensuring the legitimate/essential services provided via that revenue stream continue through the identification of an alternate/adequate source.

Insist upon Senate approval of DRIC and Aerropolis to enhance business opportunities within Michigan.

Work with advocates to modify JACAR, and implement a performance benchmarking system for Michigan. Measured should be: quality, cost, timeliness/productivity, worth/value/competitiveness, trends, practices/policies, employee engagement.

4. Would you support multi-year budgeting? Why? Why not?

4. Yes. The House, with rare individual exceptions, serves a two-year term. All legislators would have involvement with the budget throughout its effective life. A two-year budget would have several advantages: Reduces staff time devoted to budget development and costs associated with annual planning and printing; improves long-range and strategic planning efforts; produces a more policy-oriented budget process, focusing on objectives rather than line-item management; strengthens performance management; reduces reliance on time-limited grants or one-time revenue sources. Additional time is available to seek alternative funding sources to replace those expiring funds.

1. The key to balancing the budget is not raising taxes. History has proven that when taxes are low, revenue soars. Our government needs to foster a business friendly environment by cutting unnecessary regulation and lowering taxes. Budget cuts across the board need to take place and they need to start with our elected representatives. Government needs to lead by example. There are a number of ways that we can privatize in all sectors of our state. Consolidation of services is also a top priority. If we couple these ideas with extensive tax cuts, we can grow our economy, population and balance our budget.

2. The way to bring parity to Michigan schools is a very detailed voucher system. Any organization that allows choice and competition offers the best result. All parents want the best possible schools for their children, and we need to give them that option.

3. 1) Complete repeal of the MBT; 2) Eliminate redundant regulation; 3) Streamline the permit process.

4. At this point in time, we need to concentrate on balancing our budget. However, when we have returned to a fiscally sound footing, it would be a positive direction to ensure discipline with spending.

Consider carefully when choosing a Medicare drug plan

Seniors who participate in the Medicare Prescription Drug Program have the opportunity to switch drug coverage from Nov. 15 through Dec. 31.

This is the only time of the year that seniors are given the opportunity to make changes. With 35 Medicare Prescription Drug Plans available in Michigan, it's a good idea that seniors don't let this window of opportunity pass.

Many people are nervous about making changes to their health care plan, as they are concerned about having a gap in coverage or ending up with double coverage. The nice thing about the Medicare Prescription Drug Plan is that



Money Matters Rick Bloom

31.

I wish I could tell you which prescription drug plans were the best, however, that's impossible. The key is to decide what best fits your situation. What makes it more difficult is a plan may be good for one spouse, but not the other.

many of its facets have been standardized.

One of the benefits of having standardized policies is that all Medicare Prescription D Drug Plans begin Jan. 1 and end Dec.

Therefore, you have to look at husband/wife situations independently. In many situations, it is beneficial for spouses to be covered under different plans.

As far as I'm concerned, the starting point in deciding whether you should retain existing coverage or change coverage deals with the types of drugs, quantity and the dosage that you may be taking. Another factor that becomes more relevant every day is whether generic drugs are available for your prescription.

A great starting point is www.medicare.gov. The site provides a Medicare Prescription Drug finder. The site also has all sorts of information about prescription drug

plans.

I recognize that many seniors are intimidated by the Internet and prefer not to use it. If that is you, contact Medicare for assistance at (800) MEDICARE (800-623-4227).

I know many seniors are saying their prescription drug plan is fine and there is no reason to look for another plan. I hope that is not you. Prescription drug plans change and the plan you have now may be changing after Jan. 1 and the changes may not be beneficial to you.

Many seniors have found because of the economic downturn they can no longer afford their prescription drug plan. There are about a dozen health

care plans in Michigan that do not charge a premium for seniors who are having economic difficulty.

Now is the time to begin the research to make sure you select the right Medicare Prescription Drug Plan for

your situation. Good luck!

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

Re-Elect JUDGE JAMES R. CHYLINSKI Wayne County Circuit Court. Paid by Committee to reelect Judge Chylinski, 302 W. Main, Northville, MI 48167.

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CITY OF WESTLAND SYNOPSIS OF MINUTES MTG. 23 10/18/10. Presiding: President Godbout. Present: Bryant, Hammons, Johnson, Kadi, Kehrer, Reeves. 200: Appr.: minutes of regular meeting held 10/4/10. -Traffic Control Order 2010-02: Install (2) signs: "NO LEFT TURN" (1) s/b Schuman @ Palmer, (1) South side of Palmer across from Schuman. -Traffic Control Order 2010-03: Install (2) signs "STOP SIGNS" (1) N/B Denice @ Hively, (1) N/B Rahn @ Hively. -Appr. disbursement of 7th pmt. to Bidigare Contractors for SWQIF Footing Drain Disconnect Project; amt. \$117,978.31. 201: Appr. Spec. Land Use for prop. Premier Pre-School Day Care Ctr. 2345 S. Venoy. 202: Appr. checklist: \$482,732.08 & Prepaid: \$5,574,565.07. Mtg. adj. at 7:36 p.m. Minutes available in the Clerk's Office. James Godbout Council President. Eileen DeHart City Clerk, CMC. Publish: October 28, 2010. OED0716356_23x3.5

TOUCH FREE AUTOMATIC CAR WASH & Self Serve. Grand Re-Opening of our newly remodeled state-of-the-art touch-less car wash system. Visit any Saturday Oct. 23, Oct. 30 and Nov. 6, 13, 2010 Between 10 am-5 pm and receive 1/2 OFF Regular Prices any automatic touch-less car wash With coupon only. OPEN 24/7. 33653 Ford Road Between Wayne & Venoy.

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Angela Hospice to celebrate 25 years

It was in 1985 that Angela Hospice first began serving patients facing a terminal diagnosis. Working out of a small office at Livonia's Madonna University, Sister Mary Giovanni and a small handful of volunteers began providing home hospice care. The journey to that important first day for Angela Hospice and its founders started years before.

In the 1970s, trained and practicing as a registered nurse with degrees from Madonna University, Sister Giovanni began looking into a new type of medical care appearing in the United States. Going by the name of "hospice," this care blended age-old principles with modern medical advancements to enhance the lives of terminally ill patients. Years of research and dedication brought her dreams to fruition when Angela Hospice was founded under the direction of the Felician Sisters.

Now this fall, Angela Hospice is celebrating 25 years of caring for the community of Southeast Michigan with a gala event to be held Saturday, Nov. 13. Angela Hospice's Light Up a Life Benefit 25th Anniversary Gala will take place 6-11 p.m. at Laurel Manor in Livonia. Fine dining, an open bar, auctions, raffles, dancing and the 16-piece Monroe Big Band will be featured. Reservations are \$100 per person and are due by Oct. 29.

"There are so many stories I could tell," said Sister Giovanni, president and CEO of Angela Hospice, "of the many amazing people we've met these past 25 years, and the wonderful families that have welcomed us into their homes and into their lives to help care for their loved one at such a sacred time."

Angela Hospice has made a name for itself in the community, having cared for tens of thousands of patients over the past 25 years - from patients who have celebrated their 100th birthdays to those just minutes old.

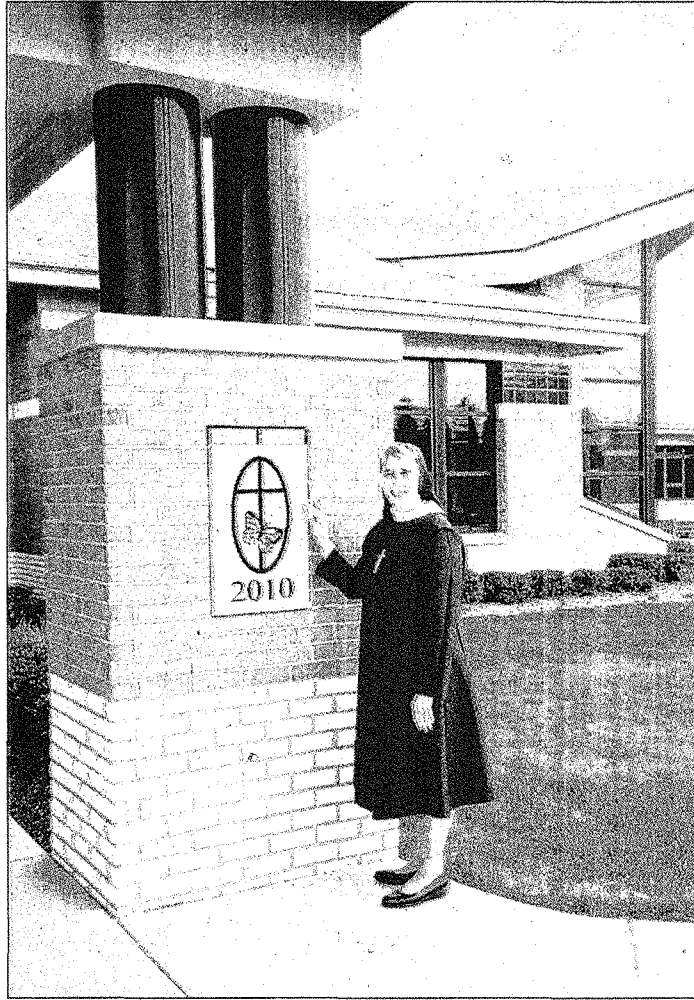
With specialized programs for pediatric and even prenatal hospice patients, Angela Hospice serves patients at all stages of life.

"It has been such a blessing to be able to serve so many people," said Sister Giovanni.

"It has always been with the support of our donors and community friends who have helped us to carry out our work as a non-profit, and who have most recently partnered with us to create this beautiful building we now occupy."

The Angela Hospice Care Center, which originally opened in 1994 as the first freestanding hospice facility in Michigan, opened a new state-of-the-art patient wing in April of this year, expanding the hospice's inpatient capacity from 16 to 32 private patient rooms. While most hospice patients choose to receive care in their homes, the Angela Hospice Care Center provides an alternative for patients without a caregiver at home or whose illness demands around-the-clock medical care.

For reservations or more information, call Barb Iovan at (734) 953-6045 or visit www.AskForAngela.com.



