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LOTS OF HOLIDAY FUN PLANNED, A7

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FOOD, B7

SUNDAY  
December 5, 2010

The Observer & Eccentric  
Newspapers

Volume 46  
Number 56

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# WESTLAND OBSERVER

hometownlife.com



## IN BRIEF

### Visit with Santa

Ho, ho, ho! Santa Claus will stop by the Octagon House during the Christmas Open House at the Westland Historic Village Park Saturday, Dec. 11.

Families are invited to stop by between 1 and 4 p.m. and have a chat with the Jolly Old Elf. Parents be sure to bring your cameras. After your visit enjoy some cookies and hot chocolate.

The Westland Historic Village Park is located at 857 N. Wayne Road, between Cherry Hill and Marquette. For more information, call Jo at (734) 522-3918 or Janet at (734) 728-4008.

### Tree decorating

Youth groups and scout troops can sign up now for Mayor William Wild's annual tree decorating event at 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 8.

Bring in the holidays with the mayor and his special guest, Santa Claus, and decorate the trees between City Hall and the Bailey Recreation Center. Each group will decorate a tree specially chosen for them and then present their trees to the mayor.

The celebration also includes greetings from the mayor and Santa, a Christmas carol sing-along with the Wildwood Elementary School Fourth-Grade Choir and refreshments. Registration is required. For more information, call (734) 722-7620.

### Letters to Santa

Christmas is a very busy time of year for Santa Claus.

He has to get the sleigh ready, make sure the elves have finished all the toys, and check his list twice to be sure he hasn't forgotten any good girls and boys. But in the midst of all this chaos, he always makes time to read letters from children.

That's because Santa knows kids sometimes change their minds, and he wants to be sure he's bringing the right gifts on Christmas Eve. Youngsters can be sure Santa knows what they want by writing a letter to Santa.

Santa Claus has given The Observer permission to print some of those letters in our Thursday, Dec. 23, issue. But to do that, we need letters. So youngsters get out some paper and a pen or pencil or a computer and start writing.

Letters should be e-mailed to smason@hometownlife.com. Parents, be sure to include a JPEG photo of your child, with their name, age, address and phone number. Only your child's name and age will be published.

Letters can also be sent the old-fashioned way, via postal service, to Letter to Santa, c/o Sue Mason, 615 W. Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226.

The deadline for all Santa letters is Monday, Dec. 13. And we promise, we will send of the letters on to the North Pole in advance of Christmas.



Soil is being moved as part of the Central City Park remediation and restoration. Work is expected to continue for a couple more weeks before ending for the winter.

## Central City Park taking shape

BY LEANNE ROGERS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The new sidewalk on the west side of Carlson along Central City Park was scheduled to be completed last week, part of the park restoration project.

"I'm hoping they get it finished so we can open the sidewalk for the kids walking to John Glenn High School," said Westland Parks and Recreation Director Robert Kosowski. "Most of the earth has been moved and graded, they've done the swales and the bio-swales, they've cut in the parking lot. You can really see it taking shape."

ABC Paving of Trenton has been contracted to the remediation and restoration of Central City Park, which is to be substantially completed by June 17, 2011.

The remediation effort is focusing on the 12 acres in the eastern part of



The new Central City Park is starting to take shape as crews move soil and regrade.

Please see **PARK, A2**

## Westland council agrees city needs new entertainment permit fee

BY SUE MASON  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The cost of getting an entertainment permit in the city of Westland is about to cost substantially less.

The Westland City Council agreed to consider a resolution that would allow businesses with liquor licenses to get an entertainment permit for \$500, far less than the current \$1,500.

"Businesses are telling us we need to make the fee reasonable and it won't

bother them," Council President James Godbout said.

According to Mayor William Wild, when council amended the city ordinance establishing new liquor licensing policies, it "added the ability to get an entertainment license, but did not put a fee on it." As a result, City Clerk Eileen DeHart Schoof has charged \$1,500, the same fee required for liquor license application, transfer or addition of stockholders.

"I'm the bad person because I have to

tell them it's \$1,500," Schoof said. "If it's \$1,500 or \$500, I don't care, just tell me what to charge."

Under the proposed resolution, businesses with existing liquor licenses as well as those applying for one would both pay the \$500 one-time only fee. They also would be required to sign a contract with the city, saying they would not bring in topless entertainment.

According to Assistant City Attorney

Please see **PERMIT, A2**

## Hearing rescheduled in fatal shooting

BY LEANNE ROGERS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A preliminary examination for a Westland man charged with fatally shooting a man on Stieber has been rescheduled for Friday, Dec. 10, in 18th District Court.

Joie Rayshaun Bell, 23, is being held without bond on three felony counts — felony homicide which is treated a first-degree murder and carries a mandatory sentence of life without parole, weapon possession by a felon and felony firearm. He is also facing second-degree habitual offender sentencing enhancements.

The case had been adjourned at least

twice with Judge Mark McConnell setting the hearing for a Friday — the court normally holds felony preliminary examinations on Thursday.

Bell is charged with killing Anthony Michael Esse, 25, who died Oct. 6 after being shot once in the chest during a confrontation with two men at his home in the 2200 block of Stieber, south of Palmer and west of Wildwood.

Esse went outside and collapsed after being shot, police said. He was transported by Westland Fire Rescue to an area hospital, where he died of his injuries.

Westland police described the shooting as a drug-related dispute about someone encroaching another's territory.

Police indicated the primary drug in the dispute was marijuana although cocaine may have been involved also.

Bell had already been in custody on an unrelated warrant when charges were brought in Esse's death. Police continue to investigate a person of interest believed to be the second man involved in the attack.

Investigators appeared to have little to go on in the case initially and appealed to the public to come forward with information. Someone eventually did provide the information that resulted in charges against Bell.

lr Rogers@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-5428

## Another chance to get rid of compost

BY LEANNE ROGERS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Westland residents will another chance to get the last of their compost picked up thanks to an extension of the curbside program through Friday, Dec. 10.

"No one can ever tell when the trees will drop their leaves. We noticed, and we have been getting calls from residents, that the leaves hadn't been dropping," said Westland Department of Public Services Director Kevin Buford. "We had an unseasonably warm fall. This last storm should have taken the last of the leaves off the trees."

Mayor William Wild worked with waste hauler Midwest Sanitation to get the extension — something that actually is a decision by the operators of the compost site. Westland's compost goes to Taylor Recycling or Woodland Meadows in Wayne.

"Due to the mild November weather we had, this extension will help our residents with trees that are still holding on to their leaves," said Wild.

The compost facilities will actually stop accepting materials on Dec. 15 but Buford said it's better for the city to stop pickups on Friday.

"It's the last day of the week. If we went to Wednesday (Dec. 15), it would give some people extra days. Everyone should be treated fairly," said Buford. "And if they can't get all the leaves picked up for some reason, they will have three more days to finish."

This is the second year residents have been required to bag up their leaves, rather than curbside collection by the city. People have made the adjustment but Buford said some are exceeding the limit of 20 bags of leaves at the curb per week.

"We've had 50-60 bags. We try to work with people," he said. Leaves must be in a trash can marked as compost or in a brown kraft type bag for pickup on the regularly scheduled garbage collection day.

After Dec. 10, the compost collection will end until April 1 except for Christmas trees which will be picked up after the holiday.

New this year, residents can drop off their Christmas trees at the Department of Public Services on Marquette Jan. 4-17 for recycling. The trees will be chipped for use at the Community Garden located on the DTE property on Cherry Hill.

For more information, call DPS at (734) 728-1770.

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# Hearing delayed for woman charged with stealing from mother

BY LEANNE ROGERS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A preliminary examination for a Westland woman charged with stealing more than \$350,000 from her elderly mother has been adjourned until Wednesday, Dec. 22.  
Carol Brazeika, 49, had

been scheduled for a hearing Thursday in 18th District Court. Brazeika has been charged with 14 felony counts, including three counts of embezzlement over \$100,000, a 20-year felony; five counts of identity theft, a five-year felony; and five counts of larceny by false pretenses.

It is alleged that over a five-year period, beginning in 2004, Brazeika misappropriated funds in excess of \$350,000 belonging to her 76-year-old mother. The funds allegedly were siphoned from accounts owned by her mother which contained retirement, pension and Social Security funds.

It is also alleged that Brazeika, using her mother's identity, opened credit card accounts and obtained loans in her mother's name during that same time period. None of the missing money has been recovered, said Westland police Sgt. David Zucchetto, who handled the investigation, although it has

been established where the money went. The victim and her other children became aware something was wrong, Zucchetto said, when some of the unauthorized financial transactions triggered taxes and bills arrived from the Internal Revenue Service. Unemployed, Brazeika had

been assisting her mother on some financial matters, Zucchetto said, with both women living on the same Westland street at the time. Judge Mark McConnell set Brazeika's bond at \$350,000 cash/surety. Brazeika is being held in lieu of bond.

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## PERMIT

FROM PAGE A1

Keith Madden, one of the major changes in the state liquor licensing rules was the definition of entertainment. Where it was once all-inclusive, state law now differentiates between an entertainment permit and topless entertainment.  
"It now gives you the authority to put in the ordinance

that you will not allow topless entertainment," he said. "Fees can be adopted at any time by council. It's simply a matter of a resolution.

"What the Legislature did with the LCC is move entertainment into the 20th century," he added. "What didn't even apply in 2005 is now reasonable entertainment that can happen in a bar."

Currently, a business requesting a liquor license and an entertainment permit pays \$3,000 — \$1,500 for the

license application and \$1,500 for the permit. If the resolution is approved, the total amount would drop to \$2,000 — \$1,500 for the license application and \$500 for the permit. Likewise, existing businesses would be charged \$500 for an entertainment permit.

"We don't want to punish the existing businesses," Godbout said.

Roy Moore of Ashley's Bar and Grill agreed, pointing out that businesses want to see something reasonable.

"We want you to do what's reasonable. We want you to help us businesses as we try to help the community," he said. "We want to play by the rules, it just needs to be equitable. Technically we can't have Trivia Night without that license. Everyone wants to be in compliance."

Councilman Michael Kehrer questioned the need for the fee to be \$500, noting that it's the highest among the five surrounding communities he surveyed.

"If this fee structure stands, it will make this one of the most expensive in the area," he said.

