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SPECIAL SECTION INSIDE

IN BRIEF

Bowl with Santa

The Plymouth-Westland Grange No. 389, the Westland Parks and Recreation Department, Westland Jaycees and Town N Country Lanes are sponsoring Bowling with Santa 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 19, at Town N Country Lanes on Wayne Road at Avondale, Westland. The cost is \$10 for two games, shoes and hot dog and drink. Santa and his friends will be there and prizes also will be given out.

Preregister by sending a check or money order, payable to Plymouth Grange No. 389, to 5692 N. Globe, Westland, MI 48185. Be sure to list each adult, name and age of the child, if a bumper lane is needed and a phone number. Registration also can be done by calling Frank before 3 p.m. at (734) 626-0169 or Sue (313) 522-0089 or sending an e-mail to plymouth-westland.grange@gmail.com.

Money raised will go to the Grange's dictionary program for third-graders.

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 Letters 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.

Photo contest

Send us your favorite holiday photos for a chance to win a prize.

Go to hometownlife.com (Get Published) and post your favorite holiday photo (or photos) with a short caption, then encourage friends and family to vote by clicking recommend under the photo. The top vote-getter will receive tickets for two to Emagine Theater (Canton or Novi). The second- and third-place winners will receive a coupon for a free four-square cheese and one-topping Buddy's pizza.

Contest ends midnight Dec. 31. Share your holiday spirit with others! Go to hometownlife.com.

Moving Wall to visit city again

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It's been four years since Westland hosted the Moving Wall, the traveling replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Now a second visit by the memorial has been scheduled for late July 2011.

"We made an application 14 months ago to bring the wall back to Westland," said Ken Mehl, president of the Westland Veterans Association. "It's not normal for a city to have it twice."

Since the previous local display of

the Moving Wall was over July 4 — the most heavily requested time for a visit — Mehl said that wasn't possible for this second visit. Instead, the Moving Wall will be on display July 21-25 in Westland.

Getting approval for the Moving Wall was only the first step. Now the Westland Veterans Association will need to raise money — the last visit had a tab in the neighborhood of \$18,000 — and line up volunteers to be on site as the memorial will be open to visitors around the clock.

"We will accept donations and have fund-raising efforts. We have T-

shirts that are being designed by the (William D. Ford) voc tech center. We need to give the wall a theme," Mehl said. "I'm sure we can count on the council and the mayor to back this 100 percent like last time."

A half-size replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., that opened in 1982, the Moving Wall was developed in 1984. There are actually Moving Walls that travel the country April through November. It's been to 1,100 cities in all 50 states.

"I hope the citizens will join us in paying tribute to those who lost their lives in Vietnam. The Westland

Veterans Association will do our best to make sure this is one of the best visits in the country," Mehl said.

It's a great honor to have the Moving Wall in the city once, said Councilman Bill Johnson, who complimented the Westland Veterans Association with doing a fine job in arranging a second visit.

The Westland Veterans Association is also fund-raising to build the Westland Veterans Memorial Park, which will be part of the remediated and restored Central City Park.

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Community turns out to stuff busses

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER



Santa Claus (Jeff Allen) personally accepts a toy donation for Stuff A Bus from six-year-old Robin Groves of Garden City.

Kim Emmons is used to maneuvering around town in a school bus. But Saturday she was busy bringing cars into the parking lot of the Kmart store in Westland to help stuff two school busses with toys, clothing and food.

"I'm doing it for the kids and Salvation Army," said the Westland resident who was dressed as Winnie the Pooh for the day-long collection. "I've been a bus driver for 27 years and this is what I'm subjected to."

Her remark drew a laugh from her fellow bus drivers who were also dressed up as Santa Claus, reindeer, elves and a snowman. Even Wayne-Westland transportation director Sherice Roark dressed up as Christmas Carol for second annual Stuff A Bus event.

"We're having a great time," Roark said.

The bus drivers parked two 78-passenger busses in

Please see **STUFF A BUS, A2**

Trailer theft leaves man without sandblasting tools

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The irony isn't lost on Kurt Wissman. The Westland man was just starting to turn the corner with his business of sandblasting dates onto cemetery headstones when someone stole a trailer containing his specialty tools.

"This had been my best year. I'm working for 23 funeral homes and a lot

of cemeteries. I was about to pick up a couple more," Wissman said. "I was about to be able to make it on my own. This is something I've grown to love. The work doubled each year."

Sometime between midnight and 7 a.m. Nov. 7, Wissman said someone cut off the lock on the trailer tongue while it was parked in front of his home on Shari Drive near Joy and Merriman in the northern part of Westland.

The trailer was valued at \$2,500, but the bigger loss was inside the trailer. Wissman estimates the specialty equipment, including an air compressor, plotter and pot, were worth \$20,000. The plotter is used to print death dates on vinyl and works only with a computer program and key that Wissman possesses.

"I parked out in front of my home in Westland and haven't had a problem

for three years. I think it was random," said Wissman, who also used to park his trailer at his fiancée's Livonia home until city officials there threatened to issue a ticket. "The tools are specific to my work and I am one of only a few mobile date cutters in the area."

Wissman, who started his company, All Over Stoneworks, in 2008 after

Please see **TOOLS, A2**

Westland woman charged in holdup of pizza delivery driver

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A Westland woman was arrested Dec. 3 for allegedly robbing a man delivering pizza to her apartment at the Huntington on the Hills complex.

Nicole Latrice Jackson, 27, was arraigned on a charge of armed robbery in 18th District Court. Bond was set at \$100,000 and a preliminary examinations set for Dec. 16.

Police were called just before 6 p.m. when the delivery man, a Garden City resident,

told police he had delivered a pizza to an apartment at 8110 Valleyview Circle. He said he parked near the front doors.

As he delivered the pizza, the man said he heard a male and female arguing but when the apartment door opened, there were two women. One of the women followed him outside, he said, and he thought she was going to pass him as he got into the car.

Instead, the delivery man told police, the

Please see **CHARGED, A2**



Nicole Latrice Jackson

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Longtime city worker had 'optimistic outlook'

Westland flags were lowered to half-staff Dec. 1 in honor of veteran Department of Public Services employee Herman "Butch" Patton Jr., who died Nov. 24 at 48.

A city employee since 1999, Mr. Patton had worked on Parks and Recreation projects and was instrumental in the construction of the



Mr. Patton

Westland Mayor William

Play Planet playscape. He was also in charge of athletic fields and most recently worked in the water and sewer department.

Wild said that Mr. Patton will be greatly missed and his family remains in the city's thoughts and prayers.

"He always had a smile and lived with an optimistic outlook on everything," said Westland Parks and Recreation Director Robert Kosowski.

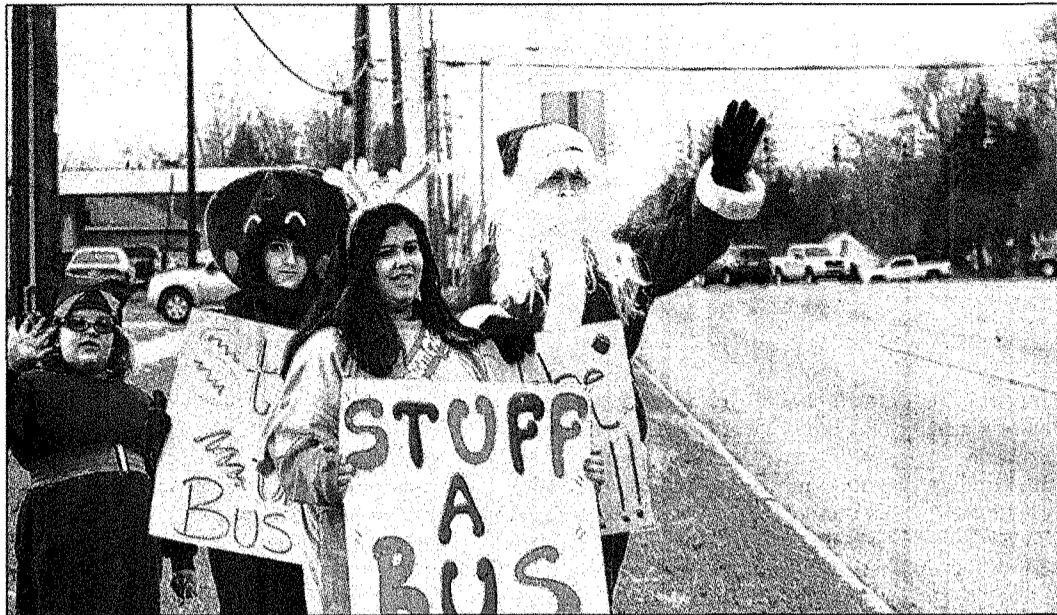
A Detroit native, Mr.

Patton graduated from St. Martin Deporres High School and received a football scholarship to attend Grand Valley State University. Mr. Patton was married to Jeninne Harris. The couple had two children - Lawrence, called Chip due to his striking resemblance to his father, and Lauren, nicknamed Big

Momma by her father.

Other survivors include his parents Herman Sr. and Rosa, sisters Linda (Wayne) Smith, Herma (Darryl) Hamilton and Darlene Mason, companion of 10 years Gail Tessman and many aunts, uncles, nieces, a nephew and other family and friends.

Funeral services were held at the House of Prayer and Praise Ministries in Detroit with the Rev. B. Daniel Houze officiating. Interment was at Detroit Memorial Park Cemetery on Plymouth Road in Redford. Arrangements were handled by C.W. Morris/J.W. Henry Funeral Home in Highland Park.



Ten-year-old Akira Santana (from left), 13-year-old Arie Wood and 14-year-old Alyssia LeBlanc of Westland join Santa Claus (Jeff Allen) to encourage passing cars to stop and donate to the Stuff A Bus Project.

STUFF A BUS

FROM PAGE A1

Kmart's lot in hopes of filling the seats for both before the collection drive ended at 5 p.m. Response from the community and from Kmart shoppers had almost one bus filled by 1 p.m. and the drivers were confident that the second bus would be filled, too.

"We had someone bring five new coats and drop them off," Roark said.

This is the second year the transportation department has done a Stuff A Bus to collect toys, food and clothing to be given to families in communities served by the Wayne-Westland Salvation Army.

Last year, the community helped fill one school bus. This year, a second bus was added and now Roark is looking at doing the collection drive over two days.

"We'll start getting the word out earlier. We had more businesses say they would help if they had more notice," Roark said. "We can see this getting better every year. It's going to get better and better."

Wayne-Westland employees and residents stopped by to drop off items that were stacked on the bus seats. The drivers got help promoting the event through a teacher who sent e-mails to other teachers, Roark said.

Kmart helped, too, making in-store announcements



Kathy Curney, dispatcher supervisor for Wayne-Westland Community Schools, and Scherice Roark, director of transportation for the district, carry canned goods donated at Saturday's Stuff A Bus.

throughout the day about Stuff A Bus and providing free hot chocolate and coffee for the volunteers.

The drivers joked with each other while waiting for donations. Frosty the Snowman grumbled about dirty snow, but that didn't get in the way

of his waving to passers-by along Cherry Hill Road. And everyone turned serious when people stopped by with donations.

"I'd do anything for the Salvation Army," Emmons said.

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CHARGED

FROM PAGE A1

woman opened the passenger side door with her hands in her hoodie pockets implying she had a gun, then demanded money. He told police he handed over \$45 and the woman walked away.

An officer located a woman matching the description of

the suspect nearby drinking from a half full glass of vodka, police said. She was arrested for reportedly consuming alcohol in public and as a suspect in the armed robbery, police said.

The woman told the officer she was on her way to catch a bus to Detroit, police said. She then told the officer that she uses the apartment address so that her son, 7, can attend Wayne-Westland Schools and

that he was home alone, police said.

Going to the apartment, the officer located a man who identified himself as the woman's boyfriend who lives at the apartment with her and her son, police said. He said she left two hours earlier and he thought she was going out with friends, police said.

The woman subsequently told the officers she had been arguing with her boyfriend and drinking vodka, then went outside to calm down, police said. She told police she demanded money from the pizza delivery man but denied implying she had a weapon, police said.

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AROUND WESTLAND

Visit with Santa

Ho, ho, ho! Santa Clause 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 a 857 N. Wayne Road, between Cherry Hill and Marquette. For more information, call Jo at (734) 522-3918 or Janet at (734) 728-4008.

Progressive raffle

The Westland Community Foundation is sponsoring a Queen of Hearts weekly progressive raffle. Drawings will be held at 9:30 p.m. every Friday except Christmas Eve and New Years Eve at Westland Bowl, 5940 N. Wayne Road. The raffle will run until Dec. 16, and someone will win a cash prize at every Friday drawing. Cash prizes range from \$25 up to the Jackpot amount, which will grow every week until the Queen of Hearts is drawn.

Official rules and information are available at Westland Bowl or on the Westland Community Foundation website, westlandcommunityfoundation.org. Tickets are only \$1 each and can be purchased during normal business hours at Westland Bowl, from any Westland Community Foundation board member or by calling the event chairman at (734) 751-4940.

AMVETS Party

AMVETS Post 171 in Westland is hosting a New Year Eve Extravaganza beginning at 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 31. The cost is \$50 per couple

for current members, \$70 per couple for non-members and \$65 per couple for new joiners. Included is a dinner buffet featuring chicken cordon bleu and roast beef rolls, disc jockey, party favors, balloon drop, champagne toast and pizza at midnight. There will be 50/50 drawings and raffles throughout the night. A \$10 unlimited drink band will be offered.

The public is welcome but tickets are limited. Contact Sheryl Lamarand at (734) 629-4774 to get tickets.

Office hours cancelled

State Sen. Glenn Anderson (D-Westland) will not hold district coffee hours during the month of December. Regularly scheduled Coffee Hours meetings will begin again in January at their usual time and place.

Constituents who would like to address an issue with the senator in the meantime may contact him by mail at P.O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48933, by phone at (866) 262-7306 or e-mail at SenatorAnderson@senate.michigan.gov.

Vacation Auction

The Oakwood Foundation is offering the use of a condo in Kissimmee or Puerto Vallarta as part of a vacation auction benefiting First Step.

Available in the auction is a stay at the Tropical Hills of Puerto Vallarta Adventure March 19-26, 2011. Tropical Hills. The condo sleeps nine adults. Park Royal Los Tules is nestled among the tropical hills of Puerto Vallarta, the ideal place for its spacious gardens, eight pools, five tennis courts, snack bar, jogging track, half-mile of beautiful beach, facilities and equipment for water sports, bicycle and motorbike rentals and picturesque traditional Mexican-style villas equipped with

kitchen.

The Kissimmee Florida Getaway is June 5-12, 2011. Stay at Highpoint Resort. Condo sleeps six adults and is just one mile from Walt Disney World Vacation Kingdom.

Submit one blind bid for each item, with a minimum bid of \$500 (airfare not included) to the Oakwood Foundation, attention John O'Rourke at orourkej@oakwood.org.

Top blind bid submitted by 5 p.m. Jan. 10, will be determined to be the winner. In case of a tie, a random drawing of the top bidders will determine the winner. Proceeds benefit the Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Partnership with First Step.

Nankin Mills lighting

Looking for a great family program for the holidays? Bring the entire family for crafts, games and Santa, at Nankin Mills in Westland 4-6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 11.

From 4-5:15 p.m., there will be several seasonal kids' crafts and games, with prizes awarded for games participation. From 5:15-6 p.m. will be the 23rd annual Nankin Mills mill lighting and sing-a-long. Singing will be done outside on the porch of the 19th century mill as Santa pulls the switch to illuminate the mill.

The mill lighting and Santa visit are free, however, kid's crafts and games are \$4 per child. A limited number of spots available, so preregister before the event.

Nankin Mills Interpretive Center is located on Hines Drive just east of Ann Arbor Trail in Westland. Parking is available off of Hines Drive, and can be reached even if the road is closed at Ann Arbor Trail.

For more information or to register, call the Wayne County Parks at (734) 261-1990.

TOOLS

FROM PAGE A1

being laid off as an electrician, has been scouring pawn shops, salvage yards, flea markets, Craigslist, eBay and the Observer classified ads trying to locate his equipment, which wasn't insured.

"That was a mistake on my part. I had liability insurance to make sure no one gets hurt and a business insurance policy," Wissman said. "I'm pretty much alone in the cemetery when I work, so no one would get hurt. I cancelled my liability insurance, but I wasn't told the rider for the equipment and the trailer wasn't covered. I felt it was covered under the business policy, but it wasn't."

There were no witnesses to the theft, said Westland police Sgt. David Zuchetto, who had advised Wissman to search for his equipment.

"I'm hoping that the trailer would get recovered and stuff may have been left behind since they (the thief) wouldn't know how to use the equipment," Zuchetto said. "I hope



Kurt Wissman is hoping someone can tell him or the Westland Police where to find his stolen white trailer and the tools he uses to sandblast dates into headstones at cemeteries.

something turns up. If items were pawned, that could lead us back to the trailer. We're at a dead end right now."

Also stolen with the trailer and equipment were two bronze veterans plaques that Wissman was scheduled to mount on soldiers' grave markers.

As he searches for his missing tools and trailer, Wissman

said he has been in contact with the man who trained him and is working to find used tools so that he can continue to work.

Anyone with information about the missing trailer and tools is asked to call the Westland Detective Bureau at (734) 721-6311.

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615 West Lafayette, Detroit, MI 48226

Jobs the focus as Goodwill opens new store

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

In its sole mission to create jobs, Goodwill Industries of Greater Detroit will return to the retail business for the first time in a decade when it opens the doors Saturday to its new Canton store.

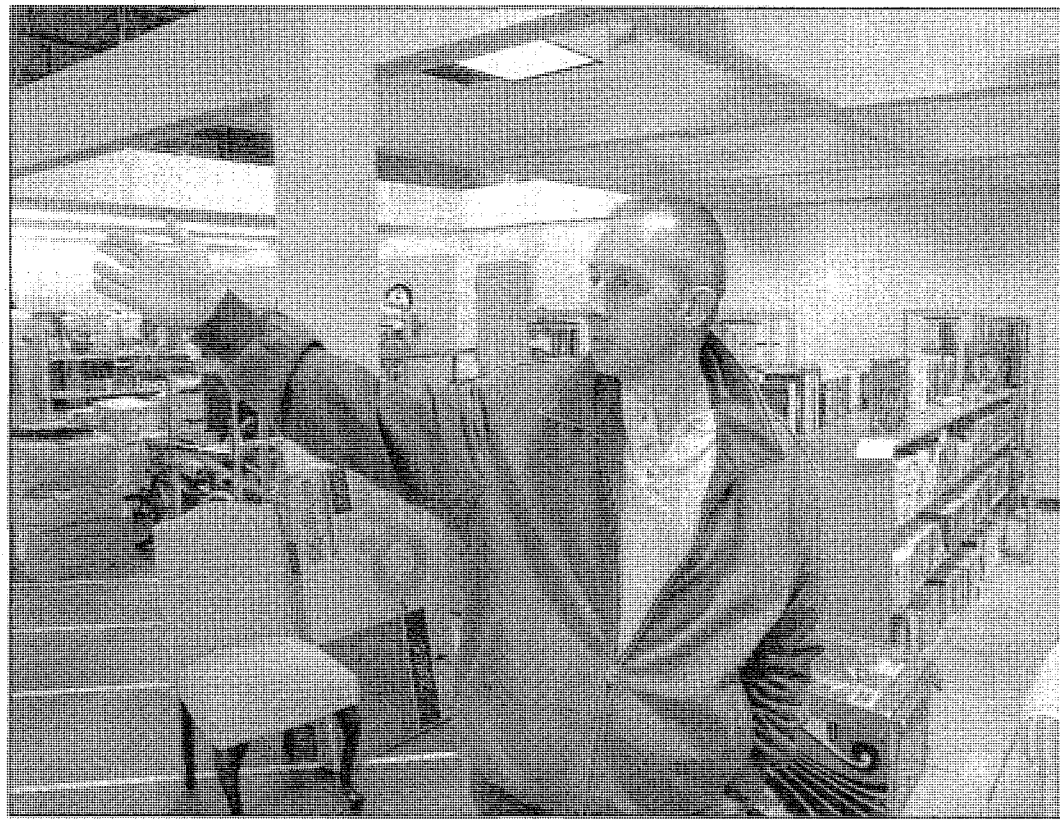
"We're very excited," Jeffrey Ukraine, Goodwill director of donated goods, said Monday morning as employees bustled inside the store, 41937 Ford Road west of Haggerty, to prepare for customers.

Goodwill officials say the store, with 11,000 square feet of retail space, has been designed more like an upscale department store rather than a typical resale shop. It has been stocked with 18,000 pieces of clothing and hundreds of other items such as jewelry, purses, shoes, linens, furniture and electronics.

On every wall, customers can see images of once-unemployed people who received a new start after getting the training and jobs they needed through Goodwill, which has its headquarters in Detroit and has a nearly 90-year history in southeast Michigan.

Canton's store alone has created 25 jobs ranging from truck drivers to retail clerks to managers, and its hours will be from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. every day except Sunday, when it's open from noon to 6 p.m.

Goodwill last had an area retail shop in 2000, but Ukraine said the agency revived the idea as another way to create jobs amid a tough economy and to provide quality merchandise for cash-strapped shoppers looking for good deals.



Jeffrey Ukraine, director of donated goods, talks about the area's first Goodwill retail store in a decade.

"It's all about creating jobs," Ukraine said.

Mark Lane, Goodwill director of public relations and special events, said the organization "touched about 28,000 lives" during the last year, whether by creating jobs, providing job retraining, helping with resumes or evaluating job skills.

"It could be someone with a disability or a displaced auto worker — anybody who has a barrier to employment," Lane said.

Goodwill hopes to expand its efforts with retail shops in a five-county area in southeast Michigan within a decade.

It chose Canton to launch its retail effort due to the area's population density and because officials believe they can get top-quality donations of merchandise here.

They haven't been disappointed, and employees scrambled Monday morning to sort through donations and price them, amid plans to start making money Saturday to boost its job-creating programs and services. Ukraine said Goodwill hopes to earn \$1 million during the shop's first year.

"Without money, there's no mission," he said.

Goodwill helps a broad range of people, such as those with

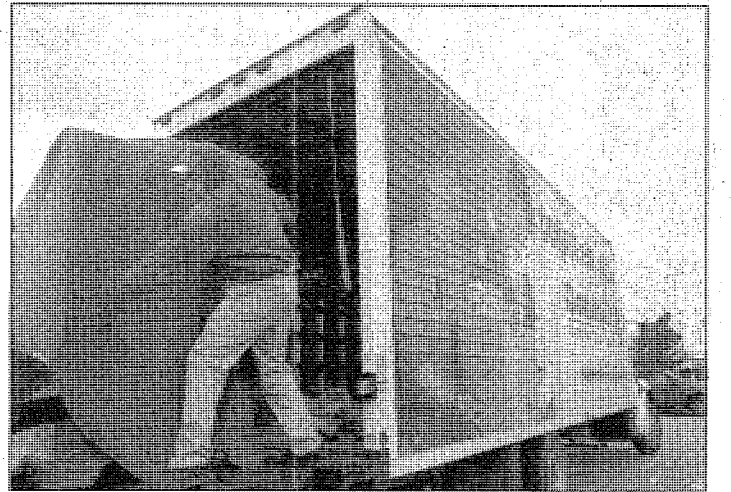
disabilities, those who have lost their jobs to an economic recession and those who are trying to rebuild their lives after their once-troubled behavior landed them in prison.

Goodwill chose the Ford Road location in Canton because it is located along the township's busiest retail strip, not far from the IKEA store and other shops that draw customers not only from Michigan, but also other Midwest states and Canada.