Sister Giovanni, president/CEO of Angela Hospice, stands in front of the cornerstone of Angela Hospice's new Care Center wing.

Veterans treated to a free movie

Veterans are invited to attend a free screening of Jonathan Mostow's film *U-571*, courtesy of state Sen. Glenn S. Anderson, D-Westland, in cooperation with AMC Theaters of Livonia.

The movie will be shown at 3 p.m. on Veteran's Day, Thursday, Nov. 11, at the theater at 19500 Haggerty Road, north of Seven Mile Road.

This event marks the third annual Veteran's Day Movie to recognize and thank local veterans.

"This day celebrates the tremendous sacrifice made by American soldiers defending our nation and our way of life," Anderson said.

"I am proud to once again partner with our local theater and present this small token of appreciation to those men and women who have sacrificed so very much. I think that this is the least we can do to honor our

veterans." Anderson has made veterans' issues a priority during his tenure as state senator, proposing legislation that provides significant property tax relief for Michigan's veterans.

The senator also proposed changes that resulted in a one-stop website for veteran's services, replacing the confusing, cumbersome system that previously existed.

In addition to the free screening, concessions will also be provided free of charge by AMC Theaters of Livonia. Tickets are limited and a reservation is required.

Active military or veterans from Livonia, Westland, Garden City and Redford can request their free tickets by contacting Anderson's office by e-mail at SenatorAnderson@senate.mi.gov or by calling, toll free, at (866) 262-7306. Tickets are limited to two per veteran.

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If you want to learn more about a leader in quality and customer satisfaction, HAP offers free Medicare workshops about the Alliance Medicare Supplement, Alliance Medicare Rx (PDP), Alliance Medicare PPO, HAP Senior Plus (HMO) and HAP Senior Plus (HMO-POS) plans:

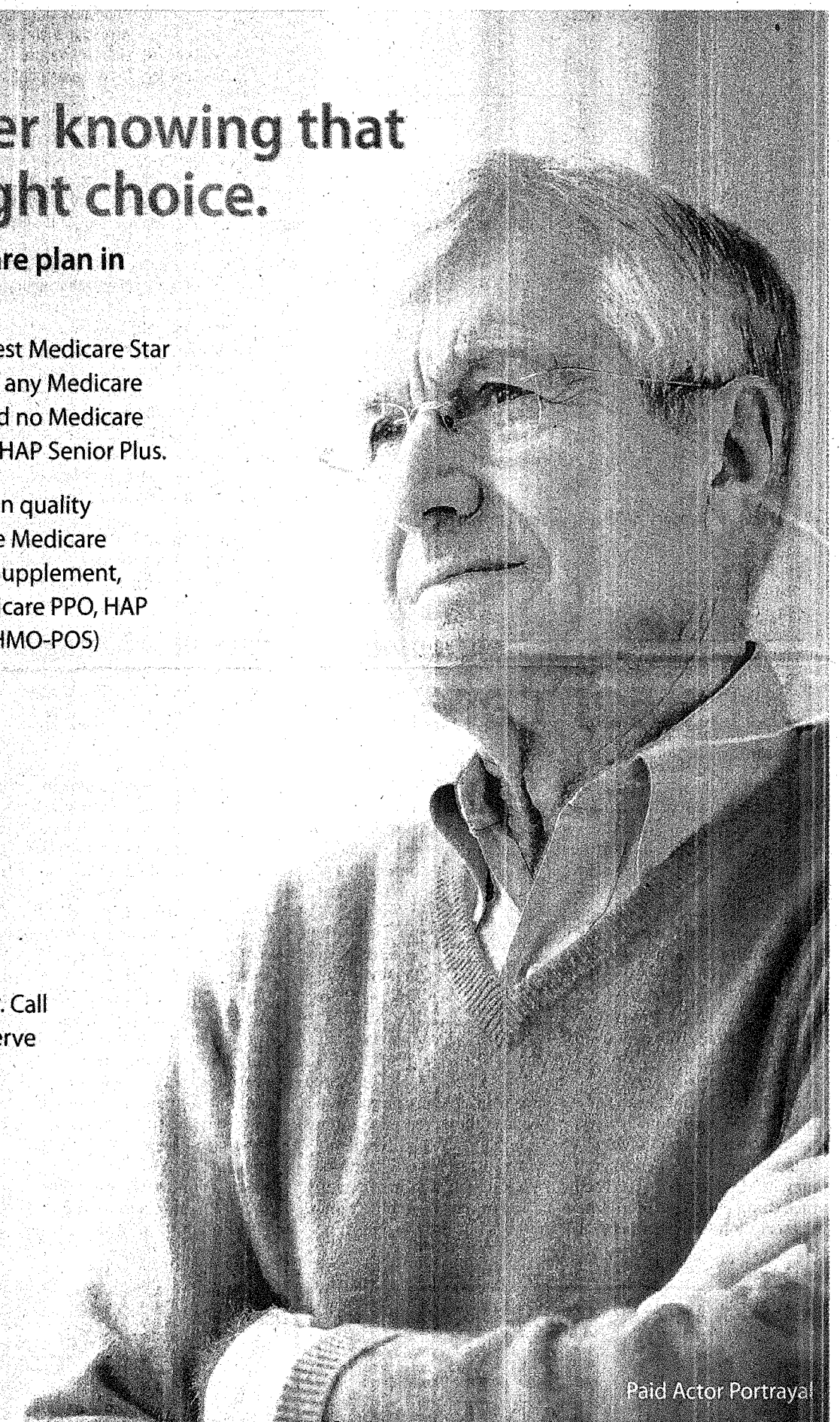
Livonia

October 27, 2010
October 29, 2010
November 11, 2010
November 30, 2010

Plymouth

November 3, 2010

HAP adds new workshop dates every day. Call for the latest workshop listing and to reserve your place: toll-free (800) 449-1515 or TDD (800) 956-4325. Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.



Medicare Solutions

For the latest workshop listing and to reserve your place, call toll-free:
(800) 449-1515 or TDD (800) 956-4325
Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

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

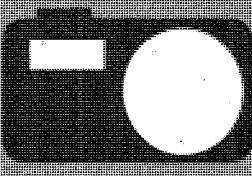
Workshops are for Medicare-eligible individuals who do not have benefits paid for by a former employer and who pay for their own health care coverage.

†Based on Medicare's Plan Quality and Performance Rating 2009 Survey conducted by the federal Medicare program (2008-2009).

HAP Senior Plus (HMO), HAP Senior Plus (HMO-POS) and Alliance Medicare PPO are health plans with a Medicare contract. Alliance Medicare Rx (PDP) is a stand-alone Prescription Drug Plan with a Medicare contract. Alliance Medicare Rx (PDP), Alliance Medicare Supplement and Alliance Medicare PPO are products of Alliance Health and Life Insurance Company, a wholly owned subsidiary of Health Alliance Plan. Alliance Medicare Supplement is not connected with or endorsed by the U.S. government or the federal Medicare program.

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SPORTS ROUNDUP

Learn to Skate II

The City of Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation will offer its seven-week Learn to Skate fall session II on Mondays from Nov. 1 through Jan. 3, at Edgar Arena, located at 33841 Lyndon (one-half mile south of Five Mile and west of Farmington Road).

Walk-in registration is at the Livonia Community Recreation Center, located at 15100 Hubbard (at Five Mile Road).

The fee is \$55 for residents and \$67 for non-residents. Each class is 25 minutes and there are no make-ups. (No classes on Nov. 22, Dec. 20 and 27)

Classes offered, based on availability and grouped by age and ability, include: Youth (ages 4-and-up) - 5 p.m., 5:25 p.m., 6 p.m. or 6:25 p.m.; hockey skills - 6:25 p.m.; and tots (3-year-olds only), 5 p.m.

Private lessons are available for all ages. You must be registered in a group lesson or two hours of private lessons. Free skate rental is available

and all instructors are I.S.I. certified.

For more information, call (734) 466-2412.

Veterans 5K run

The Veterans Day Rosedale Area Neighbors Red, White and Blue 5-kilometer run-walk and 1-mile fun run-walk will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 6 at Whitman Park (Mies Shelter), located off W. Chicago between Farmington and Merriman roads, in Livonia.

Check-in begins at 9 a.m. the closes at 10:30 a.m. The event will benefit the Livonia Symphony Orchestra. The Boy Scouts will also be on hand for its annual Can-Do Drive.

The pre-race entry fee is \$15 (adult), \$10 (middle schools and high school), \$5 (younger) or \$40 (family).

Race day fees are \$20 (adult), \$15 (middle school and high school), \$10 (younger) and \$50 (family).

Long-sleeved T-shirts will go to the first 150 registrants. Pizza and pasta feast, along with prizes, follow after-

wards at Rosedale Garden Presbyterian Church.

For more information, call (734) 261-8218.

Need baseball player

The 13-and-under Great Lakes Cardinals (formerly Canton Cardinals) are seeking an experienced travel baseball player for the 2011 season.

The season includes seven tournaments and league play (50-plus games).

For more information, e-mail head coach Dan Hejka at cardscoach13@gmail.com.

Jingle Bell 5K

The Arthritis Foundation's Jingle Bell 5- and 10-kilometer Run-Walk will be at 9 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 4 at Northville Downs, located at 301 S. Center Street, Northville.

The \$25 Early Bird special includes timing chip and official T-shirt.

For more information, visit www.arthritis.org or contact Samantha Mertins at (248) 649-2491, Ext. 232; or e-mail smertins@arthritis.org.

VOLLEYBALL

FROM PAGE B1

in Saturday's Kensington Conference tournament.

The wins came against South Lyon East (25-4, 25-7) and South Lyon (16-25, 25-19, 15-12), while losses were suffered against Churchill (26-24, 25-11) and Canton (25-13, 25-23).

Leaders on the day for the Rockets, now 15-16-5 overall, include Halie Baker (30 kills), Brook Zywick (60 digs), Sarah Headrick (38 assists), Claire Truskowski (37 assists, nine aces) and Brooklyn Holbrook (two assists, one solo block).