Wild, however, pointed out that the administration tried to look beyond those five communities in setting the fee, citing Oakland County's Royal Oak and Ferndale.

The city wasn't allowed to prohibit topless entertainment in the ordinance. However, the contract can and gives the city leverage if there is a problem with the entertainment at an

establishment. Madden also anticipates the city would have a right to go out and see that a business is doing what it said it would do with the permit.

"The contract would be like an endorsement, an add-on to the contract, if they want to continue to be a place to put on entertainment," Madden said. "Honest people will do that."

A vote on the resolution could come as soon as the council's Dec. 6 meeting.

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**PARK**  
FROM PAGE A1

They've actually laid some of the geotextile membrane by the road (Carlson)," said Kosowski, who was pleased with progress made so far. "You can really see it taking shape. It's been good watching it. I love to see it each day."

Westland has taken ownership of the 33-acre park from Wayne County after having leased it for a number of years.

The park has been closed since January 2006 due to the lead contamination that came from various sources and concerns about methane gas in areas used as a landfill. A passive ventilations trench and several monitoring probes

will address the methane gas issues.

Wayne County is funding the \$2.5 million project for the 12 acres but remediation for the other approximately 21 acres was cost-prohibitive. As a result, that area will be restricted for the foreseeable future.

Once completed, the amenities added to Central City Park, such as restrooms and concessions stands, will complement the adjacent Play Planet play structure and the H2O Zone sprayground park located immediately to the east.

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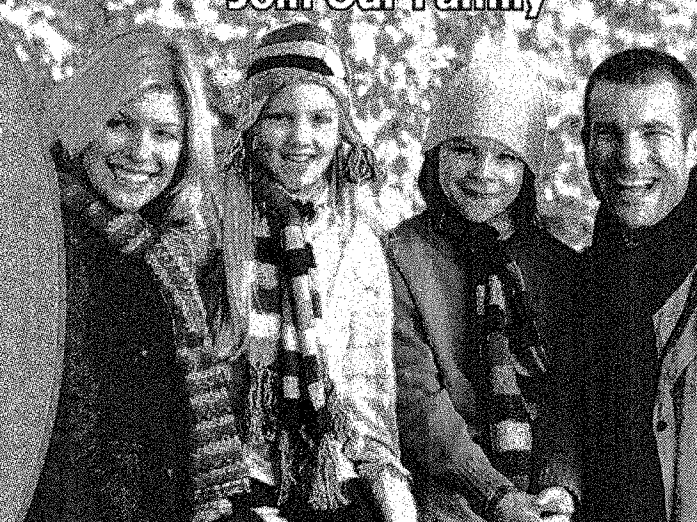
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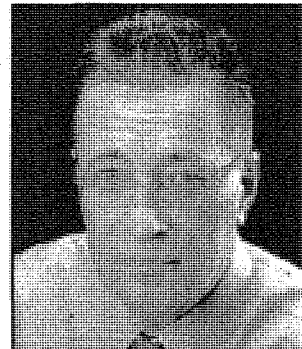
**SOCIAL SECURITY**

Many people are wrongly rejected when they apply for Social Security Disability benefits. Money was taken out of their paychecks for Social Security taxes to ensure that they would receive disability benefits if they could no longer work full-time. Sadly, the government denies approximately 60% of those who apply for disability benefits.

The tragedy is that less than half of those persons who are denied benefits file an appeal. Thus, many thousands of people who deserve benefits never receive them.

Those denied can appeal on their own, but statistics for many years reveal that those represented by attorneys win a much higher percentage of appeals. And attorneys who specialize in Social Security Disability cases win a much higher percentage yet.

Attorney J.B. Bieske has represented only Social Security Disability clients for over 20 years. That is the only type of law he practices. And, he personally meets with all clients and appears himself at all court hearings. Many large firms assign clients to young associate attorneys with much less experience.



In addition to practicing only Social Security Disability law Bieske has written a book for attorneys about the subject. He also has been interviewed on various radio and television programs and has given speeches to many groups.

Bieske's office staff consists of paralegals and secretaries who are also highly experienced in assisting him with Social Security Disability cases. And they are extremely helpful in answering questions with regard to the status of clients' cases and administrative procedure.

Attorney Bieske welcomes you to call him to determine if you may be eligible for these benefits. He offers free phone or office consultations. If Bieske represents you, there will be no fee charged until after the case is won. The fee is a percentage of retroactive benefits.

In a recent radio interview attorney Bieske explained that many people are not even aware that they are eligible for Social Security Disability benefits. These are not the same as Workers' Compensation benefits. It is possible to receive both benefits at the same time. If you have an illness or injury (whether or not related to your work), are under 65 and unable to work full-time you may be eligible. Social Security Disability benefits are based on your work record or your deceased spouse's work record (Widow's/Widower's benefits).

Bieske represents clients from all over the state of Michigan. Call him at 1-800-331-3530 for a FREE consultation if you have been denied. Or if you are thinking of possibly of applying for Social Security benefits call him for FREE advice.

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# County upgrades snow removal trucks with side plows, anti-icing equipment

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Wayne County road officials hope improvements in equipment will reduce the time it takes to plow county roads this winter, perhaps cutting it in half.

On Thursday, County Executive Robert Ficano and road officials highlighted two changes on 20 trucks they hope will make snow removal operations more efficient: a wing plow attached to the side of the truck and anti-icing inserts for spraying multiple lanes on one pass.

Two trucks were re-engineered by the Wayne County Roads Division to pre-wet roads with salt brine. The two trucks were going to be auctioned off, but instead the roads division decided to keep the vehicles and retrofit them.

"These are difficult times," Ficano said. "The funding gets reduced from state and federal levels and it creates more challenges."

County officials showed one of the 20 county trucks that have been equipped with a side or wing plow and anti-icing inserts to spray the brine. That wing plow allows for the trucks to remove a wider area of snow, such as a lane and a shoulder simultaneously, according to Mike Rogers, director of the county roads division of the Department of Public Service. "We see it as a new measure in removing snow," Rogers said. Tim Pollard, president of CE



County road officials hope to double the amount of snow they can clear at one time with the new 6-foot wide wing plows installed on the sides of their trucks.

Pollard Co., said the 6-foot wide wing plow, when used with the 11-foot plow on the front, will allow for 15 feet in width of snow clearance, nearly doubling the 8 feet that used to be cleared. Ficano said the time to plow the roads should be cut in half for each truck with the additional equipment.

The county roads division maintains of 1,582 miles of primary county and local roadways, and 462 miles of state trunk lines, Ficano said. Wayne County averages just under 42 inches of snowfall a winter.

To assist in that removal and keep the roads from icing, the county will begin pre-wetting roads with a salt brine solution consisting of water and 23-26 percent rock salt. "They will be

hitting the salt with brine, and when it hits the salt, it dissolves the salt instantly," Rogers said. "Without the pre-wetting, much of the dry salt bounces off the roads," Rogers said.

Rogers said the snow removal priority list will remain unchanged: Freeways are the

highest priority, followed by the state trunklines and heavily travelled roads, such as Grand River, Telegraph and Ford roads, and the local subdivision roads in townships, which will be plowed only when snow reaches 6 inches. That threshold remains unchanged this year,

officials said.

Officials hope the use of brine will help defray the rising cost of salt, now up to \$53.54 a ton, up from last year's \$41.92. The county begins the 2010-11 winter season with 96,573 tons of salt on hand. Officials estimate that between 70,000 and 130,000 tons of salt will be ordered this season. The county can treat 19.5 miles of two-lane road with a truckload of salt.

The roads fund budget has fallen from \$186.6 million in 2002 to \$105.7 million in 2010, a drop of 44 percent. The county road personnel has fallen from 588 in 2000-01 to 330 in 2009-10. Seasonal personnel fell from 138 in 2000 to zero in 2005, where it has remained.

"We've been forced to do more with less," Ficano said.

Hassan Saab, deputy director of the Department of Public Service, said fewer Michigan Transportation Fund dollars are available because motorists are driving fuel-efficient vehicles and they are changing driving habits. Fewer fuel purchases

mean less gas tax revenue. The gas tax is fixed at a 1997 rate, but the cost of labor and materials has "increased substantially" since 1997, Saab said.

Kevin Maillard, director of Public Works for the city of Livonia, said he and other DPW directors throughout Wayne County met with county officials recently to discuss snow removal for this winter season.

Maillard said the brine application has been used effectively in Livonia. The city of Livonia has not changed its snow removal policy or salt routes, which were devised last year during the budget discussions.

Any snowfall that measures 4 inches will be plowed within 30 hours from the end of the snowfall. "We usually do it within 18 to 24 hours," Maillard said.

That threshold remains unchanged. "We cut (the budget) last year and we came to the determination that we wouldn't change it this year. It's a traffic safety issue for us," Maillard said.

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# EDUCATION

Sunday, December 5, 2010

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## HAVE A STORY IDEA?

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### Showing their expertise

Sue Hardin (at right), president of the Michigan Association for Computer Users in Learning, welcomes teacher Zach Maclean (left) and students from Wayne-Westland's William D. Ford Career Technical Center to the 10th annual Michigan Student Technology Showcase. The students attending were Jeffery Morton (beginning second from left), Shelby Erickson, Alicia Cox (with camera) and Tom Killen. Held Nov. 10 at the State Capitol Building in Lansing, and sponsored by MACUL, the event drew 35 elementary, middle and high schools statewide which set up demonstrations to show elected members of the Michigan State Senate and House of Representatives how technology is being used in the classroom to enhance student achievement.

## Physical education teacher 'an inspiration'

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Matt Bentley believes teaching is all about building relationships and community.

As a physical education teacher at Riley Upper Elementary School, Bentley stresses team building, starting out each school year with lessons on the topic.

"Not only does this help me to get to know the kids better, but it also helps them get to know each other in a different arena other than the classroom," Bentley said.