The store has become well-stocked following donation drives at places such as Canton's Summit on the Park, and Ukraine said donations of



The new Goodwill store, with 18,000 items of clothing and other merchandise, opens Saturday.



Robert Hunter unloads furniture from a Goodwill truck.

quality items always are welcome at the store. Goodwill can arrange to pick up items such as furniture if donors call (313) 964-3900.

"We accept items that are gently used for resale," Ukraine said, "and we don't accept broken furniture."

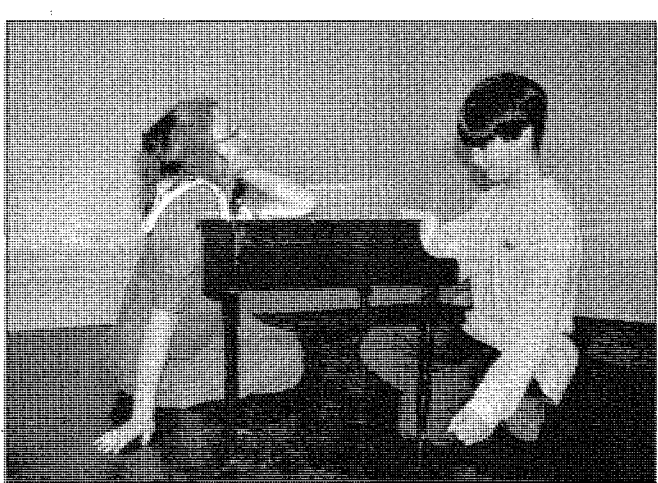
Noting that Goodwill will need to rely on a steady supply of donations, Ukraine said he

hopes potential donors — and customers, too — will remember what they are accomplishing by helping the store.

"When they donate or when they shop here," he said, "they are creating jobs."

For more information or to donate online to Goodwill, go to www.goodwilldetroit.org.

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Students in the Inspire School of Theater Arts rehearse a scene from this weekend's production of "Merry Christmas, Charlie Brown."

Inspire school students present 'Charlie Brown'

"That's what Christmas is all about Charlie Brown," explains Linus in the perennial classic, *Merry Christmas Charlie Brown*. Young actors from across western Wayne County are reviving the true meaning of Christmas and catching the acting bug at Inspire School of Theater Arts in Westland.

As part of their end of semester project, the students, ages 9-12, are presenting the Charlie Brown approach to Christmas.

"I thought it would be fun," said the school's director, Len Fisher. "I guess I never knew how much. These kids are fantastic."

The show times are 3 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 11-12. Tickets are \$5 and

can be purchased at the door. The show will be presented in Inspire Theatre, located in the Warren Road Light and Life Church at 33445 Warren Road, Westland.

The school is an extension of Inspire Theatre. In its sixth season, Inspire Theatre just presented *It's A Wonderful Life*.

Fisher launched the school this past fall with 11 students as a test balloon. The balloon has soared, so beginning in February, additional classes will be offered as well as a repeat of the introductory class. Adult classes are also planned.

For more information about the show and the classes, call (734) 751-7057.

Winter has its share of festivals

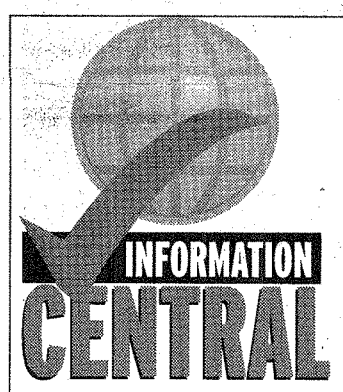
'Tis the season for snow and snow festivals. I know some of you may think of snow as one of the other, more ill-received four-letter words, but seeing as we live in a northern state and are surrounded by lakes, I don't think we have much choice in the matter. Might as well enjoy ourselves during the season — and not just cuddling with a good book or movie next to a cracklin' fire. There are plenty of opportunities in the coming winter months for you to get outside and enjoy some very cool (pun intended) winter activities.

Right down the street from the library, we have the starting point for the Wayne County LightFest. Hines Drive will be alight with Christmas and holiday ornamentation and good times for all from now until Dec. 31 (closed on Christmas, of course).

Each night the drive gets started at 7 p.m. at Hines Drive and Merriman (one way) and finishes up at Warren Avenue near Telegraph. For more information, see the website at www.waynecounty.com/events/4125.htm or call (734) 261-9087.

Other, more local snow festivals and fun activities include the Holly Dickens Festival, a celebration of everything Dickens (at least from "The Christmas Story") on Saturdays in downtown Holly from 1-6 p.m. (last day is Dec. 18); and horse-drawn hayrides at the Kensington Metropark Farm Center from now until Dec. 26 (for more information, call 1-800-477-3178).

Early next year, southeast Michigan has all sorts of fun in the snow, namely the Plymouth Ice Festival from Jan. 21-23, the Zehnder's SnowFest in Frankenmuth Jan. 26-31 and the biggest party of them all, the Motown Winter Blast Feb. 12-14.



For these and many more winter activities, check Pure Michigan, the State of Michigan's Official Travel and Tourism site at www.michigan.org/Things-to-Do/Events/. Of course, you can always make your own fun in the snow. The Westland Public Library has plenty of books and resources available, if you're idea-free, regarding your winter adventures. Please visit our website at www.westlandlibrary.org to check our catalog or call the Reference Desk at (734) 326-6123 for more information.

Highlighted Activities

Friday Movie Night: 7 p.m. Dec. 10
Stop by the library every Friday

evening for a screening of a recently released movie. This week's movie is "Solitary Man." A car-magazine watches his personal and professional life hit the skids because of his business and romantic indiscretions. Rated R. No registration is required. This is an after hours program. Library doors open at 6:30 p.m. Refreshments will be available.

Sunday Holiday Concert Series: Bethany Stawasz, harpist, at 2 p.m. Dec. 12

Tired of the holiday madness? Join us to hear a variety of Christmas carols, classical pieces, and popular favorites performed by life-long Westland resident Bethany Stawacz. Stawacz will be playing on her Lyon and Healy Concert Grand harp.

Crafty Gifts: Hot Cocoa Kits: 3 p.m. Dec. 12, all ages

Families welcome. Have a lot of people on your "nice" list? Make a gift for them that's fun, delicious and inexpensive. We'll show you how to make your own cocoa mix, personalize marshmallows, and wrap it all up in a holiday package. A great gift for teachers and coworkers! Seating limited, registration required.

Job Seekers Lab: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesdays, 5-8 p.m. Wednesdays and

1-4 p.m. Fridays.

Have a question regarding formatting your resume, setting up an e-mail account, attaching your resume to an online application, searching for a job, or any other job-related activity? Stop by the library, where computers are set up specifically for job seekers. A librarian will be available to help. Drop in. No reservation needed.

Drop-in Knitting Nights @ the Library: 7 p.m. every Wednesday. Everyone welcome, including crocheters.

Chess Group: 7-8:45 p.m. Thursdays and 1-4 p.m. Saturdays.

Like to play chess? Want to get better? Come to the library and play a couple of games. Bring your own board or use one of ours. Novices to Chess Masters are all welcome. No signup required.

Computer Classes are offered all year long. Contact the library at (734) 326-6123 to find out more.

Information Central was compiled by reference librarian Andy Schuck. The William P. Faust Public Library is at 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland. For more information, call (734) 326-6123 or go online to westlandlibrary.org.

Livonia Public Schools Opens Renowned Academically Talented Program to Out-of-District Students

Three seats are open to students entering 7th grade in winter 2011
Three seats are open to students entering 8th grade in winter 2011
Limited Registration window: Dec. 6, 2010 – Jan. 6, 2011

Livonia Public Schools is opening its Middle School Alternative Classrooms for the Academically Talented (MACAT) program to Limited Schools of Choice for the 2010-11 school year, second semester. This program is geared toward academically talented students looking for a specialized learning experience. Registration will open from Dec. 6, 2010 - Jan. 6, 2011 at Churchill High School, 8900 Newburgh Rd, Livonia 48150 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. All candidates MUST meet the MACAT selection testing criteria.

For complete information on the application process, Contact Doug Coates at Churchill High School at 734-744-2650 ext. 46132

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PUBLIC SAFETY

Thursday, December 9, 2010 hometownlife.com

HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Contact Editor, Sue Mason
 Voice Mail: (313) 222-6751
 E-mail: smason@hometownlife.com
 Comment online at hometownlife.com

Auto parts reported stolen from trailers

Larceny

1 Assorted auto parts valued at \$22,000 were reported stolen Dec. 6 from trailers parked at PTE Performance, 6132 E. Executive Drive. The owner said the missing items included

WESTLAND

four engine blocks, miscellaneous cylinder heads, fuel injected intake manifold, turbo chargers and transmissions.

The parts were placed in the trailers in preparation for an upcoming Gibraltar Trade Center swap meet, the owner said. The side doors of the trailers had been locked. The owner showed the officer where the fence had been disassembled.

Break-in

2 A resident in the 37000 block of Barkridge Circle told police Dec. 5 that someone forced open the front door to her home. She said every drawer and the closet in her bedroom had been searched with her personal items tossed around the residence.

The resident reported a brand new 26-inch television, valued at \$200, was missing from the living room.

Also reported missing were five packages of rare coins valued at \$125, a \$100 gold bracelet with a ruby and diamond heart and a bag of miscellaneous clothing, valued at \$60.

The officer noted the front door had been heavily damaged and was on the floor.

Money missing

3 A resident of an apartment at 6709 Lakeview Blvd. told police Dec. 6 he left to deliver Christmas

presents and returned less than 15 minutes later to find someone broke into his apartment. The only thing disturbed, he said, was a jewelry box and an accordion folder.

No jewelry was missing but the man said an envelope containing \$520 in cash was missing from the folder. He said his former girlfriend, a Westland resident, was the only one who knew where he kept the cash but wasn't sure she was responsible.

A complex maintenance worker was in the next door apartment, heard a thud and what he thought was furniture being moved but said he didn't think anything of it.

The front door had been pried open, the officer noted. The resident said the door was closed but the dead bolt was no longer locked when he returned.

Break-in

4 Two laptop computers and a VCR/DVD player valued at \$1,050 were reported stolen Dec. 6 from a home in the 1200 block of Craig. The homeowner told police he went to dinner and returned to find a large rock had been thrown through a double pane door wall breaking the glass.

Break-in

A flat screen television and an Xbox game system valued at \$200 were reported stolen Dec. 5 from an apartment at 8466 Woodcrest Drive. The owner reported someone kicked in the apartment door. When officers arrived, maintenance workers were repairing the door and no collectible evidence remained, police said.
 By LeAnne Rogers

\$500 stolen from Garden City church

Break-in

5 About \$500 in coins were reported stolen from Christian Faith Ministries, 27500 Marquette, Dec. 4.

A rock was used to break a stained glass window in the sanctuary and the nurse's office was entered and searched. A filing cabinet in the secretary's office had been pulled away from the wall and the drawers, including one containing the key for the nurse's office, were pried open. The key was found on the corner of a desk by the cabinet.

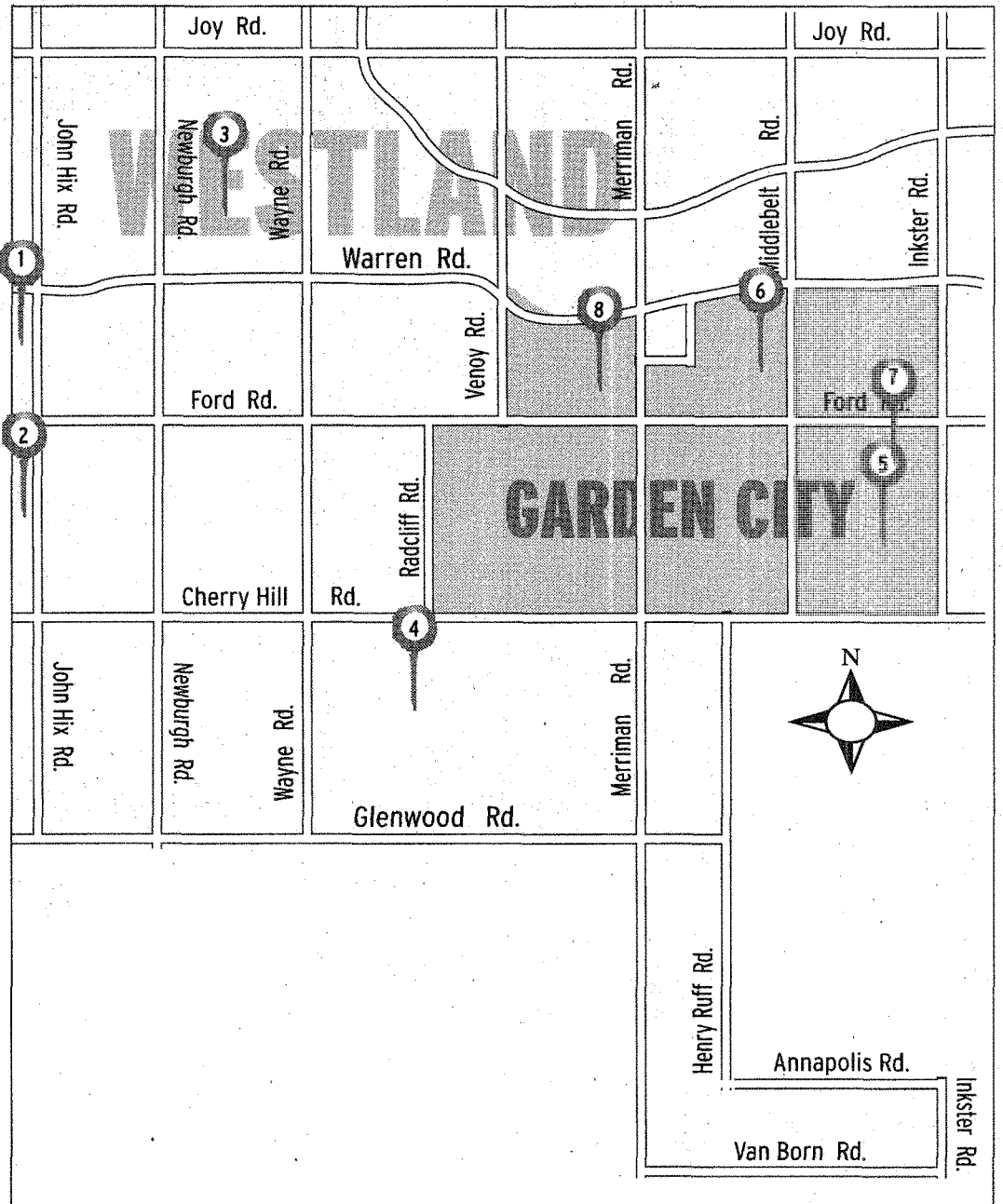
GARDEN CITY

A large chunk of drywall was cut out of the wall in an attempt to get into the pastor's office. A large pair of pruning shears, containing plaster dust were found on the floor outside the pastor's door which appeared to have been pried open with the shears.

The office had been ransacked and all of the drawers were opened and on the floor. The pastor told police the coins had been in his office for three years and that no one knew they were there.

Police K-9 Deuce ran a track from the door of the church down the west side of Inkster Road where it ended at 1035 Inkster Road.

Police were called back to the church Dec. 6 after it was discovered someone had broken a window on the north-west side of the building and had searched several rooms. Nothing appeared to have been taken in the second break-in.



Larceny

6 A customer at Albert's on the Alley, 5651 Middlebelt, reported her cell phone was stolen Dec. 2 while she was in the bar's arcade.

The woman told police she left her phone on the table to go to the arcade. When she returned a half hour later, the phone was gone. She said the phone could not be used by someone else because the keyboard was locked and required a password.

No license

A 52-year-old Westland man was ticketed for driving with a suspended license Dec. 3 after being stopped for running a red light at Ford and Inkster Road, police said.

The man told police he had

no license and a check showed that it had been suspended in September 2009 and that he had 12 current license suspensions, police said.

He was ticketed for driving with a suspended license, disregarding the red traffic signal and having no proof of insurance, police said.

Larceny

7 A Dalmatian dog lawn ornament was reported stolen from the yard of home in the 1800 block of Belton Dec. 4.

The resident told police he had seen a man running from his front yard to a pickup truck parked on John Hawk. His lawn ornament was already in the bed of the truck. The statue was more than 3 feet tall and weighed more than 100 pounds. It was valued at \$100.

Stolen money

8 Unknown suspects reportedly pushed a window air conditioner into the janitor's room to gain access to the Maplewood Community Center where they used tools found in the room to pry open a vending machine and video game and steal some \$50 in coins from the money boxes. Another \$20 was reportedly taken from a vending machine operated by the Garden City Kiwanis Club.

The incident happened between 9 p.m. Dec. 5 and 7 a.m. Dec. 6. A surveillance video of the library showed a suspect, described as a 14-year-old white male, break out the window of a door to an office at the rear entrance and force open the door to a storage area which also was searched, police said.

Identity theft

A Garden City woman filed a complaint with the Garden City Police Dec. 3, after she received two letters from HSBC Bank about making a man named Patrik Angila an authorized user on a new MasterCard credit card. The woman told police she received two credit cards from HSBC the next day and also received a package containing five cell phones from T-Mobile. A T-Mobile representative told the woman the phones had been paid for using a Visa account.

Police advised the woman to print out her credit report and contact police if she finds any other fraudulent accounts opened in her name.

ONLINE PHOTO GALLERIES
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PUBLIC NOTICE
CITY OF GARDEN CITY
WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN

To all residents and interested parties:
 Legal notices are available for review at our website.

The minutes from regular and special Council meetings are available at:
www.gardencitymi.org/minutes

Current requests for bids and proposals are available at:
www.gardencitymi.org/bids

You can also access this information at Garden City City Hall or the Garden City Library during regular business hours or in the Garden City Police station lobby 24 hours a day.

Publish: July 15, Aug. 12, Sept. 16, Oct. 14, Nov. 14 & Dec. 9, 2010. OE0866667-20

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Pursuant to state law a sale will be held at: Secured Self Storage, 2460 Gulley, Dearborn Hgts, MI, January 8, 2010 @ 1:05 p.m.

#541 Christopher L Wonders
 #742 Lashawn Davis
 #755 Danielle Franklin
 #928 Amelia Stopak
 Units contain misc. household items-furniture.

Publish: December 9 and 16, 2010 OE08723844-21.5

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CITY OF WESTLAND
NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

The Westland Police Department will conduct an online public auction of miscellaneous seized and forfeited items. The auction will begin on Thursday December 9th, 2010 and end Thursday December 16th, 2010. Interested persons should:

1. visit www.auctiontoday-canton.com
2. click on the "Auctions" tab
3. in the right column, click on the "Click here for live auctions!"

The following items can then be viewed and are offered for sale to the highest bidder: Samsung Boostmobile; Samsung Metro PCS ; LG Metro PCS and LG Sprint cell phones., Samsung laptop w/ wireless mouse, Sony PS3 w/(4) controllers, Sharp LCD tv, Dirt Devil vacuum, Celestron telescope and case of lenses, Hitachi LCD tv, Magnavox DVD player, Davinci surround sound speakers, Panasonic LCD tv, Xbox 360 game console, Sony DVD home theatre system player w/subwoofer.

All items are sold in "as is" condition. Items may be deleted from this list at any time prior to the start of the auction.

Publish: December 9th, 2010 OE08723596-2X1.5

In Loving Memory
 ...at the Holidays

Remember the loved ones you've lost by placing a special holiday remembrance tribute.

The Observer and Eccentric/Hometown Weekly newspapers will be publishing a special "In Remembrance" page for the holidays. Here's the perfect opportunity to honor the memory and celebrate the life of loved ones who hold a special place in your heart.

Prices start at **\$15.00**
 for a photo "In Remembrance" ad

Publication: Sunday, Dec. 19th
 ...in the Eccentric Newspapers
Thursday, Dec. 23rd
 ...in the Observer Newspapers and Hometown Weekly Newspapers

Deadline for both issues...Monday, Dec. 13th

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 Email: ocads@hometownlife.com

Glenn Dance Team ready for fall recital

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

John Glenn High School Dance Team members will put their talents on display Friday during their fall recital, "Oh, Santa."

Under the direction of coach Carey Christian, the 14 teens will perform in 33 group and solo numbers from 7-9 p.m. in the high school auditorium.

"We usually do a fall recital with a holiday theme, but this year it's just the finale," Christian said. "There's not enough holiday music out there. So we're trying to keep it festive, but only one song will be holiday — Mariah Carey's *Oh, Santa* — and it's the finale. The show theme will be 'Oh, Santa,' and it also will be the finale."

The dancers selected their costumes and much of the show's music.

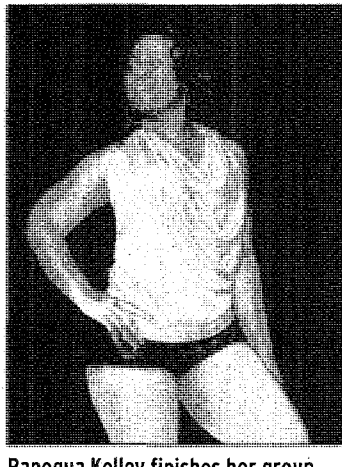
While Christian had input — a ballet number with music by Vivaldi and another featuring *Ballroom Blitz* by Meatloaf are among her selections — "quite a few numbers are from the *Twilight Saga*," Carey said.

Without an assistant coach, Christian had to limit the number of girls on the team. Dancers audition for a spot every semester and spend three days a week after school preparing for their recital.

The team captains are Anna Quillen, Alicia Lustig and Janae Pierce. Veteran dancers, Quillen and Lustig each choreographed two songs for the recital, while Christian did the remainder, teaching the group two dances a week.



Katelyn Bradke is a member of the prima group of the John Glenn Dance Team.



Ranequa Kelley finishes her group dance with a smile.



The John Glenn Dance Team includes Rachel Miller (front row, from left), Ainea Faison, Katelyn Bradke, Paige Huston, Tasha Christensen, Taiyah Parker, Alex German (center row, from left) Ranequa Kelley-Boyd, captain Janae Pierce, Taylor Bonarek, captain Alicia Lustig (back row from left), captain Anna Quillen, coach Carey Christian, Brittney Johnson, Lindsay Spencer.

The decision to keep the troupe small has worked well for Christian. With few dancers, this year "has been a lot of fun," Christian said.

All of the dancers are experienced and "several of the freshmen really have potential," she said.

It also has opened the

door for each girl to have a solo.

"I love that part of the show," she added. "They get to show who they are and what they like. The show has a lot of me in it, but it definitely has today's music in it too."

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

NEWS BRIEF

Glow skate

Enjoy some glow-in-the-dark fun at Westland's Mike Modano Ice Arena 8-9:20 p.m. for Friday Glow Skate. The cost is \$3 for kids and \$4 for adults. Skate rental is \$3.

The arena also offers open skating 1:30-3:20 p.m. Saturdays. The cost is \$4 for kids, \$5 for adults and \$3 for skate rentals.

The arena is at Wildwood and Hunter, east of Wayne Road. For more information about ice arena programs, call (734) 729-4560.