"The girls played very well on Saturday," Glenn first-year coach Sharon Hubbard said. "They played together, really seemed to have fun, and stayed focused all day. I hope they'll keep the same intensity for the

rest of the season."

Spartans go 3-2

Livonia Stevenson failed to get out of pool play, but captured three of five matches in Saturday's Kensington Conference tourney.

The Spartans, 17-17-4 overall, defeated Wayne Memorial (25-17, 25-14), but lost to Novi (25-23, 25-21) and Plymouth (25-20, 21-25, 15-11) in pool play.

In the consolation round, Stevenson defeated Wayne (24-26, 25-18, 15-9) and Livonia Franklin (25-16, 25-19).

Setters Allie Koestering and Sammy Caves finished with a total of 42 and 36 assists, respectively. Caves also had nine aces.

Reina Tyl had 34 kills, nine blocks and nine aces, while Monika Rudis contributed 28 kills and 10 blocks. Freshman Katie Tomasic also had 26

kills and 16 digs, while Kristen Balhorn had nine blocks.

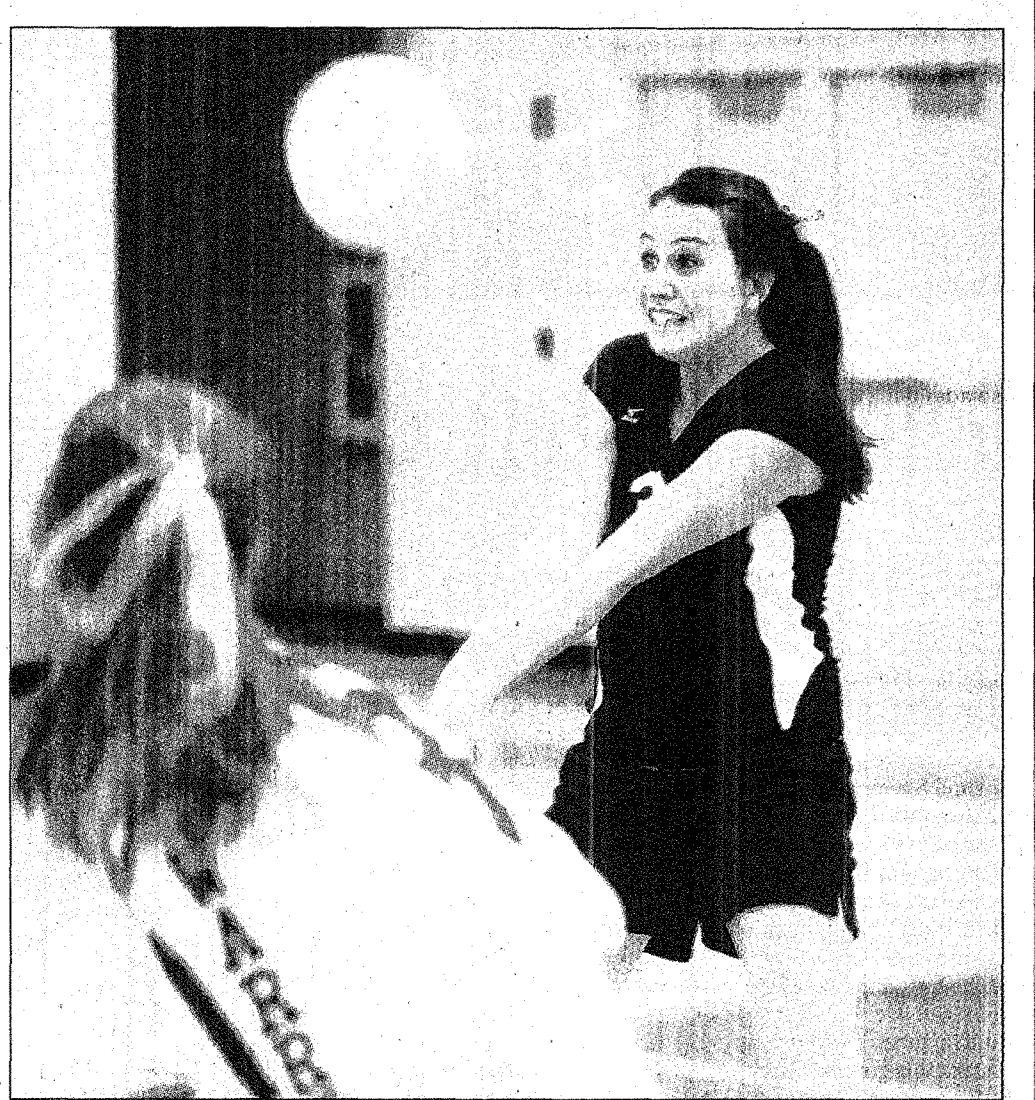
Jordan York added a team-best 36 digs.

Patriots finish 1-4

Senior Chelsea Williams stood out with 34 total kills, 21 digs and three aces as Livonia Franklin (10-28-2) lost four of five matches in Saturday's Kensington Conference tourney at Novi.

The Patriots incurred losses against Northville (25-16, 25-18), Canton (25-18, 25-16), Salem (25-16, 25-8) and Stevenson (25-14, 25-14), while defeating South Lyon East (25-11, 25-12).

Other Patriot leaders on the day included libero Nicole Williamson (56 digs, seven aces), Kelly O'Brien (12 kills), Amanda Borioe (seven kills, seven aces), Maggie Leins (seven kills) and Raquel Garza (17 digs).



OBSERVER STAFF PHOTO

Setting the table

Lutheran High Westland libero Taylor Wiemer (3) digs up an attack during Tuesday's quad match. Westland John Glenn finished first with in the four-team field a 3-0 record followed by Livonia Clarenceville (2-1), Westland Huron Valley Lutheran (1-2) and the host Warriors (0-3). Lutheran Westland, now 14-19-4 overall, lost to Clarenceville (19-25, 16-25), John Glenn (14-25, 10-25) and rival Huron Valley (14-25, 22-25).

WHAC co-leader

1st-place Crusaders take out Siena Heights in 3

The 21st-ranked Madonna University women's volleyball team overcame a tough first set to post a 25-22, 25-19, 25-18 win Tuesday at home over Siena Heights University.

The first-place Crusaders improved to 27-7 overall and 12-1 in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference (tied with Indiana Tech), while the Saints fall to 7-23 and 2-11.

Junior Megan Fricke led the MU offensive attack with 14 kills, while Liz Dempsey (Livonia Franklin) and Karie Altman added 11 apiece.

Dempsey also led the Crusaders with 12 digs, her 12th double-double of the season, while setter Evia Frieditis handed out 36 assist-to-kills.

Nikki Hughes had 11 kills, while setters Lauren Baker (Westland John Glenn) and Keshie Cadieux combined for 25 assists for the Saints (7-23, 2-11).

Lady Ocelots triumph

Schoolcraft College closed out the regular season Tuesday with a 25-23, 25-19, 25-16 MCCA Eastern Conference win over second-place Macomb CC.

The host Ocelots, who finished third, improved to 20-12 overall and 11-3 in the conference, while Macomb falls to

COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL

20-15 and 11-3.

Schoolcraft, the third seed in the East, opens MCCA Tournament play 4 p.m. Friday at Kalamazoo Valley CC in a quarterfinal matchup with Muskegon CC (29-6, 11-3), the No. 2 seed out of the West.

The semifinals will be at 11 a.m. followed by the finals at 2 p.m., all at Kalamazoo Valley.

MU 2nd in Classic

Livonia Franklin's Liz Dempsey and Livonia Churchill's Anna Gatt earned all-tournament honors Saturday as host Madonna finished runner-up in the BLT Apparel and Sportsweaver Crusader Classic.

The Crusaders closed out the tourney with wins over Rochester college (25-9, 25-9, 25-16) and Bellevue (Neb.) University (25-17, 25-22, 21-25, 25-22).

Sixth-ranked Columbia (Mo.) College, led by MVP Paula Ferreira, finished first with a 4-0 record over the two-day tournament. Columbia snapped MU's 15-match winning streak on Friday, 25-21, 15-25, 21-25, 12-25.

In the win over Rochester (24-6), Dempsey had 14 kills, while Megan Fricke and Karie Altman added 12 apiece. Setter Evia Frieditis finished with 40 assist-to-kills to go along with eight digs.

Fricke led four players in double figures with 20 kills in the victory over Bellevue (27-11). Dempsey added 17, while Nastija Baranovska and Altman contributed 12 and 11, respectively.

Frieditis added 59 assists, while digs leaders included Amanda Koszela (27), Dempsey (20), Fricke (14) and Gatt (12) as MU has won 23 of its last 25 matches.

