



REINDEER HAS A NOSE FOR THE JOB
STRICTLY BUSINESS, A9

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APRIL 15, 2010

THURSDAY
December 23, 2010

The Observer & Eccentric
Newspapers

Volume 46
Number 61

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WESTLAND OBSERVER

hometownlife.com

CLASSIC EGGNOG IS BACK
FOOD, B8

IN BRIEF

And the winner is ...

Some friendly rivalry between the Westland Rotary and Wayne Rotary benefited the Wayne-Westland Salvation Army's Red Kettle campaign.

The service clubs compete each Christmas season to see which club can raise the most money bell ringing on a Saturday at Macy's at the Westland Shopping Center. The honors went to Westland this year, which raised \$632.01. The Wayne club brought in \$508.59.

Capt. Derek Rose, corps commander, made the announcement to cheers and applause at the Westland Rotary's Thursday, Dec. 16, meeting. He is a Westland Rotarian and his wife, Joanna, a fellow corps commander, is a Wayne Rotarian.

Blood Drive

You might be in vacation, but the need for blood doesn't take time off for the holidays. That's why the William P. Faust Public Library is hosting at American Red Cross Blood Drive 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday, Dec. 27, in meeting rooms A and B. Anyone who is in good health, at least 17 years old, and weighing at least 110 pound can donate blood. Stop by the circulation desk to make a blood donation appointment or just stop in. Walk-ins are welcome.

The library is at 6123 Central City Parkway, north of Ford Road. For more information, call the library at (734) 326-6123.

Christmas spirit

A group of retired Wayne-Westland School District secretaries, known as the Musers, decided to forgo exchanging Christmas gifts this year in order to make the holidays nicer for two families with children attending Hamilton Elementary School.

The Musers started to meet monthly for breakfast in the early 1980s. Their restaurant of choice served a fried mush, which several of the ladies enjoyed and they all decided to name themselves after this breakfast dish.

This Christmas, the Musers chose to collect money in lieu of buying gifts for each other. With an additional donation from the Palace Supermarket in Norway, two gift certificates were purchased and donated to Hamilton School.

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.

Hearing postponed for trio charged in teen's death

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The lobby at Westland's 18th District Court was packed Tuesday as dozens of people waited to go through security so they could attend a preliminary examination for three people charged in the murder of a Westland teenager.

There were family and friends of the victims and the defendants, along with a crowd of media from Detroit television and radio stations.

The wait was longer than the hearing and most of the people who turned up didn't make it into the courtroom.

Westland 18th District Court Judge Sandra Cicirelli granted a rare prosecution request for an adjournment of the preliminary examinations of Justin Lee Yoshikawa, 19, of Westland and Nicholas Jay Cottrell, 22, of Taylor, along with Cottrell's mother Tina Lowe, 49, of Belleville.

Yoshikawa and Cottrell are charged with first-degree murder in the death of Carlee Jade Morse, 16, who disappeared Aug. 20 from a Westland apartment complex. Lowe is charged with being an accessory after the fact and interfering with a police investigation.

Cicirelli ordered that Yoshikawa

and Cottrell continue to be held without bond and refused to reduce the \$300,000 cash bond set for Lowe, but did agree to seek an expedited pretrial services review.

Defense attorneys objected to the delay. Prosecutors are required to hold a preliminary examination within 14 days of arraignment, although it's not uncommon for the defense to seek a delay in the hearing that determines whether there is probable cause a crime was committed and that the defendants committed the crime.

Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Lisa Screen of the homicide unit requested a short adjournment in

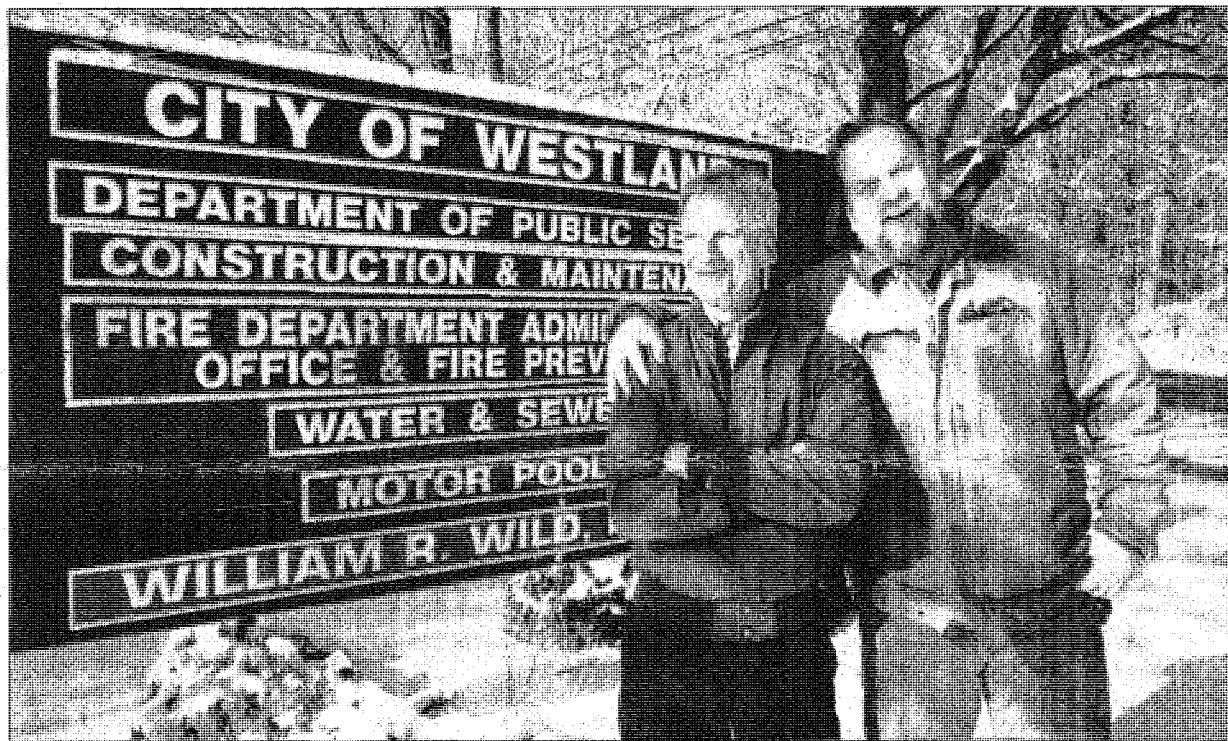
each case because telephone records for which subpoenas had been issued and Michigan State Police laboratory reports hadn't yet been received.

Defense attorneys objected to a delay, noting the prosecution had two weeks to obtain the records and reports.

"It's not her fault that she hasn't been able to obtain the records. There was no delay on Ms. Screen's part," said Cicirelli, who had met with the attorneys in her chambers before the hearing. "The prosecution promptly and diligently pursued the informa-

Please see **TRIO, A2**

Holiday giving



City employees Mitch Weimer and Ian Smith and members of AFSCME Local 1602 are making the holidays merry by adopting three Westland families.

City employees make Christmas merry for Westland families

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

For at least a decade and maybe longer, a group of Westland city workers has joined forces to help some local families have a happier Christmas.

Members of American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 1602 are adopting three families this year, providing food, toiletries and assorted gifts requested by the family.

"They are usually single-parent families," said Steve Misiak, a Department of Public Services senior equipment operator. "Usually we get referrals from the Dorsey Center; some years a fellow union member will refer someone."

Unlike some programs, Misiak said the families receiving assistance from Local 1602 members are contacted to find out what they need for the holiday so the donation can be personalized. Norman's Market has donated

turkeys for the families and some years hams are also included.

"We talked to one family and the mother said they don't eat ham, so we'll provide something else," said Misiak, who joins co-worker Mitch Weimer in delivering the food and gifts, usually Dec. 23 or Christmas Eve. "That way the family doesn't have to worry about hiding the gifts from the kids. It's not really a holiday basket, it's a household basket."

Please see **HOLIDAY, A2**

Westland woman facing trial for embezzlement

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A Westland woman charged with stealing more than \$350,000 from her elderly mother didn't get her holiday wish for a reduced bond Wednesday.

Carol Brazeika, 49, waived her preliminary examination in 18th District Court and was ordered bound over to Wayne County Circuit Court for trial on 14 felony charges, including three counts of embezzlement over \$100,000, a 20-year felony; five counts of identity theft, a five-year felony; and five counts of larceny by false pretenses.

Defense attorney Kim Michon asked Judge Mark McConnell to reduce the bond for Brazeika, who has been held in lieu of \$350,000 cash/surety bond.

"I understand these are very serious charges and my client could face prison time. She works for a funeral company and has a job to return to," said Michon. "Restitution will be a key. I would ask that she be released on personal bond with a GPS (electronic tether) and a no contact order."

Prior to her arrest, Brazeika had been working for Vermeulen Funeral Home. Michon noted all money made by Brazeika would go toward restitution. "So, you're saying your client wouldn't be moving to Texas and live in a mansion?" said McConnell, adding he wondered why the funeral home wanted Brazeika to return to work.

Having talked to family members, Wayne County Prosecutor Robert Spada said they didn't want Brazeika released on bond at this time.

"This needs to be investigated to see what money there is and where all the money has gone," he said.

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

It is also alleged that Brazeika, using her mother's identity, opened credit card accounts and obtained loans in her mother's name during that same time period.

McConnell agreed to refer Brazeika for pretrial bond screening and her circuit court arraignment was set for Dec. 29.

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Mail call: Santa gets letters from good boys, girls

For boys and girls of all ages, tomorrow night, Christmas Eve, is their night. That's when Santa Claus comes to town. He leaves the North Pole with his list of naughty and nice and heads out in his sleigh to deliver presents to one and all.

A busy man this time of year, Santa asked the *Observer* to help with the letters he receives. As a Christmas treat — and with Santa's permission — we're publishing some of them to help our readers get ready for their visit from Santa Claus. The letters are published as written with translations provided, when possible, and where necessary.

Dear Santa,

I helped Mommy with the baby a lot. I put her paci-fier in just to be nice. I help feed her. I'm a good girl. I gave my hair away to the kids that have cancer. I love you so much, Santa.

I want a camping Barbie, a Tinkerbell movie and a Tangled Castle. I will leave you a treat on the table for you and the reindeer.

Thank you!
Love,
Kylie Smyth



Kylie Smyth

Dear Santa,

I want a real deer, a real sleigh, bowling balls, and a firefighter truck.

Adam Said

Dear Santa,

I want a doctors set, a teapot, and a puzzle.

Arianne McFall



Arianne McFall

My Christmas list:

Purple or baby blue MP3 player
Zu-zu Pets
Barbie Plane
Barbie Camper
Barbie Winter Collection Doll
a Speak Now CD.

Abby Said

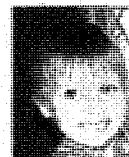


Abby Said

Hi Santa!

I want a robot that moves and jumps over water. Robot lives in a robot castle. I want a choo-choo train.

Bye Santa!
Conner Smyth



Conner Smyth

Dear Santa,

I wot Pitharka (Pictureka) pels and a gotr (guitar).

Love,
Mackenzie Wrobbel

Dear Santa,

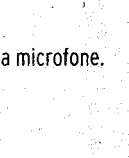
I don't won't much for christmas. I just won't a lego star was set for christmas it looks like a ship that is big and gray.

Sincerely,
Brenden Booth

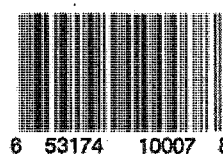
Dear Santa,

I want the training camp for Wii and a microfone.