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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

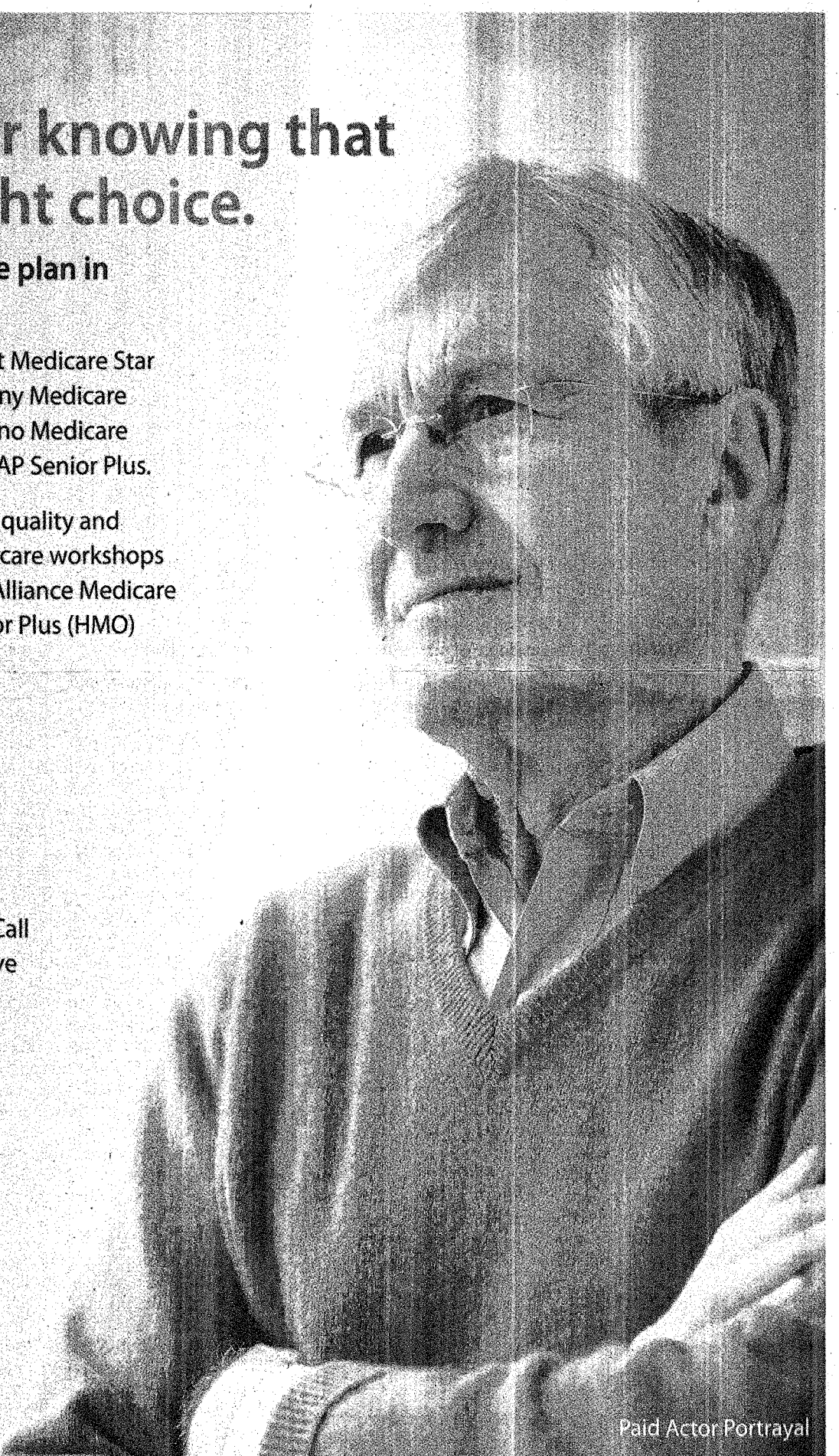
December 16, 2010

December 28, 2010

Plymouth

December 10, 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.



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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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GETTY IMAGES

THE LOGISTICS OF A hassle-free holiday

The holidays are supposed to be filled with love and good cheer, but the logistics of shopping for gifts, sending out cards, taking family trips and shipping packages can leave even the jolliest of people in a Scrooge-like mood.

Fortunately, there are some ways you can take the hassle out of the holidays and make them a little brighter for yourself and those around you.

SHOP SMART

Avoid long lines, crowded parking lots and out-of-stock items with these helpful hints:

Get Ready — Before you head out to the mall, make a list of the gifts you want to buy and do some online price comparison. Use sites like BizRate, DealTime or Shopzilla, as well as check local ads to find the best price. You may want to call your local store to see if they have your item in stock, saving yourself a trip if they don't have it.

Shop Early — Plan to shop early in the day, and early in the season. Morning crowds tend to be lighter and sales assistants tend to be more attentive first thing. And the earlier in the season you shop, the less you have to deal with long lines and frustrated shoppers. Plus, this year, while there are 29 shopping days between Thanksgiving and Christmas, there are only 20 shipping days.

Wrap It Up — Pay a little extra and let a charity group at the store wrap your gifts for you. This saves you time later and frees you up to get other things done — and you help a good cause.

If you do any online or catalogue shopping, avoid having packages left on your doorstep by getting a mailbox at The UPS Store. You get a mailbox with a real street address, which accepts packages from all carriers. And, you can choose to receive an e-mail or text when you have a package waiting, avoiding unnecessary trips.

NO-HASSLE HOLIDAY PACKING

Make sure your carefully chosen gifts get to their destinations intact with these helpful tips:

DO

- Check with experts before shipping fragile items (or items that might be considered hazardous or illegal to ship, such as perfume or cologne).
- Use materials the professionals use — foam packaging peanuts, bubble cushioning and packing tape — to protect your gifts.
- Include a label on the inside of the package with both the destination and return addresses.
- Use a shipping option which provides a package-tracking number.
- Take batteries out of toys, electronics, etc., before shipping.
- Ship wrapped presents ahead to your destination, especially if traveling by air.

DON'T

- Wrap boxes in brown paper or tie with string.
- Use materials like newspaper or real popcorn to cushion items.
- Use old boxes or gift boxes for shipping items.
- Use duct tape, masking tape or cellophane tape to seal your boxes for shipping.

DREAMING OF A GREEN CHRISTMAS?

Participating The UPS Store locations offer holiday shippers the option to neutralize the climate impact of their packages for a small fee when shipping with UPS. And, many locations accept clean foam packaging peanuts for reuse.

For even less hassle, let the certified packing experts at The UPS Store handle the logistics of getting your gifts safely to your loved ones for the holidays. Participating locations offer the Pack & Ship Promise, which will reimburse customers in the event a center-packed item shipped via UPS is lost or damaged. Details are available at www.theupsstore.com.

DON'T LUG YOUR LUGGAGE

Navigating airport security, crowded terminals and long check-in lines can be stressful enough. Add luggage and gifts into the holiday travel mix and things can get really unpleasant. One solution travelers are turning to is shipping luggage to their destinations.

"Traveling without a suitcase is a tremendous convenience, especially during the hectic holiday travel season. Having your luggage awaiting your arrival and tracking it along the way is even better," said Bryan Vial, The UPS Store franchisee from Phoenix, Ariz. "Ship your luggage as is or place it in a box for shipment. Or, at select locations, you can purchase a luggage box and avoid a suitcase altogether."

Some major airline baggage fees can add up to over \$100. Vial says that a luggage box of comparable size shipped via UPS Ground service is competitively priced and saves you time and hassle at the airport. If you are a member of the Automobile Association of America, you can receive a 15 percent discount off the full retail price of eligible products and services, and 5 percent off domestic U.S. shipping costs. Visit www.theupsstore.com for more information.

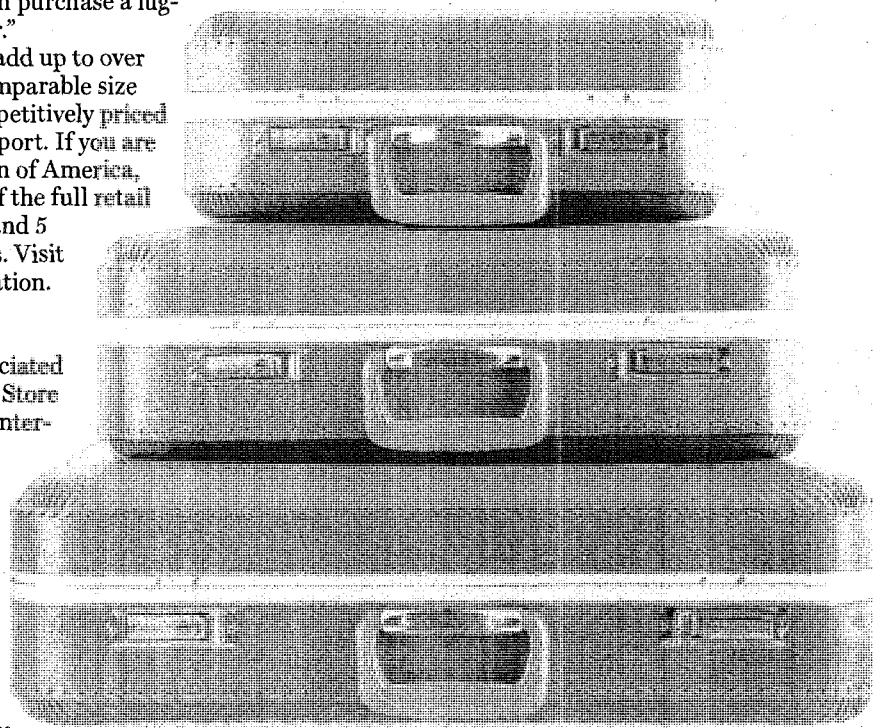
LUGGAGE SHIPPING TIPS

- Because of the duties and taxes associated with international shipments, The UPS Store does not recommend shipping luggage internationally.
- Federal Aviation Administration restrictions prohibit shipping hazardous materials, including colognes and perfumes, aerosol sprays, nail polish and cigarette lighters via air.
- Include packaging tape and a return shipping label in the luggage box for use when returning home.

— Family Features

KEY DATES FOR HOLIDAY SHIPPING

- Monday is the busiest shipping day of the week.
 - The busiest shipping week of the 2010 season is expected to be December 13 to 17.
 - If you are shipping international or to military personnel overseas, contact The UPS Store location nearest you to determine the best date to ensure on-time delivery.
 - Most ground packages require five days or less to reach their destination, but if you're shipping coast-to-coast, it may take longer.
- Last-Minute Shipping Dates:
- Tuesday, December 21 — Ship UPS 3 Day Select for delivery Friday, December 24.
 - Wednesday, December 22 — Ship UPS 2nd Day Air for delivery Friday, December 24.
 - Thursday, December 23 — Ship UPS Next Day Air for delivery Friday, December 24.



HAPPY HOLIDAY PRINTING

Take the hassle out of printing holiday newsletters, programs and more. With online printing from The UPS Store, you can easily upload your documents, customize your printing and finishing options, preview the final project, and submit your project from the comfort of your home or office. Then, simply stop by to pick it up when you are shipping off holiday packages.

STRICTLY BUSINESS

Thursday, December 9, 2010

hometownlife.com

PHOTO GALLERIES
hometownlife.com

IT'S YOUR BUSINESS Q&A



The goal of AJ's Attic at Wayne and Warren roads is to provide new and like-new consignment maternity and children's items, covering all stages from pregnancy to pre-teen, for approximately half of their retail cost.

Consignment store focuses on new and like-new clothing

Observer: Tell us about your business, including the types of services and/or products you feature.

The mission at AJ's Attic is to provide new and like-new consignment maternity and children's items, covering all stages from pregnancy to pre-teen, for approximately half of their retail cost. You can find any brand of infant and children's toys, gear, and clothing, sizes preemie to youth 18.

We also offer a wide array of consignment maternity clothes, nursing bras, and some postpartum items. Our quality is unmatched and our service always gets rave reviews.

Whether you are an expecting parent, caregiver, grandparent, or looking for something wonderful to give as a baby shower gift, you will find something you need at AJ's Attic.

Observer: How did you first decide to open your business?

Living in Westland, I knew it was the right place for AJ's Attic to be. As a single mom,

AJ'S ATTIC

Business Name and Address: AJ's Attic Inc., 34694 Warren Road, Westland

Your Name and Title: Heather Boulton, owner

Your Hometown: Westland

Business Opened When: December 2007

Number of Employees: 3

Your Business Specialty: The mission at AJ's Attic is to provide new and like-new consignment maternity and children's items, covering all stages from pregnancy to pre-teen, for approximately half of their retail cost.

Hours of Operations: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday-Saturday, noon-5 p.m. Sunday

Business Phone and/or Website: (734) 326-2571; www.ajsatticinc.com

I also knew that a children's and maternity consignment shop was the right business for me. I had been shopping in consignment shops for a long time and knew what was

missing from a lot of them: quality and value.

After a lot of careful planning, AJ's Attic finally opened its doors in December of 2007. Things have really taken off and we've grown so much! We just recently moved into our new, much larger location on the corner of Warren and Wayne roads, next to Toys-R-Us.

Observer: What makes your business unique?

The thing that sets us apart from the rest is the fact that we will take in any brand of clothing, toys, and gear, and we are very consistent in our quality control. It has always been my belief that consignment items should be of impeccable quality and priced to sell.

Our customers are constantly commenting on how nice their shopping experiences are at our store. Not only does each customer get fantastic value for their money, they also receive a warm welcome when they come into the store, and that is priceless.

MILESTONES

Toy Drive

Time/Date: Now through Monday, Dec. 20

Location: Century 21 Castelli, 1812 Middlebelt, Garden City

Details: Century 21 Castelli is collecting new, unwrapped toys for the Garden City Goodfellows through Monday, Dec. 20. All donations can be dropped off at the office.

Contact: For more information, call Barb Carreon-Haworth at (734) 644-2402.

Low Cost MHS program

Location: Michigan Humane Society Berman Center for Animal Care, 900 N. Newburgh, Westland

Details: The MHS, with support from

PETCO Foundation, offers ongoing low-cost cat and kitten spay/neuter program serving qualified low-income residents of southeast Michigan.

Financial and eligibility criteria apply. Spay/neuter program available with required pre-qualification via phone and by appointment only. There is a \$35 co-pay.

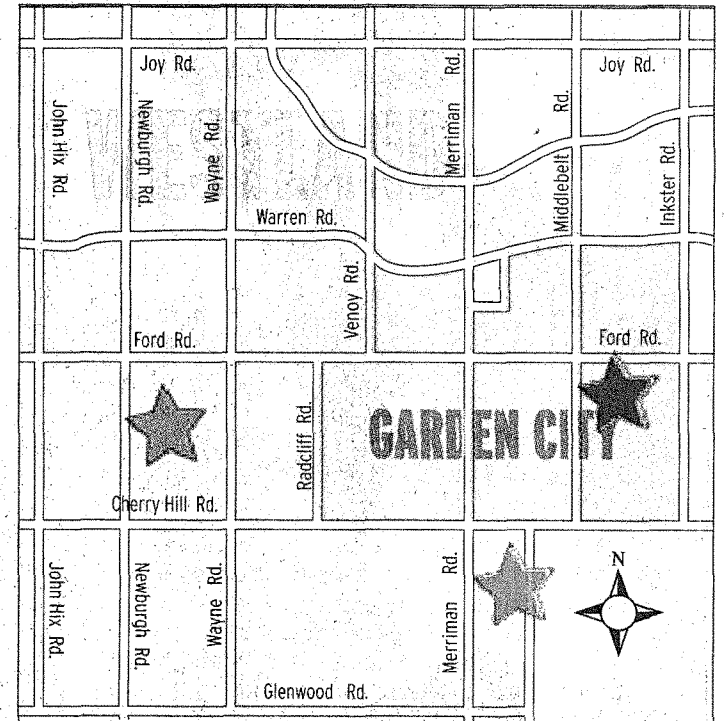
Contact: For more information, call (248) 283-5655 or visit www.michiganhumane.org/spay.

New Year's Eve

Time/Date: 6 p.m. to 2 a.m. Dec. 31-Jan.1

Location: AMVETS Hall Post 171, 1217 S. Merriman, Westland

Details: Enjoy a New Year's Eve Extravaganza, including a chicken cordon bleu and roast beef rolls, DJ, party favors, balloon drop, champagne toast and pizza at midnight and 50/50 drawings and raffles throughout the night. Tickets are \$50 a couple for current members, \$70 a couple for non members, \$65 a couple for new joiners (New Joiners are veterans or active duty without previous membership in Post 171 and includes new one-year membership and two



tickets. A copy of DD-214 or active duty military identification card is required and \$10 unlimited drink band per person. Public is welcome.

Contact: Tickets are limited, so contact Sheryl Lamarand at (734) 629-4774.

Dinner Theater

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Saturdays through Dec. 18

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

Details: Cinema legend Doreen Lewis is about to make her Broadway debut opposite her ardent admirer Paul Burnside, when she intercepts a phone call for her dresser, confirming that "Mrs. Lewis" is pregnant. Shocked to learn of "her" condition and thinking Paul wants her ousted from the show via her contract's moral clause, she wears her mink on stage knowing Paul fur-allergy will reduce his dialogues to sneezes. The producer, a shrieking neuroathetic who fears his backer Nunzio will machine gun his knees if the show

flops, is terrified, and the Bavarian playwright is reduced to sobbing uncontrollably as his beautiful play goes to the dogs." A loony resolution caps the evening of non-stop guffaws in "Star on the Door." Cocktails are at 6 p.m. (cash bar), dinner at 7 p.m. The show immediate follows dinner. Cost is \$31.95 and includes choice of entree, soup, salad and dessert with show, taxes and gratuity. Payment due at time of reservation.

Contact: For more information, call (734) 422-3440.

General store

Time/Date: noon-3 p.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays

Location: The Lathers General Store inside the Straight Farmhouse, 6221 Merriman, Garden City

Details: Looking for something different. Visit the old-fashioned general store that's a gift shop, boutique, and resale shop. It benefits the Straight Farmhouse, home of the Garden City Historical Museum.

Contact: (734) 838-0650

BUSINESS NEWSMAKERS

Year-end advice

With the end of the year fast approaching, there are several financial planning ideas for people to consider, according to the folks at DFCU. In addition to the usual year-end tax-loss selling, this year has some additional items that should be considered because of recent and potential changes in the tax laws.

Among items to consider:

• **Roth Conversion Opportunity** - As part of the 2006 Pension Protection Act that was signed into law on Aug. 17, 2006, there were some changes beginning this year with the Roth IRA conversion rules. Prior to this year, if your individual or combined married income was in excess of \$100,000, you were not allowed to convert money from a traditional IRA into a Roth IRA. The Pension Protection Act removed the income limits on Roth conversions beginning Jan. 1, 2010. Under this new law, if you convert during tax year 2010, you can spread the tax consequence out over two years with half taxable in 2011 and the other half taxable in 2012. You also have the option of paying all the taxes in 2010.

• **Expiration of the Bush tax cuts** - If Congress does

not act, the Bush tax cuts that were passed in 2001 will expire at the end of this year which would result in the largest tax increase in history. Not only will income tax rates rise, so also will capital gains and dividend income taxes. If you were thinking of taking an IRA or 401k distribution next year, you may want to consider taking the distribution this year to avoid possibly paying a higher tax in 2011. If you own a security with a significant capital gain and are thinking about selling it, you may want to sell it this year and pay a 15 percent capital gain versus 20 percent or more next year. The capital gain rate applies to securities that have been held for more than 12 months.

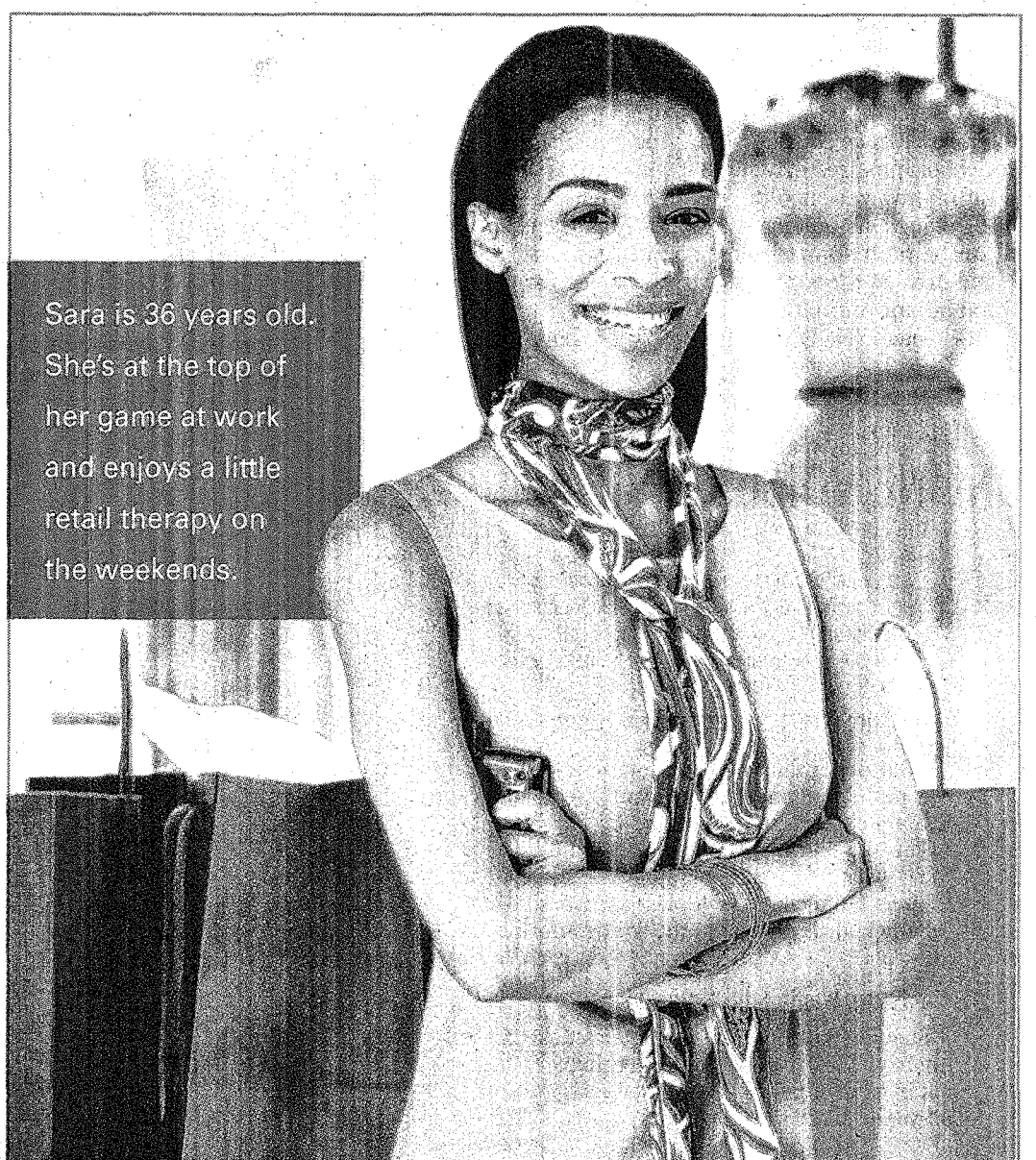
• **Tax-loss selling** - If you have some investments outside of qualified accounts that are worth less than what you paid for them, you may want to consider selling them and realizing a capital loss. Capital losses can be used to offset capital gains. A capital loss can also be used to offset ordinary income up to \$3,000 per year. If you would still like to own the security that you sell to create the loss, remember to wait at least 30 days before you purchase the security again to avoid a wash sale.

However, you should contact a tax advisor to discuss your specific needs.

• **Required Minimum Distribution** - If you turned 70 or older this year, you need to be sure to take your required minimum distribution from your qualified accounts. Qualified accounts include IRAs, 401ks, 403bs and profit sharing plans. Congress gave everyone a one-year break from having to take these distributions in 2009, but the distribution does need to be taken in 2010 and every year going forward. Remember, if you would like to avoid paying taxes on the distribution, you can have part or all of your distribution paid directly to a charity or your church.