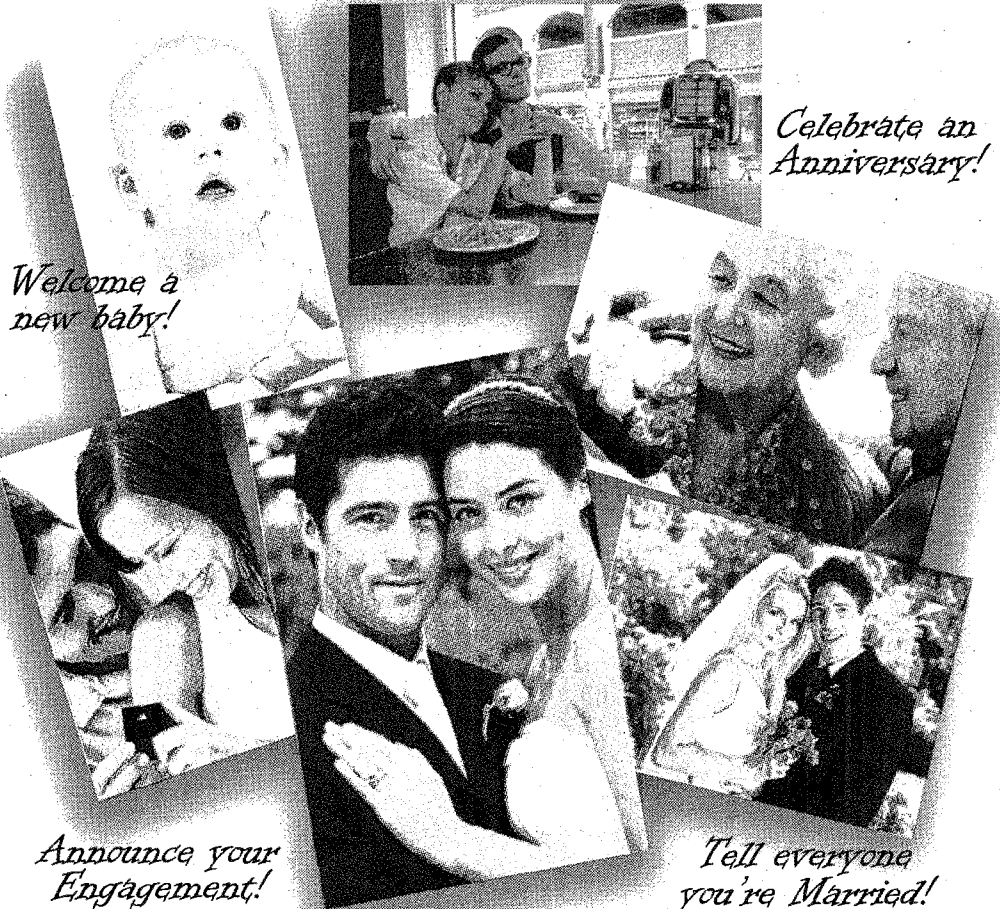
Bellevue got 15 kills apiece from Kali Schnacker and Maureen Wardian, while setter Jordan Broady added 43 assists. Katy Gregory contributed 24 digs.

Dempsey saluted

MU's Liz Dempsey was selected WHAC Player of the Week for the second time this season and the third in her career (ending Oct. 24).

For the six-match stretch, the former Patriot led the Crusaders 5-1 record while posting 88 kills to go along with 72 digs, nine block-assists and five service aces.

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MULLER

FROM PAGE B1

(George) Lovich were asking me if I've got any players coming up," Kathy said of the two Franklin former head varsity coaches, who later returned for a stint as assistants under current coach Chris Kelbert. "They were really involved when Dan got started. It was nice they were able to stick around when he got there and play for the same coaches that his dad had. When he (Dan) first ran onto the same field as his dad ... Franklin was a better fit. It was a phenomenal fit for us."

Dan Muller not only carries on the family football legacy, but he's also been a fixture himself and key member of the Patriots' program since the 2007 season when a 5-4 Franklin squad upset Monroe

in the opening round of the state tournament. "He's been a part of all our playoff runs — he's a captain," Kelbert said. "As a freshman he was our long snapper — he just whizzes the ball back there. When he practiced with us we knew he'd be up with us as a sophomore."

Sometimes Kelbert wishes Dan Muller would show a little more drive and be a little more demonstrative, but he also knows what makes the senior tick.

"He's very gifted, a natural athlete who wants to succeed," the Franklin coach said. "He'll do what he has to do get the job done, and he'll do it. He'll never complain, he never misses a practice or a workout. He does what he'll do to be successful. He's not a rah-rah guy, but he always get the job done — always."

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Fall Bash champs

On Oct. 10, the Livonia Spartans baseball team recently captured the Total Baseball Fall Bash tournament with a 9-5 win in the championship game over the Canton Reds. The Spartans were the only undefeated team in the round robin preliminary games, defeating the Plymouth Grizzlies (1-0), Michigan Red Sox (3-2) and Michigan Heat (4-3). Members of the Spartans are (sitting): Mike Vomastek, J.J. Pettersson and coach Mark Tuttle; (standing) coach Mark Bodtke, Tyler Lynch, Nick Lagerstrom, Troy Bodtke, Mark Wagner, Evan Piechota, Chris McDonald, Josh Dehetre, Jake Semak, Austin Stevens, Josh DeYonker, Brandon Jurczynszyn and Evan Small. The Spartans also won the Total Baseball Fall Wood Bat Varsity division title with an 8-0-2 record.

WOOLFORK

FROM PAGE B1

I thought it be a great idea and it would help me out and make me play a little harder because I'm playing for some guy up top who can help me out."

Woolfork didn't disappoint in Friday's 28-20 victory over visiting Carleton Airport as he registered 10 tackles, including a pair of sacks and two pass deflections.

"I wanted to play so hard for my dad," Jay said. "He tried to be at every game, to see every game that I went to, but I know he couldn't because of his health. This past week I played at my absolute hardest — just for him — because I knew he always tried to make it to the games. And not knowing that he couldn't make it, I told him we were going to make the playoffs, and I made sure I did my part and help us out."

Donald Woolfork worked in the telecommunications business and enjoyed athletics.

"He was a Franklin football fan," said Jay, whose older brother Israel was former a

Patriots standout now playing at Grand Valley State. "He played back in the day. He knew football. He didn't get to see the games a lot, but other people would tell him how I did, and he would say, 'OK, do a little better next time.' He tried to push me a little bit to do better and better, which he knew I could. He always believed in me. That's the one thing I always appreciated the most, that he believed in me no matter what."

Franklin coach Chris Kelbert said Jay Woolfork has handled the death of his father remarkably well.

"It be a real tough thing to lose your father and go out there and play," the Franklin coach said. "I asked him on Thursday night, I said, 'It's kind of a delicate situation and how do you approach it?' He (Jay) said, 'He'd want me to play and I want to play.' He went out and played really well that night."

"Statistically he came up with a couple big sacks, a big one late in the game that turned the ball over for us. And he batted down two passes on that final drive, so those were both big plays."

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PREP GRID PICKS

Playoffs Week 1

Friday, Oct. 29

Birmingham Brother Rice (6-3) at Farmington Harrison (9-0), 7 p.m.
 Carleton Airport (5-4) at Redford Thurston (7-2), 7 p.m.
 Ann Arbor Pioneer (5-4) at Canton (9-0), 7 p.m.
 Farmington (7-2) at Berkley (8-1), 7 p.m.
 Livonia Franklin (7-2) at Northville (8-1), 7 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 30

Saline (6-3) at Plymouth (7-2), 1 p.m.

Last week

Overall

Brad Emons

Brother Rice
 Thurston
 Canton
 Berkley
 Franklin

Plymouth
7-5 (.583)
97-26 (.789)

Dan O'Meara

Harrison
 Thurston
 Canton
 Farmington
 Northville

Plymouth
11-1 (.917)
103-20 (.837)

Tim Smith

Harrison
 Thurston
 Canton
 Farmington
 Northville

Plymouth
11-1 (.917)
85-38 (.691)

Jim Toth

Harrison
 Thurston
 Canton
 Berkley
 Northville

Plymouth
11-1 (.917)
93-30 (.756)

'Major' problem for Plymouth Whalers, 5-0

The Mississauga St. Michael's Majors will be hosting the Canadian Hockey League's 2011 MasterCard Memorial Cup next May. Saturday at Compuware Arena, the Majors played like a team headed to that tournament with a 5-0 victory over the Plymouth Whalers.

The Majors (8-2-0-0) led 1-0 after one period of the Ontario Hockey League game, padded the lead to 2-0 after 40 minutes and pulled away with three unanswered goals in the third period.

Meanwhile, Plymouth (5-5-1-1) was frustrated all night by Mississauga goalie J.P.

Anderson, who pitched a 32-save shutout.

Chris Doyle led the Majors attack with a pair of goals.

Flick scored on the game's first shot at 0:14 to give Mississauga a 1-0 lead, putting his shot from the right circle high past Plymouth goaltender Scott Wedgewood

(21 saves). The Majors tallied the only goal of the second period on Doyle's point shot past the screened Wedgewood.

In the third, Shugg scored on the power play at 2:30, followed by markers from Cantin and Doyle at 6:24 and 14:43, respectively.

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RELIGION CALENDAR

OCT. 28-NOV. 3

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Time/Date: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 30
Location: Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 35300 W. Eight Mile, Farmington
Details: Baked goods, Nisu, white elephant treasures, Christmas items and jewelry. Refreshments will be served by the choir for a fee. There will be a raffle at 1 p.m. Raffle tick-

ets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5.
Contact: (248) 478-6520
Book sale
Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Oct. 29-30 and 9 a.m.-noon, Sunday, Oct. 31
Location: St. Matthew's United Methodist Church, 30900 Six Mile, Livonia
Details: Annual used book sale, bake sale and boutique
Contact: Peg Besecker at perkypeg@aol.com or (734) 522-2826

A time to worship: Video, drama enhance informal praise service

BY SHARON DARGAY
 O&E STAFF WRITER

If you're looking for a "come as you are" worship service, you'll find it at 11:30 a.m. Sunday at Garden City Presbyterian Church. The 178-year-old church recently started a contemporary praise service, offering an alternative to its 9:30 traditional worship.

"We are hoping eventually to build attendance and provide a service that is interesting and attractive to people who might find traditional service less interesting or harder to relate to," said the Rev. Herschel Ele, pastor.

He said the praise gathering is similar to the church's more traditional 9:30 a.m. Sunday service, but "packaged a little different."

Ele hopes it will draw younger families and individuals who want a more contemporary service and informal setting.

"It uses a different style of music. It's upbeat, contemporary music. It's a shorter service," Ele said. "We frequently use either short drama or video clips to help explain and illustrate the message of scripture."

The traditional service uses the Revised Standard Version of the Bible, produced in the 1950s. A more contemporary translation is read during the praise service.

"It's more of a paraphrase of the scripture. Some people think it makes the language a lot cleaner."

He said the church hasn't offered it long enough to draw any conclusions about attendance at the service, although several "regular" church-goers have tried it out.



David Radcliffe, (left) Gail Smalley, Kimi Wilson, Carol Morgan, Michele Reska, and Debby Pothoff sing during a praise service at Garden City Presbyterian Church.

"If you just have one service you're basically saying to people, take it or leave it," he said. "This gives people two different worship options as far as time goes."

POPULAR CONCERTS

The church tried offering a Sunday evening service a few years ago. It didn't fly, although a Saturday evening concert series, "Saturday Night Light," did.