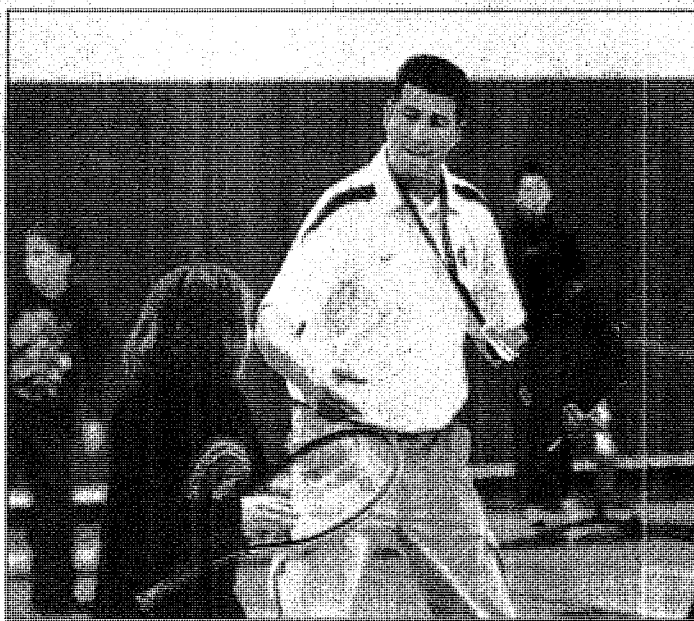
For his efforts, Bentley was named Livonia's Elementary Teacher of the Year for 2010-11 by a district-wide committee composed of teachers, parents and administrators.

### MIX OF FITNESS AND FUN

Bentley, who has worked in the Livonia school district for 11 years, was honored for initiating programs including Fall Family Fitness Night; after-school intramural programs; Dudes Night and Girls Night Out for students and parents in the Riley community; Winter Field Day; and Swim Night. Bentley also created the Nature Connections Program for students to experience the outdoors in a positive way.

Doing these extra activities "lets me get to know the kids and their families better," Bentley said.

Bentley also participated on the district's Physical Education Program Committee, which secured a three-year grant to maintain the district's highest level physical education status. He also served as a state presenter at the Michigan Association of Health, Physical



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Matthew Bentley, one of two Livonia Teachers of the Year, works with Riley Upper Elementary students.

teacher at Garfield Elementary, said Bentley "cares and wants all students to be not only intelligent but to have and maintain a healthy lifestyle."

"His classroom is a gym, the out-of-doors, anywhere students can be active learners from his unique lessons that students enjoy," Colliton stated.

Charles O'Loughlin, a teacher at Hoover and Randolph, said Bentley schedules more events that bring the entire school community together "than any other teacher I know in Livonia."

"In addition to sharing his positive influence with Livonia, Matt has presented at state and local conferences in Michigan, as he wishes to work with all teachers in the sharing of ideas and sound instructional practices," O'Loughlin said.

Catherine Moser, a fifth-grader at Riley, said Bentley makes exercise and physical education fun.

"He is creative about what we do, and he makes it exciting and cool," Catherine said. "He makes it fun to go to gym. He makes jokes and he makes you laugh a lot."

Instructor Vicki Dwelley said Bentley makes an extra effort in interacting with the kids. "He makes it a point to learn about the kids and all of the kids' names," she said.

Bentley plans on taking the entire school canoeing, hiking, fishing and orienteering in May and June.

"The goal of this Nature Connections program is to provide a positive experience so powerful that it creates a lasting impression and as a result, students will continue to explore and enjoy the outdoors during their lifetime," Bentley said.

Education, Recreation and Dance Conferences.

Cindy Scott, the principal at Riley, said Bentley honors, respects and takes an interest in students both in and out of the classroom.

"Students, families and staff benefit greatly from the exceptional way in which Matt volunteers extra time and effort to coordinate and sponsor additional activities here at Riley," Scott said.

"Matt is an inspiration to staff, and encourages staff members to participate in the variety of opportunities he has created for our students and families. He eagerly makes suggestions, but he does not stop there. Matt also turns his words into action."

School board Trustee Gregory Oke said Bentley taught at his son's school for three years.

"He's one of those teachers my son and his friends will be talking about forever," he said.

### HEALTHY LIFESTYLE EMPHASIZED

Others commended Bentley for his work and dedication to educating the students.

Barney and Chris Knorp said their daughter "came running in the house so excited" after her class won the sixth-grade school soccer competition. "There aren't many days when you see your child come home from school so excited and want to share it with you," the Knorps wrote in a note of appreciation and thanks, which was highlighted at Monday's meeting. "Those 'little extras' are the things that will stay with a child for a long time."

James Colliton, a retired

### ACHIEVERS

Westland residents named to Madonna University's Dean's List for superior academic achievement during the spring/summer 2010 semester were:

Aimee Joy Abrazaldo, Brooke Eden Bode, Yuliya Yevgenyevna Buzle, Chelsea Louise Dean, Traci Lynn Elstone, Wendy Marie Farr, Jessica Fellows, Kristie Lauren Fields, Lorean Marie Forchione, Katelyn Elizabeth Hamann, Samantha Lynne Hamilton, Lindsay Ann

Heimerl, Lauren Lee Hochstein, Woo-Suk Kim, Clare Ann Kolewski, Sydney Christina Korth, Joseph Thomas Lijek, Ana Paula Marcolina, Edjola Merdani, Danielle Gabriel Nabozny, Jessica A Noyes, Karolina Oldziejewska, Danielle Marie Peel, Ashley Jean Quinn, Jared Todd Thirjung, Karen Mechelle Tomlinson, Katherine Emily Urquhart, Charles D. West, Luvenia D Wright and Javier Arturo Zarate.

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## FOUR SEASONS REHABILITATION AND NURSING

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### Winter Safety Tips for Senior Citizens

A COMMUNITY SERVICE MESSAGE FROM FOUR SEASONS REHABILITATION & NURSING



FOUR SEASONS ADMINISTRATOR  
PAT LYDEN, RN, MS, LNHA, LNC

Meet Pat Lyden, Four Seasons administrator and a registered nurse for many years. Her number one message for families is to check on loved ones daily and visit often to make sure the heat is on and they're safe.

"The elderly have a need for warmth, warm temperatures," said Lyden. "Especially with Alzheimer's and dementia, if they get outside and don't remember, the risk is great to their health. Check on them frequently particularly if they're known to wander or are forgetful. If you have brothers and sisters, take turns calling. Make sure they have boots, coats and gloves. Are they really safe to drive? You have to assess your loved one. Are they safe to operate stoves? Don't let them use the oven to heat."

Food is a necessity that is sometimes taken for granted.

"Make sure they have food. Some of the elderly are extremely proud. Stop and look in the refrigerator," said Lyden.

Even if a senior citizen is in good health, accidents happen. Falls account for the majority of emergency room visits for this age group. The resulting injuries frequently cause hospitalization that leads to deterioration of functioning and the need for long periods of physical

"... some of the elderly are extremely proud... give them their independence but check on them daily and visit often..."

rehabilitation. This holiday season make sure electrical cords do not present a tripping hazard. Treat outdoor steps to prevent black ice.

"Make sure walks are shoveled. Is their porch clear of objects that could cause a fall," said Lyden. "Rugs also trip elderly up particularly when walking with walkers."

The hours after dark bring danger as well. To prevent the need for nocturnal trips to the bathroom, Lyden suggests seniors drink less water before bedtime. Late evening and early morning hours are prime times for accidents. "There also needs to be night lights so they can see in the dark," said Lyden. "Families need to take the role. Give them their independence, but check on them."

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# Mothers and law enforcement team up to 'Tie One On for Safety'

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN  
CORRESPONDENT

Marie Cosenza pushes a box of red ribbons into the hands of a Westland police officer at the kick-off Friday of the Tie One On for Safety campaign at Westland Shopping Center.

The Mothers Against Drunk Driving volunteer is determined to stop another person from dying in an alcohol-related crash. MADD is encouraging drivers to tie a red ribbon on their vehicle as a reminder not to drink and drive.

Earlier tears filled her eyes as Cosenza recalled the night her son, Anthony, was killed 2 1/2 years ago. Anthony, 20, was leaving his job in Livonia at 12:30 a.m. when hit by a 16-year-old drunken driver.

Tony, as the youngest of her five sons was affectionately known, had just become a father.

"It was devastating. I miss him every day. I miss his 'I love you' and his calls for mom's recipes," said Cosenza. "I started volunteering three-four months after because I personally needed to do something."

Ally Wilmot still has visions of the 400 people who attended Tony's funeral and the mile and a half procession. Wilmot became friends with Tony after he attended an alternative high school in Garden



Cheryl and Lorenzo Houston deliver an impassioned speech about the night their son was killed by a drunken driver.



MADD encourages everyone to tie a red ribbon on their vehicle, to remind them not to drink and drive.

City. Like Cosenza, Wilmot became a MADD volunteer after Tony was killed. She knows firsthand that many people drink and drive. Her mother was arrested several times for driving under the influence.

"I don't want to lose any more people," said Wilmot of

Westland. "I even posted it on my Facebook page. If you need me, if you've been drinking and need a ride, call. It's important to be there for your friends."

Janette Kolodge is hoping that MADD's new state office in Troy will serve as an "open house" to anyone

interested in volunteering to help stop drinking and driving. Drunken drivers killed nearly 11,000 men, women and children last year in America, nearly 300 in Michigan.

"We've added a Designated Driver link to our website, www.MADD.org," said Kolodge, executive director,

MADD Michigan. "You can print off a voucher and give to your families and loved ones to say you will be their designated driver."

Cheryl and Lorenzo Houston never imagined that a drunken driver would kill their son, Havens. The couple spoke about Havens at the MADD event along with representatives of the nonprofit organization and officials including Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano and Oakland County Sheriff Michael Bouchard.

Havens died Feb. 26, 2005, at age 20 when he stopped to help a woman injured in a crash and was hit by a drunken driver. For the last three years, the Houstons estimate they have spoken to more than 20,000 offenders during court-ordered Victims Panels in the area, even though as

Cheryl said, "It hurts to tell the story every time."

### HEALING PROCESS

"This is my healing process," said Cheryl Houston. "I love speaking of my son. We never expected this. We expected him to grow up to be a responsible citizen, expected him to be a father."

Law enforcement is stepping up patrols during the holiday. On average in Michigan, 125 people are arrested every day.

Michigan State Police Capt. Monica Yesh, commander of Traffic Safety, said officers would rather make an arrest than a death notification.

"If you drink, don't drive," Yesh warned. "To have one or two, it does impair judgment."

For more information, call MADD at (248) 528-1745, for 24-hour victim assistance (800) 323-6233.