Love,
Cole Qwattlander



Cole Qwattlander



6 53174 10007 8



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TRIO

FROM PAGE A1

The court finds there is good cause to adjourn the hearing.

Cottrell's defense attorney Corbett O'Meara offered to stipulate to what was in the phone records and DNA obtained from a vehicle.

"They (the defendants and Morse) were friends. The DNA and the phone records don't prove anything," O'Meara said. "My client's continued detention is unconstitutional."

The hearing for all three defendants was adjourned until 1:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 13. Morse had been missing since the early hours of Aug. 20, when she went to make a phone call outside the Venoy Pines Apartments near Venoy and Warren roads where she lived with her mother, who reported her missing.

The teen had been considered a missing person until earlier this month, when a witness gave police information leading them to Yoshikawa and Cottrell, who both knew Morse.

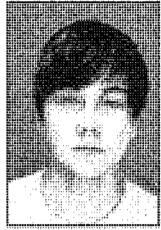
So far, police have only said that the men had a dispute

with Morse and, based on statements they made, she was strangled shortly after she disappeared. Police are continuing to work on locating her body, which has yet to be found.

Lowe is charged with talking to the witness and attempting



Cottrell



Yoshikawa



Lowe

to convince her not to go to police with information she had learned about the murder.

Cicirelli rejected defense arguments that bond be reconsidered for Lowe, who has no prior criminal record and is in danger of losing a job she has held for more than 15 years.

"This involves a horrific crime that allegedly happened in August. We are four months later," Cicirelli said. "Your client is alleged not to have come forward with information, but also that she threatened a witness to stop them from coming forward. We won't tolerate that."

Unlike Lowe, her son has several prior convictions dating back to 2005, including home invasion, delivery/manufacture of marijuana and methamphetamines. As a result, he has an additional charge of being a fourth-degree habitual offender.

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City attorney challenges citizens' comments

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

During most Westland council meetings, City Attorney James Fausone says very little unless asked for an opinion.

At Monday's meeting, Fausone had plenty to say in response to allegations being made by some residents regarding the William P. Faust Library and money spent for cleaning up after homes were flooded in June.

Resident Mark Rodriguez repeated comments he'd made at the library board — that the city charging the library rent would be a misappropriation of the dedicated millage, a

felony. He went on to comment that council approving that rent would make the members guilty of conspiracy.

The city owns the land on which the library sits and the building itself, according to the deed, Fausone said. In addition, state law specifically allows the library millage to be used to lease or purchase property for the library use, he said.

"To suggest that the city can't discuss rent with the library board or that it is a felony or a conspiracy is misguided on the facts and the law," Fausone said.

Charging the library rent, which came up during budget discussions earlier this year, was recommended by city

auditors Plante Moran, Mayor William Wild said.

"I'm taken aback by the comments that a city official would do something felonious. To have a resident go to the library and this meeting with those comments is wrong," Wild said. "Especially in light of the indictments in Detroit. People already don't trust their local government."

Resident Burke Rock repeated his allegations that Wild had violated the city charter by authorizing the \$2.2 million emergency cleanup following the June flooding. He cited a section of the charter that requires council approval of expenditures exceeding \$5,000.

"I always get concerned

when someone quotes the Bible or the Koran one verse at a time. A single page of the city charter was passed out," Fausone said. "We need to realize that the larger charter needs to be looked at and the context applied."

Specifically, Fausone noted other provisions of the charter which give the mayor the emergency authority to procure services needed for the health and safety of residents.

Wild didn't respond to Rock — at an earlier meeting the mayor said that after a year of being lambasted by Rock he would no longer respond to his comments.

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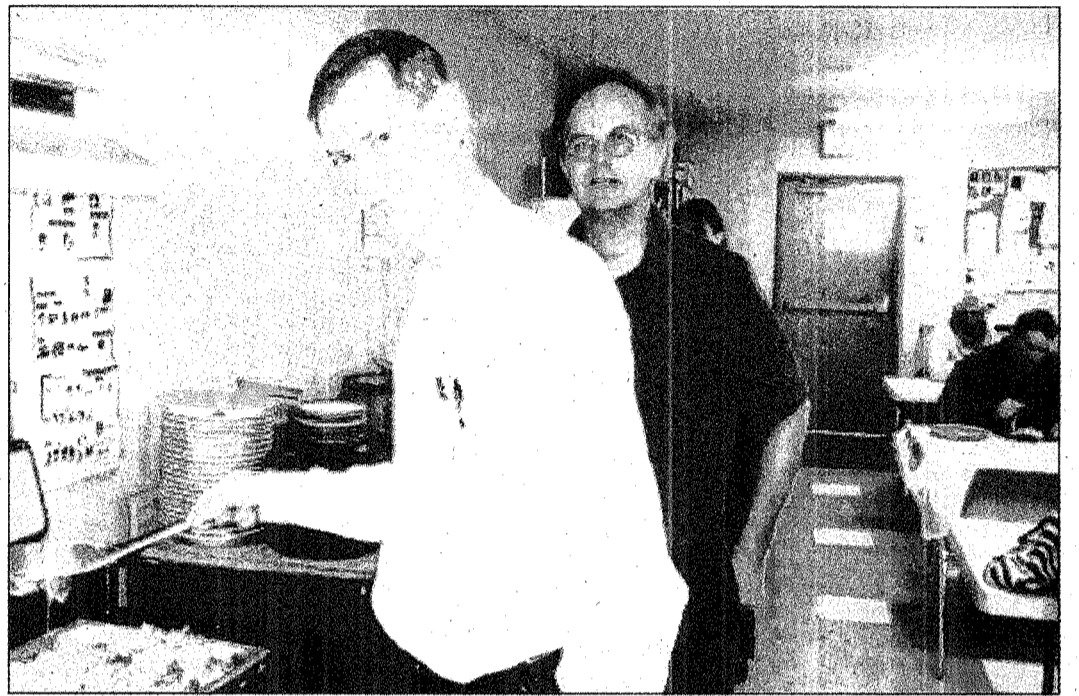
Toastmasters help soup kitchen keep cooking

Members of the Westland Easytalkers Toastmasters helped serve a Thanksgiving dinner to the homeless and is making a donation to help making cooking easier at the soup kitchen.

The Toastmasters members went to the Lighthouse Home Mission soup kitchen on Palmer in Westland to help serve the Thanksgiving dinner. After everyone was fed, the Toastmasters were given the grand tour of the facility. Those participating included President Mike Wysner along with members William Tremper and Rick Insko.

"Those people who work at and run the place do so much for the needy with so little to work with, it's incredible," said Tremper. "They feed as many as 50 people each day with one four burner stove and one oven with which to cook all the food, and they also provide showers and a change of clothes to those who need them."

Before club members headed home for their own holiday dinners, Insko promised to buy a new stove for them so that the shelter will have eight



Westland Easytalkers Toastmasters William Tremper (front) and Rick Insko helped prepare Thanksgiving Dinner at the Full Gospel Church Lighthouse Mission.

burners and two ovens. Insko made good on his promise, purchasing a new stove which should be delivered on or by Dec. 23 to the soup kitchen.

"This was quite an experience for us and we three as

well as other members plan to get involved in helping them with the many chores that need doing throughout the year," said Tremper. "Those needy people need to eat all year long, not just on

Thanksgiving." "This is not a usual nor official function of Toastmasters, but our members are doing this on their own, out of compassion for our fellow human beings," he said.

HOLIDAY

FROM PAGE A1

There might be detergent, soap and canned goods."

Money for the adopt-a-family program is raised through 50/50 raffles held at each of the city buildings. Additionally, canned food and other donations are collected at city buildings.

"The donations amount varies — we lost 30 people in our building with the early retirements. Usually it's \$400-\$500 plus donated items," Misiak said, adding the criteria is that the adopted families be Westland residents or be referred by the Dorsey Center. "And as a rule, we spend the money at

Westland businesses."

Misiak has worked on the adopt-a-family program for about a decade and this year is supervising the effort due to the retirement of Al Campbell, the long-time head of the program.

Since he is so involved in the program, Misiak said his wife Betty, along with daughters Diana and Stephanie, have pitched in to help out by wrapping the gifts.

"You really feel good knowing it's needed and appreciated. People will send us thank you notes," Misiak said. "They all appreciate it in their own way — that's what counts. Lots of people contribute."

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City office hours change due to holidays

The holiday season is in full swing and it's having an effect on local city services.

For people needing to tend to business at the Westland City Hall, Economic Development, Dorsey Community Center and 18th District Court, get it done during the beginning of the week. Those offices will be closed

today-Friday, Dec. 23-24, and Thursday-Friday, Dec. 30-31.

Also closed now through Sunday, Jan. 2, is the Senior Friendship Center, while the Bailey Recreation Center will be open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. today, Dec. 23, and closed Friday-Saturday, Dec. 24-25, and Saturday, Jan. 1. The center will be open 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday-Thursday,

Dec. 26-29, and 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 31.

The Mike Modano Arena at 6210 Wildwood will be holding Holiday Open Skating 12:30-1:50 p.m. Monday, Dec. 20 and 27, and Thursday, Dec. 23 and 30. The cost is \$3 for children and \$4 for adults, nonresidents add 50 cents. Skate rental is \$3.

The William P. Faust Public Library at 6123 Central City Parkway, north of Ford Road, will be closed Friday-Sunday,

Dec. 24-26 and Dec. 31 to Jan. 2.

Police and fire services will not be affected nor will weekly trash collection which will be picked up as usual Monday through Friday.

As for getting something in the mail, the post office in Westland will be open until 3 p.m. Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. The last collection will be at noon. The automated postage centers will be available 24 hours. Mail delivery will not be affected.

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Invitation to Bid

Sealed proposals will be received by the City of Westland Purchasing Division, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan, 48185, **on January 5, 2011 at 11:00 a.m.** (no exceptions will be made for late filings) for the following:

Official City Newspaper

Complete specifications and pertinent information may be obtained from the Purchasing Office or at www.CityofWestland.com. The City of Westland reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

William Gabriel
City Controller

Publish: December 23, 2010

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FREE Dollar Event held in Conjunction with Comic Archives



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Volunteer Lloyd Brown, a Westland resident, prepares new plastic bags for the food distribution.

Open Door policy

Spike in demand keeps ministry serving the needy

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Open Door Ministry, a Canton-based food pantry that has fed the area's hungry for a decade, saw a 30-percent spike in pleas for help this year compared to 2009, as economic recovery proved elusive for tens of thousands of people.

"I don't see recovery in the number of people needing food," Open Door Director Steven Darr said, sitting inside the food pantry warehouse on Lilley south of Michigan Avenue.

Open Door volunteers this year fed 65,000 people from communities such as Canton, Westland, Plymouth, Garden City, Livonia, Redford, Wayne, Belleville and Ypsilanti. The pantry used 1.5 million pounds of food it mostly received from Gleaners Community Food Bank and Forgotten Harvest, which got its supplies from places like Walmart, Sam's Club, Kroger and Target.

Some 60 volunteers spend Thursday evenings loading food into vehicles driven by recipient families to Open Door headquarters, a former factory that made corrugated boxes. Lloyd Brown, a U.S. Navy and Air Force retiree, is among those who bring smiles by delivering items such as frozen meat, fresh vegetables, canned goods and desserts.