Although not a worship service, the concert offers a mix of Christian and secular performers, and has included Thornetta Davis, Men of Grace, Chuck Tocco, William Reynolds and the Tracy Kash Thomas

Quartet. The next performance, at 7 p.m. Nov. 13, will feature Sound of Reign, a trio with Detroit roots. Admission is free.

Ele said the church was renovated a few years ago and acquired a new sound system, digital keyboard and addition of multi-media screens.

"Now we're exploring what can be done with those things, both in the entertainment setting — which is what Saturday Night Light is — and in the non-traditional service. The two aren't really related to each other, although they are examples of the types of things the congregation

is open to experimenting with," Ele said, adding that participants can "come as you are" to the new praise service.

"Everyone is welcome. Enjoy the music. There's no pressure. Enjoy the sense of fellowship and leave encouraged by the message of hope and good news."

Garden City Presbyterian Church has approximately 150 members. For more information about the church, call (734) 421-7620 or visit www.gardencity-presbyterian.org.

The church is located at 1841 Middlebelt, a block south of Ford Road, in Garden City.

Parish invites veterans, military to Mass

St. Michael the Archangel Parish will present its annual Veteran's Day Mass Sunday, Nov. 7, at the church, 11441 Hubbard, just south of Plymouth Road, in Livonia.

The church holds the special Mass

annually to thank veterans, reservists, and active military and their families for their service to the country.

A color guard and flag-raising ceremony at the flag pole in front of the church will be held at 11:45 a.m., fol-

lowed by the Mass at noon. An informal reception will follow. The service is open to the public. For more information, call the parish office at (734) 261-1455, Ext. 200, or see the parish Web site at www.livoniastmichael.org.

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DOROTHY ANN DeLAURO

Oct. 23, 2010, age 87, of Novi and long time resident of Plymouth and Canton. Beloved wife of the late Joseph. Loving mother of Robert (Diane), Greg (Cheryl) and Kathleen (Jay) Kargula. Proud grandma of Lydia, Ashley, Joe and Kevin. Also survived by several nieces and nephews. Funeral Mass Wed. 10:30 AM at Our Lady of Good Counsel, 47650 N. Territorial Rd., Plymouth (at Beck). In state at church Wed. 10 AM. Visitation Tues. 1-4 PM and 6-9 PM at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 46401 W. Ann Arbor Rd., Plymouth (Btwn. Sheldon & Beck). Interment Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. Memorials may be made to St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Vascular Research. To share a memory with the family, please visit: vermeulenfuneralhome.com

Paying Tribute to the Life of Your Loved One

BETTY L. HILZINGER

Greenville, Age 87, formerly of Berkley and Holly, passed away late Friday evening, October 8, 2010 at Crystal Springs Peace Harbor in Grand Rapids. The daughter of Frank W. & Elsie M. (Hansen) Irons, she was born on Feb. 12, 1923 in Detroit and grew up in Berkley, where her father was chief of police and later Oakland County sheriff. Following her graduation from Berkley High School, Betty completed her nurses training at Mt. Carmel and worked as a registered nurse. On April 21, 1945 she married Phillip G. Hilzinger and together they enjoyed 63 years of marriage. A devoted wife, mother, and grandmother, she had been a member of the Berkley Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star. In retirement, she and Phillip made their home in Holly. She was preceded in death by her husband, Phillip G. Hilzinger, a son, Phillip G. Hilzinger, Jr.; a son-in-law, Jim Ford; a grandson, Joshua Hilzinger; and a brother, Jim Irons. Surviving are a daughter, Gail A. Ford of Greenville; a son, Robert F. & Kathy Hilzinger of Knoxville, Tennessee; five grandchildren, Jack Ford of Greenville, Erin & Sam Baldwin, Kami Ford, all of Grand Rapids, Nathanael Hilzinger, and Krista Hilzinger, both of Knoxville, Tennessee; and three great grandchildren, Jordan, Jenna, and Jake. Honoring her wishes, private family services will be held at Oakview Cemetery & Mausoleum in Royal Oak. Contributions in Betty's memory may be directed to the Michigan Special Olympics (www.somi.org) or to the charity of ones' choice. To send a message of sympathy to the family, please visit: www.ChristiansCares.com. Arrangements were entrusted to the Christiansen Funeral Home & Cremation Center, Greenville.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Thursday, October 28, 2010

hometownlife.com

HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Contact Editor Sharon Dargay
 Voice Mail: (313) 222-8883
 E-mail: sdargay@hometownlife.com
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Saturday series brings family fun to the Penn

BY SHARON DARGAY
 O&E STAFF WRITER

Deb Madonna loves nothing better than to watch kids dance up a storm whether it's outdoors in Plymouth's Kellogg Park or inside at the Penn Theater.

"The second those performers start to tune up, those kids are up rocking and rolling. In school they have to sit still. But we want kids to remember going to the Penn. It's an experience of growing up in Plymouth," said Madonna, president of the Plymouth Community Arts Council (PCAC).

Youngsters will get a chance to show their dance moves in a series of four concerts co-sponsored by PCAC and the Plymouth Canton Symphony Society. Saturdays @ the Penn kicks off its third season at 11:30 a.m. Nov. 6 with performances by Harpbeat and the series emcee, Guy Louis.

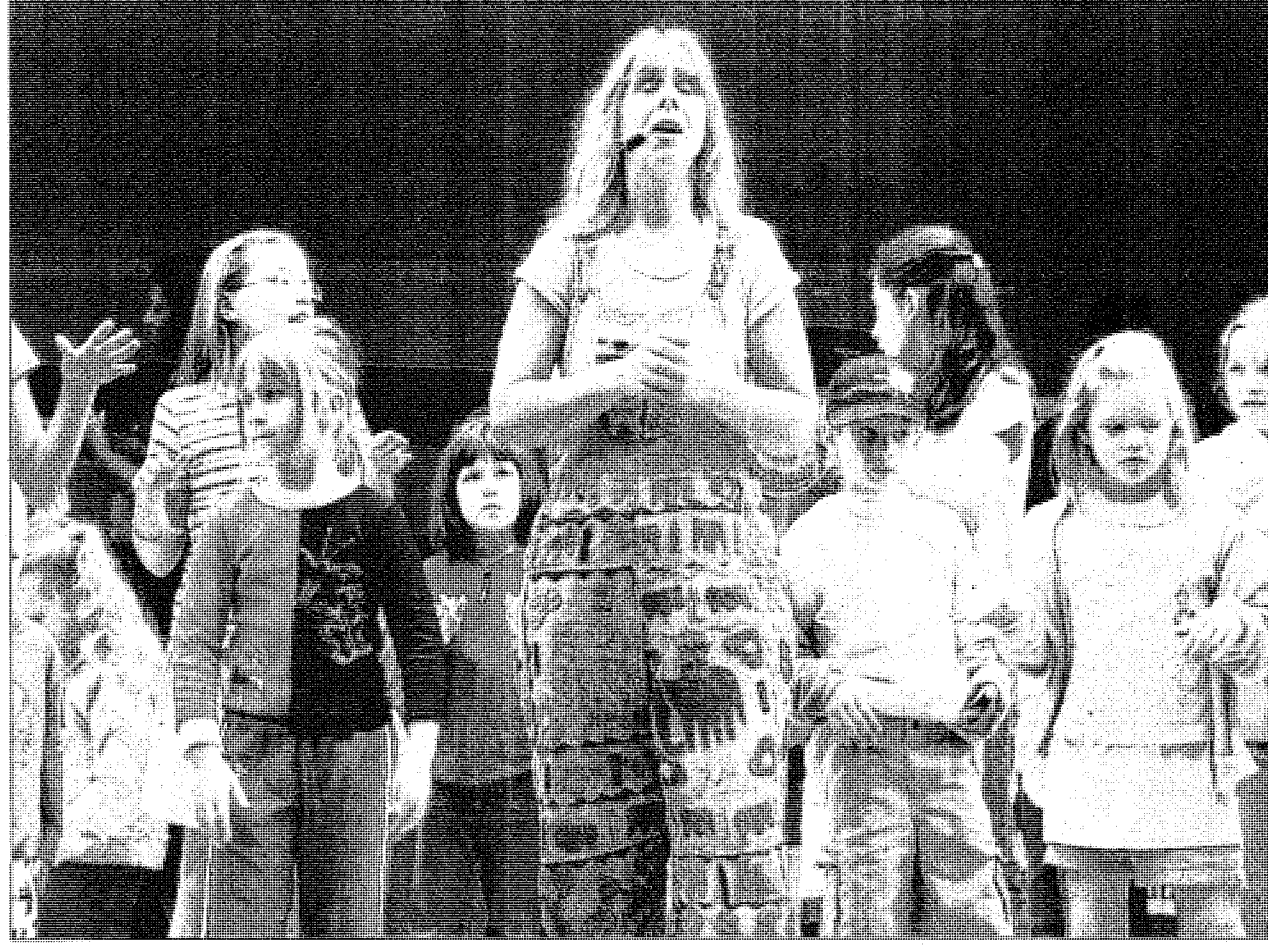
On Dec. 4, Mr. Seley and the Troublemakers, will invite the audience to sing along to such songs as *Cupcakeasaurus* and *Eat your Books (Read your Vegetables)*.

Juggler Joel Tacey, members of the Celebration Youth Orchestra, directed by Nan Washburn, and members of the Plymouth Uptown Players will take to the stage on Feb. 5, 2011.

Cats and the Fiddler perform at the final show of the series on March 5, 2011.

The doors open at 11:05 a.m. and all performances start at 11:30 a.m. Cost is \$5 per person. Tickets are available at the door or in advance by calling the PCAC at (734) 416-4278. The Wilcox Foundation, Signature Audio and Steve and Renee Alexandrowski help fund the series, enabling PCAC to keep ticket costs down.

The PCAC also presents family-friendly entertainment on Wednesdays during the summer in



Donna Novak of Harpbeat sings during a concert at Kellogg Park. She'll kick off the third season of Saturdays @ the Penn next month.



Saturdays @ the Penn kicks off its third season at 11:30 a.m. Nov. 6 with performances by Harpbeat (above) and the series emcee, Guy Louis (below).



really for the entire family, including grandparents, toddlers and everyone in between. Each show highlights really fine talent. In the past they've had everything from symphony musicians to dance teams to first-rate magicians. It's a fine and entertaining series."