• **Avoid mutual fund year-end distributions** - If you are considering an investment in a non-qualified mutual fund account before year end, be sure to check and see if the fund is about to make a dividend or capital gain distribution. If you were to purchase the mutual fund before the distribution, you would end up with a taxable capital gain even though you only owned the fund for a very short time.

For more information about investing, go to www.dfcufinancial.com.



Sara is 36 years old. She's at the top of her game at work and enjoys a little retail therapy on the weekends.

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

Tie One On Heed MADD's message this holiday season

Whether it's intentional or not, there's a good chance that many of us have taken the risk once or twice, maybe even more of driving after drinking.

We're not talking about falling down drunk amounts, but maybe one or two drinks. Doesn't sound like much, but according to Michigan State Police Capt. Monica Yesh, commander of Traffic Safety, having one or two drinks, "does impair judgment."

Each year, during this holiday season, Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) conducts the Tie One On for Safety public awareness initiative, to encourage us all to "Drive Safe, Sober and Buckled Up." Tie One On for Safety, originally named the Project Red Ribbon Campaign, was created in 1986 to help heighten public attention to drinking and driving during the holiday season.

The program was designed to encourage the public to become actively involved in the fight against drunk driving by tying a red ribbon to a visible place on their vehicle such as the antenna or side mirror. The campaign aims to raise awareness about the dangers of drunk driving, and promotes always wearing your seat belt, which remains the best defense against a drunken driver.

It is a campaign we urge our readers to join.

According to MADD, in 2008, an estimated 11,773 people died in alcohol-impaired traffic crashes across the U.S. The organization also reports that three of every 10 Americans will be involved in an alcohol-related crash in their lives and on average, someone is killed by an intoxicated driver every 45 minutes. Not a startling statistic, considering that more than 1.46 million impaired drivers were arrested in 2006 — an arrest rate of one for every 139 licensed drivers in the nation.

This is the season when we gather with family and friends to celebrate. It's a time when we ring in the New Year with a toast or two. We are not saying the drinking can't be a part of the revelry. What we are saying is that if you plan to share a bottle of wine over dinner or have a few drinks with a friend at the neighborhood bar, be responsible — not just for yourself, but for others on the road.

If you're holding the car keys after drinking, you're also holding a life in your hand. You may not reach the state's BAC level of .08 or above for driving while intoxicated, but you can be considered driving under the influence of alcohol-impaired driving — if your BAC is .07 and below. Either way, you shouldn't get in a vehicle and drive.

During this holiday season, one split-second decision can be fatal. Don't become a statistic. Put don't drink and drive at the top of your holiday wish list, not only for you but for your family and friends.

Go ahead: Tie One on for Safety this holiday season.

ONLINE VOICES & VIEWS

The following are excerpts from readers participating in our online forum for discussing issues, In Your Voices. Find more comments or join the discussion on the Web at hometownlife.com.

The issue: City's entertainment permit

I was under the belief that topless entertainment was prohibited under the new rules set forth by the LCC for entertainment permits.

The "old" permits, included everything. The "new" permits have a separate listings for entertainment, dancing, and topless activities.

Somebody is giving out the wrong information.
analyticthinker

The issue: Woman dies in accident

Shouldn't the 85-year-old gotten a ticket for failure to yield right of way or something for pulling out in front of truck? Or are they going to let the 85-year-old kill some one else?

DelrayShores

The issue: Bloom on Bush tax cuts

What Democrats either don't understand, or don't want US to understand, is that higher taxes reduce tax revenue to the government. If you tax something more, people will use it, or do it, less. If you tax high wage earners or job providers more, they will find ways to shelter their income, or, in the case of job providers, move operations where the tax laws are friendlier.

The government only has a captive audience in the middle class and those on public assistance. The higher income earners and job providers have the flexibility to move on to greener pastures if the government tries to take too much from them.

Don't shoot yourself in the foot by demanding higher taxes on the "rich." It is US that such a policy will come back to bite. Instead, demand fiscal responsibility from our elected "leaders." We don't NEED to spend as much money as we do; we've just allowed the politicians to run rampant.

Demand less spending; not more taxes!

jcjcl

COMMUNITY VOICE

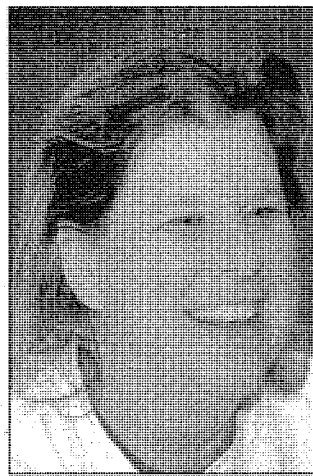
Are you spending more or less this Holiday season?

We asked this question at Westland Shopping Center in Westland.



"We're spending less, yes. We're trying to cut down."

Audrey Barnes
Livonia



"I just started my Christmas shopping. I don't know if I'll spend more or less."

Gwen Harrington
Redford



"More, I spent less before we had our baby. It went up in price."

Lori Hinch
Westland



"I'm just spending the same as last year."

Pat Gordano
Westland

LETTERS

Thanks for your story

We want to thank you for that wonderful article you wrote about Fred and Rosie ("Incredible individuals," Nov. 11). You did a great job getting all the facts correct which is something when you had to hurry and write down everything we said by hand.

The article wasn't in our local paper on the Veterans Day edition and then on Saturday a friend from Plymouth called to say there was a beautiful picture and story about us in the Plymouth Observer. So I ran out and bought all the papers I could find (10) along Five Mile. Then a friend sent us the article from Redford Township paper and it had a black and white picture of us and one of Keith Famie, another of Robert Ficano.

Then the following week the Northville Record arrives and it has just our picture in color and all three papers had the same article. So I bought some more papers to put the article in our Christmas cards this year.

Again we thank you so much. It was a great article you wrote.

Shirley and Fred Millard
Northville

Book sale was a success

The Friends of the Westland Public Library want to thank you for finding space to publish our article regarding our November Used Book Sale. The sale was successful and will allow us to assist the library in there future requests.

Thank you.

Marie DiDomizio,
trustee
Friends of William P. Faust
Public Library of Westland

Film credits unfair

According to Jim Burnstein, vice chairman of the Michigan Film Office Advisory Council, taxpayer-funded subsidies to the film industry benefit Michigan residents ("Film incentives will help Michigan flourish," Nov. 18). A more accurate description would be "some" Michigan residents at the expense of others.

The purpose of a subsidy is to reduce the cost of doing business in Michigan and coax companies to choose Michigan over some other state for their investment.

Burnstein uses the phrase "If We Build It, They Will Come," but a more accurate phrase would be "If We Give Them Taxpayer Funding, They Will Come." Unfortunately, this has become Michigan's primary economic policy — bribe business to locate here.

But if lowering the cost of doing business is good for some politically favored few, why not for everyone? Why should one industry be burdened by the Michigan Business Tax and onerous regulation costs, while another receives a break on these costs? How can it be considered fair or moral when a lifelong Michigan business owner is forced to pay higher taxes while the latest Cinderella industry receives millions of dollars to offset their tax burden?

Burnstein claims some of the benefits of these film subsidies were demonstrated when audiences "all" applauded as "Made in Michigan" rolled during the credits of the movie "Gran Torino." Perhaps a different reaction would have met a more accurate description — "Funded by millions of Michigan taxpayer dollars."

Steve Sutton
Farmington Hills

Great guest column

I just wanted to comment on how much I enjoyed

Jim Burnstein's guest opinion piece titled "Film incentives will help Michigan flourish."

Mr. Burnstein is a thought leader in Michigan. He is someone who believes in business diversification as the "New" Michigan, rather than something to bide our time until the auto industry comes back. I felt great pride and hope in reading his guest opinion and especially enjoyed his point about where would Michigan be today if we had convinced Google founder Larry Page to stay in Michigan upon graduation. In putting our people first, all else falls neatly into place!

Patty O'Brien Novak
Livonia

Soak the rich, right?

To a dedicated community organizer like Barack Obama, there are only two classes of people, "us" and "them." Us, in this case, are those making less than \$250,000 a year, and them are those making more than \$250,000 a year, called "the rich."

Obama's Chicago-style politics have never been to make friends of enemies but to destroy his enemies, with whom the rich are numbered.

So, he has added a new coat of paint to an old class warfare play and decided to soak the rich by letting the Bush tax cuts expire only for them and then redistribute their wealth. Sound familiar?

However, there are a couple of stubborn logical kinks in trying to justify his approach.

First, increasing taxes only on the rich is in effect punishing the most productive members of our society and rewarding the least productive members.

Second, if Obama wants more job creation, he has just shot himself in the foot. Other than our overstuffed government, the rich are the primary job creation engine for the masses of American workers.

Interesting question: Have you or anyone you know ever been hired by a poor man? I'll answer for you, No, you have not. It is the rich, accumulating and reinvesting their wealth, that create jobs. More taxation of the rich simply drives off their discretionary investing wealth, or, worst yet, it causes the rich to take their industries and wealth abroad where they can fare better financially. In either case, job creation takes a big hit.

So Obama, if you must, tax the rich out of existence, but you won't reap the harvest you hoped for, and in fact the reverse will be true.

Are you going to let this happen? Call your congressmen and voice your objections.

Ed Ford
Milford

Searches unreasonable

We need to remember most ancestors came to America to be free, not safe. If they wanted safety, along with possible prosecution, they stayed in Europe or Asia. The voyage they took on ships in the 1500s-1800s was far from safe. They came for economic freedom and the adventure of striking it rich or failing trying.

It seem more and more laws are written or agencies created like the TSA in the name of safety that require us to give up our freedoms.

Life is not safe. One can get hit by a car just walking across the street. Yet when I fly these days, I am told to give up my First and Second Amendment rights. I am not suggesting I would ever say I have bomb on airplane. Yet we asked to basically be strip-searched and physically groped by the dreaded TSA, now molesting every 10th person in the name of passenger safety. Not even Europe, Israel or Japan does this to their passengers.

I once carried a pocket knife on planes and felt safer than I do now. If a terrorist did want to hijack a plane, I had my right to bear arms and defend myself and fellow passengers. Yet after the Patriot Act, among the most unconstitutional laws ever, I even have tools taken from me with no reimbursement. How would I ever use a step drill as a weapon? A Cross pen would make a more effective killing tool, yet I can still carry that. That is what happens when governments act as a nanny.

It is ludicrous to think we can ever make the world completely safe from terror or any other tragic event. You can't really live life unless you are willing to take risks and perhaps die. We all eventually die, and it is tragic that there were almost 3,000 deaths along with the 19 hijackers. But we must not lose perspective.

There just are not that many really bad people out there in the world, and 99 percent of us are not hijackers. Only 7.5 million out of 300 million, according to FBI statistics, are bad enough to be locked up in prison or jail or on parole. In 1980 to 2005 there have only been 318 total terrorist events, or one every 29 days. Murder is down 8 percent and crime overall down 5 percent in 2009 compared to 2008.

Travel is meant to be an adventure. Yet anymore I hate to fly, because the way the TSA acts as if everyone is a criminal without any cause or suspicion. They have also forced much business travel to drive much more because of the ridiculously early check-in.

We should ask our newly elected lawmakers to start differentiating between protecting our freedom and stop thinking we want safety. Just Remember Flight 93, and how the 40 passengers did stand up against the terrorist.

The likelihood of another aircraft bombing a building is virtually impossible since the military would know to scramble jets and shoot the plane down. So we should spend or invest money in better terrorist intelligence through the CIA and FBI and completely eliminate the TSA to help cut the federal deficit.

Doug Klingensmith
Milford

No funding for abortion bill

As a taxpayer, I am opposed to hundreds millions of my hard-earned tax dollars being used to fund abortion and abortion providers, such as Planned Parenthood, the largest provider in America.

That is why I am a part of the Susan B. Anthony List's Stop Abortion Funding campaign (www.stopabortionfunding.com) which is working to pass two pro-life bills that would end all federal funding of abortion.

The "No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act," a bipartisan bill sponsored by Reps. Chris Smith, R-New Jersey, and Dan Lipinski, D-Illinois, would create a government-wide statutory prohibition on abortion funding, including problematic provisions in the health care bill.

The "Title X Abortion Provider Prohibition Act" ensures that organizations, including Planned Parenthood, do not receive federal dollars under the Title X federal family planning assistance program. According to the Government Accountability Office, abortion providers have received over a billion dollars in the past seven years alone.

I signed a petition at www.StopAbortionFunding.com to let my representative in Congress know that I expect them to co-sponsor and vote for these two bills. I shouldn't have to be complicit in the destruction of innocent human life when I pay my taxes.

Alice Jo Rainville
Livonia

Global marketplace influences U.S. employment picture

When the disappointing employment numbers were announced last week, many people were probably thinking the stock market would tank. After all, the jobs situation is the linchpin to growing the U.S. economy. The general consensus was that the economy in November would have produced well over 100,000 new jobs. Unfortunately, that was not the case. Unemployment rose from 9.6 percent to 9.8 percent. So why didn't the stock market negatively react to the disappointing job numbers?



Money Matters
Rick Bloom

As I've always said about the market — good news is bad news, and bad news is good news. It is impossible to predict how certain events will affect the market. The market is always looking forward, while economic numbers are looking in reverse. That explains some of the differences. However, when it comes to jobs there is more to consider. In the past, U.S. companies depended upon the U.S. markets for the majority of revenue and profit. Think back 20-30 years, it was irrelevant what Ford and General Motors sold abroad. Today that is not the case. Companies like Ford and General Motors need, and depend upon, foreign markets.

Ford now has more employees abroad than in the U.S. and GM sells more cars outside the United States than it does inside this country. Bottom line is that for many companies listed on the stock exchange, their revenues and profits no longer solely depend upon just the U.S. markets. These companies are generating substantial revenues and profits from around the world. Therefore, companies can show a profit and make money even though the U.S. economy continues to move along at an anemic pace.

Americans sometimes forget that U.S. companies are competing and doing business in many foreign markets. Whether it is China, India or Eastern Europe, these economies are growing and are providing opportunities to many U.S.-based companies. It is because of what has been happening in these foreign markets that our companies are no longer solely dependent upon the U.S. economy. Is this good or bad, I don't know but it is the reality.

The recent unemployment numbers certainly were dismal and it doesn't appear they will significantly improve anytime soon. There are many reasons why unemployment remains high and why it will remain high into the future.

The first is technology. There has been an explosion in technology over the last 10 years and American companies are taking advantage of it. American businesses need fewer employees because of technology.

Another reason for the high unemployment rate is outsourcing. In the past, when we thought of outsourcing, we thought of factory jobs. However, that is no longer the case. Just about every type of job — including professional services — is being outsourced. The world is a much smaller place, and most corporations go across country borders like you and I go across city lines. Many U.S. corporations consider themselves multi-national and have no problem moving jobs around the world. This is a trend that will continue.

And finally, unemployment will remain high because of the atmosphere in Washington. Many businesses believe the current administration is anti-business and they are reluctant to increase payrolls in this uncertain environment.

Employers don't know the effect health care legislation will have or what additional tax burden they will encounter.

There is no doubt we've entered a new economic reality that will take some adjustment. It is important to remember that the stock market no longer solely reflects the U.S. economy. Therefore, it is possible that the U.S. economy will continue to struggle while the stock market continues to perform well.

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

Local auto dealers partner to feed the hungry

Chrysler Group LLC and the Metro Detroit Chrysler Jeep® Dodge, Ram Truck Superstores are teaming up with Forgotten Harvest and the Detroit Red Wings in an effort to fight hunger.

The "Fight Against Hunger" Sweepstakes runs through Monday, Dec. 13. During this period, Chrysler Group and the local dealers will donate \$10 to Forgotten Harvest for every test drive logged at a participating Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge and Ram Truck dealer. Funds raised will benefit Forgotten Harvest's mission to provide meals for hungry Metro Detroiters.

Local dealers include Southfield DCJ in Southfield, (248) 354-2950; Golling CJD Inc. in Bloomfield Hills, (248) 334-3600; Snethkamp CDJR in Redford, (313) 255-2700; Dick Scott CDJR in Plymouth,

(734) 451-2110; Crestwood DCJ in Garden City, (734) 421-5700; Suburban CJD in Novi, (248) 476-7900, and Shuman Motor Sales Inc. in Walled Lake, (248) 669-2010.

"The Chrysler Group and our Detroit Metro dealers are proud to partner with Forgotten Harvest and the Detroit Red Wings in the fight against hunger," said Greg Martin, Great Lakes Business Center. "We hope this campaign will inspire consumers to join us in our efforts to raise funds for Forgotten Harvest so they can continue to provide food to those in need."

The "Fight Against Hunger" Sweepstakes is open to Michigan residents who are at least 18 years old and have a valid driver's license at the time of entry. A drawing will be held on Dec. 15, with 10 winners each getting two

suite tickets to Joe Louis Arena to see the Red Wings take on the Dallas Stars on Dec. 19, as well as food and beverage during the game.

Forgotten Harvest was formed in 1990 to fight two problems: hunger and waste. Forgotten Harvest "rescued" 19.4 million pounds of food last year by collecting surplus prepared and perishable food from 455 sources, including grocery stores, fruit and vegetable markets, restaurants, caterers, dairies, farmers, wholesale food distributors and other Health Department-approved sources. This donated food, which would otherwise go to waste, is delivered free-of-charge to 158 emergency food providers in the Metro Detroit area.

Learn more about Forgotten Harvest and how to help drive hunger from the community at www.forgottenharvest.org.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

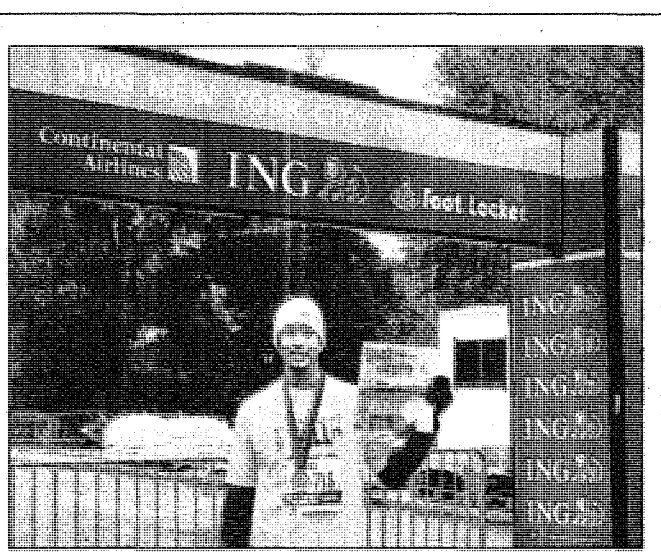
Listings for the Community Calendar can be submitted by e-mail at smason@hometownlife.com. They also can be mailed to Sue Mason at 615 W. Lafayette - Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226, or faxed to her attention at fax at (313) 223-3318. For more information, call (313) 222-6751.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Benefit Concert
Time/Date: 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 11
Location: Wayne Memorial High School, 3001 Fourth St., Wayne
Details: Life Pointe Church is presenting a Sounds of Life Benefit Concert featuring Bishop RJ Shackelford and HIS. The cost is a \$20 donation. Proceeds will benefit Life Pointe Church.
Contact: For information and tickets, call (734) 486-3210.

Christmas Tea
Time/Date: 11 a.m. Dec. 20
Location: Alexander Blue House at Greenmead on Newburgh north of Six Mile, Livonia
Details: Daughters of the American Revolution-Sarah Ann Cochrane Chapter will be holding a Christmas Tea. Bring one dozen of your favorite Christmas Cookies with several copies of the recipe to share. Also bring one of your treasured Christmas ornaments and be ready to tell what it means to you.
Contact: (248) 477-7375

Fish Dial-A-Ride
Details: Fish Dial-A-Ride of Western Wayne County is seeking volunteer drivers and phone messengers. Volunteer drivers, using their own vehicles, designate days, times, and areas they are willing to drive. Volunteer phone messengers arrange client rides with our volunteer drivers one day each week from the comfort of their home. Fish Dial-A-Ride of Western Wayne County is a not-for-profit community service that provides free door-to-door rides to non-emergency medical and other necessary appointments for senior and disabled residents of Garden City, Livonia, and Westland who are unable to drive and have no alter-



Wish You Were Here

Stephen Yu of Garden City brought a copy of the Garden City Observer to the finish line of the New York City Marathon. He ran and finished the New York City Marathon, while raising more than \$3,000 for Standing Tall. The charity is a unique organization that helps children with neurological motor impairment. Stephen Yu is a 2003 graduate of Garden City High School. He is currently attending Wayne State Medical School after graduating from University of Michigan-Dearborn. He would like to thank the Garden City Police Officers Association and the Garden City Firefighters and Garden City residents Sammy Morrison, Justin and Bev Siekierika, Roger and Sarah Yu and Tony Skolarus for their generous contribution. If you go on vacation, be sure to take a picture with your Observer and send it to Sue Mason by e-mail at smason@hometownlife.com or by mail to 615 W. Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226. Be sure to include your name and information about your photo.

native transportation.

Contact: For more information, call (888) 660-2007 and leave a message.

Earth Angels

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

Contact: www.earthangelsontour.org or by e-mail to eangel1986@comcast.net

Higher Rock Cafe

Time/date: 7:30 p.m. second and fourth Fridays of the month.
Location: Wayne-Westland Salvation Army, 2300 Venoy, south of Palmer, Westland.

Details: Doors open at 7:30 p.m. Live bands perform beginning at 8 p.m. Admission is free, however, a free will offering will be taken to support the bands.

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

EDUCATION

Willow Creek

Location: 36660 Cherry Hill in Westland
Details: Willow Creek Cooperative Preschool offers a Parent/Tot, Young 3's, 3-year and 4-year programs.

Contact: (734) 326-0078

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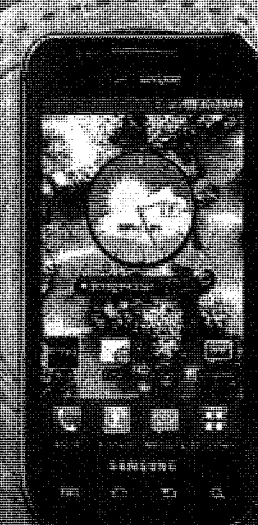
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LOCAL SINGER HAS HIGH HOPES FOR HOLIDAY RELEASE ENTERTAINMENT, B7



On the doorstep

Klemczak catalyst in U-M soccer's Final Four run

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

What appeared to be a watershed moment for the University of Michigan men's soccer team has now turned into the perfect storm.

On Oct. 19, the Wolverines were routed on the road by then No. 1-ranked Akron, 7-1.

Since then, Michigan has reeled off nine straight wins and has earned



Klemczak

a berth in the College Cup, the NCAA's Final Four, following a dramatic 3-2 double-overtime win Saturday at No. 3-ranked Maryland.

The Wolverines, now 17-4-2 overall, will play in the national semifinals against — you

guessed it — the Akron Zips (20-1-2), beginning at 8 p.m. Friday (PST) in Santa Barbara, Calif. The other semifinal pits top-ranked Louisville against No. 4 North Carolina.

"It was a feeling of excitement, the shock and awe of going to the first-ever Final Four," said Livonia Stevenson grad Brian Klemczak, a sophomore defender who has started all 24 games this season for the Wolverines. "It's something new and exciting, but it's not enough to get there. We have all the intention of winning."

Klemczak, who has three assists on the season, called the six-goal setback at Akron "a very humbling experience."

"We were exposed, we got beat bad and there was some anger," he said. "It showed our shortcomings and made us hungrier and more determined. We put a positive spin

on it. We realized our faults. We weren't good enough and we practiced and prepared that much harder."