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# Growing from small group, church celebrates 10 years

BY DARRELL CLEM  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

David Washington Jr. was only 6 years old when his father told him he had the athletic prowess to follow the footsteps of baseball pioneer Jackie Robinson or basketball legend Kareem Abdul-Jabbar.

Washington did become a standout athlete at Brother Rice High School in Birmingham and, after earning a full basketball scholarship, played a year at Iowa State University.

But his dream of becoming an NBA star never came true, because Washington said God had another game plan for him — the ministry. Yet he still has the talent to draw a crowd.

A decade after he and wife Errica — his childhood sweetheart — started an eight-member Bible study group in Canton, the Rev. Washington ministers to more than 400 people every Sunday at Canton Christian Fellowship, a church located in the old state unemployment office at

Joy Road and Ronda Drive. “We had a vision that we’ve never deviated from, and that vision is to have a real sense of community and authoritative leadership,” he said, sitting in the church sanctuary.

As the congregation celebrates its 10th anniversary, Washington, a 40-year-old father of five, said God’s game plan for him continues to unfold. Canton Christian Fellowship has outgrown its 11,000-square-foot building, and within two years the pastor hopes to find a new place — perhaps five times larger, but still in Canton — for worshippers.

“I feel we’ve been called to Canton,” Washington said.

He also has a radio ministry, Transformed Lives Ministries, that airs 11 a.m. Monday through Friday on WLQV-AM (1500). And he has a self-published book, *Storm Devotions: God’s Word To Get You Through*, with WinePress Publishing.

**BUSINESS BACKGROUND**  
It seems like Washington



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Rev. David Washington, Jr., pastor of the Canton Christian Fellowship Church in Canton, is proud of how the congregation has grown as it marks its 10th anniversary.

has a businesslike acumen, he should. After his basketball stint at Iowa State, he earned a business marketing degree from Grand Rapids Baptist College and worked in corporate America for Ford Motor Co. and Eli Lilly & Co., a pharmaceutical firm.

He also earned a master’s

degree in religion from Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary in Lynchburg, Va., and he is now pursuing his doctorate of ministry from Northern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Washington has blended his love of ministry and his business expertise to help his

church flourish, and he has even tapped into social media Facebook and Twitter to engage young people.

DeMarcus Ducre, 25, and wife Shila had searched the Detroit area for a church before they landed at Canton Christian Fellowship two years ago. They saw a billboard at Westland Shopping Center.

“The top things that make me go is the fellowship. The people there care about you, and they ask about you all the time,” Ducre said. “It’s like a family. And it’s the word of God that I’m being taught.

You can hear it in Pastor Washington’s speech, and it comes from his heart. And he keeps you engaged with jokes. One thing I always love is he uses props and church bodies for creative illustrations.”

Washington also has helped his church flourish in other ways. It has two Sunday morning services, Wednesday family nights and age-appropriate Bible study groups for young children, students in grades 7-12 and adults. It also offers group ministries geared toward college students, recovering addicts, men, women and those interested in performing arts.

**CLOTHING BANK**

The church also has a clothing bank just down Joy Road in Plymouth that serves some 100 people a month, and though most receiving aid don’t attend Canton Christian Fellowship, some have joined. “The need has grown with this economy we’re in,” Washington said. “What good

is it to sit here and not help the community? Christ didn’t just stay in his comfort zone. He went out and helped others.”

Washington likens the church to a lighthouse — a beacon of light where those in need, whether spiritually or otherwise, can find a friendly hand, a hug, help. As he sits in the sanctuary, a large poster near his chair reads, “Radically Changed Toward the Image of Christ.”

He explains it this way: “We’ve got to radically be willing to let God transform us. We have to be willing to surrender ourselves.”

He has been willing, and his leadership has drawn church members from across western Wayne County and cities such as Southfield and Detroit. Though most members are African American, he continually reaches out to all people.

“It’s everybody’s church,” he said.

Even as Canton Christian Fellowship begins to consider its next move, Washington said his plan is to keep the church in Canton, where he and Errica also live with their children Gabriella, 15, Hannah, 13, Faith, 10, Joyelle, 8, and David III, 5.

“Canton is a diverse community,” he said. “I pastor in Canton, and I want to live in Canton.”

For more information, call the church at (734) 404-2480 or log on to [www.CantonCF.org](http://www.CantonCF.org). For more on the Rev. Washington’s radio ministry, visit [www.TLMinistries.net](http://www.TLMinistries.net).

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**NOTICE OF MEETING**

The annual meeting of the stockholders of the Wayne Masonic Temple Association, a Michigan non-profit corporation, shall be held at the office of the corporation at 37137 Palmer Rd., Westland, Michigan on the Tuesday December 14, 2010 at 8:00 PM for the election of directors and such other business as may properly come before said meeting.

Publish: November 28 & December 5, 2010  
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# Lots of holiday fun planned

There are plenty of holiday activities on the schedule in Westland.

**• WESTLAND'S ANNUAL TREE DECORATING EVENT** is scheduled for 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 8. Join Mayor William Wild and his special guest, Santa Claus, in bringing in the holidays.

Welcome in the holiday season with many schools and Scout troops as they decorate the trees between City Hall and the Bailey Recreation Center. Each group will decorate a tree specially chosen for them and then present their trees to the mayor and Santa Claus.

The celebration and presentation will include greetings from the mayor and Santa, a Christmas carol sing-along with the Wildwood Elementary School fourth-grade choir and refreshments. Everyone is invited to join in the fun. For more information, call (734) 722-7620.

**• SANTA CALL-IN SHOW**

Want to talk to Santa? Here is your chance. He will be waiting for your call starting at 6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 9. Call (734) 467-3198 for more information.

**• POSTER CONTEST**

There is still time to enter Westland's "We Promise You A White Christmas" poster contest. Youngsters in kindergarten through fifth grade have until 10 p.m. Friday, Dec. 10, to submit a drawing of what their

house would like covered with snow on Christmas Day.

The poster may be drawn at home or at school. The poster should include the artist's name, age, address, home phone number so the winner can be contacted, the name of their school and their grade.

Drop off or mail your poster to: Poster Contest, Westland Parks and Recreation Department, 36651 Ford Road, Westland, MI 48185.

The winner will be notified on Monday, Dec. 20. If there is no snow on the ground, a truck load of snow will be placed on the winner's front lawn on Dec. 21. If there is snow already covering the ground, another prize will be awarded.

**• ORNAMENT WORKSHOP**

Kids 5 years and older can help with the decorations at the Holiday Delight Night Christmas Ornament Workshop 6-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 14, at the Bailey Recreation Center.

The cost is \$10 person, including a supply fee. Each youngster will make two ornaments with D & M Art Studio. All supplies are included.

**• MEET SANTA AT THE LIBRARY**

At 6 p.m. Monday, Dec. 13, Santa Claus will be at the William P. Faust Public Library for a meet and greet. Westland families are invited to attend this free event that will be shown on WLND. Children will have the oppor-

tunity to meet Westland Mayor William Wild and Santa Claus, tell Santa what they want for Christmas and enjoy holiday readings from special guests. Refreshments will also be available.

The William P. Faust Public Library is located at 6123 Central City Parkway between Ford Road and Warren Road.

**• BOWLING WITH SANTA**

Enjoy some holiday bowling with Santa Claus 1-3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 19 at Town and Country Lanes, 1100 S. Wayne Road, Westland. The cost is \$10 per person. Each child will receive two games, shoes, a hot dog, beverage, a visit from Santa Claus and more.

For more information, call Sharon at (734) 722-4857 or

pick up a registration form at the Bailey Center.

The event is sponsored by the Grange #389, Westland Parks and Recreation and Town and Country Lanes. All proceeds will benefit the Dictionary for Third Graders program for Wayne-Westland Community Education.

**• HOLIDAY CONCERT**

No Ordinary Night, a Children's Christmas Musical, will be presented at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 17, at the Livonia Franklin High School Auditorium. The program is free for everyone with a dessert reception to follow. Bell Creek Community Church is hosting the program. For more information, visit www.bellcreek.org.

# Workshop focuses on schoolyard habitats

The Friends of the Rouge, Rouge Education Project will be hosting a how-to workshop focusing on Schoolyard Habitats in January.

The event will take place at the Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile Road, from 6: to 8 p.m. Jan. 19.

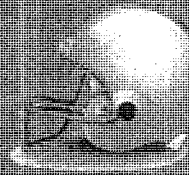
The featured guest speakers will be Sarah Halson of the Greening of Detroit, Emily Hughes of the Friends of the Rouge and Gary Oswell of Logan Elementary School. They will cover a variety of topics from how to install and plan a habitat to using a habitat for teaching. Funding habitats also will be discussed. Light refresh-

ments will be served.


The cost of the workshop is \$10 and both payment and pre-registration are due by Jan. 12. To register, call (313) 792-9626 or send an e-mail to repmanager@therouge.org.

The mission of the Friends of the Rouge is to promote the restoration and stewardship of the Rouge River ecosystem through education, citizen involvement and other collaborative efforts, for the purpose of improving the quality of life for the people, plants and animals of the watershed. For more information about the Friends of the Rouge, visit www.therouge.org.

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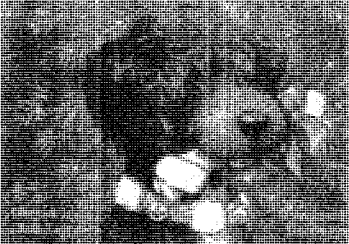
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## Transfer influx changes landscape

See capsule outlook of area teams, B3

BY BRAD EMONS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

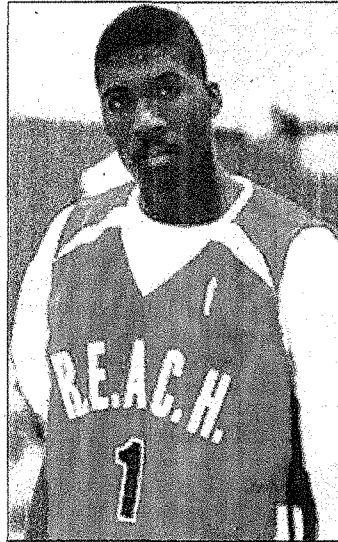
What's the buzz word for the 2010-11 boys basketball season? *Transfer*.  
The most notable and much anticipated is 6-foot-9 Livonia Stevenson senior center Jalen Reynolds, who sat out last season after transferring in (Dec. 5, 2009) from Livonia Clarenceville. Reynolds, a recent signee with

### HOOP PREVIEW

Xavier University, will make his Spartans debut Friday at home against Livonia Churchill.  
Reynolds is an active big man who can block shots, rebound and score not only inside, but from mid-range.  
Stevenson coach Mike Allie, whose team finished 16-7 a year ago, must replace senior guard Bobby Naubert (Madonna University) and his 23 points per game.