"We're feeding the hungry, and there's a lot of hungry people in the world today," Brown said. "Some of them can still pay their bills but they don't have anything

FEEDING THE NEEDY

What: Open Door Ministry, a Canton-based food pantry
Who: Open Door serves people from communities such as Canton, Plymouth, Westland, Garden City, Livonia, Redford, Wayne, Belleville and Ypsilanti.
How much: The ministry fed 65,000 people this year, a 30-percent hike from 2009
How to help: People who want to volunteer or who need more information about Open Door Ministry may go to www.opendoorfoodministry.org or call Connection Church at (734) 397-1777, Ext. 201.

left over for food. One of the things the Lord said was to feed the hungry."

Open Door Ministry, an offshoot of Canton-based Connection Church, has seen demand for help steadily increase over the last decade, but Darr said the biggest one-year increase in pleas for help occurred this year. A typical Thursday evening brings 450 families to the pantry, but Darr said the number swelled to 527 prior to Thanksgiving.

Darr, a retired Ford Motor Co. engineer who oversees Open Door Ministry with wife Jackie, said volunteers don't receive money for their efforts.

"We're a hundred percent volunteer," he said. "Nobody gets paid."

Open Door stores its perishable food in an array of freezers, including a large one donated by the Canton

Community Foundation and Jim and Linda Demmer. The new Walmart on Michigan Avenue gave \$5,000 to the pantry, and volunteers come from organizations such as the YMCA, the National Honor Society and the township's youth B.L.O.C.K. group, which stands for Building Leaders Out of Canton's Kids.

Containers of food placed in recipients' vehicles often contain biblical passages, which Darr said are meant to inspire and offer hope to those in need. Open Door also offers job counseling, skills training and referrals to other care groups for additional help.

Outside the warehouse, Darr pointed to a makeshift radio station that actually broadcasts spiritual programs Thursday evenings from a step van in the Open Door parking lot. Families who line up for food can tune in to 1630 AM or 105.7 FM on their car radios and actually receive the signal.

"It only reaches across the parking lot," Darr said with a smile.

Volunteers pack some 200 pounds of food each minute into cars. As economic troubles worsened in Michigan, Darr said he noticed many families receiving help for the first time, including many middle-class people who lost their jobs amid the economic recession.

"Our biggest number (of recipients) comes from Westland, and Canton is No. 2," he said. "There are a lot of people hurting right here in Canton."

dclem@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2238

AROUND WESTLAND

Blood Drive

The William P. Faust Public Library at 6123 Central City Parkway, north of Ford Road, will be holding an American Red Cross Blood Drive 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday, Dec. 27, in meeting rooms A and B. Stop by the circulation desk to make a blood donation appointment or just stop in. Walk-ins are welcome.

Taste Testing

Chef Jesse Gales will offer a taste-testing opportunity at the Westland Weight Watchers center Saturday, Jan. 22.

These meetings are open and free to the public so anyone who is interested in learning more about Weight Watchers, without having to pay a meeting fee, can attend.

The Westland Weight Watchers Center is at 36585 W. Warren Road. Meetings will begin at 8:30, 9:30 and 10:30 a.m.

Vacation Auction

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

Seniors' card party

Seniors are invited to spend the afternoon with Wayne County Commissioner Joan Gebhardt, D-Livonia, playing cards and enjoying an early dinner on New Year's Eve, Friday, Dec. 31.

Gebhardt is hosting the card party at the Livonia Senior Center, beginning at 1 p.m. The cost is \$5 for seniors who live in Gebhardt's 12th Commission District communities of Inkster, Westland and the southern portion of Livonia. Also a Schoolcraft College trustee, Gebhardt also is inviting seniors living in the school districts of Livonia, Plymouth-Canton, Clarenceville, Northville and Garden City, which are part of the college district.

The card games slated to be played are pinochle and euchre. Registration starts at 12:45 p.m. and the games will begin promptly at 1 p.m. Dinner will be served at 3:30 p.m.

The Livonia Senior Center is at 15218 Farmington Road, just south of Plymouth Road. For ticket information, call (313) 224-0907. There is a waiting list for those who live outside the aforementioned school districts.

Lions Club

The Westland Lions Club meets at 11:45 a.m. the second and fourth Mondays of the month at Logan's Roadhouse on Ford Road in Canton. For more information, call Debbie Dayton at (734) 721-4216.

Keep walking

In the mood to walk, but don't like the weather? Westland Shopping Center has the answer - mall walking.

Westland Shopping Center opens its doors before usual operating hours for people

who want to walk for exercise. Walking begins at 7 a.m. Monday through Saturday. Enter through Arcade 2 by Olga's Kitchen on the northeast end of the mall. All other doors are locked until approximately 8.30 a.m. On Sunday all doors are opened at 10 a.m.

Westland Walkers also hold a meeting at 9.30 a.m. Wednesdays in the Community Room on the lower level. Call (734) 425-5001 to check when a meeting has been scheduled.

It's easy to become a member of Westland Walkers. Just fill out a registration card available at the Customer Service booth in East Court. Return it to the Customer Service Associate or put it in the Walkers Box located on the side counter.

Westland Shopping Center is at Wayne and Warren roads in Westland.

For information about either class or other Bailey Center activities, call (734) 686-9882.

CFL bulb recycling

Westland residents can recycle CFLs (Compact Fluorescent Bulbs) or other fluorescent bulbs for free at Home Depot at 39875 Ford, east of I-275, and IKEA at 41640 Ford, west of I-275. For more information, call Home Depot at (734) 844-7300 and IKEA at (734) 981-6300.

Office hours


Wayne County Commissioner Joan Gebhardt, D-Livonia, will not hold regular office hours in the 12th District in December. When the sessions return in January, she will not be meeting at Starbucks Coffee in Westland.

Gebhardt, who represents south Livonia, Inkster and Westland, will be at:

- The McDonald's restaurant (27125 Cherry Hill Road, Inkster, at noon the first Monday of the month.

- The William P. Faust Public Library, 6123 Central City Parkway, 6-8 p.m., both on the second Monday of the month.

- Biggby Coffee, 33328 Plymouth Road, Livonia, at 10 a.m. the fourth of the Monday of the month.



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Woman finds unwanted guest sleeping on couch

Unlawful entry

A Westland couple discovered an uninvited guest sleeping on their couch Dec. 19. The residents of a home in the 5700 block of Herbert told police that about 2 a.m. the wife got up to use the restroom and noticed the man on the living room couch. She awoke her husband, who called police.

The officer arrived and found the man sleeping. The officer said he tapped the man on the arm and asked him to wake up but the man responded by looking at him, then extending his right middle finger.

The officer said he grabbed the man's right arm and asked him to sit up but the man tried to pull away and began to clinch his fists. The man was told he was under arrest and continued to resist, the officer said, until a second officer came to assist.

Nothing appeared to be missing from the home. Officers recovered a small bag of marijuana from the man's pocket. The homeowners told police they had left the side door unlocked since they expected their son to arrive home shortly.

As the man was being taken to a patrol car, the officer noticed the man's car was parked in the driveway next door. An officer contacted the woman who lives there and she told police she knows the suspect, who was supposed to be spending the night at her home. She added she had no idea how he ended up next door.

The suspect, a 23-year-old Westland man, later told police that he had gone outside to smoke a cigarette and afterwards, must have gone inside the wrong house.

WESTLAND

Retail fraud

A 16-year-old Redford girl was arrested Dec. 19 for shoplifting \$71 worth of assorted women's undergarments from Kohl's at the Westland Shopping Center, 35000 Warren Road.

Store security told police they saw the girl take the items into a change room, then come out with a shopping bag. Checking the changing room, the staff said no merchandise was found. She was stopped leaving the store and detained for police. She was eventually released to her mother.

Break-in

Police were called to an apartment at the Landings, 6836 Lakeview, about 5:30 p.m. Dec. 17 when a resident reported someone had broken in. The resident said he had fallen asleep on the living room couch about 45 minutes earlier. When he awoke, the resident said he noticed the door wall was slightly open.

When he closed the door, the resident said he noticed pry mark. Checking the apartment, the resident said he realized \$400 in cash was missing from the desk drawer which is located near the living room couch.

The officer questioned how the man could sleep through the incident, especially with someone rummaging the nearby desk. The man told police that he receives a disability check - the officer noticed a Special Olympics medal and the man said he had been a participant.

The officer looked around the apartment and pointed out the front door jam was damaged, something the man said he hadn't noticed.

By LeAnne Rogers

Woman suspects ex-boyfriend of using debit card

Larceny

A Garden City woman believes a former boyfriend may be the one using a debit card to make withdrawals at three ATMs in Westland.

The woman told police on Dec. 16 that she had recently contacted Friend of the Court about not receiving her child support payments and was told that she was sent an FOC debit card and would no longer receive checks. The card had been sent to a home in the 600 block of Belton in mid-October and had been activated.

The woman said she had been living with her boyfriend at the home and suspects he found the card in the mail and took it. She also said she had her personal belongings at the home which would have made it easy to find her Social Security number, needed to activate the card.

Larceny from auto

A baby seat and clothing, clothing, a purse, backpack, college medical books, a GPS system and a 12-pack of pop were among items stolen from a car parked in front of a home in the 29000 block of Barton Dec. 17.

The car's owner told police that she had parked the vehicle at 2:30 a.m. and when she returned about an hour later, the items were missing.

Police found tire tracks in the snow beside the vehicle and that entry was gained through the back passenger window on the driver's side. According to the woman, the motor for the electric window didn't work and the window could easily be pushed up and down.

Vandalism

The driver's door window of a car parked in the street in the 200 block of Arcola was shot out with a BB or pellet gun sometime between 6:30 p.m. Dec. 16 and 7:30 a.m. Dec. 17.

Retail fraud

A black male was able to elude police after he tried to return items he had taken from the shelves in the Aldi Supermarket Dec. 17.

The manager told police the man entered the store and took two items from the toy shelves and attempted to get a refund of \$61.45. The suspect provided a receipt for the items and received the refund. When the manager asked for the receipt he was told he had given to the clerk. The manager told him she would have to check the video to verify the

GARDEN CITY

transaction. While she was gone, he left the store with the money.

Larceny

A resident reported to police that someone took his snow blower from in front of his home in the 31000 block of Cherry Hill sometime between 2:45 and 7:30 p.m. Dec. 16. The homeowner told police the snow blower had been left sitting in the driveway in front of the garage.

Fraud

A resident in the 28000 block of Barton told police she was doing her bills online Dec. 18 when she discovered six unauthorized transactions. Four of transactions were made at Wal-Mart and the other two were automatic transfers because the account was overdrawn.

The woman told police she shares the account with her father, but he does not drive and does not have access to Wal-Mart. She also said she has both cards for the account.

Stolen vehicle

A car was reported stolen from the driveway of a home in the 28000 block of Warren Road Dec. 18 was recovered in Dearborn Heights on Dec. 19. The man told police that his 18-year-old daughter had left the car unlocked and running at about 7:40 p.m. It was found missing about 10 minutes later.

However, Inkster Police recovered the car after it crashed into a snow bank at the intersection of Kingswood and Amboy in Dearborn Heights. The car was being chased by officers from Inkster and Dearborn Heights at 12:20 a.m.

The two suspects fled from the car after the crash and were caught.

License suspended

A 21-year-old Dearborn Heights man was arrested for driving with a suspended license after being stopped by police at Ford and Merriman.

Officers had made the stop after receiving a complaint that the driver had almost caused an accident with a car driven by a Westland woman. The man's license had been suspended in November 2008 and he also had three prior convictions for driving on a suspended license.

Drug arrest

A 35-year-old Garden City woman charged with driving with a suspended license and operating a vehicle while under the influence of narcotics following an accident at Ford and Moeller Dec. 19.