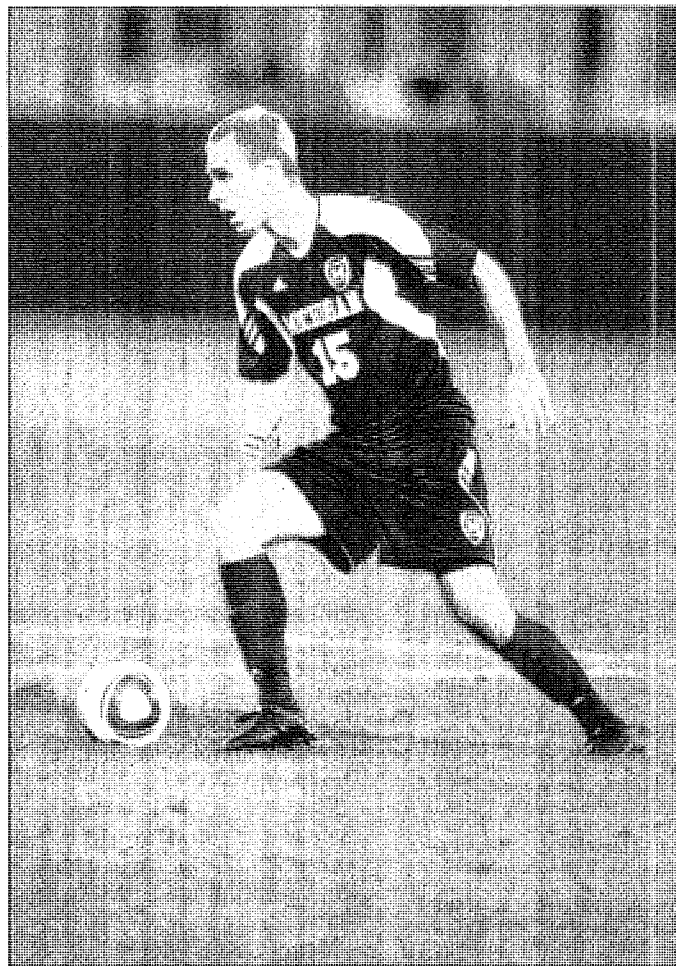
How did No. 19 Michigan get to this point?

The Wolverines captured their first-ever Big Ten Tournament championship Nov. 14 with a convincing 4-0 win over host Penn State.

On Nov. 21, Michigan took care of business at home with a 2-1 overtime win over Central Florida in the opening round of the NAAs. And Nov. 21, U-M upset No. 7 South Carolina on the road, 3-1.

Klemczak, who played in 15 games as a freshman while starting 10, has been instrumental in the Wolverines' success this season after changing roles from central midfielder to central back.

Please see **KLEMCZAK, B3**



U-M ATHLETIC MEDIA RELATIONS | PHOTO

Livonia Stevenson High grad Brian Klemczak, a sophomore defender, has been instrumental in U-M's surprising run to the NCAA Final Four.

SIDELINES

Altman All-America

Madonna University junior Karie Altman was named honorable mention on the 2010 Tachikara-NAIA Volleyball All-America Team.

The Taylor native, who was named to the ESPN Academic All-America Team last week, became the 45th MU volleyball student-athlete to earn the All-America honors.

An All-Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference first-team and Academic All-WHAC selection, the 6-foot middle hitter from Allen Park St. Frances Cabrini led the WHAC with 488 kills this season while ranking second in the league with a .360 attack percentage.

Lady Ocelots fall

Host Kalamazoo Valley Community College used a 17-9 second-half run Saturday to upend the No. 12-ranked Schoolcraft College women's basketball team, 71-66, in the championship game of the Gillette Classic.

The loss drops Schoolcraft to 8-3 overall, while Kalamazoo Valley improves to 4-3.

Kendall Dow and Taylor Reed each scored 14 points for the victorious Cougars.

Shanequa Braggs and Kimberly Bee each tallied 14 points for the Ocelots, who shot only 36.2 percent from the floor, including 3-of-15 from 3-point range.

Bee grabbed a game-high 13 rebounds, while Braggs added 12.

Shawnicka Thomas contributed 13 points.

Schoolcraft was 13-of-22 from the foul line, while Kalamazoo Valley hit 20-of-33.

MU men edged

The third-ranked Cornerstone University men's basketball team sank five free throws down the stretch Saturday to escape with a 64-61 Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference victory over visiting Madonna University.

The Golden Eagles (9-1, 2-0) led by as many as 10 points in the second half before Bryant Slaughter (Westland) tied the game for the eighth time at 57-57 with less than two minutes remaining.

Justin Yoder's layup with 50 seconds left gave Cornerstone the lead for keeps, 59-57.

Caleb Simons and Ronald Bates scored 14 and 11, respectively, for Cornerstone.

Freshman guard Bobby Naubert (Livonia Stevenson) finished with 14 points and four assists as the Crusaders fell to 1-9 and 0-2.

Josh Gay and Slaughter chipped in with 12 and 10 points, respectively.

Cornerstone was 28-of-37 from the foul line, while MU was 14-of-20.

Blazer skaters roll

Eight different players scored Saturday as host Livonia Ladywood earned its first win in the Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League with an 8-0 triumph over Bloomfield Hills at Plymouth's Arctic Pond. Lane Kolpacke had one goal and four assists, while Erin Doyle contributed a goal and two assists.

Other goal scorers for the Blazers, who led 5-0 after one period, included Virginia Matherly, Julia Fradette, Rachel Fradette, Rachel Nowaske, Abby Pelon and Jenny Rohn.

Also earning assists were Doyle, Hannah Periera, Julia Fradette and Brittany Galvin for the Blazers, who improved to 1-4 overall and 1-4 in the league.

Ladywood goalie Sarah Koch, in only her second career start, had to make just five saves to post her first shutout.

Bloomfield Hills, outshot 26-5, slipped to 0-4 overall and 0-4 in the league.

Plymouth's hot goalie stops Pats

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

When Plymouth senior forward Chase Zebari got a taste of finally scoring a varsity goal, he couldn't get enough.

In fact, Zebari scored a hat-trick Saturday afternoon to pace the host Wildcats to a 6-1 victory over Livonia Franklin in a KLA South boys hockey matchup at Computware Arena.

Other standouts for Plymouth (1-0-2, 1-0-1) included sophomore forward Nick Schultz (three assists) and senior goalie Mike Justus, who stopped the first 26 shots he saw and lost his shutout with just one-tenth of a second to go.

Franklin's Tyler Satkowiak threw a seemingly harmless shot from the right boards of Computware's Olympic ice sheet that deflected over Justus' shoulder.

"I feel bad for Mike (Justus). He had a great game," Plymouth coach Paul Fassbender said.

But Zebari was all smiles outside the Wildcats' locker room, talking about his scoring splurge. It started at the six-minute mark of the second period, when a wrist shot from the right of the Pats' cage found the twine to give Plymouth a 2-0 lead.

"Yeah, that was my first-ever high school goal and then I got three goals in that game," Zebari said. "That last goal was a perfect pass from (junior for-

Please see **HOCKEY, B3**



LOU MACERATINI | PHOTO

Grand Valley State cross country runners Kylan Cieslak (left) and Megan Maceratini, both Livonia Churchill grads, proudly display their NCAA Division II first-place trophy, All-America medals and banner after the Lakers repeated as national champions last weekend in Louisville, Ky.

Reunion yields Grand Valley NCAA title

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Megan Maceratini was glad her former Livonia Churchill High teammate Kylan Cieslak was back on her side.

The two staged quite a reunion for their senior cross country season at Grand Valley State as the Lakers garnered their first-ever NCAA Division II national championship last Saturday in Louisville, Ky.

Grand Valley scored 66 points to beat out Western (Colo.) State by 29 points for the team title.

Maceratini, who finished ninth in the

6-kilometer race, posted a time of 21 minutes, 34.3 seconds and was Grand Valley's second runner.

Cieslak, a transfer from Northwood University, was the Lakers' fifth runner and placed 26th overall in 21:56.9.

And by placing in the top 30, both earned All-America honors.

Maceratini, however, had to be convinced afterward that the team title had indeed been captured.

"We were second the past two years in row," she said. "I asked my coach three times in a row. I said, 'Are you sure?' It was still hard to believe we actually won. It's awesome, we finally did it."

In 2006, Maceratini and Cieslak helped Churchill to a runner-up finish in the MHSAA Division 1 state finals. The Chargers tied Rochester Adams for the team title in points, but lost on the sixth-runner tiebreaker.

Both went their separate ways, choosing different GLIAC programs.

Cieslak became the most accomplished women's distance runner in Northwood history, but yearned for more after obtaining her undergraduate degree in just three years.

Considering a couple of different

Please see **RUNNERS, B3**

Livonia connection kickstarts Laker soccer conquest

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

With a nickname like the Lakers, how can you lose?

Step aside Tinsel Town, because the Grand Valley State University women's soccer team did again Saturday in Louisville, Ky.

The Lakers claimed their second straight NCAA Division II national championship with a dominating 4-0 win over UC-San Diego.

Featuring three Livonia natives, the Lakers are once again the toast of Allendale.

Sophomore midfielder Alyssa Mira of Livonia Churchill played 59 minutes in the final to earn her second straight championship ring.

Mira is joined by freshman mid-

fielder Kayla Kimble (Livonia Stevenson), who played 14 minutes in the final.

Following the championship match, Kimble underwent surgery Monday for compartment syndrome, a tissue condition which affects the calf muscles.

Junior forward Lindsey Marlow (Churchill), meanwhile, lent support from the bench after being sidelined all season with a knee injury.

"It was good," said Mira, a biomedical science major who started 20 of 25 games this season. "Being it was my second championship final, I went into the game saying to myself, I can't



Mira



Kimble



Marlow

imagine us losing," after getting this far.

"The first goal we scored was exciting. We were up 2-0 at halftime and once we got that third goal at the

beginning of the second half, we just knew."

After playing in 26 games with nine starts as a freshman, Mira has found her niche as both a forward and midfielder under Grand Valley State coach Dave Dilanni.

"Alyssa's been unbelievable," said Dilanni, who guided the Lakers to a 22-1-2 overall record. "She's very versatile. She spent half the season at forward

and at the back end of the season in the midfield.

"We've moved her back and forth. She's very good technically with speed. She's crafty, she's competitive and just loves to play the game."

This season, Mira finished with four goals and six assists after scoring five goals and adding two assists in her first year as a Laker.

"My role has changed," Mira said. "I really had to step up and improve my game as a whole."

Kimble, suffering from calf issues, still appeared in 21 games this season with one start while logging 454 minutes. She had one goal and one assist.

"My practice time and minutes had to be modified," Kimble said. "It (the

Please see **SOCCER, B3**

PREP BOWLING CAPSULE OUTLOOK

BOYS PREVIEWS
LIVONIA CLARENCEVILLE
 Head coach: Jason DeBandi, first year.
 League affiliation: Independent.
 Last year's dual match record: 5-5 (vs. KLAAs).

Notable losses to graduation: Cody Kissandi (third-team All-Area); Chris Diaz, Jason Bertera.
Leading returnees: Sean Diaz, Sr.; Tyler Fox, Soph.; Corey Coughlin, Jr.
Promising newcomers: Kyle Kissandi, Soph.; Chase Chappell, Soph.; Mike Uren, Jr.
DeBandi's 2010-11 outlook: "We have a few guys with a couple of years' experience. We should be pretty stable. If hit pocket and pick up spares it should be a good year. Sean (Diaz) bowled a 290 (game) and Kyle (Kissandi) had a 280 (game) in practice. When they're on, they can do it for sure."

WESTLAND JOHN GLENN
 Head coach: Ron Brusseau, fifth year.
 League affiliation: KLAAs (Central Division).
 Last year's dual match record: 13-2.
 Titles won last year: KLAAs and Division I regional, Wayne County and Ladywood champions; Central Division co-champion.
Notable losses to graduation: Kyle Hamlin (first-team All-Area); Chris Harper (second-team All-Area); Derrick Ammons.
Leading returnees: Jordan Hornes, Soph. (first-team All-Area); regional singles champion; Thomas Brusseau, Jr. (second-team All-Area); Brian Monty, Sr. (captain); John Cleavenger, Sr. (co-captain); Josh Duprie, Sr.; Phil Peters, Sr.; Deandre Plear, Sr.; Tommy Ruark, Jr.; Daniel Ammons, Soph.; Steven White, Soph.

Promising newcomers: Steven Brusseau, Fr.; Cody Wojewski, Fr.
Brusseau's 2010-11 outlook: "As successful as we were last year, we are even stronger this year. We have the luxury of a deep team once again. Losing in the (Division I team) state quarterfinals last year left a bad taste in the returning players' mouths. They want to build on that experience. Captain Brian Monty and co-captain John Cleavenger are determined to lead this team to exceed last year's performance. They want a state championship for John Glenn High School."

WAYNE MEMORIAL
 Head coach: Bob Jawor, fifth year.
 League affiliation: KLAAs (Central Division).
 Last year's dual match record: 7-7-2.
Notable losses to graduation: Kellen Collison, Mike Grandowicz, Mike Gabriel.
Leading returnees: Elliot Arnold, Jr. (first-team All-Area; two-time state singles qualifier); led KLAAs in average; Jeremy Brown, Sr. (third-team All-Area); Tony Lave, Sr.; Zack Huffman, Jr.; Scott Franklin, Sr.

Promising newcomers: Barry Banks, Sr.; Kody Kubrak, Soph.
Jawor's 2010-11 outlook: "I thought our team underachieved last season, not having the type of year I thought we would. With another year of experience for a couple of the younger kids, along with the returning of Elliot (Arnold) and Jeremy (Brown), I think the team is ready to make a run at it this year. Tony (Lave) has worked hard to get his game in shape after an off year, and the new guys Barry (Banks) and Kody (Kubrak) bring lots of enthusiasm. Zack (Huffman) was our most improved player last season and Scott (Franklin) bowled a 300 game earlier this season in the WWYTC."

GIRLS PREVIEWS
LIVONIA CLARENCEVILLE
 Head coach: Jason DeBandi, first year.
 League affiliation: Independent.
 Last year's dual match record: 1-6 (vs. KLAAs).
Notable losses to graduation: Amber Cummins (second-team All-Area).
Leading returnees: Bridget Moricz,



Bridget Moricz
Clarenceville

the program. We got a lot of green, but it works to their advantage. They're really open to coaching and learning it right the first time. I'm looking for their scores to improve steadily over the year."
LIVONIA LADYWOOD
 Head coach: Judy Jaeger, seventh year.
 League affiliation: Catholic League (East Division).
 Last year's finish: Division 2 regional runner-up.
Notable losses to graduation: Jessica Stamper (third-team All-Area); Katherine Bedenis, Marissa Ley.
Leading returnees: Kerry LaValley, Sr. (third-team All-Area); Brigitte Hutter, Sr.
Promising newcomers: Taylor Buckley, Sr.; Courtney Delonis, Sr.; Emma McClory, Sr.; Sabine Hutter, Fr.

Jaeger's 2010-11 outlook: "It looks pretty good. We don't have a star, but all the girls can carry and it will be a team effort. We lost three seniors that I had for a long time. Stamper is bowling for Adrian College. We had a lot of strength in her and the other two as well. Our strength is across the board, not necessarily in one individual. Last year we were a Division 2 state qualifier after finishing second in the regional. Regina is the defending Catholic League champ and we were only team to beat them."

WESTLAND JOHN GLENN
 Head coach: Jim Bowles, second year.
 League affiliation: KLAAs (Central Division).
 Last year's dual match record: 11-4.
Notable losses to graduation: Alyson Kassab (first-team All-Area); Natalie Brown (first-team All-Area).
Leading returnees: Khiry Sparks, Sr.; Julianne Ayers, Sr.; Megan Redmond, Sr.; Karlyon Rhynes, Jr.
Promising newcomers: Rachel Miller, Sr.
Bowles' 2010-11 outlook: "All of our girls are looking forward to building on last year's success. Last year we finished third in the regional and were 12th at the state finals, and had two girls make the state finals for singles. Our three returning senior starters - Sparks, Ayers and Redmond - are focused this year on winning the division and getting back to the state finals. While Alyson Kassab and Natalie Brown graduated, I believe that this may be the most balanced team we have had. We have quite a few experienced and talented bowlers on the team in addition to returning JV players all competing for spots in the varsity lineup. I have a very positive outlook for this season. I believe that with our experience, senior leadership, and talent, we will work our way back to the state finals."

WAYNE MEMORIAL
 Head coach: Dianne St. Louis, first year.
 League affiliation: KLAAs (Central Division).
 Last year's dual match record: 8-7.
Notable losses to graduation: Chelsea Preiss (second-team All-Area); Shannon Parker, Deanna Boston.
Leading returnees: Stephani O'Harris, Sr. (first-team All-Area; state singles qualifier); Tiffany Markham, Soph.; Brianna Everett, Sr.; Chelsea Morneau, Sr.
Promising newcomers: Brianna Winn, Sr.; Emily Everett, Jr.

Zebras' 2010-11 outlook: St. Louis, formerly the Wayne varsity coach (2008-09), returns to take over for Traci Skye. O'Harris finished fourth in the regional and 41st overall in the state singles qualifying block. She averaged 170.43 and was third individually in match points in the KLAAs Central.

Stephani O'Harris
Wayne



Stephani O'Harris
Wayne

C'ville roars by Warriors, 70-49

Livonia Clarenceville turned on the afterburners during the fourth quarter Tuesday to post a convincing 70-49 boys basketball victory over host Lutheran High Westland.

The Trojans led 43-36 after three quarters before putting it away with a 27-13 run during the final eight minutes in the season opener for both teams. "We were able to get into the passing lanes got five or six steals and finished it after a rough third quarter," Clarenceville second-year coach Justin Johnson said. Junior point guard Sam

BOYS HOOPS

Brown and junior forward Kassius Kelly tallied 18 and 16 points, respectively, for the victorious Trojans. Junior guard Damien Quarles added 12.

Kent Krzyske and Marc Rosin tallied 12 and 11 points, respectively, for the Warriors. "Clarenceville did a nice job of pressuring the ball in the half court," Lutheran Westland coach Doug Haller said. "Offensive rebounds hurt us as well."

Clarenceville was 10-of-13

from the free throw line, while Lutheran Westland was 9-of-16.

DEARBORN 58, CHURCHILL 40: A dismal shooting night led to Livonia Churchill's undoing in a season-opening loss Tuesday at Dearborn High.

The Chargers were only 18-of-62 from the field (29 percent), including 4-of-16 from three-point range. They were even more atrocious from the foul line (3-of-16).

Senior forward Khalil Beidoun and sophomore guard Ali Farhat paced the Pioneers with 20 and 16 points, respectively.

Senior guard Matt Windle tallied 15 for the Chargers, including four 3-pointers.

Churchill was also outrebounded 35-23.

"They (Dearborn) finished and we gave up easy shots in their transition offense," Churchill coach Jim Solak said.

MILFORD 30, FRANKLIN 23: Frigid was the only way to describe this one Tuesday as the Mavericks took a season-opening triumph over host Livonia Franklin in a low-scoring affair.

Parker Millington led Milford with a game-high 17 points, including four 3-pointers.

Franklin, which went scoreless in the opening quarter, got nine points from senior Blake Lukas.

The Patriots were 9-of-16 from the foul stripe, while Milford hit 4-of-9.

Chargers' Menard nets 27 in win vs. Dearborn

Erin Menard became the center of attention Tuesday night, scoring 15 of her career-high 27 points in the final quarter as host Livonia Churchill rallied for a 39-34 triumph over visiting Dearborn.

The Chargers, who evened their season record at 1-1, trailed 23-21 after three quarters after leading 14-10 at half-time.

Menard, a 6-foot-1 junior post player, then took charge as she connected on 9-of-12 free throws to go along with three field goals during the decisive fourth period as Churchill

GIRLS HOOPS

fought back from a three-point deficit with two minutes to go. Dana Kolis led the Pioneers (2-1) with 10 points.

GARDEN CITY 44, WAYNE 35: On Tuesday, Justice Dean tallied 12 points and Sam Fischer added 10 as the Cougars (2-0) turned back host Wayne Memorial (1-1).

Dean also grabbed a game-high 14 rebounds. Freshman Ashley Bland scored all 15 of her game-high 15 points - hitting five 3-pointers - to stake the Zebras to an 18-13 first-quarter advantage.

Sierra Smith added seven points for Wayne, which made only 7-of-16

free throws. Garden City was 3-of-12 from the foul stripe.

LUTH. WESTLAND 34, CLARENCEVILLE 25: Amanda Terranella and Aldreana Fikes scored 11 and 10 points, respectively, leading Lutheran High Westland (1-1) to a non-conference win Tuesday at home over Livonia Clarenceville (1-2).

The Warriors led 17-14 at halftime and 20-18 after three quarters before going on a 13-8 fourth-quarter run. Hannah Conley added seven points and six rebounds for Lutheran Westland. Terranella also grabbed six boards.

"Free throws won the game for us tonight," said Lutheran Westland coach Sandi Wade, whose team made 10-of-16, including five during the final two minutes. "It was a well

fought game by both teams. We're happy with the win and look forward to our next game."

Brittany Tallman paced the Trojans with 10 points.

PARKWAY 54, HURON VALLEY 23: Hannah Durham nailed three triples en route to a game-high 15 points to lead Sterling Heights Parkway Christian (1-0, 1-0) to a Michigan Independent Athletic Conference Red Division triumph Tuesday at Westland Huron Valley Lutheran (0-2, 0-1).

Karla Merling contributed 10 points for the Eagles, who jumped out to a 19-2 first quarter advantage.

Jade Sills also grabbed a game-high 11 rebounds.

Huron Valley's Katie Nell hit 7-of-11 foul shots to score a team-high 11 points.

Second-half collapse dooms Madonna

No. 5-ranked Cornerstone clips Crusaders, 63-46

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

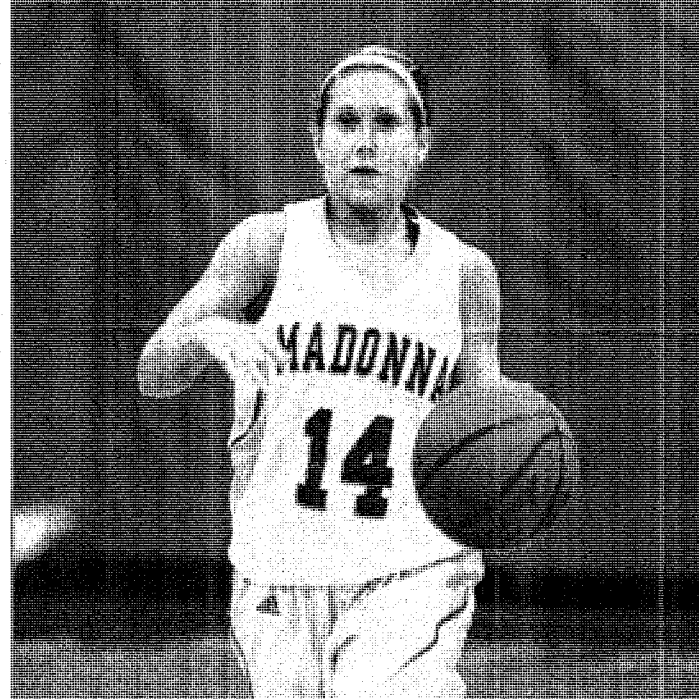
For almost 20 minutes Saturday afternoon, Madonna University hung with No. 5-ranked women's basketball team in NAIA Division II.