Madonna said Louis is engaging, known for his ability to get his young audience up on their feet and moving to the music. She said all of the musicians booked to play the series deliver a quality family show.

"We've had a great reception. A lot of kids with special needs come in. My wish is to have more than 300 people there. It's a place families can go to have a good time."

Kellogg park. Madonna said the outdoor shows are aimed at youngsters age 7 and under. Saturdays @ the Penn also draws preteens. She estimated the summer concert crowd at about 1,500-2,500 per week. The Penn holds 400 individuals.

"It's a lot like Music in the Park, the kids get up there and have a good time," Madonna said, describing the scene at the Penn. "The performers bring the kids in. The park program is so big that you don't always get that

close to the performer. "It's a different dynamic at the Penn. The Penn is nice because you're indoors. Every performer I've talked to loves coming to Plymouth."

KUDOS TO THE COUNCIL

Two performers will play 45-minute sets each at the Saturday series. Louis said he is delighted to emcee all of the performances this year.

"There are a couple of things that set the Penn Theatre series apart

from other children's shows. First off is that the folks at the Plymouth Arts Council are easily one of the best arts councils in the state, and work seemingly tirelessly to provide great programming for the families in Plymouth," Louis said. "Having been performing in Michigan for 25 years now, I say this from experience. Plymouth is fortunate to have this dedicated team.

"Another thing is that the programming is not only for children, its

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Four bands perform at debut of music video

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

Local rock band, Fifth Way will debut its first music video Friday, Nov. 5 at the Magic Bag Theater in Ferndale.

Produced by director, Sean Babas, the video features the band performing its song, *Stomping Ground*, along with an intricate story line.

"*Stomping Ground* is based around the idea of don't let anybody else hold you down. It's that type of theme," said guitarist Zak Stelmazek of Canton. "Make life what you want it to be. Take the world as your stomping ground."

Doors open at 8 p.m. at the Magic Bag, located on Woodward, just north of Nine Mile in Ferndale. Tickets are \$8 and the show is aimed at ages 18 and over.

Frequency 54, Ghosts of August and Panic Trigger will open the show. Fifth Way will take the stage around midnight, opening with the new music video, followed by a 90-minute set of new music.

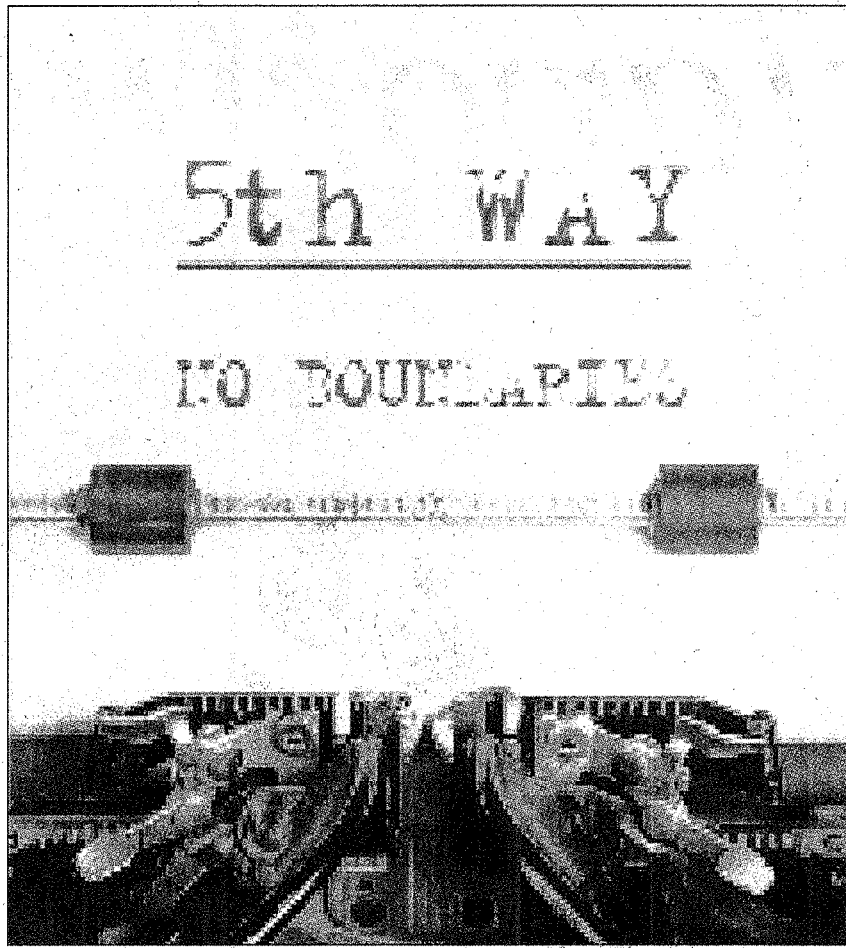
Stelmazek said the live performance portions of the new video were shot at a studio in Farmington Hills.

"It has a circular eggshell background. We set up our equipment in there. The rest of it was done in Chicago, with the story line taking place. That's where the director lives."

He said the group isn't sure what story line runs through the video and that the director has to shoot one more scene before the piece is ready for viewing.

Fifth Way had some on-camera experience under its belt before it started shooting the music video. The band appeared in a video for Chevrolet's "Department 180" advertising campaign that was released last month on Chevrolet's YouTube channel. In the video, the band performs *I'm Rock & Roll* alongside the new Chevrolet Cruze.

"They wanted a loud rockin' band to show the quietness of the



Fifth Way's recent CD

interior of the car."

The video producer contacted the band after he received a recommendation from WDET's Ann Delisi. Fifth Way had performed an acoustic set on Delisi's Essential Music program.

"It was a very interesting experience, we set up the complete band in the middle of a test track and played our song while a vehicle fitted with several cameras drove circles around us," Stelmazek said. "The point of the episode is to show how quiet the car is inside so we jammed while the engineers made the point from inside the car."

Other band members are Tim Gossman of Waterford, Adam

Trahan of Rochester Hills, Dave Reingardt of Fenton and Nicholas Cole-Klaes of Garden City.

The band's debut CD *No Boundaries* is available locally at Dearborn Music, Rock of Ages, Blues Airmen Guitar, Grooves Music and Brandon's School of Rock. The album can also be ordered directly from the Fifth Way Web site www.fifth-way.com or downloaded at www.itunes.com.

Advance tickets for the show are available now at the Magic Bag box office or online at Ticketmaster.com.

For more information about the show call (248) 544-3030 or visit www.themagicbag.com.

Get spooky with costume contest, cemetery walk

If you're looking for ways to celebrate Halloween, check out these events:

Successfully Single presents "A Spook-tacular Halloween Bash" 6 p.m.-midnight, Saturday, Oct. 30, at the Radisson Hotel, 17123 North Laurel Park Drive, just east of I-275 and north of Six Mile, Livonia. Participants will dance to the *Monster Mash* and Top 40 Hits by DJ Pam Hornbeck. There will be lots of devilish tricks, delightful treats, fiendish finger foods, door prizes, raffle and more. Prizes will be given for best costumes.

Admission at the door is \$12 for members, \$15 for nonmembers. Cash bar. All ages and couples, as well as singles, are welcome. For more information, visit www.successfullysingle.org.

Put Fido in costume for The Howl-ween Pet Costume contest, 5-6 p.m., today, Thursday, Oct. 28, in Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth. Contest entry is free. Registration is from 5-5:20 p.m.

Meet and greet some of the characters from Plymouth's past at Riverside

Cemetery during the Plymouth Historical Museum's "Plymouth Characters" Cemetery Walk on Friday, Oct. 29. Hear the tales of Plymouth's ghosts, such as the spurned wife of Phil Markham, inventor of the Markham Air Rifle, E. J. Penniman, a banker and one of those present at the founding of the Republican Party in Jackson, and Civil War soldiers Willard Roe and Aiken Holloway. Walks begin at 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. near the cemetery's mausoleum. Refreshments will be available at the cemetery after the walk. Tickets are \$10 per person in advance or \$15 a the cemetery. They're available at www.plymouthhistory.org. Riverside Cemetery is on Plymouth Road between the Courthouse Grille and the 35th District Court Building.

Youngsters can show off their costumes as they follow a path 4-7 p.m., Friday, Oct. 29, through the Summit on the Park, 1150 Canton Center Road, in Canton. The suggested donation per resident family is \$5. For nonresidents it's \$10.

Shot for handmade gifts at annual art market

Northville Art House kicks off its 6th Annual Northville Holiday Art market with a reception 6-9 p.m., Friday, Nov. 5 at 215 W. Cady in downtown Northville.

Hand-crafted work in pottery, fiber, jewelry and painting will be for sale by local artists, including Dave Albrecht, Kim Beardon, George Bochnig, Phil and Mary Borkowski, Steve Fadie, Thomas Frank, Marilyn Grinnell, Mary Kernahan, Peggy Kerwan, Mary Keys, Deb Kolar, Galina Koriduzki, Lisa Kull, Christine Laginess, Liz Messer, Carla Morabito, Kathy Renberg, Jan Sadowski, Kathy Sandberg, Rene Schmitt, Kayann Schuck, Donna Weber, Katherine Wickersham, Julie Woodward, Shadia Zayed, Marga Zieger, and Lisa Zubal-Leggett.

The artists have been asked to supply unique items especially priced for holiday gift giving. Shoppers can browse the art and enjoy refreshments during the reception, which coincides with Northville's traditional First Friday art walk, and get an early start on holiday shopping.

The Holiday Art Market will continue through Dec. 11 with additional special activities held 6-9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 3 during Northville's Candlelight Walk. Northville Art House will hold a raffle for several baskets of merchandise and coupons from local businesses currently on display.

Regular Art House hours for the Holiday Art Market are 1-5 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday. On First Fridays only in November and December hours are 1-9 p.m. For more information, call (248) 344-0497.