The woman was driving a car that had been reported as taken without permission by her mother. A witness told police the woman was driving at a high rate of speed on Moeller and failed to stop at a stop sign at Ford where she hit a car, containing three women.

The Garden City woman's vehicle rolled onto the driver's side and Garden City firefighters used power tools to extract her. She was taken to Garden City Hospital where she was treated and then taken into custody.

When questioned by police at the scene the woman admitted that she may have taken drugs but refused to say what.

She had two prior alcohol violations as well as three prior suspensions. Her license was expired and she had seven current denied and revoked suspensions by the Secretary of State and one indefinite suspension.

Vandalism

Windows of two vehicles parked at the Brentwood Apartments at 31245 Krauter had windows broken out between Dec. 18 and Dec. 20.

In the first incident the owner told police his mother had discovered the damage and told him to call police. The window was broken around 9 a.m. The owner refused to go outside and check to see if anything was missing.

In the second incident, the driver's side window of a Mercury Villager was broken out between noon Dec. 19 and 4 p.m. Dec. 20. Nothing was reported missing, according to the owner's daughter-in-law.

Fraud

A resident of the 6400 block of Lathers discovered four unexplained charges on his TCF Bank checking account after he tried to use his bank card to buy gas.

The four charges totaled \$1,400. They were made at 3:42 a.m. Dec. 20 to PayPal. The man said he believes his child's mother, who he had recently ended a relationship with, was responsible for the charges. He said the woman knows all of the passwords to his accounts.

The woman who denied knowledge of the passwords or using the account information.

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Thrift stores a boon as economic woes continue

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

As economic woes continue to strain consumer budgets, metro Detroit shoppers are increasingly finding bargains at thrift stores and resale shops they might once have snubbed during more prosperous times when stretching their dollars seemed less critical.

As bargain-hunting and gently used merchandise have become more popular, area thrift stores are broadening their customer base and luring shoppers from Canton, Plymouth, Livonia, Westland, Garden City, Redford, Farmington and other communities.

And, more shoppers have meant more revenues for charity organizations — The Salvation Army, Goodwill Industries of Greater Detroit, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, the Disabled American Veterans and others — that use their income to provide food, clothing, children's programs, shelter and jobs for a growing number of recession-weary residents.

Rather than pay exorbitant prices for designer clothing, a name-brand espresso machine or a new sofa, shoppers are finding slashed prices for quality merchandise, store officials say, and consumers who need a new suit for a job search can find a deal without plunking down their charge cards.

CUSTOMER BASE EXPANDS

"We've noticed a larger increase in our customer base, because we've found that people have realized some of the fantastic values that are in a thrift store or second-hand retail shop," said Michael Saine, manager of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul store near the northwest corner of Wayne and Hunter in Westland. "And you can use the cash in your hands to get what you need instead of charging it."

St. Vincent de Paul, which marked its fifth year in Westland last August, uses its revenues for purposes such as food banks, children's camps and churches in need. Across town, the Disabled American Veterans thrift store at Middlebelt and Ann Arbor Trail raises money to support programs helping veterans.

In Livonia, The Salvation Army Family Thrift Store on Plymouth west of Farmington has remained a community fixture since 1996, said Maj. John Aren, who also oversees stores in Canton, Garden City, Dearborn Heights, Wayne, Lincoln Park and Romulus.

"The Livonia store has been a unique place over the years because it has been able to capture the pristine donations of an upper-class community but it is within reach of everyone to benefit from that," he said.

Aren oversaw the Nov. 5 opening of a new Salvation Army store on the southeast corner of Joy and Morton Taylor roads in Canton — a store that brought in a startling \$250,000 in gross revenues less than a month after it welcomed its first shoppers.

"The economy has had a drastic impact on our business, not only from those who are adversely affected and have limited incomes, but also from those who have an entrepreneurial approach to searching out products and flipping them on the Internet for a profit," Aren said. "And there are those who shop with us for sport — they love to find vintage merchandise (at low cost)."

A new survey conducted by the National Retail Foundation found that 61.7 percent of shoppers this holiday season had said their concerns about the economy would affect their spend-



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Salvation Army Maj. John Aren talks about the layout and design of the newest Family Thrift Store that opened last month in Canton.



Michael Saine of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul has seen an increase in the customer base because people have "realized some of the fantastic values that are in a thrift store or second-hand retail shop."

ing. Yet, according to the National Association of Resale Professionals, resale stores have reported consistent growth rates for the last five years, despite an otherwise-struggling retail environment.

"The NRF survey shows that the recession is not over for the consumer," said Steve Murphy, president of franchising for Winmark Corp., a Minneapolis-based company that specializes in leasing and developing

retail stores that buy, sell and trade new and used merchandise. "While we have begun to see some encouraging (economic) improvements, consumers remain cautious about spending."

QUALITY GOODS

Even as the economy improves, some officials say consumers — many with reduced incomes — will continue to seek quality merchandise at thrift stores and resale shops, and charity organizations are tapping into the trend. On Dec. 11, Goodwill Industries of Greater Detroit, which uses its revenues for job-creating programs, returned to the retail market after a decade-long absence by opening a store on Ford Road west of Haggerty in Canton.

The store hopes to generate \$1 million in revenue during the first year to support its job-creation and training programs, said Jeff Ukraine, director of donated goods. Moreover, Goodwill plans to have retail stores in five south-east Michigan counties within the next 10 years.

Though the Goodwill shop's opening came just two months after The Salvation Army store opened about three miles away, Ukraine said he believes the two locations will benefit one another rather than detract from each other.

"A typical resale shopper," he said, "will go from one place to the other."

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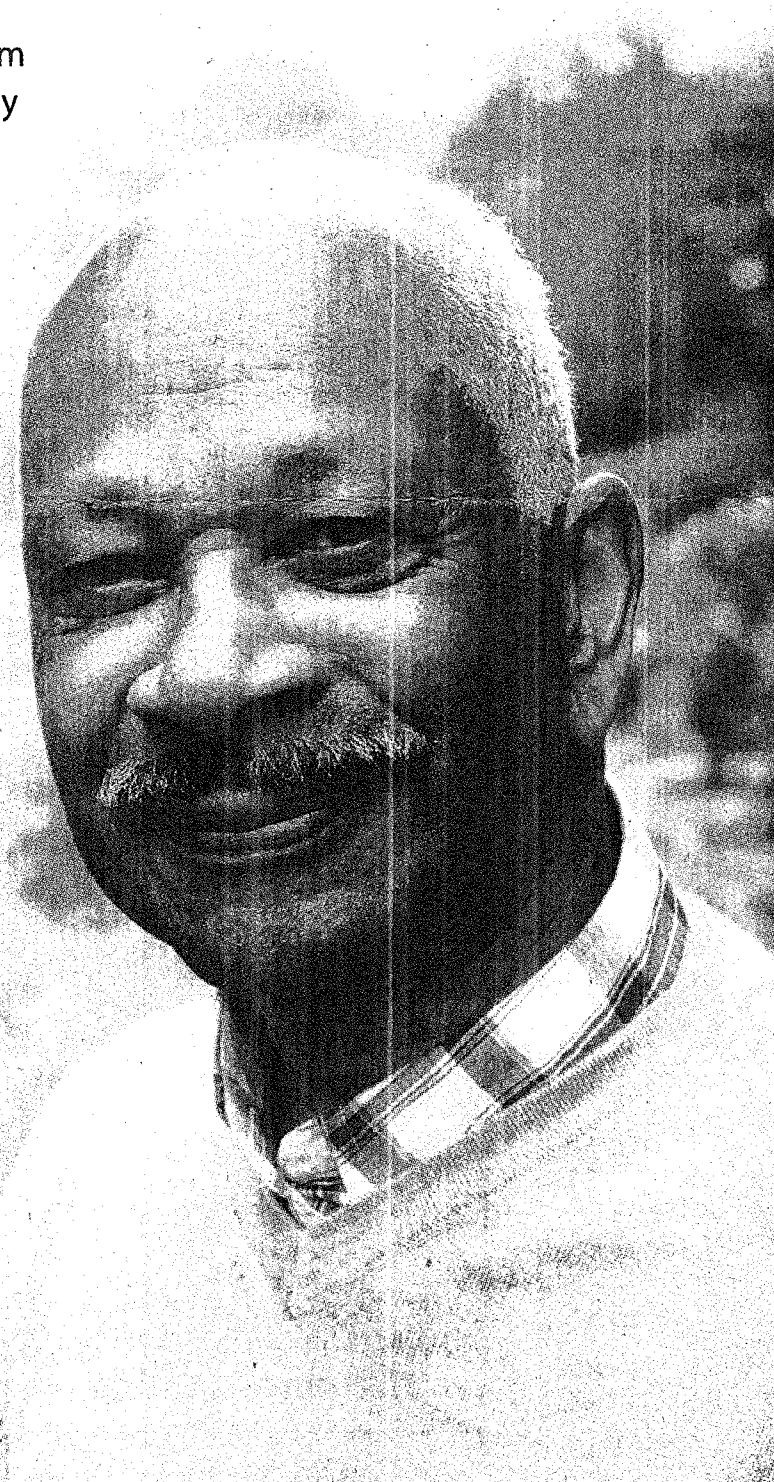
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Pastor pens book on Jesus' little-known sayings

BY KAREN SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Most people know the story of the first Christmas — Jesus being born to Mary in a stable as shepherds watched their flocks at night.

But they don't have a real understanding of what Jesus taught and why it should matter to them.

That's why the Rev. Edward H. Einem, 82, of Livonia wrote his first-ever book, *Did Jesus REALLY say THAT? The Unpopular or Little Known Sayings of Jesus*.

"The Bible's a big book," Einem said, and daily demands and distractions prevent people from studying it in-depth.

SHORT-CUT TO BIBLE

Einem's 57-page paperback, based on questions Jesus asked of others as recorded in the Bible, is a short-cut to understanding who Jesus really was.

Einem said a lot of people — even church-going Christians — are surprised to learn that Jesus calls all people sinners, using the word "evil" to describe even his own disciples. (Luke 11:1-13)

"We don't like to focus on that," he said, adding it's natural for people to think of themselves as good.

But people's sinfulness is the whole reason Jesus came to earth and died on the cross, Einem said. "He's the (sacrificial) lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world."

People think their goodness will get them into Heaven, Einem said. "They're not understanding the difference between a holy God and sinful humanity and that the two can't be together."

The Christmas story is really "the beautiful love story of God coming into this world for us to take on that servant role of saving us from our sins, of being a suffering servant," he said.

Even the hymns playing in the malls amid all the commercialism proclaim the true meaning of Christmas. "The message is there of that great love of a God who wants to be with us for eternity, who's reaching out to us," Einem said. The name Emmanuel, as in the hymn *Oh Come Oh Come Emmanuel*, means "God with us."

THE GOOD NEWS

Einem was founder and executive director of Detroit-based Project



The Rev. Edward Einem of Livonia is author of 'Did Jesus REALLY Say THAT?' He is on the board at Livonia Woods Nursing and Rehabilitation, which is raising money for a new chapel.

Compassion Ministries, which works to improve the quality of life of nursing home residents, before retiring in 2002. Through that ministry and as a former chaplain for Oakwood Hospital in Dearborn, Einem had bedside chats with many people, including nonbelievers and Christians of various denominations, who lacked a real understanding of Jesus' teachings.

But when he communicated to them how much Jesus loves them, that their sins are forgiven because of what He did, and that they will live with God eternally, he said they

felt such relief and peace.

"As people are facing their demise, I think the Good News is truly that," he said.