But a slight meltdown near the end of the first half carried over for almost seven minutes in second half as Cornerstone University walked out of the Activities Center with a 63-46 triumph.

After leading by just three at halftime, 31-28, Cornerstone went on a 15-0 run to improve to 10-1 overall and 1-1 in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference.

During that ill-fated second-half stretch, the Crusaders committed eight turnovers and missed seven straight shots, much to the chagrin of MU coach Carl Graves.

"That scoring drought, I think, went on forever," said Graves, whose team slipped to 2-4 overall and 0-2 in the WHAC. "A lot of that can be talked up to inexperience and confidence. The disappointing



PATRICK MOORE | MU SPORTS INFORMATION PHOTO

Madonna University guard Katie Martin brings the ball up in the floor during Saturday's Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference battle with No. 5-ranked Cornerstone.

part is that Cornerstone out-worked us. They're a good team and obviously they're the number five team in the country, but we're a pretty good basketball team, too."

Robyn Veltkamp led the Golden Eagles with 18 points and eight rebounds. Samantha Fliestra and Brooke Carter added 13 points apiece. MU, meanwhile, shot only

25.9 percent from the floor (14-of-54), including just 4-of-25 from three-point range.

"Our (three-point) percentage is very high in practice," Graves said, "but when we get in games and see defense that's a little bit different than what we're used to... so we've got to get better on the practice squad of making sure we're pressuring players.

"But really, that's not the most alarming thing to me. That's a big part of our offense. Sometimes the shots will go in and sometimes they won't."

Sophomore guard Shantelle Herring scored a team-high 12 points to lead MU. Senior forward Tabatha Wydryck added 10 points and nine rebounds.

The Crusaders not only shot poorly, but were outrebounded 51-38.

"The 51 (Cornerstone) rebounds is what bothers me and 18 of those were offensive boards," Graves said. "Along with that we missed a lot of easy baskets. The offense was working. We were getting the shots that we wanted, but we couldn't convert. Part of that is having a freshman and three sophomores that play heavy minutes with only one senior. But I hope we'll grow out of it. It's kind of been our mark that Madonna starts out slowly, but by the time we get to playoffs we're rolling pretty well. We've got to do some improvement in practice and in games."

It was only the second game of the season for MU.

"Our schedule hasn't been friendly to us to this point," Graves said. "We have a couple of league games we should be competitive in. We're really going to work hard to correct the issues that are wrong here."

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PREP BOWLING RESULTS

BOYS BOWLING RESULTS
WESTLAND JOHN GLENN 18
GRAND BLANC 12
 Dec. 6 at Town 'N Country Lanes
 John Glenn scorers: John Cleavenger, 235-190-425; Jordan Hornes, 194-184-378; Brian Monty, 218-154-372; Daniel Ammons, 216; Tommy Ruark, 200; Deandre Plear-Phil Peters, 173-182-355. Team totals: 1,063-883-1,946 (7 points); Baker games: 193-248-441 (10 points).
Grand Blanc scorers: John Belange, 236-203-439; Travis Sutherland, 243-192-435; Tyler McDougall, 193-183-376; Ben Savoie, 214; Ryan Witucki, 192; Nick Ross, 155. Team totals: 987-984-1,971 (12 points); Baker games: 190-211-401 (0 points).
 Dual match records: John Glenn, 1-0 overall; Grand Blanc, 0-1 overall.

GIRLS BOWLING RESULTS
GRAND BLANC 24
WESTLAND JOHN GLENN 6
 Dec. 6 at Town 'N Country Lanes
 Grand Blanc scorers: Marisa DiPonio, 218-220-438; Kelsey Maxwell, 166-233-399; Morgan Carey, 191-141-332; Chelsea Cardinal, 160; Samantha Handa, 157; Abby Manning, 152; Bailey Whitmore, 119. Team totals: 892-865-1,757 (18 points); Baker games: 142-187-329 (6 points).
John Glenn scorers: Khiry Sparks, 160-158-318; Sara Aulidge, 141-145-286; Julian Ayers, 166-117-282; Yvette Ayers, 144-128-271; Rachel Miller, 117. Team totals: 728-687-1,415 (2 points); Baker games: 144-98-242 (4 points).
 Dual match records: Grand Blanc, 1-0 overall; John Glenn, 0-1 overall.

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THE WEEK AHEAD

- BOYS BASKETBALL**
 Friday, Dec. 10
 Churchill at Stevenson, 7 p.m.
 Franklin at Pinckney, 7 p.m.
 Belleville at Wayne, 7 p.m.
 H.F. Academy at Luth. Westland, 7 p.m.
 Summit at Clarenceville, 7 p.m.
 (St. Joseph Mich. Lutheran Tourney)
 Flint Int. Academy vs. Howardsville, 6 p.m.
 Huron Valley vs. Mich. Lutheran, 8 p.m.
 Saturday, Dec. 11
 Mich. Lutheran Tourney, 4 & 6:30 p.m.
GIRLS BASKETBALL
 Thursday, Dec. 9
 Luth. N'west at Clarenceville, 7 p.m.
- John Glenn at Harrison, 7 p.m.
 Friday, Dec. 10
 Stevenson at Churchill, 7 p.m.
 Franklin at Waterford Kettering, 7 p.m.
 Univ. Prep at Ladywood, 7 p.m.
 Luth. Westland at Univ.-Liggett, 8:30 p.m.
PREP HOCKEY
 Friday, Dec. 10
 Stevenson vs. Salem at Edgar Arena, 6 p.m.
 Franklin vs. W.L. Western at Kensington Valley Ice House, 7 p.m.
 Saturday, Dec. 11
 Ladywood vs. Mercy at Arctic Pond, 7:30 p.m.
- PREP WRESTLING**
 Thursday, Dec. 9
 Luth. N'west at Luth. Westland, 5:30 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 11
 Harrison Hawk Invitational, 9 a.m.
 Salem Varsity Tournament, 9 a.m.
 Avondale Team Invitational, 9 a.m.
 Rochester Tournament, 9 a.m.
 Garden City Invitational, 9:30 a.m.
BOYS SWIMMING & DIVING
 Thursday, Dec. 9
 John Glenn at Lincoln Park, 7 p.m.
PREP BOWLING
 Thursday, Dec. 9
 John Glenn vs. Howell,
 Wayne vs. Milford at Striking Bowl, 3:30 p.m.
MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
 Friday, Dec. 10
 (Kalamazoo Valley CC Tournament)
 Henry Ford vs. Grand Rapids, 5:30 p.m.
 Schoolcraft vs. Kalamazoo Valley, 7:30 p.m.
 Saturday, Dec. 11
 Siena Heights at Madonna, 3 p.m.
 (Kalamazoo Valley CC Tournament)
 Schoolcraft vs. Grand Rapids, 1 p.m.
 Henry Ford vs. Kalamazoo Valley, 3 p.m.
WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
 Saturday, Dec. 11
 Madonna at Siena Heights, 1 p.m.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

MU/Total Baseball camp
 The Madonna University baseball program will stage a holiday baseball camp (session II) from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday through Wednesday, at Total Sports in Wixom.
 The camp features instruction by the MU baseball coaching staff and players.
 For more information, call (248) 668-0166; or visit TotalSportsComplex.com.

MU softball camps
 Madonna University women's softball coach Al White and his staff will hold two sessions of winter camps, specializing in individual instruction, including:
 Fundamental Camp No. 1 - 9 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Saturdays, Jan. 8, 15, 22 and 29, at the MU Activities Center, 36600 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia;
 Fundamental Camp No. 2 - noon-2:30 p.m. Sundays, Feb. 6, 13, 22 and 27, at the MU Activities Center.
 The cost is \$150 for each camp.
 For more information, call White at (734) 432-5783; or assistant coach Steve Gentilia at (734) 776-1716. You can also e-mail awhite@madonna.edu.

Learn to Skate III
 The City of Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation will be offering its seven-week Learn to Skate Winter Session II classes beginning Jan. 10 through the week of Feb. 25 at Eddie Edgar Arena, 33841 Lyndon, Livonia.
 Walk-in registration will be from 6:30-8 p.m. (residents) and 7-8 p.m. (non-residents) at the Livonia Community Recreation Center, 15100 Hubbard (at Five Mile).
 The fee is \$55 for residents and \$67 for non-residents.
 Each class is 25 minutes including:
 Ages 4-and-up - 5 p.m., 5:25 p.m., 6 p.m. or 6:25 p.m. Mondays; hockey skills - 6:25 p.m. Mondays; and 3-year-olds only - 5 p.m. Mondays.
 No equipment is needed for boys hockey skills. No sticks or pucks used. There is a limited/skate rental available at no charge.
 For more information, call (734) 466-2412.

Take a peaceful, prayerful break from holiday shopping



The Parish Choir and other musical groups will sing at the Service of Lesson and Carols Sunday at St. John's Episcopal Church, in Plymouth.

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

You won't hear any popular Christmas carols Sunday, Dec. 12 at St. John's Episcopal Church in Plymouth.

But you will find a peaceful atmosphere, along with the sound of bells, beautiful music, uplifting voices and prophetic scripture readings.

"We're trying to remember it's not just about Christmas trees and Santa Claus," said Julie Ford, music minister. "It's easy to get caught up in that. How do we find a balance and remember Jesus is the point of this, and not get caught up in hectic gift-giving?"

"If someone does come to our service we hope they'll think of it as a chance to be quiet and pray and think about God. We want to provide an opportunity for people to reflect on their spiritual life and I think music is a great way to do that."

St. John's Children's and Youth Choirs, Handbell Choir, Parish Choir and SonShine contemporary music choir will perform at 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 12, at the annual Service of Lessons and Carols. Admission is free, although donations will be accepted for Gleaners Community Food Bank of Southeastern Michigan.

The service, which follows a format popularized by King's

College of the University of Cambridge, England, alternates readings from scripture with Advent songs.

"It's a very popular tradition in the Episcopal Church," Ford noted.

She said many churches schedule an Advent Lessons and Carols service the Sunday before Christmas. Some offer a Christmas Service of Lessons and Carols instead of the Advent service. St. John's does both, in addition to offering a Blue Christmas service at 4:30 p.m. Dec. 19.

Ford said the Blue service is designed as an alternative "for those who aren't up for a big celebration."

"Maybe they have sorrow in their life or they can't deal with the crowd. It's a small group and it incorporates a lot of readings and prayer. It's very peaceful and we keep it low key."

SINGING CAROLS

The church holds its Christmas Lessons and Carols service the Sunday after Christmas. This year it's at 10 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 26.

"We found it's great to do the Sunday after Christmas when everyone is a little low on energy and everyone has had the great high of Christmas Eve. And it gives us an opportunity to sing Christmas carols."

Ford saves Christmas carols for Christmas Eve and then

tries to "fit in as many" as she can during the 4 p.m. family service and 11 p.m. traditional service. The family service includes a pageant with carols throughout. It will include a guitar ensemble and some contemporary music, including a piece by Christian pop artist Michael W. Smith.

ORIGINAL MUSIC

The more traditional late service starts with carolling at 10:30 p.m., followed by worship. Ford plans to feature an original piece by a group of church musicians who recently moved from Minnesota to the Detroit area.

"They were at a Catholic Cathedral in Minneapolis. It's original music, a fabulous marriage of poetry and music," Ford said. "I try to include what is familiar and what's off the beaten path."

The Christmas Lessons and Carols service includes lots of familiar carols sung by both the choirs and the congregation. Scripture readings focus on the birth of Jesus. The Advent service will include readings from Isaiah and Luke.

"I think people appreciate the two services for different reasons. I think they appreciate the Advent one as an opportunity to pray," she said. "I hope people will come out for prayer and reflection and to benefit Gleaners."

RELIGION CALENDAR

Send calendar items to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com. Feel free to include relevant photos as attached jpgs. Or mail items to Sharon Dargay, The Observer, 615 Lafayette, level 2, Detroit, MI 48226. Submit items at least a week before expected publication date. Be sure to include a contact telephone number for readers, as well as any ticket prices for an event.

DEC. 9-15

Blue Christmas service

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 15

Location: St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, located on Five Mile, one block west of Inkster Road, in Livonia

Details: This service is designed for people who struggle with the holidays, including those who may be grieving, dealing with the loss of a

loved one, loss of a job or struggle with the holidays in general. A coffee reception with care ministers will follow the service.

Contact: (734) 422-1470

Concert

Time/Date: 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 12

Location: Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Road, north of I-96, in Livonia

Details: The annual Christmas concert will feature the Festival Choir, Jubellation Handbell Choir,

children's choir, the Cantate Choir, the Brass Ensemble and solo and ensemble groups. The concert is free, but a free-will offering will be taken

Contact: (734) 522-6830

Concert

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 11

Location: St. Hugo of the Hills, 2215 Opydyke, Bloomfield Hills

Details: The Detroit Concert Choir presents "Sing We Now of Christmas" concert. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$18 for seniors and \$10 for young adults. The choir also will sing at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 12 at Old St. Mary's Church in Greektown, 646 Monroe, Detroit.

Contact: (313) 882-0118

Concert

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 11

Location: Garden City Presbyterian Church, located on Middlebelt, one block south of Ford Road, in Garden City

Details: "Men of Grace" from the Grace Center in Pontiac will perform Christmas favorites, gospel and other inspirational songs. Refreshments in the fellowship hall follow the free concert

Contact: (734) 421-7620

Concert

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Dec. 11

Location: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 7575 N. Hix, between Warren Road and Joy, in Westland

Details: The Michigan Concert Choir performs its annual Christmas concert; free

Contact: (734) 266-0533

Concert

Time/Date: 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 12

Location: Trinity Church, 34500 Six Mile, Livonia

Details: "A Christmas Tapestry" concert will feature an eclectic blend of musicians and vocalists from the church with a variety of Christmas favorites, from standards to modern pieces. Tickets are a suggested \$10 at the door

Contact: (734) 425-2800

Concert

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Dec. 11

Location: Ward Presbyterian Evangelical Church, 40000 Six

Mile, Northville

Details: The Detroit Handbell Ensemble, along with area handbell choirs, will perform music of the Christmas season in this free concert

Contact: (248) 374-5969

Concert

Time/Date: 6 p.m. Dec. 11

Location: Cherry Hill Seventh-day Adventist Church, 33144 Cherry Hill, Garden City

Details: Free concert by Robert Gary

Contact: (734) 524-0880

Concert

Time/Date: 7 p.m., Dec. 11

Location: Wayne Memorial High School, 3001 Fourth Street, Wayne

Details: Sounds of Life Benefit Concert, featuring Bishop RJ Shackleford; \$20 donation with proceeds benefitting Life Pointe Church

Contact: (734) 486-3210

Concert

Time/Date: 4 p.m. Dec. 12

Location: 17500 Farmington Road, north of Six Mile, Livonia

Details: The St. Aidan Adult Choir, along with the St. Aidan Children's Choir, and St. Aidan Contemporary Ensemble, directed by Ray Schmidt, will present its 29th annual Christmas concert.

Admission is \$5 and two non-perishable food items.

Contact: (734) 425-5950

Cookie walk

Time/Date: 10 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Dec. 11

Location: First United Methodist Church, 6443 Merriman, Garden City

Details: Christmas cookies and crafts will be sold

Contact: (734) 421-8628

Cookie walk and bake

Time/Date: 10 a.m. until sold out, Saturday, Dec. 11

Location: St. Timothy Lutheran Church, 8820 Wayne Road, south of Ann Arbor Trail in Livonia

Details: Christmas cookies of all varieties will be sold by the pound along with bake sale items

Contact: (734) 422-2290

DEC. 16-22

Concert

Time/Date: 11 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 19

Location: Mount Vernon Baptist Church, 8828 Wormer, Redford

Details: A Christmas cantata, "Silent, Holy Night"

Contact: (313) 537-7480

Concert

Time/Date: 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 19

Location: The Antiochian Orthodox Basilica of St. Mary, 18200 Merriman, between Six and Seven Mile Roads, Livonia

Details: Holy Land Christmas Concert features Diana Al Barchini with Arabic carols, Rassem El Massih with seminarian chanter, St. Mary's Choir with hymns of the Nativity, a violin trio and guest vocalists singing classical and traditional songs. A free-will offering will be accepted and will benefit the International Orthodox Christian Charities

Contact: (734) 422-0010; www.saintmarylivonia.com

Concert

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Dec. 16

Location: First Presbyterian Church, 200 E. Main in Northville

Details: Men of Grace from the Grace Centers of Hope in Pontiac will sing original compositions as well as contemporary, spiritual and gospel and blues music. Dessert will be served after the concert. A \$5 donation is requested.

Contact: (248) 349-0911

Longest night

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Dec. 21

Location: First United Methodist Church, 1589 W. Maple, Birmingham

Details: This worship service is a place to bring the grief, anxiety, and pain that often surfaces during the holidays. Worship is held on the longest night of the year in recognition that sometimes the holidays bring sadness in the midst of celebration because of missed loved ones, struggles with financial stress, and the thought of happier days. Child care will be available for children up to age 4

Contact: Call (248) 646-6407 Ext. 3141 by Dec. 18 to reserve child care; for more information about the service call (248) 646-1200

Contact: (248) 349-0911

Details: This worship service is a place to bring the grief, anxiety, and pain that often surfaces during the holidays. Worship is held on the longest night of the year in recognition that sometimes the holidays bring sadness in the midst of celebration because of missed loved ones, struggles with financial stress, and the thought of happier days. Child care will be available for children up to age 4

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ROBERT "BOB" W. COX
Age 91, passed away peacefully at home on December 5, 2010. He will be forever loved and remembered by his loving wife of 66 years, Elizabeth "Betty" (nee Minth); his children, Lynn Cox of Del Mar, CA; Carol (Robert) Pearsall-Stetler of Milford; Nancy (Robert) Brown of Wilmington, NC; Larry Cox of Farmington; and Sally (Michael) Wujczyk of Farmington Hills; grandchildren, Bradford (Jeanne) Orr of Vista, CA; Christian (Ginger) Brown of South Bend, IN; Tim Brown and Lindsay Brown of Wilmington, NC; Carey Pearsall of Denver, CO; Chase Pearsall of Playa Del Rey, CA; and Alexandra Wujczyk of Farmington Hills; and two great grandsons, Robert and Wesley Orr of Vista, CA. Bob, a 50 year resident of Farmington, was born on March 27, 1919, in Detroit, to Frederick and Clara (Theel) Cox. He graduated from MacKenzie High School in 1937 and began working for the Jervis B. Webb Co. in Detroit in 1938. He enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1944 and served as a 1st lieutenant and navigator until the end of World War II. He then returned to the Webb Co., retiring after 40 years, in 1984, as an executive vice president. After retirement, he and Betty split their time between Farmington and Stuart, FL from 1984-2004. Bob was a life member of Plum Hollow Country Club in Southfield and a longtime member of the Huron River Fishing and Hunt Club in Farmington. He was an avid hunter, fisherman and golfer and above all, a loving and caring family man. Memorials may be made to The Farmington Goodfellows or to Forgotten Harvest. Arrangements for a spring memorial, through Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, will be announced separately, and at a later date. www.thayer-rock.com

ARTHUR GERISH
Age 82 of Northville, December 4, 2010. Beloved husband of the Janet. Loving father of Bruce (Bridget), Susan, David and Amy (Steve) Katz. Dear brother of Evan C. (Susan). Proud brother-in-law of Edwin (Loni) Hancock and Joan (Donald) Clark. Proud grandfather of Kristin, Katelin, Evan, Kayla, Colin, Brianna and Hannah. Also survived by several nieces and nephews. Founder and President of Gerish Building Co. Mr. Gerish was awarded the 2004 Developer of the Year Award by the SE Michigan Builders Assn. Long time youth baseball and basketball coach in the Plymouth/Canton community. Member of the Alma College Board of Trustees. Visitation Tuesday 5-9 PM and Wednesday 2-9 PM at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 46401 W. Ann Arbor Rd., (btwn Sheldon and Beck) Plymouth. In state Thursday 10 AM until 11 AM Funeral at Trinity Presbyterian Church, 10101 W. Ann Arbor Rd., Plymouth (at Gottfredson). Interment at Rural Hill Cemetery. Memorials may be made to Alma College Baseball Endowment Fund or the charity/church of your choice. To share a memory, please visit vermeulenfuneralhome.com.

MICHAEL "MIKE" MATTON
48, of Calumet, Mich., a former resident of Garden City, died Thursday, December 2, 2010, at his home. Mike worked as a cook, carpet installer and at Calumet Electronics. Mike loved his Rottweiler dogs, football, the seasons of fall and winter in the Upper Peninsula. Mike is survived by his mother, Laurel Johnson of Calumet; his four children, Michael, Jr. (April), Brandon, Dustin and Holly Noel; aunts, Carole (Lynn) Beerbower, Ella (Jim) Landini, Linda (Mike) Gosdzinski, and Kaye Mattson; uncles, Dennis (Sue) Mattson, Glen (Ann) Mattson, Clyde (Judy) Mattson, Dale (Linda) Mattson and Chris Mattson; cousins, friends and Cassie Johnson. A private family service will be held at a later date for all those who loved Mike. Arrangements were handled by the Jukuri-Antila Funeral Home of Hancock. Online condolences may be expressed to the family at antilafuneral.com.

Let others know...
When you've lost a loved one, place your notice on our website and in "Passages"...a directory located in every edition of your hometown newspaper.
Observer & Eccentric
Call 1-800-579-7355

May peace be with you in this time of sorrow.

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE B4

Christmas Eve

Time/Date: 7 p.m. and 11 p.m. Dec. 24
Location: Christ the King Evangelical Lutheran Church, 9300 Farmington Road, Livonia
Details: Worship service
Contact: (734) 421-0749

ONGOING

AWANA
Time/Date: 6:30-8 p.m., Wednesdays
Location: Faith Bible Church, 23414 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills
Details: AWANA program for children from kindergarten-fifth grade
Contact: (248) 426-0096

Classes/study
Emmanuel Lutheran Church
Time/Date: 7-8 p.m., second Monday of the month
Location: 34567 Seven Mile, between Farmington and Newburgh roads, Livonia
Details: Open Arms Bible class for adults with developmental disabilities and special needs. Includes songs, Bible lessons, crafts and activities, prayer, snacks and fun.
Contact: Judy Cook at Emmanuel, (248) 442-8822 or e-mail to jcook59@att.net.

Livonia Unity
Time/Date: Monday movement Qigong, 7-8:30 p.m.; Thursday Qigong meditation, 10-11:15 a.m., and Friday Therapeutic Qigong, 7-8:30 p.m.
Location: 28660 Five Mile, Livonia
Details: Learn Qigong, the ancient form of Chinese energetic medicine - rid the body of toxic pathogens and painful emotions
Contact: (810) 813-4073 or gary@energeticarts.org.