Senior guard C.J. Mwila, a third-team All-Observers pick, and junior guard Jonathan Campbell both can score and hope to pick up the leadership roles as the Spartans try to defend their KLAA Central Division title.  
"We lost a wealth of experience and the toughness that goes along with it," Allie said. "The pieces are in place, but the individual parts may take a while to become a unit and that's our challenge."  
The area's surprise team last year was Livonia Churchill (12-9),

which got hot in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association play-offs and captured the overall title.  
Churchill beat Stevenson three straight times before falling in the district tourney.  
The Chargers will miss first-team All-Area pick Adam Bedell, second-team selection D'Juan Cooks and third-teamer Tony Frezzell.  
There are no transfers, but senior guards Stephen Foster and Dean Bokuniewicz have the most



Jalen Reynolds Stevenson

Please see **HOOPS, B3**

## GAME WRAPS

### Men's College hoop

**INDIANA TECH 68, MU 51:** Rodney Bartholomew poured in 21 points and grabbed 12 rebounds Wednesday night to lift No. 25-ranked Indiana Tech (8-2, 1-0) to a men's basketball win over host Madonna University (1-8, 0-1) at the Activities Center.  
The Warriors, who improved to 8-2 and 1-0 in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference, also got 15 points and eight boards from Clyde McKinney as Indiana Tech pulled away in the second half after leading 33-26 at halftime.  
Four players scored in double figures for the Crusaders including Tyler Coker and Mike Clark, 11 each; Travis Schuba and Bobby Naubert (Livonia Stevenson), 10 each.  
**KIRTLAND 66, S'CRAFT 58:** On Wednesday, Marty Nenko scored a game-high 19 points as Kirtland Community College (5-2, 1-0) rallied from a five-point halftime deficit to beat host Schoolcraft College (5-6, 0-1) in an MCCA Eastern Conference game.  
Schoolcraft, which led 25-20 at halftime, got 14 points and seven rebounds from Lydell Mason.  
Ron Pummill (Garden City) added 13 points, while Daniel Hill (Wayne Memorial) finished with 11 points, 11 rebounds and four blocks.

**WOMEN'S HOOPS**  
**S'CRAFT 79, SINCLAIR 59:** Sophomore center Kimberly Bee tied an NJCAA record with 11 blocks and added a career-high 25 rebounds as Schoolcraft College (8-2) downed Sinclair Community College of Ohio (4-2) in Friday's opening round of the Gillette Classic hosted by Kalamazoo Valley CC.  
Bee scored a team-high 18 points, while Diamond Tolliver came off the bench to add 15. Shawnicka Thomas tallied 14 points and Shaniqua Braggs contributed 12 points and 14 rebounds.  
Shannon Campbell led Sinclair with 19 points.  
**INDIANA TECH 70, MU 63:** A furious second-half rally fell short Wednesday as Madonna University (2-4, 0-1) dropped its Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference opener at Indiana Tech (6-5, 1-0).  
Brittany Jones led the Warriors with 21 points.  
MU sophomore center Kaylee McGrath (Livonia Stevenson) notched her second double-double of the year with 12 points and 10 rebounds.  
Herring added 12 points, eight rebounds and six assists, while Tabatha Wydryck contributed 10 points and eight boards.  
**S'CRAFT 79, KIRTLAND 55:** Kim Bee hauled down a career-high 24 rebounds Wednesday as the Schoolcraft College (7-2, 1-0) opened MCCA Eastern Conference play at home with a win over Kirtland Community College (1-5, 0-1).  
The No. 12-ranked Lady Ocelots, who dropped out of top ten NJCAA Division II poll for the first time since Oct. 16, 2007, have won 53 straight games at home and own a home floor conference winning streak at 43.  
Bee, a 6-foot-1 sophomore from Detroit Communication & Media Arts, also scored 17 points. Her rebounding total in a single game was the most by a Schoolcraft player since 1979.

## Spartans freeze Novi in Central clash

BY CHRIS JACKETT  
CORRESPONDENT

The top two boys hockey teams from last season's KLAA Central Division renewed acquaintances Wednesday night at Novi Ice Arena.

And what started out as a defensive battle suddenly turned into a streak-filled, fierce nine-goal contest.

When all was said and done, Livonia Stevenson skated to a 6-3 win over the Wildcats.

Defending KLAA champion Stevenson improved to 3-1 overall and 2-0 in the Kensington Conference, while Novi falls to 2-2 and 0-2.

"I thought it was a good hockey game, we didn't give up," Novi coach Todd Krygier said. "Overall, I was more upset with our two wins than I am right now. I think we're on the right path."

It was scoreless after one period as each team failed to capitalize on their single power play opportunity.

Stevenson senior captain Justin Shureb got the Spartans on the board 40 seconds into the second period off assists from John Mandryk and Christian Wood.

With 8:44 left in the second, Novi goaltender Michael Pesendorfer (20 saves) was



JOHN HEIDER | GANNETT NEWS SERVICE

Stevenson senior forward Ryan Urso streaks up the ice with the puck during Wednesday's 4-3 KLAA Central Division win over host Novi.

penalized for delay of game after his net came out of place for a fifth time during an eight-minute span.

During the power play off a quick transition, Mandryk sent a long pass from his own right circle to senior Cam Humitz, who was alone at Novi's blue line. After two strides toward the left circle, Humitz fired a slap shot into the top right corner for a 2-0 lead.

"I thought we hung him (Pesendorfer) out to dry on a few of those," Krygier said.

"It's hard when you're giving up breakaways every game. We had some turnovers that they capitalized on. We got a little bit impatient."

That's where things began to fall apart for the Wildcats as Stevenson junior Thomas Ross sent a pass from behind the net to senior Tim Pruchnik at the top of the crease for a tip-in goal 1:06 later. Shureb was also credited with an assist as the Spartans took a 3-0 advantage.

But they weren't done

there, as senior J.J. Pettersson took the puck into Novi's zone from his own blue line and cut in before dropping a pass back to Cam Humitz, who was 10 feet straight out from the crease from a low shot that beat Pesendorfer and hit the left post. The rebound only came off the post a foot or so with sophomore Max Humitz stuffing it into the net for a 4-0 Stevenson lead.

The three-goal barrage

Please see **SPARTANS, B2**

## Ladywood rolls 76-35 in opener

BY BRAD EMONS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Prior to the start of his first game as Livonia Ladywood varsity girls basketball coach, Anthony Coratti admitted he was nervous.

And Coratti needed a seat belt as he was up-and-down the bench during Friday night's season opener at home against Flint Powers Catholic.

But the new-look Blazers were anything but jittery as they buckled down from the start and cruised to a surprisingly easy 76-35 triumph over the Chargers.

### GIRLS HOOPS

All nine Ladywood players scored, led by junior guard Briana Combs, who poured in all 20 of her game-high points in the first half en route to a 43-15 advantage.

"Our kids' effort was incredible," said Coratti, who guided the Ladywood JV squad to a 21-0 record last year. "It really comes down to our kids playing hard. They've worked their tails off the last three weeks to get ready for this, and it showed. We have a few more games to play, but I like where we're at right now."

Please see **LADYWOOD, B3**

## Fielder hopes to carry on Stevenson football tradition

BY BRAD EMONS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It's Matt Fielder's turn to carry the torch for Livonia Stevenson High football.

The 34-year-old assistant was elevated Thursday to the head coaching position. He replaces Tim Gabel, who resigned after going 103-56 in 16 seasons, including a trip to the 2007 Division 1 state finals.

Fielder, who served as defensive coordinator last season, becomes only the third coach in school history. (Gabel took the reins in 1995, when Jack Reardon retired after 30 years.)



Fielder

"The school has been around since 1966 and, in a way, it's shocking to me to know that I'm only the third," Fielder said. "That's added weight and responsibility. I enjoyed coaching with Tim so much that I was content to just being on the staff, but when the opportunity presented itself I felt I was ready. I've been around it my entire life and I enjoy the game."

Stevenson Athletic Director Lori Hyman was on the interview committee, which also included Gabel and Assistant Principal Jim Gibbons.

"Matt has a strong and enthusiastic coaching philosophy and has the character qualities to represent the Stevenson football program in a positive manner," Hyman said. "Matt is (an English) teacher at Stevenson and will be able to foster unity with the players as he will be in contact with them on a daily basis."

"It is my belief that Matt has a positive attitude about the athletes at Stevenson, and is excited to reach out to the football community as he continues to move the program forward with the great tradition that has been established."

The Eastern Michigan University grad spent seven years on Stevenson's staff, including one season as the JV head coach. Previously he coached at Willow Run and at his alma mater, Manchester High School, where he played inside linebacker, tight end and offensive tackle.

His father Jim, who served as Stevenson's JV coach last season, coached for 30 years at Manchester at the middle school, JV and varsity levels.

Fielder's first order of business as varsity coach is to put together a staff. He said that longtime offensive and defensive line coach Scott Shaw will return, along with his father.

The Spartans are coming off a 3-6 season.

"My dad is staying on for sure. It depends on a few variables," Fielder said. "Filling out the staff and getting kids comfortable with me in this role ... get the kids settled and moving forward toward the season."

Fielder said he will not be a clone of Gabel, but indicated that there will be many similarities.

"I'll do a lot of what Tim did. It will still be traditional Stevenson football," Fielder said. "My philosophy is in line with Tim's, but changes will come over time. There will be modifications, but it will be the same philosophy. It's the system I came up through offensively and similar to my dad's. And I'm very confident with that system."