Unfortunately, for some nursing home residents, it was too late because they no longer had the mental capacity to understand.

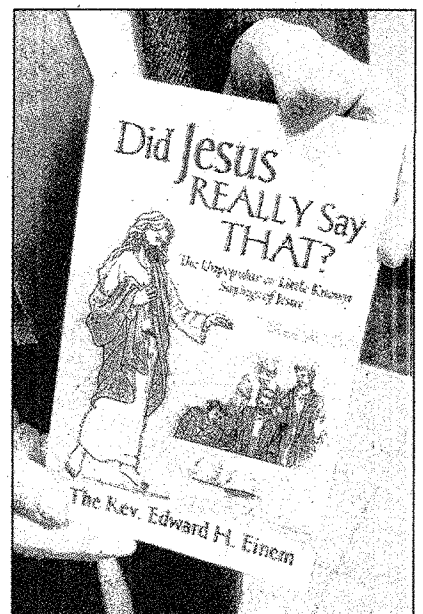
Einem's book is meant for people who want to experience that peace and joy now — before it's too late.

"I'm trying to reach people who may not know the love of Jesus and how much He is really reaching out to them, those we would call the unbeliever," he said. Secondly, he

wants to help Christians come into a better understanding of Jesus' teachings.

STUDYING SCRIPTURE

The Rev. Eric Stenson, interim minister at Timothy Lutheran Church in Livonia and a chaplain at Livonia Woods Nursing & Rehabilitation, where Einem is on the board, said Einem is a lifelong student of scripture whose professional and personal experiences make him an ideal candidate to comment on the sayings of Jesus Christ.



The Rev. Edward Einem's book is a short-cut to the Bible.

"On today's spiritual landscape, the church community all too often focuses its attention on the popular teachings of Jesus at the expense of those lesser known," he said. "Thankfully, Rev. Einem has the spiritual prowess to challenge his readers (and the church) by bringing to light these often neglected teachings."

Einem, who lost his wife of 57 years, Marion, two years ago, is battling prostate cancer, which has metastasized. The couple raised three children, two sons who are pastors — one at Christ Church of Redford — and a daughter who is a Christian school teacher. They have five grandchildren.

God-willing, he hopes to write a sequel based on the little-known parables Jesus told.

Einem said he has seen "wonderful evidences" of God's presence and love throughout his illness. "In it all and through it all, I know God is with me," he said.

"I have a confidence that when I do die I will be with the Lord," he said. "I look forward to the new life He has prepared."

Did Jesus REALLY say THAT? The Unpopular or Little Known Sayings of Jesus (ISBN: 978-1-60976-335-0), available for \$10, can be ordered through the publisher's website: www.strategicpublishinggroup.com/title/DidJesusREALLYsayTHAT.html or at www.amazon.com or www.barnesandnoble.com.

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OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC NEWSPAPERS

Where hometown stories unfold

Merry and bright

Spirit of the holidays fills W-W's Dyer Center

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

You could say Phil LaChance is a jack of all trades when it comes to celebrating Christmas at the Wayne-Westland Community Schools' Dyer Senior Center.

The Canton resident was on the wrong side of the buffet line, serving Jell-O salad to his fellow seniors, and looking "graceful" doing his best pirouette as the nine ladies dancing in an audience participation version of the *Twelve Days of Christmas*.

"The best thing is this is the best place to go for people who don't have family in the area," said LaChance who sat at the "head table" with center Director Mary Browe. "I play euchre, pinocle, go to all the meetings. They keep you busy."

The center is fueled by volunteerism. Seniors work the front desk, answer the phones and do whatever is needed by Browe. Fifty-five seniors came in "on a snow day" to decorate the Christmas trees found in almost every corner and help set up for the annual Christmas dinner.

"It's all of you who make this center what it is," said Browe in welcoming the 210 who attended the event. "We have 500 members who are volunteers and I know if I call anyone to do something, they will do it."

And even at the dinner, seniors were busy. A standard for center parties, Browe called off table numbers, sending guests to the buffet table to get their food. The first two tables ate first because their job was to serve dessert. LaChance and Maria Galan of Garden City were among the eight people who ate last. They stood between the two buffet tables, filling the seniors plates.

For the seniors, the dinner was a chance to wear their Christmas regalia. Roger Barrette of Westland sported a hat from the North Pole University, while Beverly Conkright wore a bright red cowboy hat covered with holiday trimmings.

"I bought the hat and accessorized it," said the Westland resident. "I'm having a great time."

Cheers mingled with chatter as Browe called off table numbers. At Conkright's table, there were cheers when the number was called "because we're always last," explained Charlotte Kirkpatrick of Westland.

"This is the first time I sat with them and I kept telling them they always say my table number last," said Conkright. "I guess I brought them luck."

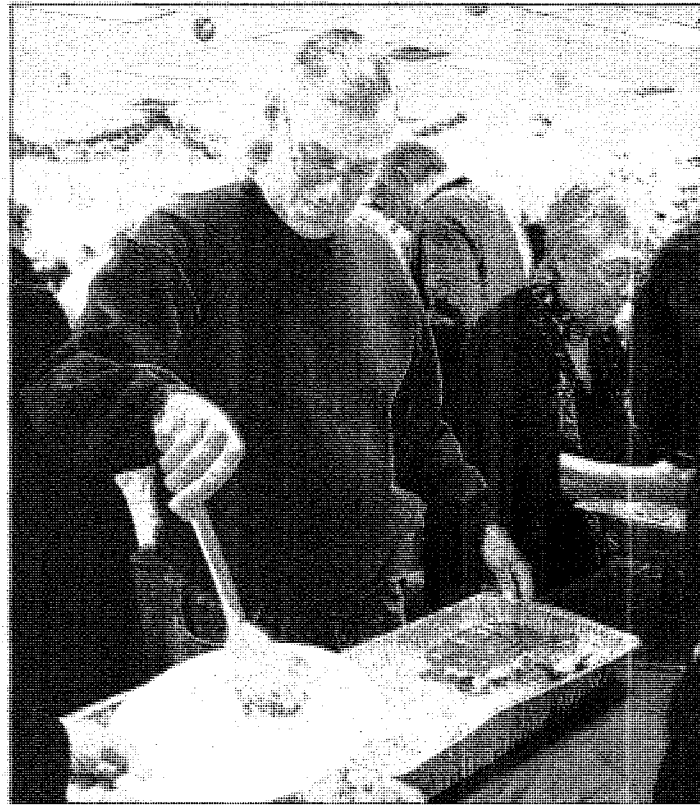
To the one, seniors say it is the camaraderie that keeps them coming to the center. According to Barrette, "it's like family."

"It's the camaraderie, there's no pouting here," said Elaine Shaffer of Canton. "I just enjoy getting together with the people."

"I haven't met a crabby person yet," said Barbara Betty Martin of Westland. "If they come in crabby, they don't leave crabby."

A longtime member at the center, Ed Turner likes the opportunity to "mingle and meet new people."

"I do think it's the camaraderie," said Turner, a former Wayne-Westland school board member. "I always do this when this group is here. Anyone who has a birthday gets a cupcake and carnation." "If I'm down, I know I can come here and find someone laughing," Deputy



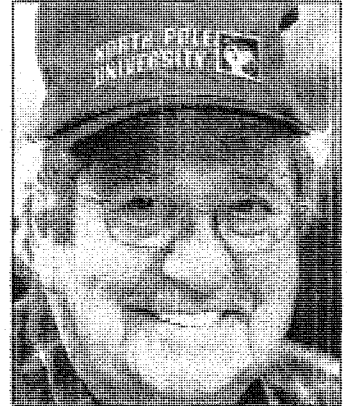
Phil LaChance of Canton and Maria Galan of Garden City help serve food at the Dyer Center Christmas dinner.

Surperintendent Charlotte Sherman told the seniors. "Usually, it's Mary. I have a family and I have a Wayne-

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Mary Freckman of Westland has a big holiday smile for her fellow party goers.



Roger Barrette of Westland shows his school colors - the red and green of North Pole University.

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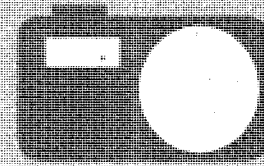
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IT'S YOUR BUSINESS Q&A

Reindeer has a nose for the job, head for the business

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

Rudolph: I lead sleighs. Most of the time, I have an exclusive client, an older gentleman in a red suit with a bushy white beard who delivers toys to all the good little girls and boys. Occasionally, he lets me moonlight for high school graduations, proms and other events. The kids think it's cool.

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

Rudolph: I first got into the leading-a-sleigh business when the reindeer around here wouldn't let me join in any reindeer games. My dad used this huge hunk of black stuff to cover up my shiny nose. When it came off, I was shunned. I decided not to let it get me down, and to use it for good. When Santa realized what an advantage it gives him in the night sky, especially when the weather's bad, he and I hooked up.

Observer: What makes your business unique?

Rudolph: Well ... umm ... how

Rudolph specializes in leading sleighs through inclement weather, using his shiny red nose to guide the way.

many other shiny-nosed, flying reindeer do you know? It takes some special qualities to be able to lead a huge sleigh and command the respect of eight grown-ups who've been doing it a lot longer. I hear there's a penguin at the South Pole everybody likes with kind of a shiny bald

spot, but he can't fly. **Observer:** How has it changed since you opened?

Rudolph: When I first started, the elves made the toys individually by hand, then loaded them manually into Santa's sleigh. Technology has made both of those processes much easier. There's a lot more computer-aided design that goes into it now. The sleigh itself is much more

aerodynamic and it's a lot easier to pull, although to be honest I make the other eight reindeer do most of the work.

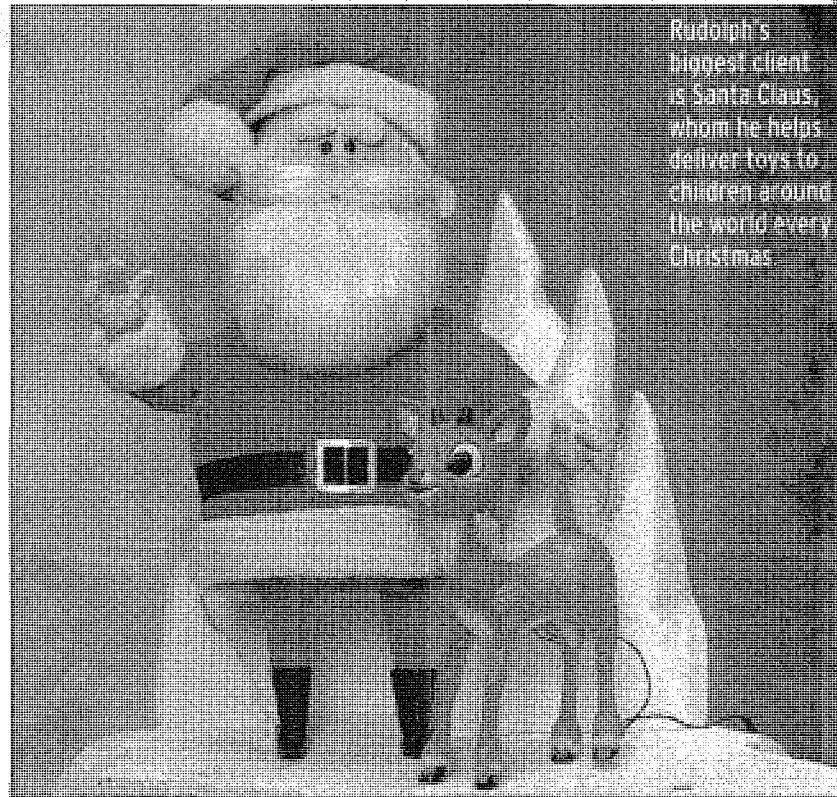
Observer: Do you have an amusing anecdote to relate to our readers?