Men's Bible study
Time/Date: Breakfast at 7 a.m. and study at 8 a.m.
Location: Kirby's Coney Island, 21200 Haggerty, Northville Township
Contact: John Shulenberger at (734) 464-9491

New Life Community Church
Time/Date: Jobs seminar, 8-9 a.m., Fridays; reading program for students in grades K-12 and martial arts instruction, both at 10 a.m., Sundays
Location: 42200 Tyler, Belleville
Contact: (734) 846-4615 for information

Nicole's Revival
Time/Date: 10:30 a.m., Monday-Friday
Location: YWCA Northwest Branch, 25940 Grand River, west of Beech Daly, Redford
Details: KJV Scripture Reading, Communion and Prayer
Contact: (313) 531-1234

Our Lady of Loretto
Time/Date: 6:30-7:30 p.m. Monday
Location: Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford
Details: Scripture study
Contact: (313) 534-9000

Ward Presbyterian
Time/Date: 7 p.m., Mondays
Location: Room A101, 40000 W. Six Mile, Northville
Details: Learner's Bible study is held
Contact: (248) 374-5920

Clothing bank
Canton Christian Fellowship
Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., fourth Saturday and 5-6:30 p.m., second Wednesday
Location: 41711 Joy, between Lilley and Haggerty
Details: Canton Christian Fellowship Clothing Bank offers free clothing (men, women and children) for those in need
Contact: (734) 404-2480, visit www.CantonCF.org or send e-mail to info@cantoncf.org

Fellowship dinner
St. James Presbyterian
Time/Date: 6 p.m., the first Thursday of the month
Location: 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford
Details: Cost is \$8 and includes dinner, beverage and dessert. The Cookie Lady, Susan Navarro, provides the meals
Contact: (313) 268-7780. The church phone number is (313) 534-7730

Food Bank
New Hope Church
Time/Date: 5-7 p.m., every Friday by appointment only
Location: is 44815 Cherry Hill, Canton
Contact: Call pastor Ranay Brown to schedule an appointment at (734) 270-2528.

Moms
Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church
Time/Date: 9:30-11:30 a.m., second Tuesday, MOPS; 7-8:30 p.m., first and third Thursday, MOPNext. Both programs run through May
Location: 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia

Details: Mothers of Preschoolers is aimed at mothers of infants through kindergartners; MOPNext supports mothers of school-aged children. The theme will be "Momology - The Art & Science of Mothering" for MOPS and "Boundaries" for MOPNext
Contact: Rebekah Creeden at (734) 524-0283 for MOPS and Susan Wagner at (248) 478-3643 for MOPNext

Dunning Park Bible Chapel
Time/Date: 9:30-11:30 a.m., first and third Tuesdays
Location: 24800 West Chicago Road, Redford
Details: MOPS is a place where moms can build friendships, receive mothering support, practical help and spiritual hope
Contact: Amy at (313) 937-3084 or Kristen at (734) 542-0767

Pet-friendly service
Time/Date: 1 p.m., Sunday
Location: Dunk N Dogs, 27911 Five Mile, Livonia
Details: All Creatures ULC sponsors the service which is conducted in an informal setting. Pet blessings are available after the service. All Creatures ULC describes the gathering as non-denominational and Christian. Water is available for dogs
Contact: (313) 563-0162

Prayer
Nardin Park United Methodist Church
Time/Date: 7 p.m. Wednesday
Location: 29887 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills
Details: Participate in an open time of praying silently and aloud together as well as responding to personal requests
Contact: (248) 476-8860

St. Edith Church
Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday
Location: 15089 Newburgh, Livonia. Enter through the back of the church
Details: Music, singing, prayer
Contact: Grace at (734) 464-1896, Shirley at (734) 464-3656, or Geri at (734) 464-8906

St. Michael's Church of Livonia
Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. third Wednesday
Location: Corner of Plymouth and Hubbard roads, Livonia
Details: Parish prayer and Eucharistic Adoration. Benediction service follows. (734) 261-1455

Senior citizens
Riverside Park Church of God
Time/Date: 11:30 a.m., third Thursdays
Location: 11771 Newburgh, Livonia
Details: Senior adults, age 50 and over, enjoy social interaction and food
Contact: (734) 464-0990

Singles
First Presbyterian Church
Time/Date: Thursdays 7:30-7:45 p.m. for social time, 7:45-8 p.m. opening, 8-9 p.m. program
Location: 200 E. Main St., Northville
Details: Single Place Ministry meets; cost is \$5
Contact: (248) 349-0911 or visit www.singleplace.org

Steve's Family Restaurant
Time/Date: 9 a.m. second and fourth Thursday
Location: 15800 Middlebelt, 1/4 mile north of Five Mile, Livonia
Details: Widowed men of all ages may attend the Widowed Friends Men's breakfast. This is an informal "peer" group where men have an opportunity to meet with others who are ready to help cope or become involved in the other social activities offered by Widowed Friends.
Contact: (313) 534-0399

Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church
Time/Date: 11:30 a.m., Sunday
Location: 40000 Six Mile, Northville
Details: Single Point Ministries, for 30 and up, offers fellowship. Coffee, doughnuts, conversation
Contact: (248) 374-5920

Song Circle
Congregation Beth Ahm
Time/Date: Noon to 12:30 p.m., every Shabbat
Location: 5075 W. Maple, West

Bloomfield
Details: Sing zemirot (traditional Shabbat songs) and celebrate Kiddush following morning services. Lyrics are provided in translation as well as the original Hebrew.
Contact: (248) 737-1931 or e-mail nancyellen879@att.net.

Support
Detroit World Outreach
Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesday
Location: 23800 W. Chicago, Redford; room 202
Details: Addiction No More offers support for addictive behavior problems, drugs, alcohol, overeating, gambling
Contact: (313) 255-2222, Ext. 244

Farmington Hills Baptist Church
Time/Date: 7-9 p.m., second Tuesday of the month except January, July and August
Location: 28301 Middlebelt, between 12 Mile and 13 Mile
Details: Western Oakland Parkinson Support Group
Contact: (248) 433-1011

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 Tuesdays at 7:00 P.M.

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 30450 Farmington Road • Farmington Hills
 www.orchardumc.org
248-626-3620

Worship:
 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
 10:00 a.m. Christian Education for all ages
 Pastors: Carol J. Johns, Jim Braid, Margo Dexter

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 10:30 am

Visit www.rosedalegardens.org
 For information about our many programs

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 www.christsavior.org

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 Sunday School/Bible Class 9:45 am
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 Phone 734-513-8413

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 Sunday Evening - 6:00 P.M.
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 Matins 8:30 am, Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
 Rev. Fr. Demetrios Sean Gouvestos.
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 Office Hours M-F 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
 www.nativitygocurch.org

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 Childrens Sunday School: 10:30 a.m.
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10:30 a.m. Worship & Church School
Faith - Freedom Fellowship
 Ministers
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For Information regarding this Directory, please call Donna Hart at 248-437-2011, Ext. 247 or e-mail: dhart@dnp.com

Welcome Boys and Girls!

This month's contest features celebrations. Share with us how you celebrate the holidays!

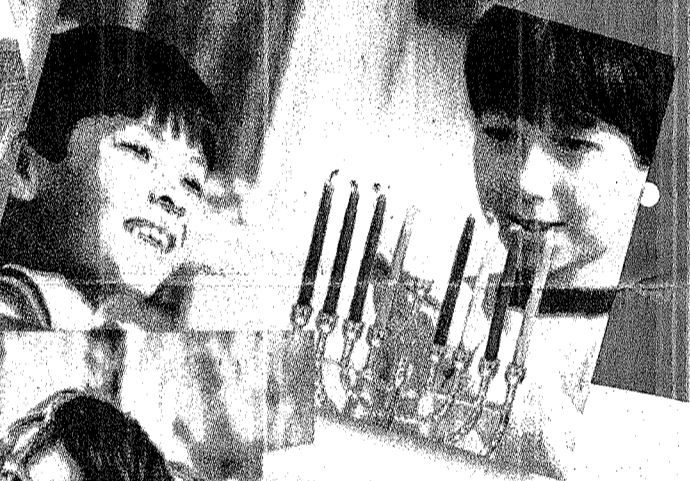
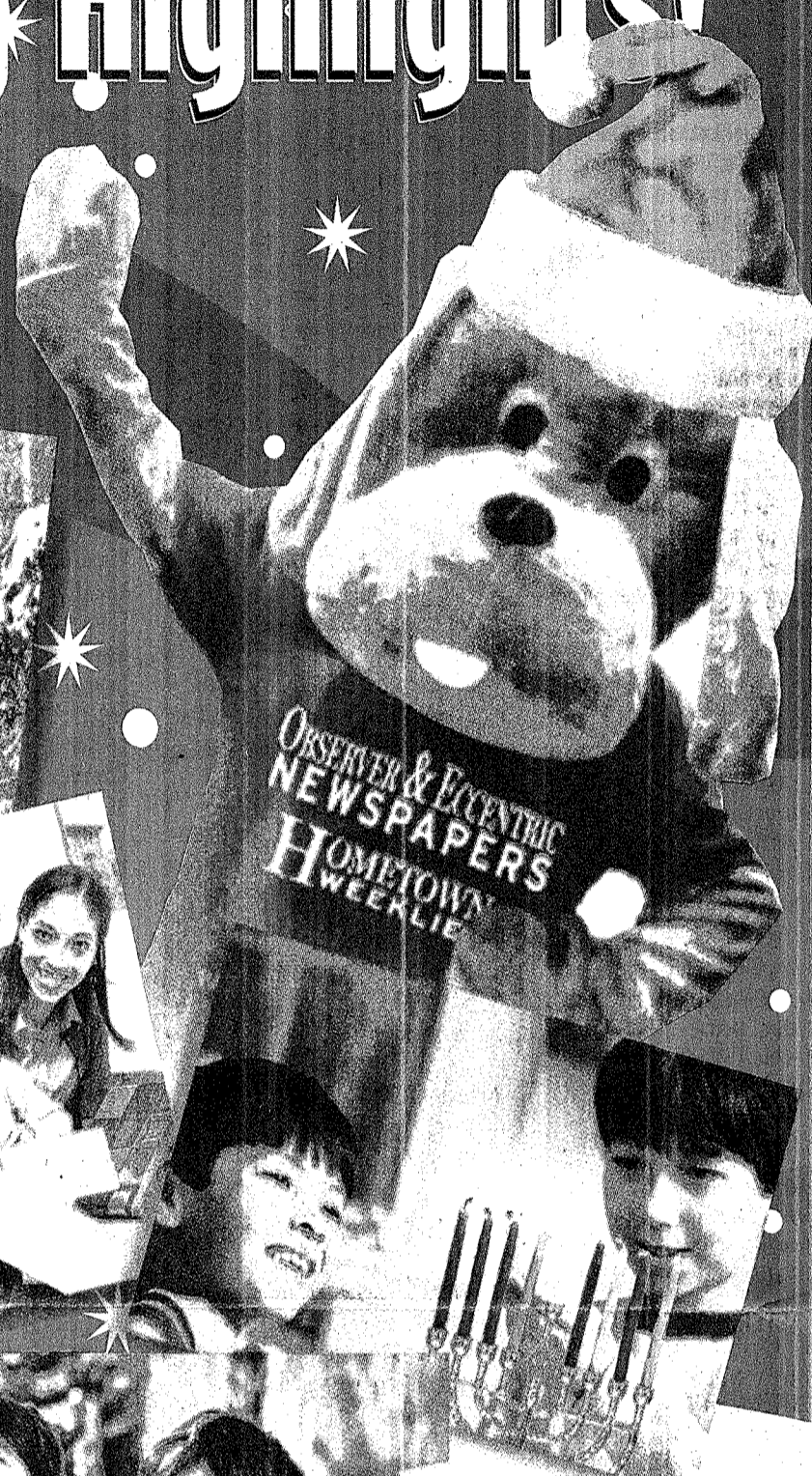
OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC NEWSPAPERS

www.hometownlife.com

HOMETOWN WEEKLIES

Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights!

Send us a picture or a story of how you celebrate the holidays.



Hey kids!

Youth ages 7 - 13 are invited to send a photo or story of how you celebrate the holidays. Scoop will pick two winners in each age category:

Ages: 7 - 8

Ages: 9 - 10

Ages: 11 - 13

Winners will receive a voucher for a Free Buddy's 4 Square Cheese Pizza with One Topping!

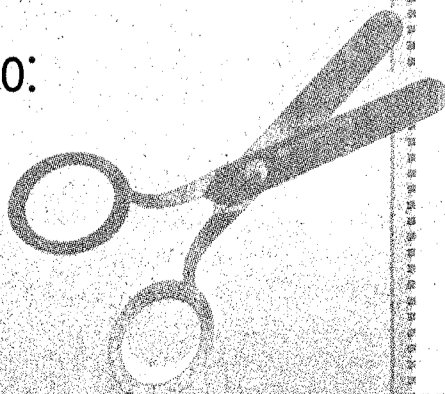


Deadline for submissions: 12/31/10

Everyone who enters will receive a letter from Scoop and a small gift!

Send your entries for the Holiday Celebration Contest to:

Scoop the Newshound
c/o: Michele Austin
41304 Concept Drive
Plymouth, MI 48170



Youth Name: _____

Youth Age: _____

Youth Community: _____

Parent's information to contact winning entry:
(Phone, email, home address)

Entries sent in will be published in the newspaper including your name, age and hometown.

ENTERTAINMENT

Thursday, December 9, 2010 hometownlife.com

HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Contact Editor, Sharon Dargay
Voice Mail: (313) 222-8883
E-mail: sdargay@hometownlife.com
Comment online at hometownlife.com

Country Christmas

Singer hopes promo releases will attract record label

BY SHARON DARGAY
D&E STAFF WRITER

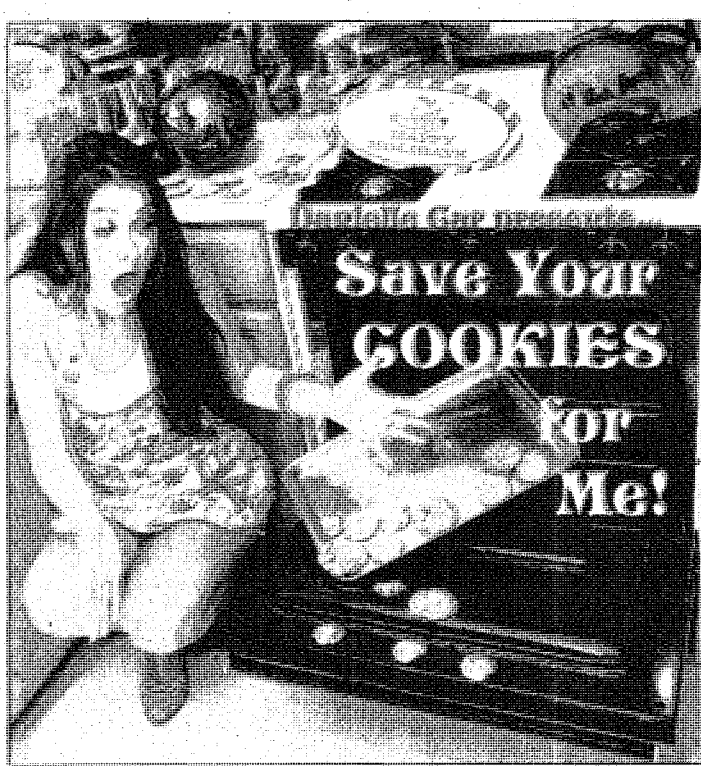
Just in time for the holidays, Danielle Car is making a name for herself with a Christmas song, *Save Your Cookies For Me*, that's getting lots of regular air play.

It's the perfect gift for the 31-year-old Canton resident who has worked hard to establish herself as a country singer-songwriter the past decade.

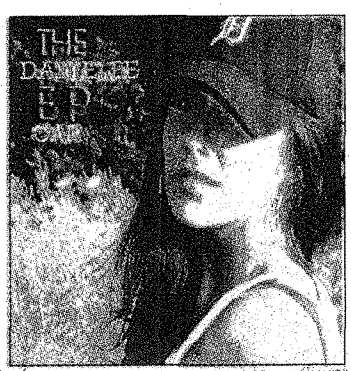
"Trying to do country music in Detroit taught me no one is going to discover you. A lot of young performers see *American Idol* and they see success stories — 'I was in the mall and someone plucked me out' — that doesn't really happen. You have to carve your own path and work hard."

That's exactly what she has done since graduating from the Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA) program at Churchill High School in Livonia.

"CAPA gave me the courage and motivation to pursue performing in the Detroit area. It wasn't until after high school that I paid homage to my inner 'Dolly,'" she said. "I've been writing songs my whole life. I didn't set out to write country songs but looking back, most were a country music theme and the chord progression could be viewed as country."



Danielle Car's Christmas song, "Save Your Cookies for Me" is getting in the holiday song rotation at WNIC.



country tunes for January 2011. Car is the only independent artist on the entire disc, which includes such performers as Kelly Clarkson, Sugarland, and Darius Rucker. Songs on the extended play recording range from rockabilly to ballad to blues to rock. She describes *Save Your Cookies for Me* as "not so much country as blues and rock." It's listed on CDBaby.com as one of the top five holiday songs.

AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

She spent a year studying vocal music at Eastern Michigan University and then earned certification through Henry Ford Community College to work as a paraprofessional. Her day job, teaching developmentally delayed preschoolers, allowed her to spend time at night and on the weekends performing the music she loves.

She's a veteran of the annual Hoedown at Hart Plaza in Detroit and developed a following at the Diamondback Saloon in Belleville, where she sang, played fiddle, guitar and banjo for four years — about 900 shows.

"I wouldn't trade those four years for anything. I got to play four and five nights a week. It taught me how to perform for a country music audience," she said, explaining that fans tend to become involved in the performance.

"They'll yell out their requests and they are ready for a good time. Rarely do you see a fair weather country music fan."

"Walk of Shame," one of five songs on Danielle Car's extended-play recording, is included on a promo release of hot new country songs.

RADIO AUDIENCE

Save Your Cookies for Me "went over well" with the audience when she performed it at the Diamondback four years ago. Today it's reaching radio listeners and has been included in WNIC's (100.3 FM) rotation of holiday tunes.

It's among six songs that she recorded for promotional purposes and one of two that have been picked up by Promo Only, a firm that distributes new music to subscribing radio stations and clubs. Promo Only included *Save Your Cookies for Me* on a compilation disc along with music by such artists as Mariah Carey, Brad Paisley, and the Christmas songs from the *Glee* soundtrack.

Walk of Shame, one of the other five songs on an extended play recording, is included in Promo Only's hottest new

RECORD LABEL

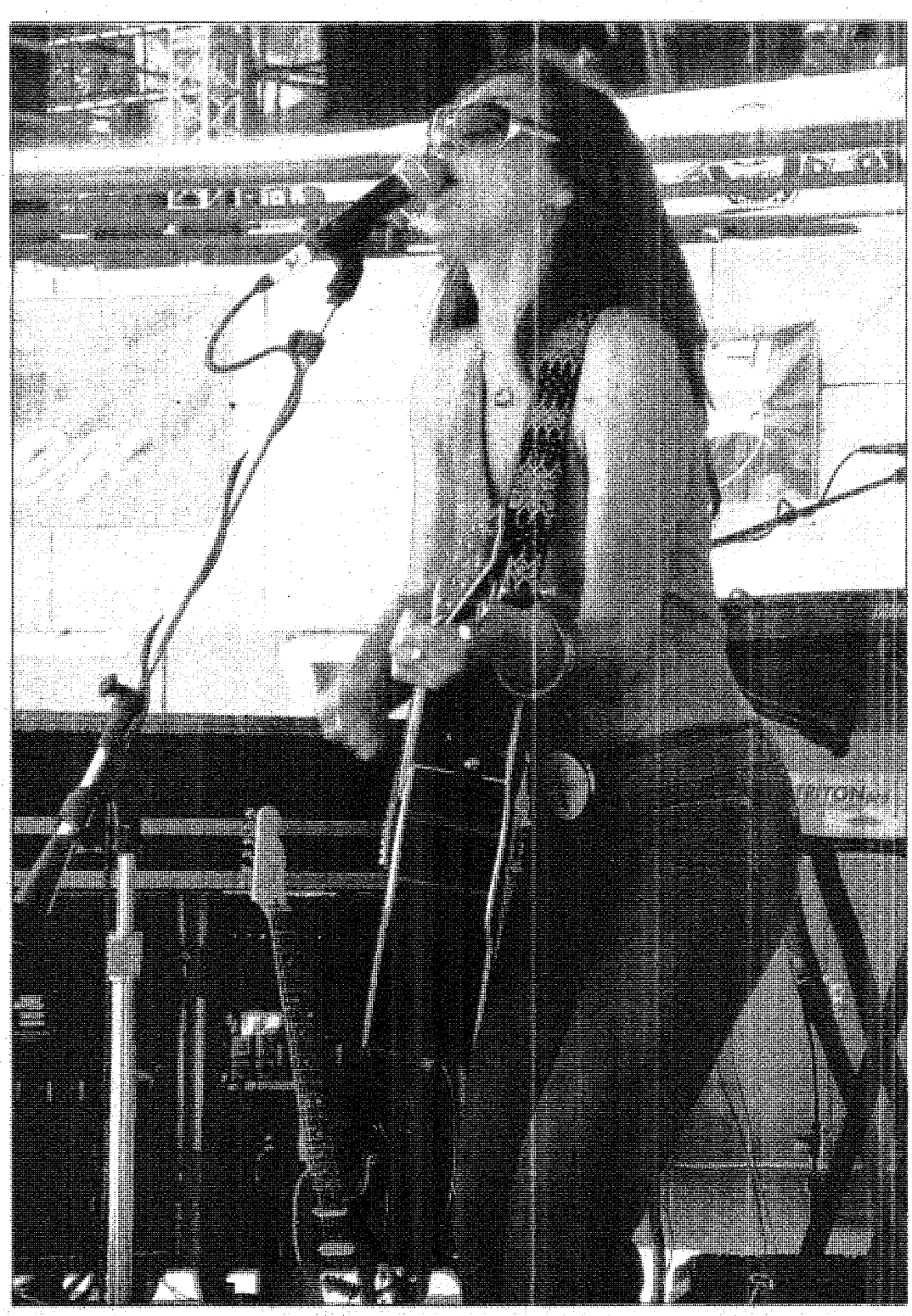
"I retired from Dearborn Public Schools after 10 years in September. I wanted to take time to promote the music. I knew it would pay off," Car said. "I wanted to record the five (extended play) songs as an appetizer — a little ham and cheese for everyone — to see if anyone was hungry for more."

"Ultimately I'm hoping for someone, some record label, to come and scoop me up."

In the meantime, she'll continue to promote her songs, along with the video she recorded for *Walk of Shame*.

Married to Bill McAllister, morning show host on 97.1 The Ticket, Car also has her own weekend shift on 106.7 The Beat. Listen to her from noon to 6 p.m. Sundays.

Visit Car's Web site at www.daniel-lecarmusic.com or view her MySpace page at www.myspace.com/danielle-car. Her music is available at CDBaby.com, iTunes.apple.com and Amazon.com



Danielle Car is a veteran of the Hoedown at Hart Plaza in Detroit.

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Fiddler Mick Gavin of Redford and friends will perform A Celtic Christmas concert Saturday, Dec. 11, at Monaghan Knights of Columbus in Livonia.

Put a museum or concert under the Christmas tree

Need a holiday gift idea? The Cultural Alliance of Southeastern Michigan has posted more than 30 ideas for special presents through its online guide, "Give the Gift of Art and Culture."

Shoppers can find unique gift ideas and special performances that also support southeastern Michigan's arts and cultural institutions, at www.culturalconciierge.com. The guide offers "Things to Do," "Gifts of Membership" and "Unique Gifts" and includes 31 of the region's museums, galleries and stages.

"Gifts of art and culture truly are special because they open new worlds to the receiver," stated Maud Lyon, executive director of the Cultural Alliance of Southeastern Michigan. "The experience of a live event, a year-long membership at a museum, a unique work of art or a special book is not only a perfect gift, it can change the inner world of the recipient."

Performing arts and visits to museums are also a way for families and friends to spend time together, creating memories long that will last after other gifts may have been discarded or forgotten. A membership gives the recipient — a person or a family — an entire year of opportunities to pursue their personal interests and to explore new ideas.

Each organization features

a single item in the Gift Guide, a taste of many other options that they offer. For example, a theater may offer a season subscription, a museum may offer a family membership, and an art center may encourage shopping at its gift Shop. The Gift of Art and Culture features events that are available or take place through Dec. 31, 2010.