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# COMMUNITY LIFE

Sunday, December 5, 2010

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**PHOTO GALLERIES**  
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## Holiday stories

Spend a cold winter night with tales about goldfish, dogs, horses, cats

BY SHARON DARGAY  
O&E STAFF WRITER

This year's crop of children's holiday books from Sleeping Bear Press is all about animals — from sleeping kittens to party poodles.

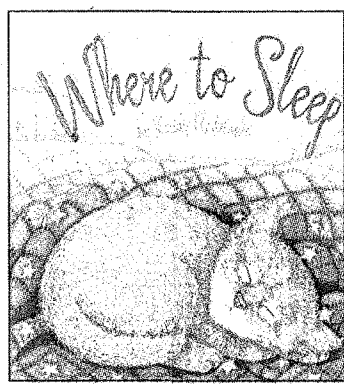
"Animals are always loved. I think it's hard to go wrong with a wonderful animal story," said Audrey Mitnick, publicity spokesperson for the Ann Arbor-based publishing company.

"We always look for holiday titles as part of our acquisition process. We're usually planning two or three years out in acquiring books. We're always sure to have holiday releases as a part of our fall publishing program."

What the company selects and promotes as holiday titles varies from year to year. A few years ago *The Night Henry Ford Met Santa* made the cut, along with *The Legend of Papa Noel*, a Cajun version of the Santa story, complete with a toy-laden boat pulled by nine alligators. Both had national appeal and aimed to educate as well as tell a delightful story.

"A good story is important but if you can add something more ... it's truly a gift," Mitnick said.

*First Dog's White House Christmas*, a new release and a sequel to *First Dog*, gives readers a glimpse of holiday customs around the world and a look at various dog breeds.



A kitten explores the places she might sleep in this board book that is perfect for little hands.

"After we released *First Dog*, which came out the spring after President Obama was elected, the response was so great, we said we've got a winner, let's try it again."

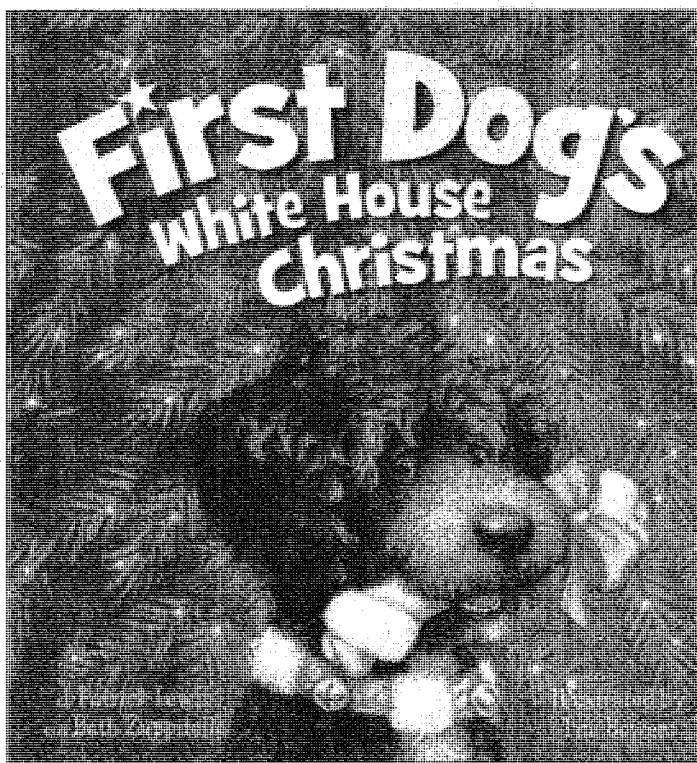
The result is a Christmas tale about the Portuguese Water Dog that invites his friends to a White House Christmas gala.

"The dog was so well loved by everyone who reads the book," Mitnick noted.

### BECOMING A CLASSIC

Equally endearing are the animals and their human companions portrayed in Pinckney author/illustrator Jane Monroe Donovan's holiday books.

Her first, *Winter's Gift*, tells the story of an elderly widower who receives the gift of a "new



Dogs from many nations come together for a party at the White House.

beginning" after he rescues a mare on a cold snowy Christmas Eve.

"That was such a heart-warming story. It has been read on television and over the radio. I've heard churches ask if they can read it during their night before Christmas service," Mitnick said, adding that *Winter's Gift* is quickly becoming a holiday classic.

Donovan said she thought about her own grandparents as she wrote and illustrated the book.

"I remember when I was younger, my grandmother was in the hospital. There was a blizzard and roads were shut down. I remember how upset my grandfather was that he couldn't see her," Donovan explained.

The mare in the book looks

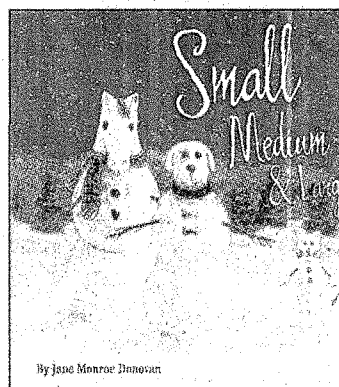
a bit "wilder" than the black Arabian and brown American Quarter Horse that Donovan owns.

The self-taught artist also lives with dogs and cats, two of which make an appearance, along with her miniature horse, Fern, in *Small Medium & Large*, released in time for the holidays this year.

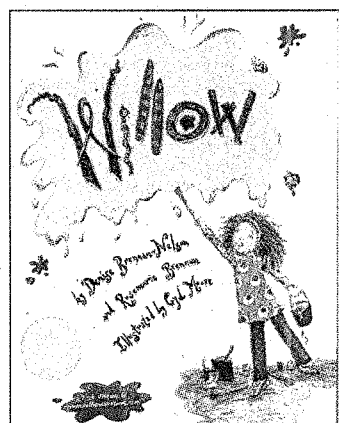
The pictures tell the story in this book about a girl who receives a dog, cat and horse for Christmas.

### LOVE OF ANIMALS

"Just seeing how much joy animals have brought to my kids and me" was the impetus for the story, Donovan said. "All the things they'd want for Christmas never lasted long, but the pets continually gave them joy. They



Pictures tell the story about a little girl and her love for animals in the book by Pinckney author and illustrator Jane Monroe Donovan.



Howell author Denise Brennan Nelson's Willow views art as an opportunity to set her imagination free.

still do. My kids are grown now, but when they come home from college the first thing they do is to see the animals."

That's the way Mitnick hopes readers will view Sleeping Bear Press holiday books. "We'd like to see books passed down from generation to generation."

*Small Medium & Large* retails for \$15.95. *Winter's Gift* is \$16.95. *First Dog* and *First Dog's White House Christmas* are \$15.95 each.

Other holiday selections from Sleeping Bear Press:

• *Where to Sleep* is a 6-by-6-inch board book, perfect for small hands to hold as Mom or Dad reads about a kitten discovering where she can fall asleep. Copy and illustrations are by Kandy Radzinski. Cost is \$9.95.

• *Memoirs of a Goldfish* shows what can happen when too many friends move into the same goldfish bowl. At first it feels cramped, but then it's all just one big happy family. Written by Devin Scillian and illustrated by Tim Bowers; \$15.95.

• *Once Upon a Time in the Kitchen* combines excerpts from classic children's literature with recipes. Written by Carol Odell and illustrated by Anna Pignataro; \$12.95.

• *Willow*, the story of a creative girl who demonstrates that magical things can happen if you let your imagination run wild, was released in 2008, but is a continuing favorite among young readers. A sequel, *Willow and the Snow Day Dance* is set for release next month. It's written by Howell resident Denise Brennan-Nelson and illustrated by Cyd Moore. Both books are \$16.95 each.

• *Vis for von Trapp: A Musical Family Alphabet* is released in time for Christmas as well as the 45th anniversary of the Broadway musical, *The Sound of Music*. Each letter of the alphabet follows a portion of the family's journey from Austria to Vermont. Lapeer author, historian and lecturer William Anderson, researched historical archives including the von Trapp personal scrapbooks and photo collections while compiling information for the book. Cost is \$16.95.

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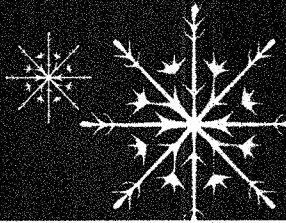
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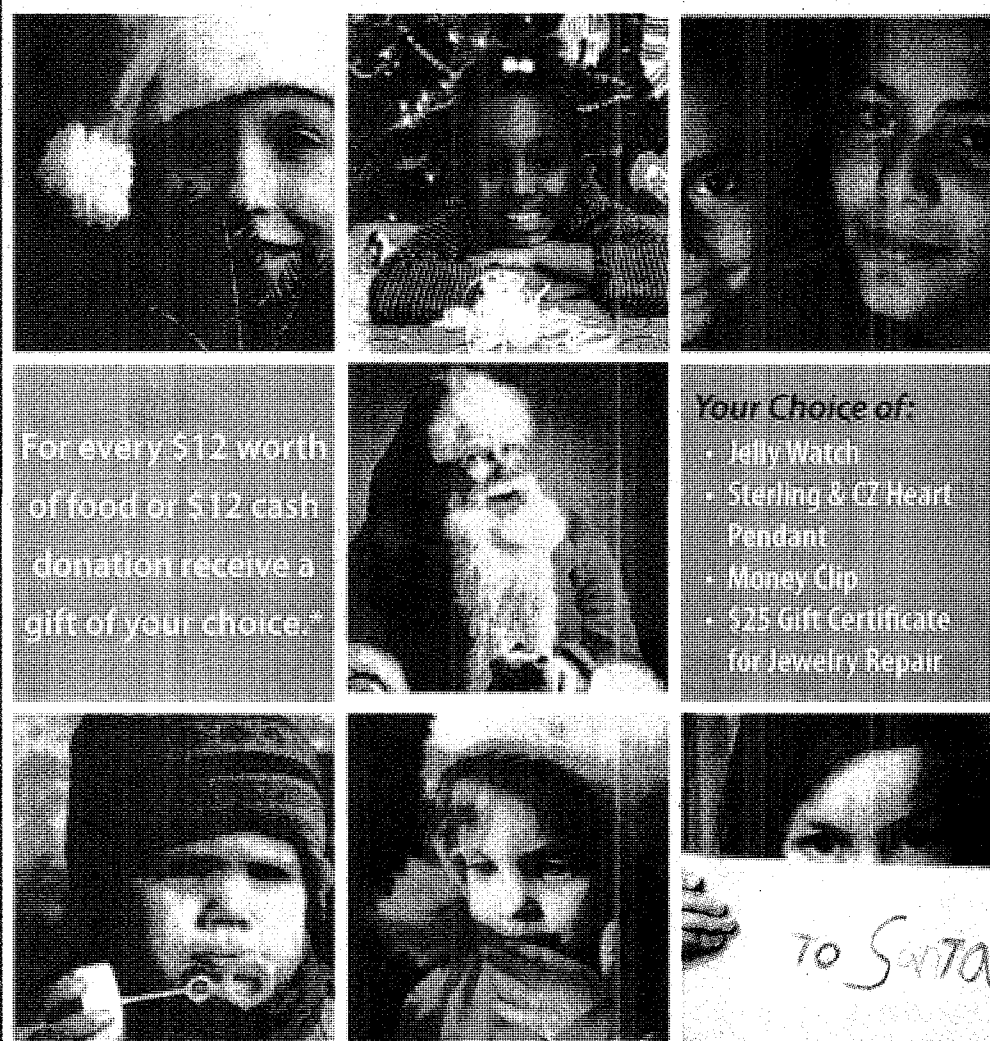
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# Pick a safe boarding kennel for your pet

If you're heading out of town for the holidays and can't take your pet with you, finding a reliable kennel or pet care service can be a challenge.