Rudolph: Well, there was this time Comet asked if he could lead the sleigh into Greece, because there was this girl there he wanted to impress. So I said, "OK, no shine off my nose."

But the weather got bad and Comet was too stubborn to let me back up front, and he overshot the target and we ended up in Turkey.

Observer: How has the recent economy affected your business?

Rudolph: It hasn't had too much of an effect. After all, the economy isn't in the same sad shape all over the world. There was a time when Santa thought he was going to lay off a reindeer or two, but we don't have a union, and he couldn't decide between Prancer and Vixen. Santa doesn't care about economics anyway. Santa cares about children being bad or good, so he just wants them to be good, for goodness



Rudolph's biggest client is Santa Claus, whom he helps deliver toys to children around the world every Christmas.

SLEIGH MASTER

Business name: Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer
Your hometown: North Pole
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as many aspects of their business as possible. Look at me, for example. Where would I be if the only thing I knew how to lead was a sleigh? Truthfully, there isn't all that much calling for that. So I learned other forms of transportation, too. On my down time from the North Pole, I drive a mean cab in New York City.

Observer: What's in store for the future of your business?

Rudolph: Well, as technology continues to improve, I think radar and computers will become more of a standard in the sleigh-leading industry. Right now, we sort of go by my nose. I think in the future, it'll be much more efficient. We could use another sleigh, but there'd be no one to drive it anyway, so we make do with what we've got.

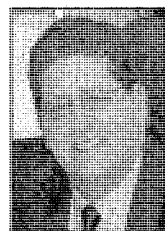
sakes. If they do that, they get toys, no matter what their economic standing is.

Observer: Any advice for other small business owners?

Rudolph: Yes, they should diversify, know

Managing debt key lesson of financial crisis of recent years

It's hard to believe how fast time goes. Looking back at 2010, I think everyone would agree that it certainly was an interesting year. Whether it was the rebirth of General Motors and Chrysler, the change in Washington, D.C. due to the outcome of



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

the mid-term election, or the financial crisis in Europe, this certainly has been a notable year.

The issue is what you and I should have learned from the events that shaped 2010.

Throughout the year there were numerous stories about the debt crisis in Europe. Whether it was the recent economic bailout of Ireland or the problems in Greece last summer, we saw what happens when debts eventually become due. Unlike governments that can print money and have other mechanisms for a bailout, we are not so fortunate. When our bills become due, we must pay them.

I believe the lesson to learn from the European debt crisis is the importance of managing debt. One of the key lessons of 2010 is to be mindful of the amount of debt we take on. Before incurring any debt, have a game plan as to

how to pay the debt off.

Another lesson investors should learn from this past year is that there is a difference between the U.S. economy and the stock market. It used to be that if the stock market was doing well one generally assumed that the U.S. economy was also doing well. This year that wasn't the case. The stock market did well, but the U.S. economy continued to struggle.

In the not-so-distant past, the great majority of publicly held U.S. corporations depended upon the U.S. economy for the great majority of their revenues. That is no longer the case. Over the last few years foreign markets have opened to U.S. businesses.

Corporations such as McDonald's and Coca-Cola do the great majority of their business abroad. Ford has more employees outside the United States than inside the United States and General Motors sells more cars abroad. The bottom line is that U.S. corporations are multi-national and no longer depend upon the United States economy as they did in the past. As investors, we may not like this; however, we have to accept it.

Accepting this information makes it easier to understand why the stock market has had a good year while at the same time the U.S. economy continues to struggle.

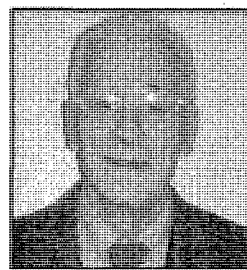
There is no doubt that we are going through an incredible change in our economy and as investors there is no other choice but to accept and embrace these changes. If you put your head in the sand and ignore what is happening, eventually it will catch up to you. I am sure there are many other lessons to learn from the last year, however, debt management and accepting the new economic reality are key issues.

As a side note, I've read articles and listened to commentators discuss their belief that we are witnessing the decline of America as the predominant world power. I do not subscribe to this thinking. Despite everything, our economy is still the largest and the most robust economy in the world. We are going through a difficult time; however, I believe when you look into the future you will still see the American economy as the predominant economy, and the envy of the world.

I wish you and yours a very happy, healthy holiday season. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to help you with your personal financial affairs. Good luck!

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

BUSINESS NEWSMAKERS



Dr. Weiss

Botsford staffer

Joseph Weiss, M.D., has joined the medical staff at Botsford Hospital, Farmington Hills. Board-certified in internal medicine and rheumatology, Weiss is a fellow of the American College

of Physicians. He is the editor and chief of the Detroit Medical News and chairman of the Michigan Rheumatism Society's Educational Committee. Weiss has a practice at 18829 Farmington

Road, Livonia. He received his medical education from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. He completed his training including a rheumatology fellowship at Wayne County Hospital in Westland.

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Our fundamental purposes are to enhance the lives of our readers, nurture the hometowns we serve and contribute to the business success of our customers.

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Karen Smith,
Community Editor
Susan Rosiek,
Executive Editor
Grace Perry,
Director of Advertising

OUR VIEWS

Holiday season brings out the best in Observer communities

As we sit with our families and friends and celebrate another Christmas and holiday season, most of us can be thankful for the ability to enjoy the trappings of the season — the food, the presents, the family.

It is our nature to want our families gathered around us, like a warm blanket of love, especially at the holidays. However, not everyone has that luxury. Whether for medical reasons or through economic strife, many don't have families with whom to spend the holidays.

That's what makes people willing to share what they can — be it their money, their toys, their belongings, their homes, their businesses — to help others have

a happy holiday season. There are many examples of which we know, including civic groups of all kinds, bell ringers at Salvation Army kettles, churches, volunteers who work the shelters and food lines, local Jewish and Muslim organizations uniting to relieve their Christian brethren on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Countless stories crop up every year of these good-deed doers.

And there are countless more about whom stories do not crop up, folks who help simply because they want to, and can. They host the homeless, donate anonymously to charities, help charitable groups pack food packages.

Those of us left to gather will do so with love and gratitude, as

It is our nature to want our families gathered around us, like a warm blanket of love, especially at the holidays.

benefits the season. Sure, there will be plenty of food and presents, as the commercialization of the season comes to a close, but that's not really the reason we get together. We do so in the spirit of love and togetherness.

It won't be that way for everyone, of course. Local charities again report a decline, for the most part, in giving, but an

increase in requests for assistance. Everyone gives what they can, but with an economy still struggling to show signs of recovering, that hasn't been easy.

Each year, we rouse ourselves during the holiday season to listen to the better angels of our nature. We reach out to others during this special time and promise to carry our concern forward into the new year.

Sometimes we do and sometimes we get too caught up in the frenzy of our own too-busy lives to make good on the promise. We do the best we can and then, when the season rolls around again, we make the promise one more time.

The commercial aspect is omnipresent, but once we get past that,

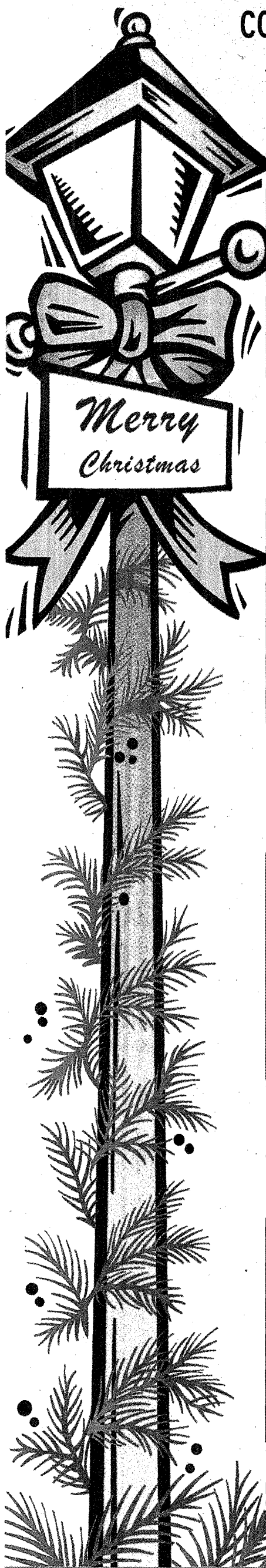
Christmas and the holiday season (including Hanukkah and Kwanzaa) are for most of us about home and hope, about family and love. We all long to be together, but in today's fast-paced, too-busy-to-take-the-time world, the fates don't always allow that.

Separations come, an assertion all too clear especially to the families of our servicemen and women serving in wars on two fronts — Afghanistan and Iraq — this holiday season. Until we can have that perfect Christmas, we will all simply have to muddle through, somehow.

Sometimes merry little Christmases can be the best kind. We hope your holiday season fulfills your every hope and dream.

COMMUNITY VOICE

What is the best gift you ever received?



"A bow and arrow. I like it because I can use it with my dad when we go hunting."
Josh DeLuca
sixth-grader at St. Edith



"My own laptop."
Raven Tatum, 11
Farmington Hills



"A Batman Cave."
Luke Mato, 4
Farmington Hills



"A DSI. It's a game system where you can take pictures, download games and go onto the Internet."
Ally Coumoundouros, 11
Farmington Hills



"A Wii, last year."
Madison Holcomb
Farmington Hills



"My grandma (Gali Khalil) sent me a really pretty necklace. It had a heart on the bottom."
Ranya Krayen
fifth-grader at Riley School in Livonia



"A pretty dress and a black jacket with flowers from my grandma."
Layla Krayen
Livonia



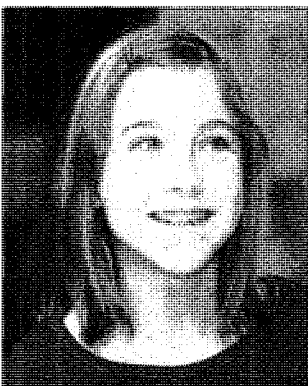
"A dress and a purse from my grandma. The purse had jewels, and the dress was really pretty with spaghetti strings."
Jeneen Krayen
third-grader at Buchanan in Livonia



"(The Play-Doh) Martian Matter, but if you don't take care of it, it dries out."
Jacob Quattro
Westland



"It was Hungry, Hungry Hippos."
Ashley Whaley
Westland



"My iPod. I really wanted one because it can hold all my music and I love it."
Emily Proctor
Garden City



"Probably a new TV. It was a 19-inch."
Brett Orum
Garden City



"I would like to get an American Girl Doll."
Anna Damuth
second-grader from St. Valentine School in Redford



"I hope I get a DSI."
Tony Buscemi
third-grader from St. Valentine in Redford



"It was last year. My dad gave me an Xbox 360. I'd wanted it for many years, ever since it came out."
Michael Walendowski
Garden City



"Probably a skateboard. I got it last Christmas."
Kyle Hubbard
Garden City



"A Play Station Portable. It can play movies and games, and I really wanted it for a long time."
Chloe Morgan, 10
Isbister Elementary School



"I got a Wii last Christmas. I play it a lot."
Leah Medley, 9
Isbister Elementary student



"My doll. I named her Lily. My cousin got the same doll, so we play with them together."
Ravenna Gill, 9
Plymouth



"An Xbox 360. I've really wanted one for a long time."
Nathan Rearick, 9
Plymouth

NEWSPAPERS OBSERVER

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Knowledge, Experience, Dedication

The Observer Team has more than 100 years of experience covering youth, prep and local college sports teams. Our team is dedicated to providing what local readers expect - information about outstanding student athletes who compete in our hometowns and aim to be the best they can be in the classroom, on the field, on the court or in the pool.