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<p>Grand Blanc at Genesys Health Park 3221 E. Baldwin Rd. Grand Blanc, MI (810) 606-1110</p>	<p>Lyon Township Across from Coyote Golf Club 28413 Abbey Lane New Hudson, MI (248) 437-6550</p>
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FOOD

Thursday, October 28, 2010

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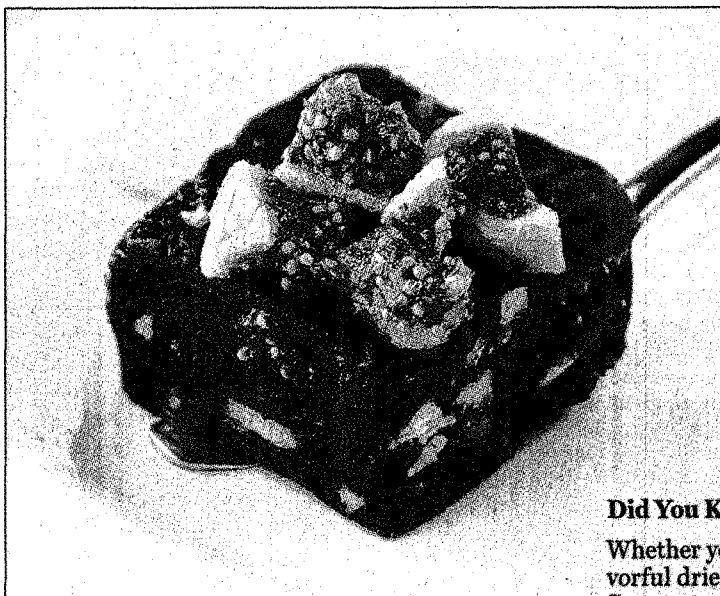
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festive, flavorful Figs

Tis the season for holiday parties — and that means serving something special to your guests. These festive recipes make the most of golden, slightly nutty-flavored Calimyrna figs and dark, sweet-tasting Mission figs. These appetizers are the perfect blend of sweet and savory that will give your guests something to celebrate. For more festive recipes, visit www.valleyfig.com.



Fudgy Fig No-Bake Brownie Bites



Figs and Bacon Cheddar Bites

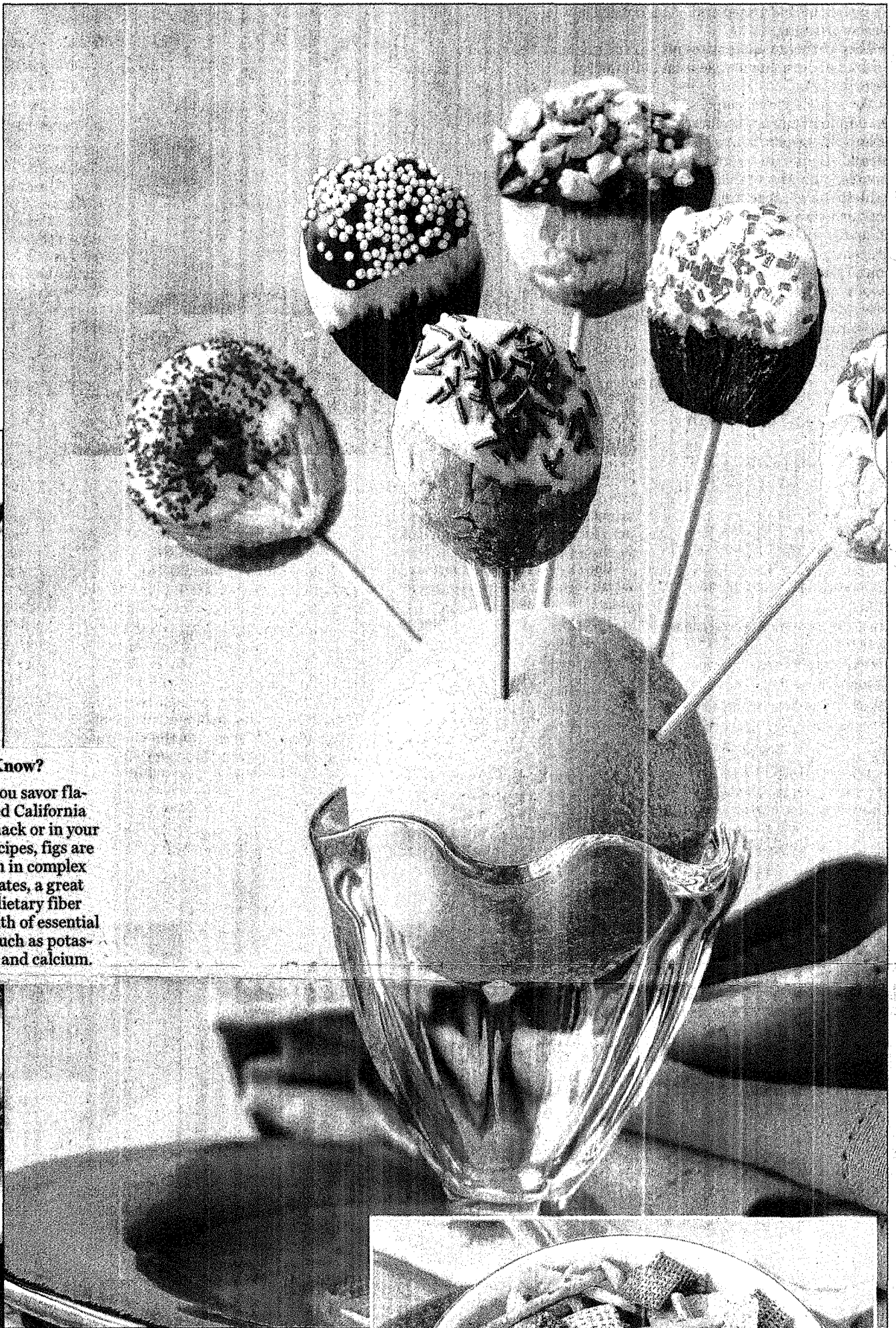


Fig Lollipops



CHILI-SPICED CEREAL & FIG SNACK MIX

Did You Know?

Whether you savor flavorful dried California figs as a snack or in your favorite recipes, figs are always rich in complex carbohydrates, a great source of dietary fiber and a wealth of essential minerals such as potassium, iron and calcium.

FUDGY FIG NO-BAKE BROWNIE BITES*Makes 24 brownies*

1 package (9 ounces) Famous Chocolate Wafers
1 cup stemmed, finely chopped Blue Ribbon® Orchard Choice® or Sun-Maid® Dried California Figs
½ cup chopped, toasted pecans or walnuts
3 tablespoons confectioners' (powdered) sugar
½ teaspoon salt
½ cup half and half
1 cup (6 ounces) semisweet or bittersweet chocolate morsels
½ teaspoon vanilla extract

Topping:

½ cup chopped figs or toasted nuts

Line 24 mini muffin pan cups with decorative paper or foil liners (or line an 8-inch square baking pan with foil or plastic wrap, extending up sides); set aside.

Whirl wafers in food processor (or place in sealable plastic bag and crush with rolling pin) to make fine crumbs. Place in large bowl.

Stir in figs, nuts, confectioners' sugar and salt. Pour half and half into microwave-safe bowl and heat on 100% power in microwave oven for 30 seconds or until boiling. (Or bring half and half to a boil in small saucepan over medium-high heat.)

Add chocolate morsels and set aside for 1 minute to soften. Stir until chocolate melts. Stir in vanilla. Pour over fig mixture and stir until blended. While warm, spoon brownie mixture into lined muffin cups or baking pan and press with back of oiled spoon to an even layer. Sprinkle with topping.

Chill 2 hours or until set. If using a square pan, cut into 24 brownies. Store in the refrigerator.

STORING AND USING FIGS

- Use a sharp knife or a pair of kitchen scissors to cut up figs. Run the knife under hot water when it gets sticky.
- Store figs in refrigerator after opening for up to six months.
- Mission and Calimyrna figs can be used interchangeably in most recipes.
- Figs are the perfect complement to all types of cheeses.
- Chop figs and add to cereals and side dishes for a hint of sweetness.

FIG LOLLIPOPS*Makes 12*

12 large Blue Ribbon Orchard Choice or Sun-Maid Dried California Figs
¾ cup (about 4 ounces) semisweet chocolate, milk chocolate or white morsels
12 4-inch bamboo skewers
2 oranges or grapefruits
Sea salt, kosher salt, finely chopped toasted nuts and/or colored sugar sprinkles

With scissors or sharp knife, cut off fig stems and discard. Flatten each fig with palm of hand. Place one fig on each skewer to look like a lollipop.

Place oranges in small bowls to hold lollipops while chocolate cools. Microwave morsels in microwave-safe bowl on MEDIUM (50%) power for 1 to 2 minutes, stirring every 30 seconds, until melted and smooth.

Dip skewered figs, partially or completely, into melted chocolate. Sprinkle each with a pinch of salt, finely chopped nuts or sugar sprinkles, as desired. Poke skewers in oranges. Chill until set.

FIG AND BACON CHEDDAR BITES*Makes 20 appetizers*

1 cup shredded sharp cheddar cheese
2 ounces (¼ cup) cream cheese, softened
½ cup stemmed and chopped (¼-inch) Blue Ribbon Orchard Choice or Sun-Maid Dried California Figs
½ cup thinly sliced green onions
2 tablespoons dry sherry
¾ cup cooked, chopped bacon
20 thin slices (cut diagonally) baguette

In small bowl, stir together cheddar and cream cheeses. Stir in figs, green onions and sherry. Can be prepared a day ahead and stored in a covered container in the refrigerator.

To serve, preheat oven to 375°F. Place baguette slices on large baking sheet. Place in oven for 4 to 5 minutes or until lightly toasted. Spread fig mixture on baguette slices. Top with bacon. Return to oven for 4 to 5 minutes or until cheese melts.