The "things to do" listing includes such local organizations as the Plymouth Historical Museum and University Musical Society. The "unique gifts" category suggests the Detroit Zoological Society and Huron Valley Council for the Arts, among other organizations. Gifts of membership lists such venues as the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum and Holocaust Memorial Center in Farmington Hills.

The Cultural Alliance of Southeastern Michigan is a professional association comprised of more than 100 non-profit arts and culture organizations. In addition to advancing the programs and services of its member organizations, the Cultural Alliance connects audiences to new experiences, funders to organizations, and member organizations to new opportunities.

For more information about the Alliance, visit www.culturalalliancesemi.org or call (313) 831-1151.

Celebrate Christmas the Celtic way

The Ardan Academy of Irish Dance, Crossroads Ceili and friends will present "A Celtic Christmas" celebration from 6 p.m.-midnight, Saturday, Dec. 11 at the Monaghan Knights of Columbus, 19801 Farmington Road, between Seven and Eight Mile Roads, Livonia.

Admission is \$10. A cash bar and food will be available. Call Mick Gavin at (313) 537-3489 or John Heinzman at (734) 754-3404 for more information. Gavin, a fiddler from Redford, will be among the performers at Crossroads Ceili at the Ark, at 7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec.

17-18 at The Ark, 316 Main, Ann Arbor. Admission is \$15 and will include special guest Brian Hart, along with Michael Gavin on banjo, fiddle, and guitar, Colleen Gavin on flute, whistle, and pipes, Kelsey Lutz on fiddle, Holland Raper on fiddle with

dance, Siobhan McKinney on harp, Ray Maguire on flute, whistle, and guitar, Tom MacNeil on piano) and the Doloy Sisters on fiddle, piano, songs, and with step-dancing. For more information call Gavin or the Ark at (734) 761-1818.

"ONE WORD ONLY WILL DO: SPECTACULAR." CHICAGO SUN-TIMES

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BEGINS NEXT WEEK!

BROADWAY IN DETROIT
Sponsored by the Southeastern Michigan Lincoln dealers

Get into the holiday spirit at arts council lunch

Vocalist Noelle Jacquez will entertain at the Plymouth Community Arts Council's Holiday Art Luncheon 11:45 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 15 at the Joanne Winkleman Hulse Center for the Arts, 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth.

Jacquez will sing carols and lead a sing-a-long to get everyone in the holiday spirit. She has a degree in voice from the Blair School of Music at Vanderbilt University. She currently teaches voice lessons in the Plymouth area as well as musical theater classes at the Council.

Tickets are \$15.00, advance purchase only, and include a

gourmet boxed lunch from Jeff Zak Catering as well as the entertainment.

Buy tickets at the Council office or by calling (734) 416-4278.

The next Art Luncheon is scheduled for March 15, 2011 and will feature a presentation by the Detroit-based Sphinx Organization, dedicated to increasing diversity in classical music.

The Council's mission is to develop and to promote the appreciation and accessibility of the Arts for everyone in the greater Plymouth community. Find out more at www.plymoutharts.com.

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littlecaesarspizzabowl.com

FIU Florida International University Golden Panthers 6-6 Sun Belt Conf. Co-Champs

TOLEDO University of Toledo Rockets 8-4 Mid-Am Conf.

TICKETS: CLUB LEVEL \$60, LOWER LEVEL \$45, END ZONE ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT \$45, END ZONE \$30
Purchase tickets in person by visiting the Ford Field ticket office
To order tickets by phone call Ticketmaster 800-745-3000
www.ticketmaster.com or visit littlecaesarspizzabowl.com/tickets

TREAT YOURSELF TO AN EARLY HOLIDAY GIFT

FOOD

Thursday, December 9, 2010

hometownlife.com

HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Contact Editor, Sharon Dargay

Voice Mail: (313) 222-8883

E-mail: sdargay@hometownlife.com

Comment online at hometownlife.com

Scene-Stealing Holiday Stuffing

Roasted Vegetable & Cornbread Stuffing

While turkey is in the spotlight at most holiday meals, the prize for best supporting dish definitely goes to stuffing. People often reach for the stuffing before any other side dish on the table. This season, why not serve more than one variety? In addition to a traditional favorite, try something new. According to the team at Campbell's Kitchen, who create and test recipes year-round, there are numerous combinations of flavors appropriate for a great stuffing recipe. Dress your table and your taste buds with a Roasted Vegetable and Cornbread Stuffing, which is made easy with a Pepperidge Farm Herb Seasoned stuffing base, fresh butternut squash, sweet onions, ground cumin and chopped cilantro. The secret ingredient is Swanson Chicken broth, which adds layers of flavor and keeps stuffing from drying out. Other delicious options include Caramelized Onion with Pancetta & Rosemary Stuffing and a Roasted Fennel with Lemon Stuffing. All are sure to delight holiday guests gathered around the dinner table. For more scene-stealing stuffing recipes visit www.GreatStuffingDebate.com. To find great holiday menu ideas and cooking tips visit www.campbellskitchen.com/swansonbroth.

CARAMELIZED ONION WITH PANCETTA & ROSEMARY STUFFING

Prep: 20 minutes

Cook: 30 minutes

Bake: 30 minutes

Makes: 12 servings (about 1/2 cup each)

6 tablespoons butter
2 large sweet onions, diced (about 3 cups)
1 package (4 ounces) cubed pancetta (about 1 cup)
4 cloves garlic, chopped
2 stalks celery, diced (about 1 cup)
2 tablespoons chopped fresh rosemary leaves
3 cups Swanson Chicken broth (Regular, Natural Goodness or Certified Organic) 1/2 cup sherry
1 package (14 ounces) Pepperidge Farm Herb Seasoned stuffing

1. Heat the oven to 350°F.
2. Heat the butter in a 3-quart saucepan over medium heat. Add the onions and cook for 15 minutes or until well browned, stirring occasionally.
3. Stir the pancetta, garlic, celery and rosemary in the saucepan and cook until the pancetta is well browned, stirring occasionally. Stir in the broth and sherry and heat to a boil. Remove the saucepan from the heat. Add the stuffing and mix lightly. Spoon the stuffing mixture into a greased 3-quart casserole. Cover the casserole. 4. Bake for 30 minutes or until the stuffing mixture is hot.

ROASTED FENNEL WITH LEMON STUFFING

Prep: 25 minutes

Roast: 30 minutes

Bake: 30 minutes

Makes: 12 servings (about 1/2 cup each)

2 medium fennel bulbs, trimmed and diced (about 3 cups)
2 medium sweet onions, chopped (about 2 cups)
4 cloves garlic, chopped
1/2 cup olive oil
4 teaspoons grated lemon zest
1/2 cup chopped fresh parsley
1/2 cup pine nuts, toasted
3 cups Swanson Chicken broth (Regular, Natural Goodness or Certified Organic)
1 package (14 ounces) Pepperidge Farm Herb Seasoned stuffing

1. Heat the oven to 400°F. Place the fennel, onions and garlic into a large bowl. Add the oil and toss to coat. Spoon the fennel mixture onto 2 rimmed baking sheets.
2. Roast for 30 minutes or until the fennel mixture is lightly browned, stirring occasionally.
3. Reduce the oven temperature to 350°F. Stir the fennel mixture, lemon zest, parsley, pine nuts and broth in a large bowl. Add the stuffing and mix lightly. Spoon the stuffing mixture into a greased 3-quart casserole. Cover the casserole.
4. Bake for 30 minutes or until the stuffing mixture is hot.

ROASTED VEGETABLE & CORNBREAD STUFFING

Prep: 30 minutes

Roast: 30 minutes

Bake: 30 minutes

Makes: 16 servings (about 1/2 cup each)

1 butternut squash, peeled, seeded and diced (about 6 cups)
2 medium sweet onions, chopped (about 2 cups)
4 cloves garlic, coarsely chopped
2 teaspoons ground cumin
2 tablespoons olive oil
1/2 cup chopped fresh cilantro leaves
2 stalks celery, diced (about 1 cup)
3 cups Swanson Chicken broth (Regular, Natural Goodness or Certified Organic)
1 package (14 ounces) Pepperidge Farm Cornbread stuffing
1 package (about 4 ounces) chorizo sausage, chopped (optional)

1. Heat the oven to 400°F. Place the squash, onions and garlic into a large bowl. Add the cumin and oil and toss to coat. Spoon the squash mixture onto 2 rimmed baking sheets.
2. Roast for 30 minutes or until the squash mixture is lightly browned, stirring occasionally.
3. Reduce the oven temperature to 350°F. Stir the squash mixture, cilantro, celery and broth in a large bowl. Add the stuffing and mix lightly. Stir in the sausage, if desired. Spoon the stuffing mixture into a greased 3-quart casserole. Cover the casserole.
4. Bake for 30 minutes or until the stuffing mixture is hot.

CHESTNUT, FIG & HONEY STUFFING

Prep: 20 minutes

Cook: 10 minutes

Bake: 30 minutes

Makes: 12 servings (about 1/2 cup each)

1/2 cup butter (1 stick)
1 cup thinly sliced shallots
1 jar (7.4 ounces) roasted peeled chestnuts, coarsely chopped (about 1 1/2 cups)
16 dried figs, stems removed, cut in quarters (about 1 cup)
2 stalks celery, diced (about 1 cup)
2 tablespoons honey
4 cups Swanson Chicken broth (Regular, Natural Goodness or Certified Organic)
1/2 cup chopped fresh parsley
1 package (12 ounces) Pepperidge Farm Herb Seasoned Cubed stuffing

1. Heat the oven to 350°F.
2. Heat the butter in a 3-quart saucepan over medium heat. Add the shallots, chestnuts, figs and celery and cook until the celery is tender, stirring occasionally.
3. Stir the honey and broth in the saucepan and heat to a boil. Remove the saucepan from the heat. Add the parsley and stuffing and mix lightly. Spoon the stuffing mixture into a greased 3-quart casserole. Cover the casserole.
4. Bake for 30 minutes or until the stuffing mixture is hot. Easy Substitution: You can substitute 1/2 cup chopped walnuts for the chestnuts.

- Family Features

Remember walking into grandma's kitchen and smelling that first whiff of holiday dinner in the oven? You can recreate that same warm holiday feeling for your family with a mouthwatering, hickory smoked ham.

There are a surprising number of ham cuts — how do you know which one to choose? These tips from Cook's Ham will help you find just what you need:

Spiral Sliced Hams

- Pre-sliced in a spiral fashion, so it's easy to serve
- Available as quarters, halves and wholes
- Quarter serves 7-10 people, half serves 15-20 people, whole serves 30-40 people

Half Ham

- No center steaks removed for more premium lean meat
- Larger than a portion ham
- Serves 15-20 people

Semi-Boneless Ham

- Fewer bones and less fat for more carveable lean meat
- Two of three bones removed so it's easier to carve
- Half serves 15-20 people, whole serves 30-40 people

Skinless Shankless Ham

- Less fat, less bone and more lean meat
- One of three bones removed so carving is easier
- Half serves 15-20 people, whole serves 30-40 people

Portioned Ham

- Best value for great bone-in ham flavor
- Since steaks have been removed, it is smaller than a half ham
- Serves 10-15 people

Ham Steaks

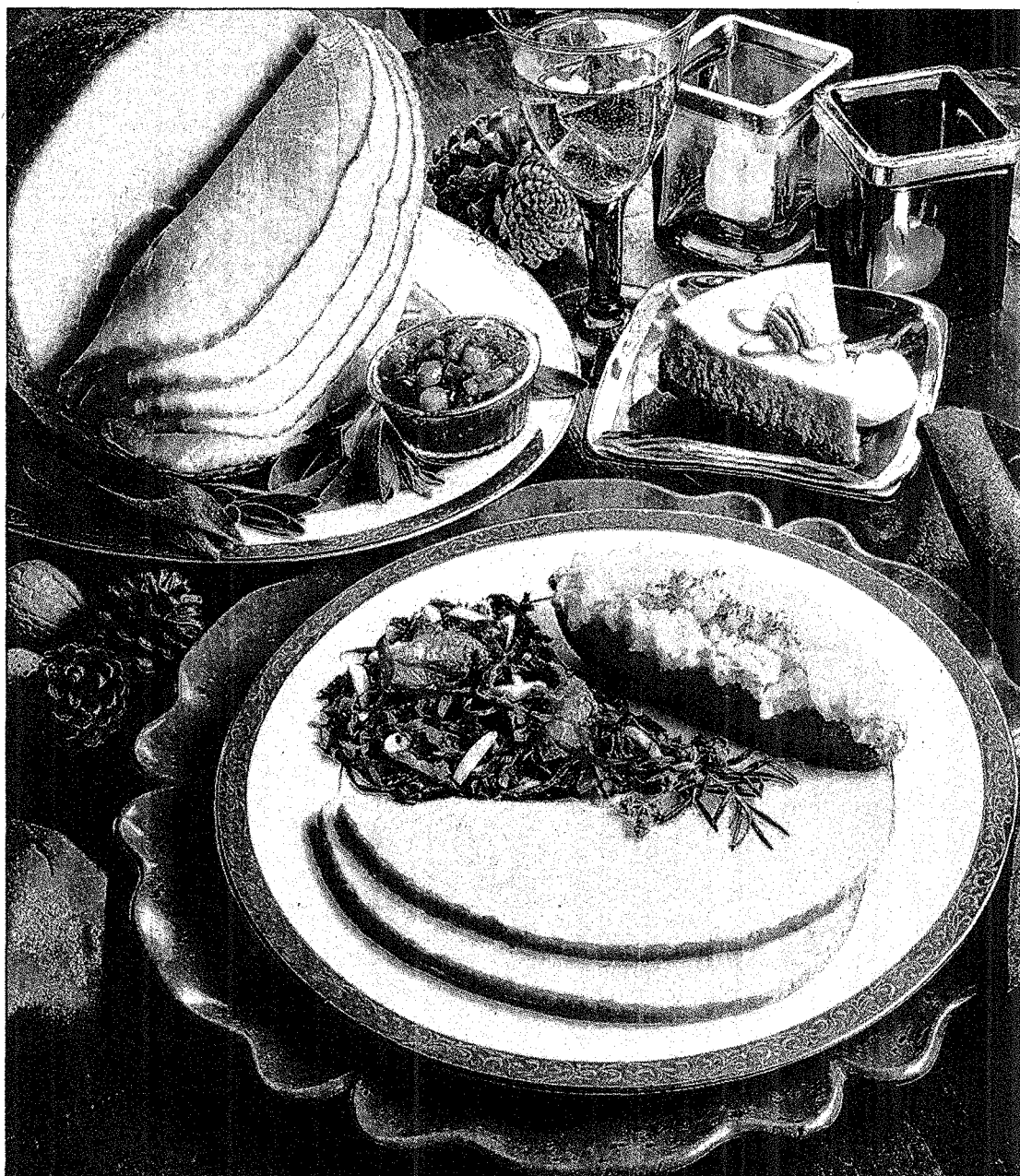
- Premium center cut slices
- Heat up in minutes for a quick and tasty meal

- Approximately 1 pound
- Serves 3-4 people

Thick Cut Ham Steaks

- Great for throwing on the grill
- Approximately 2 pounds
- Serves 6-8 people

Old-fashioned holiday ham



Like a time machine that takes you back to the holidays of old, naturally hickory smoked Cook's hams have been the centerpiece of holiday meals for more than 65 years. When your kitchen fills with that sweet aroma, you'll think about holidays gone by and the memories about to be made.

For more quick and easy recipes, visit www.CooksHam.com

HONEY-GLAZED HAM WITH CRANBERRY RELISH

1 Cook's Bone-in Spiral Sliced Half Ham (about 9 pounds)

Glaze

1/2 Cook's Sweet Ham Glaze and Dipping Sauce package, heated 20 seconds in microwave (reserve 1/2 package for dipping sauce if desired)

1 teaspoon ground mustard (may add additional ground mustard for stronger flavor)

1/2 teaspoon lemon juice

Cranberry Relish

1 large Granny Smith apple, peeled, finely chopped (about 1 1/2 cups)

1 cup cranberry juice cocktail

1 package (6 ounces) sweetened dried cranberries (about 1 1/2 cups)

2 tablespoons orange marmalade

1/2 cup chopped pecans

Begin by preparing ham according to heating instructions on package label. Approximately 45 minutes before end of heating time, prepare glaze by mixing glaze and dipping sauce, mustard and lemon juice in small bowl until blended. Set aside until the last 10 minutes of heating time.

Make Cranberry Relish: Combine apples and juice in medium saucepan. Bring to a boil over medium heat. Reduce heat to medium-low; simmer 5 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add cranberries; simmer an additional 5 minutes, or until fruit is tender, stirring occasionally. Remove from heat; stir in marmalade and pecans. Set aside until ready to eat. Or, if made in advance, cover and refrigerate until ready to use.

Uncover ham and brush with glaze for the last 10 minutes of the heating time. Let stand 10 minutes. Carve and serve with Cranberry Relish and reserved sauce.

- Family Features

Add zing to holiday dishes with cranberries

Think cranberries are just for sauce? Think again with your taste buds. Holiday favorites, cranberries are loaded with Vitamin C and make a perfect addition to side dishes, desserts, appetizers and drinks. They even hold their own in main dish recipes. Here's a sampling of ways to use fresh and dried berries that will take you from appetizer to dessert:

CRANBERRY BRIE APPETIZER BITES

Makes 24 appetizers

Ingredients:
 ½ cup Ocean Spray Whole Berry Cranberry Sauce
 1 teaspoon lemon juice
 ½ teaspoon finely shredded lemon peel
 24 (3¼- by 3¼-inch) wonton wrappers
 1 (8-ounce) brie round

Directions:
 Place ½ cup Ocean Spray Whole Berry Cranberry Sauce in a 1½-quart saucepan. Cook over medium heat until hot, stirring occasionally. Remove from heat; stir in lemon juice and lemon peel.
 Meanwhile, heat oven to 350. Spray 24 miniature muffin cups with nonstick cooking spray.

Press one wonton wrapper gently into each sprayed cup, allowing ends to extend above cups. Spray edges of wonton wrappers with nonstick cooking spray. Bake for 12 to 14 minutes or until bottoms of cups are beginning to brown; remove from oven.

If desired, remove rind from brie. Cut brie into 24 cubes, about ¾-inch each. Place one cube in each cup; place sheet of aluminum foil over each pan to prevent excessive browning. Return to oven. Bake 3 to 5 minutes longer or until brie is soft. Remove from oven; top each with about 1 teaspoon cranberry mixture.



Cranberry Brie Appetizer Bites

CRANBERRY MARGARITA MOLDED SALAD

Makes 10 servings

Ingredients:
 1 6-ounce package wild strawberry-flavored gelatin dessert mix
 ½ cups boiling water
 1 14-ounce can Ocean Spray Whole Berry Cranberry Sauce
 1 8-ounce container frozen sliced sweetened strawberries, thawed slightly
 1 10-ounce can frozen margarita mix, thawed
 ½ cup tequila, optional

Directions:
 Spray 6-cup gelatin mold with nonstick cooking spray. Combine gelatin dessert mix and boiling water in a large bowl, stirring until gelatin has dissolved. Place cranberry sauce in a small bowl and beat with a fork until smooth. Stir into gelatin mixture. Add remaining ingredients, mixing well. Pour into mold. Cover with plastic

wrap and refrigerate for 4 hours or until serving time.

When ready to serve, dip mold into warm water for 7 to 10 seconds or until gelatin loosens. Place serving plate on top of mold, invert and remove mold.

Serving Variation: For individual servings, dip the rims of 10 margarita glasses in Cranberry Sugar 2 or 3 times or until rims are thickly coated with cranberry sugar. (No need to moisten rims first). Prepare molded salad recipe as directed, and divide salad mixture into glasses. Store in refrigerator. Just before serving, garnish each glass with a lime twist.

Cranberry Sugar:
 Place 1 cup sugar and 3 tablespoons fresh cranberries in a food processor. Process until smooth and evenly-colored. Spoon sugar into shallow dish.

BRUSSELS SPROUTS SALAD WITH PANCETTA AND CRANBERRIES

Serves 4 to 6

Ingredients:
 6 ounces pancetta, cut into small dice (1½ cups)
 2 pounds baby brussels sprouts, leaves separated
 ½ cup Ocean Spray Craisins Original Dried Cranberries
 3 tablespoons shallots, finely chopped
 1 clove garlic, minced
 2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
 ½ cup chicken stock
 4 slices of white bread, cut into cubes and made into croutons
 kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper

Directions:
 In a large saute pan over medium heat, add a 2 count of olive oil and add the pancetta. Cook until the fat renders, 2 to 3 minutes and the pancetta is nice and crispy. Add the garlic, shallots, cranberries and separated brussel sprout leaves. Toss well to combine all the ingredients. Add the balsamic and chicken stock and continue to cook until the brussel sprouts have just wilted, 3-4 minutes. Season to taste with salt and freshly ground black pepper then serve.

HOLIDAY GLAZED HAM

Makes 2½ cups of glaze

Ingredients:
 1 14-ounce can Ocean Spray Whole Berry or Jellied Cranberry Sauce
 ½ cup apricot preserves
 2 tablespoons sweet honey mustard
 1 8-pound fully-cooked whole boneless ham

Directions:
 Combine all ingredients in a medium saucepan. Cook on medium heat, whisking occa-

sionally, until preserves are melted and sauce is smooth. Remove from heat. Set aside. Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Place ham on rack in a shallow roasting pan. Bake, uncovered, for 2 hours or until a meat thermometer registers 140 degrees. Liberally baste ham with glaze during the last 45 minutes of baking.

GINGERBREAD WITH WARM CRANBERRY COMPOTE

Makes 9 servings

Ingredients:
 1 14.5-ounce package gingerbread cake mix
 2 cups Ocean Spray Fresh or Frozen Cranberries
 3 cups pineapple chunks, cut in half
 1 cup brown sugar
 1 teaspoon cinnamon
 ½ teaspoon nutmeg
 Whipped cream

Directions:
 Prepare gingerbread as direct-

ed on package. Cool completely. Combine remaining ingredients, except whipped cream, in a medium saucepan. Bring mixture to a boil and cook just until the cranberries begin to pop, stirring frequently. Cool sauce slightly. Spoon warm compote over each serving of gingerbread. Top with whipped cream.

Recipes and photos courtesy of Ocean Spray

Easy-to-make berry bowl dresses up dinner table

In addition to adding cranberries to your cooking, you can set the table with berries to create a festive mood.

Here's an easy way to add light and color to the dining room:



Floating cranberries, candles and flowers create an interesting centerpiece for the dining room table.

CRANBERRY CANDLE FLOAT

Supplies:
 1 clear punch bowl or other wide-mouthed, low bowl
 2-3 12-oz. bags Ocean Spray Fresh Cranberries (depending on size of bowl)
 3-4 floating candles
 1 live flower, stem cut to 1-inch
 Water

Directions:
 Fill bowl ¾-full with water. Add cranberries and floating candles. Arrange candles so they are evenly spaced amidst the berries. Add a single

spectacular bloom and light candles. Replace berries when they become soft, which can range from a few days to about a week. Caution: do not leave lit candles unattended.

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- Henry's Collision
- Huron Valley Ambulance
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- Lyon Township Firefighters
- The Medical Team
- The Miner Family/Miner's Barber Shop
- Seasons Hospice
- South Lyon Herald
- South Lyon High School Band Boosters
- Tamra Ward

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Community Christmas Celebration
 2:00 - 4:00 pm, Sunday, December 12th
 Join us for live entertainment provided by the Silver Eagle Trio and our beautiful dessert buffet. Photos with Santa are available.

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