Meet the Observer All-Star

SPORTS TEAM

Name: Dan O'Meara
Sports Editor

Beat: Farmington/Farmington Hills youth/prep sports

Experience: Has covered sports in the Farmington community for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers for more than 23 years and, for seven years, worked the same beat in Plymouth-Canton. Before joining the Observer, Dan worked for three daily newspapers - the Big Rapids Pioneer, The Daily News in Greenville and the Ypsilanti Press - from 1979 until early 1987.

Education: Graduate East Detroit High School; B.A. Journalism (minored in history and English) Central Michigan University in 1978.

Awards: Honored for sports writing, sport column writing and best sports sections by the Michigan Press Association and Suburban Newspapers of America

Personal: Lives in Westland. Attends annual homecoming reunions with former 'Shamrocks' from EDHS and enjoys covering the gridiron sport.

In his own words:
"I enjoy reporting and making the Observer the go-to source for sports information, especially when covering big games and events of heightened interest in the community."

It's always been my objective to make the Observer the paper of record for Farmington sports and the place where readers go for more than game coverage."

Name: Brad Emons
Sports Editor

Beat: Livonia, Westland youth/prep sports, Madonna University, Schoolcraft College.

Experience: Joined the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers in December 1977 and has covered the Livonia, Westland, Redford, Canton, Plymouth and Garden City sports beat for nearly three decades.

Education: Livonia Franklin High School grad where he played high school basketball on the Patriots' first district championship team B.A. Journalism, Franklin College, Franklin, Ind.

Awards: Catholic League Hall of Fame (1996) Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan Hall of Honor (2008) O&E Journalist of the Year (1996) College Tennis MVP, Franklin College 1977 Michigan Interscholastic Track Coaches Association Finish Line Award (2003) Honored for sports column writing by the Michigan Press Association

Personal: Lives in Plymouth and is an active distance runner with two local clubs (Northville and Downriver). He averages 30-35 miles per week.

In his own words:
"Covering community sports is rewarding because it's remains the last bastion of amateur sports. The athletes and schools remain appreciative of the coverage."

Name: Jim Toth
Sports Editor

Beat: Garden City and Redford youth/prep beat

Experience: Has covered prep, youth and community sports at the O&E for 24 years in Troy, Rochester, Southfield, Royal Oak, Ferndale and Berkley. Before joining the O&E, Jim worked for the Dearborn Press & Guide from 1982-86.

Personal: Lives in Dearborn. An avid golfer, who enjoys covering football and basketball equally but knows the importance of reporting on all levels of athletic competition and the notoriety it brings to the community as a whole.

Education: Graduate of Dearborn Fordson High School, B.A. Journalism Michigan State University.

Awards: Many state and national writing awards throughout his career from the Michigan Press Association and Suburban Newspapers of America. In 2010 he received MPA awards for sports writing and sports feature writing.

In his own words:
"I enjoy covering the prep and youth sports scenes because of the excitement it generates, the life-long lessons learned, and the character it builds in facing life's ups and downs. In conversations with athletes, you find the passion within to reach the pinnacle and lay the foundation for success after athletics."

Name: Tim Smith
Sports Editor

Beat: Plymouth and Canton youth/prep and Plymouth Whalers of the OHL.

Experience: Joined the O&E in 1986, as a news reporter for the Southfield Eccentric. He also covered news beats in West Bloomfield/Lakes (1991-97) and Farmington (1997-2001).

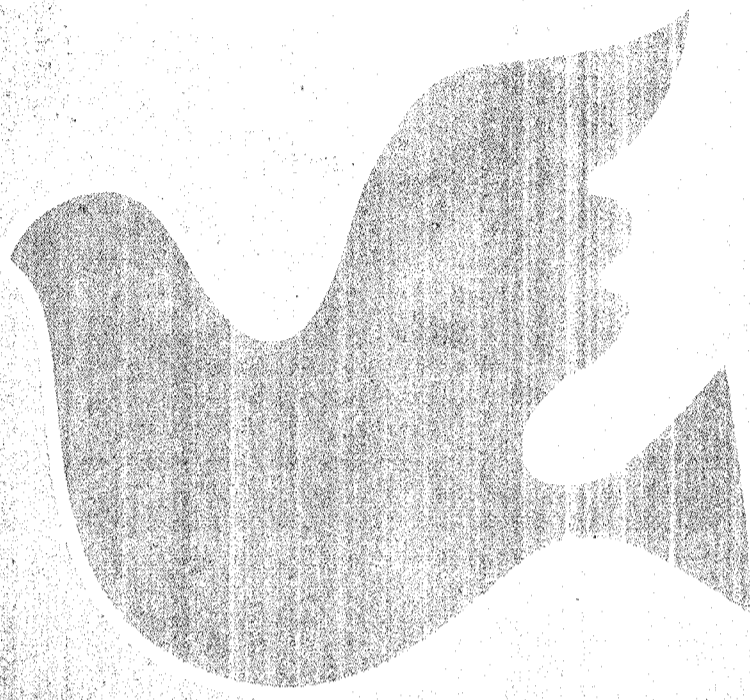
Joined the sports staff in 2001, covering the Redford-Garden City communities, Madonna University and Schoolcraft College.

Education: Graduate of Livonia Clarenceville High School, B.A. Mass Communication Wayne State University.

Personal: Lives in Livonia with wife Donna and 16-year-old daughter Elizabeth. He is the author of "Miracle Birth Stories of Very Premature Babies -- Little Thumbs Up!" (1999). Is a longtime recreational ice hockey goalie.

Awards: Finalist for Society of Professional Journalist's (Detroit Chapter) Journalist of the Year Award in 1996, O&E Journalist of the Year 1998. Writing, reporting awards from the Michigan Press Association and Suburban Newspapers of America.

In his own words:
"I cover teams from year-to-year, all season long. You almost feel part of the teams yourself and can't help silently cheering when an athlete or team does something incredible. Another plus: When moms and dads thank us for what we do, chronicling the efforts of their sons and daughters in a way they can't get anywhere else."



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Icy hot

Spartans nip CC for 8th straight

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

There's no hockey team hotter going into the Christmas break than Livonia Stevenson. The Spartans, who lost their season opener to Farmington, have now won eight straight following a 4-3 triumph Saturday night at Edgar Arena over defending Division 1 state champion Novi-Detroit Catholic Central.

The Humitz connection for the Spartans factored heavily in the win as sophomore goaltender Connor stopped 30-of-33 CC shots, while cousin Michael tallied the game-winning goal on a backhand shot at 2:12 of the final period.

Stevenson first-year coach Gerry Vento, a CC graduate, also notched his first win against the Shamrocks. It was the Spartans' first victory over a Catholic Central squad since the 2008 season.

"It's nice, but for us it's a win, and we move on to the next game," said Vento, whose team doesn't return to action until Jan. 5. "It's always great beating CC, whether they're my alma mater or not. They're a storied program and it's a huge win for us."

It was 2-2 after one period with Stevenson getting on the board first at 3:57 when Andrew Palushaj banged home a rebound off assists from Ryan Urso and Nick Barr.

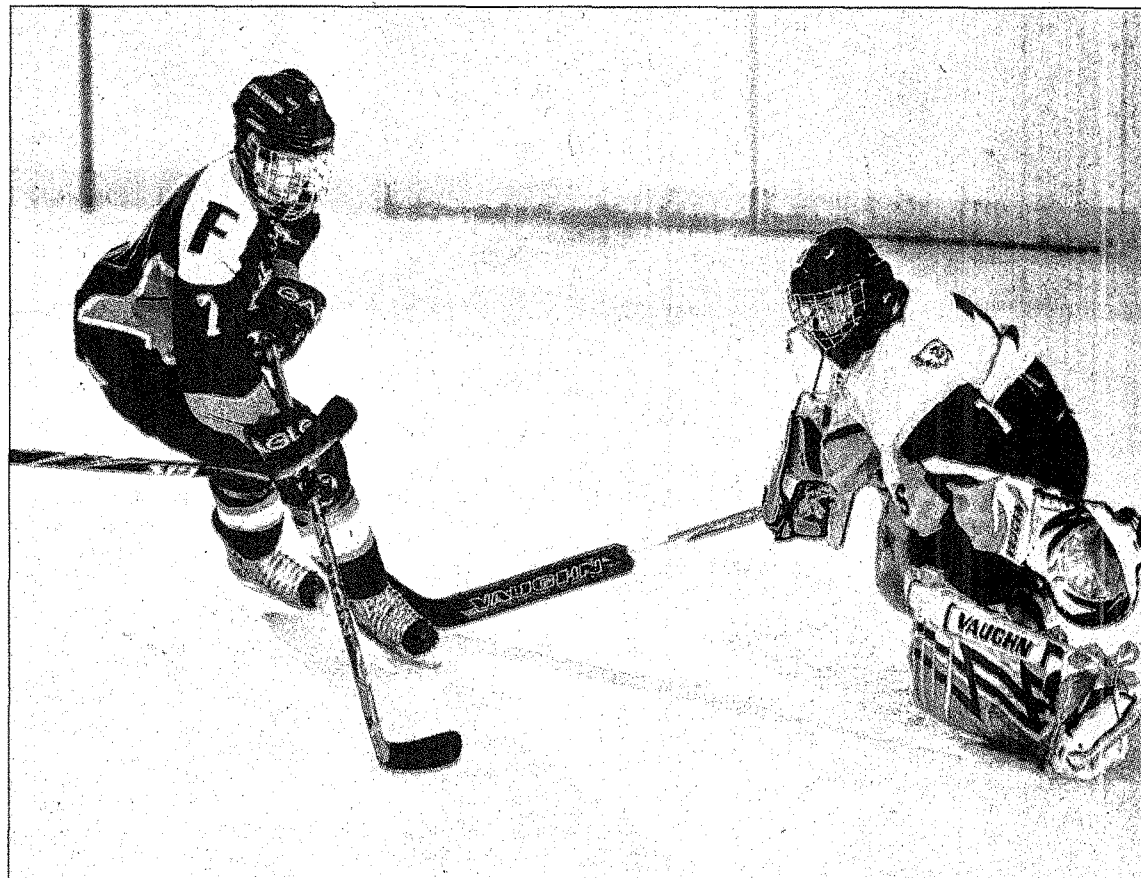
CC's Ryan Keller made it 1-1 on a backhand from Nolan Gluchowski at 5:45 and the Shamrocks scored again to go up 2-1 just 42 seconds later on a quick wrist shot by Charlie Green after a pinpoint pass from Carson Gatt. (Sean Gaffney also drew an assist).

At the 10:44 mark of the same period, Stevenson scored on a four-and-four when Josh Pettersson scored his fourth of the year from Brendan Hay.

Stevenson then enjoyed a five-on-three advantage early in the second period when CC took back-to-back penalties during an 11-second span.

The power play, however, backfired when a

Please see **STEVENSON, B2**



CHRIS FLECK | PHLECK PHOTOS

Falcons' senior Matt Allemang put the puck past Flyers' goalie Keith Ladouceur for a 5-1 score early in the second period.

Falcons crank up power

BY DAN O'MEARA
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Farmington's power play was ... well, not very powerful at the start of the hockey season. It was weak in fact. But that has changed in a month's time.