Makes about 7 cups

½ cups stemmed, chopped (¼ inch) Blue Ribbon Orchard Choice or Sun-Maid Dried California Figs

3 cups crisp cereal squares (mix equal amounts of rice, wheat and corn varieties)
1 cup small square cheese-flavored crackers
1 cup bite-size pretzels
1 cup Spanish red-skinned peanuts or other roasted nuts

Seasoning:

3 tablespoons vegetable oil
2 teaspoons Worcestershire sauce
1 teaspoon chili powder
½ teaspoon seasoned salt
½ teaspoon ground cumin
½ teaspoon garlic or onion salt
½ teaspoon cayenne pepper (optional)

Preheat oven to 250°F.

Place figs in small bowl. In separate small bowl, stir together oil and remaining seasoning ingredients. Drizzle 2 teaspoons seasoning mixture over figs and toss to blend; set aside.

In large bowl, combine cereal, crackers, pretzels and nuts. Drizzle with remaining seasoning mixture. Toss to blend.

Spread on large baking sheet. Place in oven and roast for 1 hour, stirring every 20 minutes and adding figs during last 10 minutes. Spread mixture on paper towels to cool. Store in airtight container.

Roast, cook, fry apples into tasty side dishes

Apples are one of the most versatile foods, enhancing any meal from pancakes for breakfast and pork chops for dinner.

Michigan Apple Committee (MAC) offers several easy ways to use this delicious, healthy fruit in lunches and dinners for today's on-the-go family:

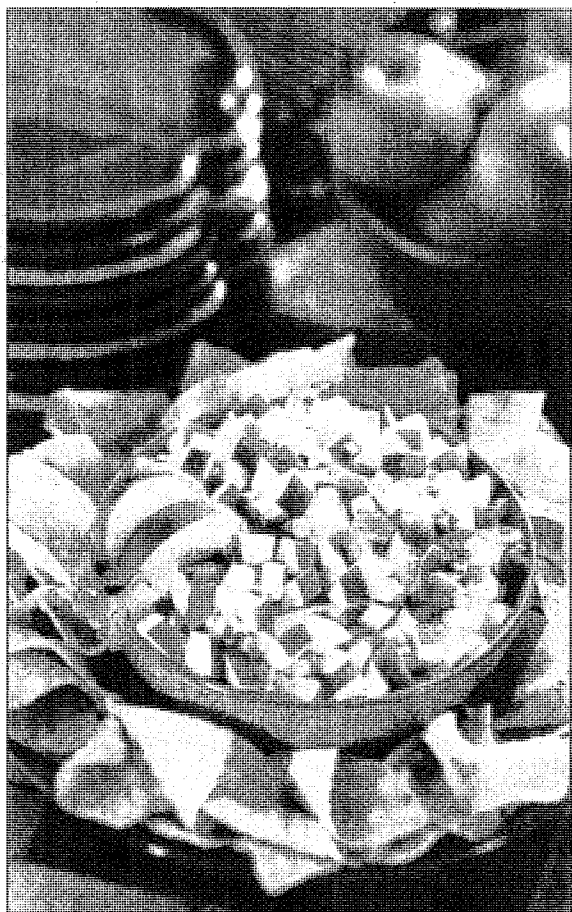
- For a super quick microwave applesauce — core and chop six Michigan apples into 1/2-inch chunks. Place apples in a microwavable bowl with 1/4 cup water. Cover and cook on high for 15 minutes. Stir and cook uncovered for approximately five more minutes. Mash apples and stir in 1-2 tablespoons sugar and a 1/2 teaspoon of cinnamon.

- Mix 1 16-ounce bag of prepared coleslaw mix with 1 large Michigan apple, cored and finely diced; 1/4 teaspoon of celery seed and 1/2 cup bottled low-fat coleslaw dressing.

- Toss Michigan apple slices into a crunchy salad of mixed greens. Top with low-fat balsamic vinaigrette dressing.

- For a quick ginger-apple sauce for pork or chicken, combine 1 cup apple cider with 1/2 cup reduced-sodium chicken broth in a small saucepan. Bring to a boil and simmer uncovered for approximately 15-20 minutes. Combine 4 tablespoons of cold water with 1 tablespoon of cornstarch. Slowly add mixture into broth using a whisk. Cook for two more minutes. Remove from heat and stir in 1 tablespoon of apple cider vinegar, 1 teaspoon of butter and 1/2 teaspoon of ground ginger.

Got more time to spend on food preparation? Try these side dish recipes from the Michigan Apple Committee:



Apple salsa

BLACK BEAN CAKES WITH APPLE SALSA

4 servings

Ingredients:
 1 can (15 ounces) black beans, drained
 1/2 cup dry bread crumbs
 2 eggs
 1/4 cup chopped onion
 1 garlic clove, minced
 2 tablespoons packaged taco seasoning
 1 1/2 cups peeled, shredded Michigan apples
 2 tablespoons chopped cilantro
 Vegetable cooking spray
Applesauce Salsa:
 1/2 cup Michigan applesauce
 1/4 cup salsa
 1/4 cup low-fat sour cream
 2 teaspoons chopped cilantro

Place first 6 ingredients in food processor bowl. Using metal blade, process about 15 seconds or until almost smooth. Remove from processor bowl to mixing bowl and stir in Michigan apples and the 2 tablespoons cilantro. Set aside.

Combine Applesauce Salsa ingredients and refrigerate. Using 1/4 cup measure, portion bean mixture into hot nonstick fry pan coated with cooking spray. Shape into patties. Cook over medium heat about 5 minutes per side or until golden brown and set. Repeat spraying pan, if necessary.

Variations: Substitute 1 cup finely chopped, drained, canned Michigan apple slices for fresh apples. Continue with above method.

Nutrition facts per serving of 2 Cakes and 1/4 cup Applesauce Salsa: 290 calories, 6 g fat, 112 mg cholesterol, 14 g protein, 48 g carbohydrates, 887 mg sodium, 7 g dietary fiber.

Suggested apple varieties: Empire, Gala, Golden Delicious, Ida Red, Jonagold, Jonathan Macintosh or Rome.

APPLES WITH ROASTED ROOT VEGETABLES

6-8 servings

Ingredients:
 3 cups peeled tart Michigan apples
 2 cups carrots, peeled, cut into 1/4 inch thick rounds
 1 medium onion, cut into wedges
 1 pound small redskin potatoes cut into quarters
 2 large yams, peeled and cut into 1/4 inch cubes
 2 cups parsnips, peeled and cut into 1/4 inch chunks
 2 teaspoons extra virgin olive oil
 Balsamic Thyme Vinaigrette:
 3 tablespoons white Balsamic vinegar
 1 teaspoon chopped fresh thyme
 3 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
 1/2 teaspoon chopped fresh parsley

Preheat oven to 425 degrees. Combine apples, carrots, onion, redskin potatoes, yams and parsnips in large bowl. Drizzle with

olive oil, season with salt and pepper and toss thoroughly to coat. Spread vegetables evenly on large baking sheet. Bake 20-25 minutes until vegetables are tender and beginning to caramelize. Remove from oven.

While vegetables are roasting, whisk together vinaigrette ingredients. Set aside.

To serve, transfer vegetables to serving platter and drizzle with Balsamic Thyme Vinaigrette. Season with salt and freshly ground pepper. Serve immediately.

Suggested apple varieties: Jonathan, Empire, Braeburn, McIntosh

Nutrition facts per serving: 375 calories, 5 g protein, 8 g fat, 1.1 g saturated fat, 77.16 g carbohydrate, 14 g fiber, and 253 mg sodium.

SWEET POLENTA WITH APPLES AND FRUIT

8 servings

5 cups Michigan apple cider or Michigan apple juice, divided
 1/2 cup granulated sugar
 1/4 teaspoon salt
 1 teaspoon apple pie spice
 1 cup polenta or yellow cornmeal
 1/2 cup firmly packed brown sugar
 2 tablespoons cornstarch
 1/4 teaspoon ginger
 3 cup cubed, red Michigan apples
 1 cup cubed mango
 1/2 cup blueberries
 Vegetable cooking spray

In 2-quart saucepan, combine 3 cups Michigan apple cider, granulated sugar, salt and apple pie spice. Stir in polenta. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly, until mixture starts to boil. Reduce heat and continue simmering and stirring frequently for about 5 minutes or until very thick. Spread evenly in 13-inch by 9-inch by 2-inch pan coated

with cooking spray. Cool 30 minutes. Cover pan with plastic wrap and refrigerate about 2 hours or until thoroughly chilled and firm.

Combine brown sugar, cornstarch and ginger in 2-quart saucepan. Gradually stir in the remaining 2 cups Michigan apple cider. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly, until mixture boils. Continue cooking and stirring 2 minutes longer. Remove from heat. Cool slightly. Stir in Michigan apples, mango and blueberries.

Cut polenta into 8 pieces. Cut each piece diagonally. In large nonstick fry pan, coated with cooking spray, cook polenta over medium heat, about 4 minutes each side or until golden brown. Serve hot polenta with warm apple mixture. Garnish with mint, if desired.

Nutrition facts per serving of 2 triangles of Polenta, 1/2 cup apple mixture: 290 calories, 1 g fat, 0 mg cholesterol, 2 g protein, 72 g carbohydrate, 85 mg sodium, 3 g dietary fiber.

Suggested Michigan Apple varieties to use: Empire, Gala, Ida Red, Jonagold, Jonathan, McIntosh, Red Delicious or Rome.

Shop to live choir music at Hiller's Markets

Local church, synagogue and school choirs will get a chance to perform holiday favorites and raise money Dec. 4 at Hiller's Markets.

Choirs will reserve a 30-minute time slot from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. to perform at a Hiller's store in Plymouth, Northville, Ann Arbor, Commerce Township or Union Lake. Shoppers will be able to make donations to the participating choirs at Hiller's registers. Hiller's Markets has pledged to match the donations during the "Sing for Your Supper" fund-raiser.

"There have been massive budget cuts to music programs in schools. This is a way we can help, and at the same time entertain customers as they shop," stated Justin Hiller, vice president of Hiller's Markets. "Hiller's mission is to strengthen our community and supporting music education is a vital part of that."

Choirs can sign up for Sing for your Supper, by e-mailing CKC Public Relations at info@ckcpublicrelations.com with the choir's name, the name of the person submitting the information and contact information. All time slot reservations are taken on a first come, first served basis.

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