Every year, Better Business Bureau receives hundreds of complaints from pet owners about boarding kennels. Typical complaints include disputes over billing and treatment of the pet. Some owners say their pets came back from poor boarding kennels severely dehydrated and malnourished or rife with fleas, ticks, and even maggots. In worst case scenarios pets have become extremely ill from their stay at poor facilities which resulted in lengthy stays at the animal hospital.

"For many of us, our pets are like family and leaving them in the care of someone else can be nerve-wrecking and the stress can overshadow your whole trip," stated Patrick Bennett, Better Business Bureau spokesperson. "Taking a few moments to do your research and find a kennel you can trust will make your time out of town much easier for you and your pet."

The Better Business Bureau has created a checklist to help pet owners choose a safe and reliable home-away-from-home for their pets:

- Check the kennel out with the Better Business Bureau first to make sure it has a good track record for keeping customers satisfied.
- Ask your friends, neighbors, veterinarian or local



animal shelters for recommendations. Also, the Pet Care Services Association Web site ([www.petcareservices.org](http://www.petcareservices.org)) has a pet service locator that may be helpful in your search.

- Personally visit the facilities. Check for cleanliness and offensive odors, and note the overall safety of the kennel and cages. If your pet is prone to running away, ask about steps the kennel has taken to make the facility escape-proof.
- Ask about how your pet may come in contact with other animals. Some kennels let animals play together while others keep them separate at all times.
- If your state requires inspections, look for the certificate on the wall and make sure the kennel is properly licensed.
- Ask about the feeding schedule, water accessibility and frequency of — or fees related to — exercise.
- Note the friendliness of staff members and how they



Purebred cats will be on display at the Just Cat In Around Cat Fancier's Christmas show Dec. 11-12 in Allen Park.

interact with the other boarding pets. Ask about their background and experience.

- Make sure the facility requires that all entering pets have proof of immunization and ask about their policies regarding flea and tick control.
  - Ask about the hours for drop off and pick up and make sure you understand their billing policy.
  - Finally, ask what happens in the case of a medical emergency or other unexpected situation.
- For more advice on finding reputable businesses around the holidays, visit <http://eastermichigan.bbb.org/> Consumer-Tips/

## ALL ABOUT CATS

Just Cat In Around Cat Fanciers Association will hold its Christmas cat show 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 11-12 in the Allen Park Community Center, 15800 White Street, Allen Park. Admission is \$6 for adults, \$5 for seniors and \$4 for children, 6-12. No charge for children 6 and under.

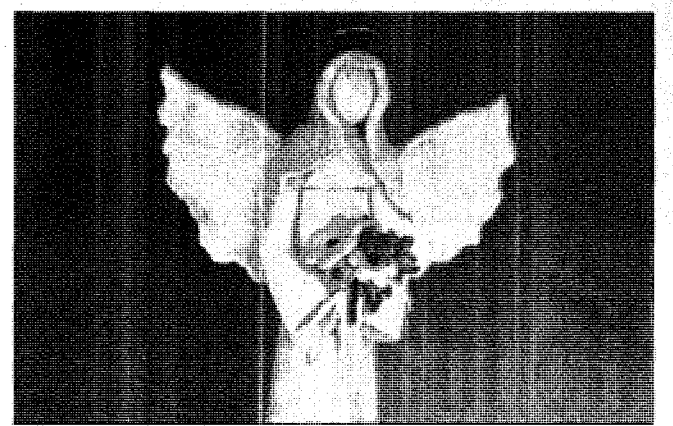
The all-breed show will include exhibiting and judging of 225 pedigreed cats and kittens.

For more information call Cathy Hawley at (248) 393-1986 or e-mail to [cihawley@comcast.net](mailto:cihawley@comcast.net). Visit the group's Web site at [www.cfa.org](http://www.cfa.org).

## BOWLING FOR TAIL WAGGER'S

Tail Wagger's 1990, the Livonia-based animal advocacy group and rescue, is among the charities that will benefit from Drakeshire Lanes' "Bowling for a Cause" fund-raiser, 7 p.m.-midnight, Friday, Dec. 17, at 35000 Grand River Ave., Farmington Hills.

Admission is \$20 per person and includes three games, shoe rental, pizza and pop. Anyone who donates a new toy, mittens, gloves, canned food, toiletries, clothing or pet food will be entered into a drawing to win a trip for two to Las Vegas. The event also will include a silent auction and raffles. Call Laura Zain at Tail Wagger's 1990 for more information at (734) 560-4660 or visit [www.tailwaggers1990.org](http://www.tailwaggers1990.org).



## Annual market

Angels and other works by Plymouth potter, Kathy Sandberg are among the 40,000 pieces of ceramics for sale at Oakland Community College's 35th annual Potters Market, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. today, Sunday, Dec. 5, at United Food and Commercial Workers Union Hall, 876 Horace Brown Drive, one block south of 13 Mile, between I-75 and John R, in Madison Heights. Admission is free and parking is free. Because of the crowds, no strollers are permitted. OCC students and guest potters, like Sandberg, produce and sell the ceramic items, including jewelry, ornaments, kitchenware, mugs, tiles, and decorative art. For information call (248) 246-2686 or visit [www.thepottersmarket.com](http://www.thepottersmarket.com).

## Lutheran choir sings carols, classical works

The Detroit Lutheran Singers will perform its Christmas concert at four Detroit-area churches beginning today, Sunday, Dec. 5.

"Sing We Noel!" will include favorite Christmas carols, works and arrangements by Bach, Brahms, Mendelssohn, Christiansen, Parker and Shaw, carol singing with the audience and an opportunity to join the Singers in the *Hallelujah Chorus*. Shows are 3:30 p.m. Dec. 5 at Historic Trinity Lutheran Church, 1345 Gratiot, Detroit; 7:30 p.m. Dec. 5 at First Baptist Church

of Detroit, 21200 Southfield Road, Southfield; 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 10, at Christus Victor Lutheran Church, 25535 Ford Road, Dearborn Heights; and 7:30 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 11 at Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church, 2905 South Commerce Road, Walled Lake.

Eric Freudigman directs the group and Doris Hall is the accompanist.

Tickets are \$10 and \$7, available at the door.


For more information visit [www.detroitlutheransingers.com](http://www.detroitlutheransingers.com)

## North Congregational celebrates with music

The Chancel Choir of North Congregational Church will perform the Antonio Vivaldi *Gloria* at 10:30 a.m., Sunday, Dec. 12, during the regular worship service. Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741), who was born and worked in Venice, was a contemporary of Johann Sebastian Bach.

The *Gloria* features soprano soloist, Brandy Ellis, and mezzo soprano soloist, Leah Dexter. Accompanying the 30-member Chancel Choir and soloists will be a 10-piece orchestra conducted by Laurie Meeker, music director of North Congregational Church.

This presentation is part of the Sunday morning worship service, and the public is invited to attend. North Congregational Church also holds a candlelight service on Christmas Eve at 7:30 p.m. North is located at 36520 12 Mile, Farmington Hills, north side of 12 Mile, between Drake and Halsted. Call (248) 848-1750 or visit [northcongregational-church.org](http://northcongregational-church.org) for more information.




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# FOOD

Sunday, December 5, 2010

hometownlife.com

## HAVE A STORY IDEA?

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# It's Peppermint Season!

**H**eadline your holiday with the quintessential flavor of the season — peppermint. These extra special sweets offer a bountiful buffet of peppermint possibilities. Choose one or more for cookie exchanges, après caroling nibbles, gifts for teachers and Santa.

Visit [www.wilton.com](http://www.wilton.com) for additional holiday ideas, and to order baking and decorating supplies.

### PEPPERMINT RIBBON COOKIES

Makes about 6 dozen cookies

- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon baking powder
- 1 cup (2 sticks) butter, softened
- 1½ cups granulated sugar
- 2 eggs
- 2 teaspoons Pure Vanilla Extract
- 2 to 4 drops Peppermint Candy Flavoring
- Christmas Red Icing Color, as desired
- 1 package (14 ounces) Candy Cane Colorburst Candy Melts, melted

In medium bowl, combine flour, salt and baking powder. In large bowl, beat butter and sugar with electric mixer until light and creamy. Add eggs, vanilla and peppermint candy flavoring; mix well. Add flour mixture, one cup at a time; mixing well after each addition.

Remove ¼ of dough; reserve. To remaining ¾ dough in mixer bowl, beat in red icing color. Roll and shape dough between parchment paper into two 6 x 8-inch disks. Roll and shape untinted dough between parchment paper to a 6 x 8-inch disk. Chill all dough rectangles at least 1 hour.

Line cookie sheet with parchment paper. Peel parchment from dough pieces. Stack dough rectangles with untinted dough rectangle between the two red pieces, lining them up as evenly as possible; gently press pieces together. Gently roll with rolling pin to seal layers; trim uneven edges with sharp knife. Cut dough lengthwise into three 2-inch-wide slices; cut each column crosswise into ½-inch-thick pieces. Arrange 2 inches apart on parchment-lined cookie pans. Chill ½ hour.

Preheat oven to 350°F. Bake 12 to 14 minutes or until bottoms are light golden brown. Remove cookies to cooling grids; cool completely.

Dip cooled cookies into melted Candy Melts; set on parchment-lined cookie pans. Chill until candy is set. Store in airtight container.

### CANDY CANE COOKIES

Makes about 2 dozen cookies

- 1 cup (2 sticks) butter, softened
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 1 egg
- 1½ teaspoons Pure Vanilla Extract
- ½ teaspoon Peppermint Candy Flavoring or ¼ teaspoon Imitation Almond Extract
- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- No-Taste Red Icing Color
- White Sparkling Sugar

Preheat oven to 375°F. In large bowl, cream butter with sugar with mixer until light and fluffy. Beat in egg, vanilla and peppermint candy flavoring. Add flour 1 cup at a time to butter mixture, mixing well after each addition. If dough becomes too stiff, add water, a teaspoon at a time. Do not chill dough.

Divide dough into 2 balls. Color one ball of dough red with icing color. Pinch off a 1-inch ball of each color dough. On flat surface, roll ball into 3-inch-long strips. Place red and white strips side-by-side; roll them together until the two colors have wrapped around one another and are twisted together. Curve the strip at the top to the shape of a candy cane and place on ungreased cookie sheet; gently press Sparkling Sugar into dough.

Bake 8 to 10 minutes or until cookies are lightly browned. Cool on pan 2 minutes; remove to cooling grid and cool completely.

Peppermint Ribbon Cookies and Candy Cane Cookies



Candy Canes, Peppermint Ribbons and Evergreen Treats offer a minty mix of holiday cookies while Santa Claus and Frosty Friends Candy Cane Molds dress up everyone's favorite yuletide treats. Candy Cane Candy Molds instructions are available on package or at [www.wilton.com](http://www.wilton.com).

### ROLL-OUT COOKIE RECIPE

- 1 cup (2 sticks) unsalted butter, softened
- 1½ cups granulated sugar
- 1 egg
- 1½ teaspoons Pure Vanilla Extract
- ½ teaspoon Imitation Almond Extract
- 2½ cups all-purpose flour

- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt

Preheat oven to 400°F. In mixing bowl, cream butter with sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in egg and extracts. In a separate bowl mix flour, baking powder and salt; add to butter mixture 1 cup at a time, mixing after each addition. Do not chill dough.

### EVERGREEN TREATS

Makes about 3 dozen cookies

- Roll-Out Cookie Recipe
- 2 to 3 drops Peppermint Candy Flavoring or ½ teaspoon peppermint extract
- 3 piece Trees Cutter Set
- Cookie Sheet
- Cooling Grid
- Royal Icing\*
- Buttercream Icing\*
- Leaf Green Icing Color
- Round Decorating Tip 3
- Candy Cane Sprinkles
- Yellow Colored Sugars
- Jumbo Nonpareils

Prepare Roll-Out Cookie Recipe following instructions, adding peppermint candy flavoring.\*\* Roll out dough ¼ inch thick; cut tree shapes and arrange on cookie sheet. Bake 7 to 8 minutes or until cookies are lightly browned. Cool on cookie sheet 1 minute; remove to cooling grid and cool completely.

Prepare icings. Tint portions of each icing green, reserving some white.

With royal icing, with tip 3, outline tree with green; fill in with thinned icing. Let dry. For trees with stars, fill in star with white icing; add yellow colored sugars and let dry. Add white icing garland using tip 3 outline, swirl or zigzag; arrange candy cane sprinkles.

With green buttercream icing, spatula ice cookies smooth or cover cookies with tip 3 zigzag "tree boughs." For trees with stars, ice star with white icing; add yellow sugars, pressing lightly into the icing. If desired, add white icing garlands to trees. Arrange candy cane sprinkles and jumbo nonpareils.

\*Note: Visit [www.wilton.com](http://www.wilton.com) for icing recipes.

\*\*Variation: tint cookie dough green with Leaf Green Icing Color. Cut cookies as above. Decorate as desired with white icing, sprinkles and sugars.

### CANDY CANE CHAIN

Makes about 2 dozen cookies

- Roll-Out Cookie Recipe
- 2 to 3 drops Peppermint Candy Flavoring or ½ teaspoon peppermint extract
- Candy Cane Comfort-Grip Cutter
- Cookie Sheet
- Cooling Grid
- Red and White Cookieicing
- Red and White CandyMelts, melted
- Ruby and White Pearlized Sugar
- Red and White Nonpareils
- Buttercream Icing\*

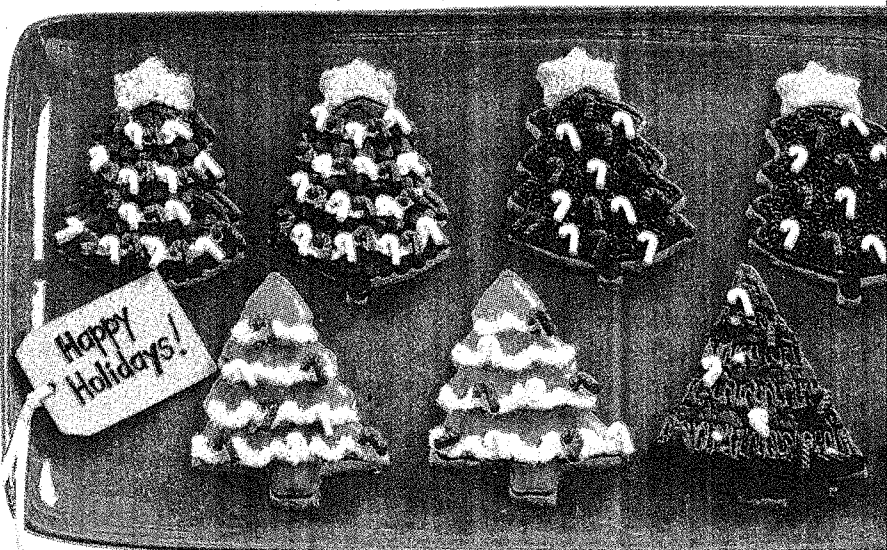
Prepare Roll-Out Cookie Recipe following instructions, adding peppermint candy flavoring. Roll out dough ¼ inch thick; cut candy cane shapes and arrange on cookie sheet. Bake 9 to 11 minutes or until cookies are lightly browned. Cool on cookie sheet 1 minute; remove to cooling grid and cool completely.

To decorate with Cookie Icing or melted Candy Melts, drizzle in zigzag pattern or completely fill in stripes.

To decorate with Sugars and Nonpareils, spatula ice cookies smooth. Arrange sugars or nonpareils in stripe pattern\*\*; lightly press into icing.

\*Note: Visit [www.wilton.com](http://www.wilton.com) for icing recipes.

\*\*To make it easier to place sugars and nonpareils, pour into Disposable Decorating Bag. Cut small hole in tip of bag and move the bag over the area to be covered.



Evergreen Treats

# HEALTH

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## Happy marriages reduce impact of work-related stress

With its many pressures, the workplace can be a stress hub. Studies have shown that work stress can creep into everyday family life and negatively impact the mood at home. High unemployment also causes increased feelings of stress and worry among the employed. But what exactly happens when workplace stress diffuses at home?

Richard B. Slatcher, assistant professor of psychology in WSU's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and resident of Birmingham, a specialist in social and health psychology, has found novel answers to this question and others in his study of the

relationship between stress and human physiology, published in the November/December 2010 issue of *Psychosomatic Medicine*.

Slatcher assessed the effects that work stress had on the stress hormone cortisol for working parents of young children and their spouses. The 37 married couples in the study completed six questionnaires per day from a Saturday morning to a Monday night and provided saliva samples to measure their cortisol levels. The questionnaires were used to measure individual feelings of worry and tenseness about work, and to examine their links with daily cortisol levels.

"This is the first study to demon-

strate that one person's momentary feelings of stress are related to another person's stress hormones in daily life," said Slatcher, who investigates the effects that close relationships have on human health in his Close Relationships Laboratory at WSU.

His study showed that for both husbands and wives, work worries are linked to higher levels of one's own cortisol levels. But Slatcher found that the husband's work stress spreads to the wife, increasing her cortisol levels, too.

"Wives seem to be picking up on their husbands' worries about work and, as a result, react biologically," said Slatcher. "We found that the

more worried husbands were about work when they were at home with their families, the more their wives' cortisol levels increased."

But the opposite was not observed - husbands' cortisol levels were unchanged when their wives' work worries increased. This could be due either to husbands not picking up on their wives' stress, or their not being physiologically reactive to it, Slatcher said.

### STRESS BUFFER

The study suggested that the links between work worries and wives' cortisol levels are buffered by higher-quality marriages.

"Wives reporting both low marital

satisfaction and low self-disclosure (less open) to their husbands showed a stronger association between work worries and cortisol compared to wives reporting high marital satisfaction and/or high self-disclosure," said Slatcher.

But, again, husbands did not exhibit the same reactions. "For husbands, neither marital disclosure nor marital satisfaction buffered the association between work worries and cortisol," Slatcher said.

"The results of this study represent an important step toward understanding how everyday feelings of stress influence one's own physiology and the physiology of others close to us."

## Diabetes resource fair planned at St. Mary Mercy Wednesday

Physicians and certified diabetes educators will be on hand to offer information about diabetes at a resource fair, 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 8, at St. Mary Mercy Hospital.


Representatives from St. Mary Mercy Wound Care Center, Heart & Vascular Center, Behavioral Medicine, as well as the Livonia YMCA, Mercy Home Care, Running Fit, Lifeline, University of Detroit Mercy School of Dentistry, and Great Lakes Medical Supply will attend the fair.

According to the American Diabetes

Association, 23.6 million children and adults in the United States — 7.8 percent of the population — have diabetes. It affects men, women, and children, putting them at risk for high blood pressure, heart disease, stroke, blindness, kidney disease, and lower-limb amputation.


Call Community Outreach at (734) 655-8950 for more information. Or visit [stmarymercy.org](http://stmarymercy.org) and click on "classes and events."

The hospital is located at 36475 Five Mile, Livonia.



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