The revitalized Falcons scored four power-plays goals Saturday night in their 7-3 rout of intra-city rival Farmington Hills Unified.

"We've been working on our power play," coach Mark Vellucci said. "Our power play was awful the first four or five games. Then, we started to get it working. We knew we were capable of doing that."

Farmington also reached the end of the 2010 portion of its schedule without a loss in nine games. The Falcons also are 3-0-1 in the Oakland Activities Association's top division.

"I'm as happy as can be that we're 9-0," Vellucci said. "Did I expect it? No. But am I surprised? Not really, either."

The rematch with the Flyers — Farmington rallied from two goals down for a 5-4 win in late November — was all but over in the first period as the Falcons scored on two late power plays to take a 4-1 lead.

Nick Elliott, who had a goal and two assists to raise his team-

high point total to 19, broke a 1-1 tie at 8:17.

The Falcons took command of the scoreboard when Danny Prokes and Alex Schmitt, who had his second-straight, two-goal game, netted power-play goals with 5:51 and 2:59 remaining.

Flyers coach Ken Anderson said his young team (3-5, 0-2) didn't compete well in the first period and played as if it was in awe.

"They brought it to us pretty good," he said. "We had too many mental breakdowns like we've been having so far this year."

Please see **FALCONS, B2**



Canton's Bryan Tolinski handles the anchor leg of the 200 yard backstroke relay during Friday's Wildcat Holiday Relays at Salem.

Teams make splash at Wildcat Relays

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The annual Wildcat Holiday Relays combined cheers of the season with cheers for the swimmers, as nine high schools put on a splendid showing.

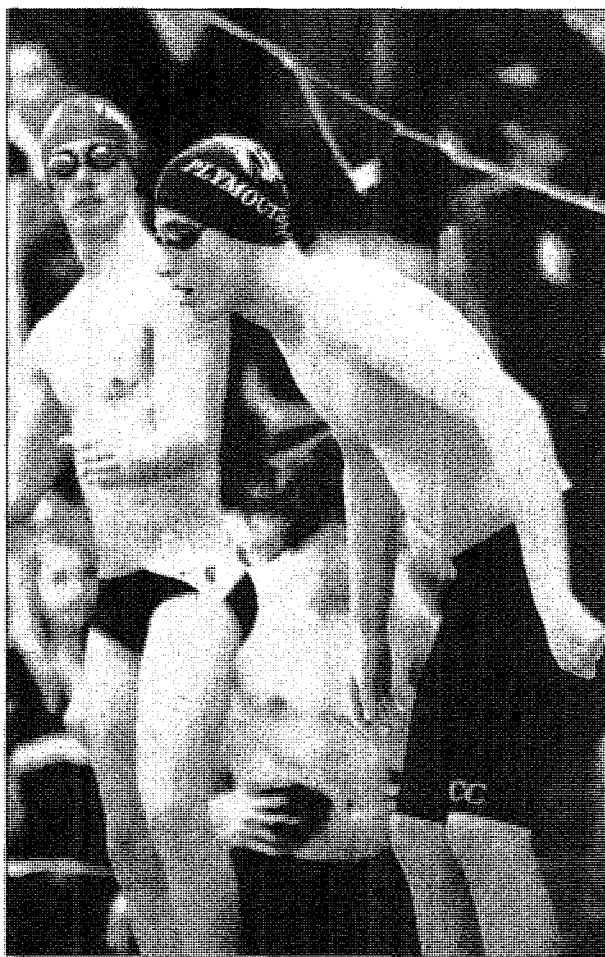
Capturing first place at the Plymouth-hosted event, actually held at Salem High School, was Monroe with 352 points. Howell trailed with 338, followed by Walled Lake Northern (296) and Park teams Canton and Plymouth.

The Chiefs took fourth with 293 points, while the Wildcats and Dearborn Edsel Ford shared the No. 5 spot with 253 points each. Rounding out the standings were Tecumseh (seventh, 239), Woodhaven (eighth, 232) and Redford Union (ninth, 114).

"It was a good meet for us," Wildcats head coach Doug Schade said. "It was a nice start to see where we stand right now. The highlight of the meet for us was our 200 butterfly relay that took first place."

That relay team finished with a time of 1:45.22 and included seniors Alex Jouney, Ethan Christensen, Zach Koch and sophomore Cameron Earls.

Meanwhile, Canton won several of the 10 events, including the 400 free relay (juniors Victor Zhang, Adrian Simion, Jay Jin and sophomore Mike Carlson, 3:21.75); 400 medley relay (Jin, Zhang, senior Christopher Krebs and junior Adrian Simon, 3:57.19); and 200 medley relay (Jin, Zhang, Carlson and senior Jacob Dillon, 1:45.38).



PHOTOS BY JOHN KEMSKI

Sophomore Cameron Earls of the Plymouth Wildcats is ready to swim one of the events he competed in during Friday's Wildcat Holiday Relays.

Please see **RELAYS, B3**

ROUNDBALL CLASSIC

Glenn 'rockets' past Willow Run

Westland John Glenn concluded play in the Glenn Roundball Classic in sterling fashion Tuesday night as the Rockets blasted visiting Ypsilanti Willow Run, 69-48.

Senior Marcus Mecks led three Rocket players in double figures with 16 points. Junior Abeon Simmons followed with 13 points and senior Christian Coble added 11. Senior Chris Jones chipped in with eight points.

For Willow Run (2-4), Aaron Richmond topped the scoring chart with 14 points and teammate Dequantis Henderson twined 10.

Glenn burst out to a 17-9 lead after one quarter, moved the margin to 36-19 at halftime and coasted to its second win in three tries this season by outscoring the Flyers 33-29 over the final two frames.

NORTH FARMINGTON 52, CLARENCEVILLE 37: North Farmington improved to 3-1 on the season by racing past Livonia Clarenceville Tuesday night in play at the Glenn Roundball Classic.

Urbane Bingham tossed in a game-high 18 points and Caleb Hogans netted 11 as the Raiders took control in the first two frames by outscoring their foes 25-14.

Sam Brown bagged 15 to pace Clarenceville (2-2).

PLYMOUTH 65, FERDALE 57: Also at the Glenn Roundball Classic, Plymouth senior guard Mike Nadratowski poured in 28 points and pulled down 12 rebounds as the Wildcats knocked off Ferndale. Other big contributors for Plymouth (2-3) included senior forwards Pat Salo (12 points, seven rebounds) and Brennen Beyer (10 points, eight rebounds).

According to Plymouth head coach Mike Soukup, a key factor to the win was the way his team warded off Ferndale's defensive pressure.

"Our team did a good job of handling that pressure and not succumbing to it," Soukup said. "And we were able to make them pay in most cases."

FARMINGTON 54, FRANKLIN 40: Farmington evened its record at 1-1 on the year with this lopsided victory Tuesday night over Livonia Franklin.

Senior Anthony Rutledge tossed in 11 points, classmate Tyler Johnson twined 10 and junior Chris Hare bagged nine to pace a balanced Farmington attack.

Max Shamus scored 13 and Mike Sharp added 11 to lead Franklin (0-3).

The Falcons broke open a tight game in the second half by outscoring the Patriots 35-23.

SIDELINES

Canton stings 'Stangs

In the final game before the holiday break, the visiting Canton Chiefs blanked Northville 3-0 Friday in a varsity boys hockey matchup.

For Canton (6-1), seniors Jimmy LaFontaine, Garrett Bryden and AJ Rosales scored goals while junior netminder Spencer Craig stopped all 26 Mustang shots. The loss dropped Northville to 3-5-1 overall.

County mat champ

James Roberts of Farmington Hills Harrison won the Oakland County Championship at 140 pounds on Saturday. He becomes the third Hawk in history to win the prestigious title and the first since Pat Palajac took home the title in 1979. The other Hawk champion was Damien Crudele in 1976.

In the finals, Roberts entered the second period down 2-1 against Division 1 No. 4-ranked Riley Hanson of Novi-Detroit Catholic Central.

As Hanson stood up to escape, the cradlemeister clamped down to lock in the cradle again to notch his fifth pin of the tournament and the title of Oakland County Champion.

Roberts pinned his way to the championship. He started out with a second period pin over James Huang of North Farmington, then caught Sam Hier of South Lyon in a cradle for this second win.

He defeated Mitchell Sable of West Bloomfield in the first period. Next up was Division 1 No. 9-ranked Diego Camp of Rochester and Roberts was awarded a controversial pin.

Alumni hoops

The Garden City High School girls basketball program will be holding its annual alumni game on Thursday, Dec. 30, inside the school gymnasium, 6500 Middlebelt.

All former Garden City girls basketball players are welcome and encouraged to attend. The junior varsity team will play the alumni from 6-7 p.m. and the varsity from 7-8:30 p.m.

If you have any further questions, contact Barry Patterson at (734) 635-2388 or Michele Tyree at (734) 306-8763.

Rankin pins down title

Redford Union sophomore Colin Rankin reigned supreme in the 171-pound weight class Saturday at the Franklin Invitational held in Livonia.

The Panther grappler was pretty dominant in defeating his foes in the early rounds and concluded his march toward capturing the crown with a 5-2 decision over Alex O'Conner of the host Patriots.

"It was a tightly contested match," RU head coach Rob Rankin said. "There wasn't a whole lot of room for mistakes."

In addition to Rankin's heroics, the Panthers received strong performances from senior Josh Hall at 135 and classmate Christian Colon at heavyweight. Hall settled for second after dropping a heart-breaking one-point defeat to his Franklin opponent in the final, while Colon took third after pinning his Garden City foe.

"All three have been rock solid all year," Rankin said. "I was very pleased and the effort was there from everyone."

Pratt sparks MU

Playing the first time following a nine-day layoff for final exams, the Madonna University women's basketball team showed little rust with a 65-60 nonconference victory Monday

Please see **SIDELINES, B3**

U-M study: Imams may improve Muslim health at hospitals

A new study by the University of Michigan Health system finds that doctors may be able to improve American Muslims' health by building and strengthening partnerships with Muslim religious leaders.

Previous studies show health systems have established partnerships with priests and rabbis to improve Christian and Jewish health, and included these religious leaders in

hospital chaplaincy programs. But few imams, the Muslim religious leaders who hold various roles within the community, are included in these initiatives, says Aasim I. Padela, M.D., an emergency physician, instructor in the U-M Department of Emergency Medicine and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholar at the U-M Health System.

"Imams play key roles in American

Muslim community health and partnerships with them may be a means to improve community health and deliver culturally sensitive, high quality care to American Muslims," Padela stated.

Padela and his colleagues interviewed 12 Muslim community leaders in southeast Michigan, including two imams, to see how each perceives the imam's role in community health.

Participants identified four central roles:


- Encouraging healthy behaviors through scripture-based messages in sermons
- Performing religious rituals around life events and illnesses
- Advocating for Muslim patients and delivering cultural sensitivity training in hospitals
- Assisting Muslims in health care decisions

But researchers say several barriers, such as hospitals' required chaplaincy credentials and imams' lack of availability, could prevent partnerships between imams and health care systems.

Padela said future research should focus on gaining views from multiple communities and a larger cross-section of individuals to gauge the depth and generalization of the study's findings.


In Loving Memory...at the Holidays

Light a candle for those no longer here, And hold their memories so very dear.
Light a candle for those who have gone, for in our hearts they will always belong.





Brian Hinzman,
We think of you and miss you every single day. This is especially true during the holiday season. 'Til we meet again.

With love,
Your family

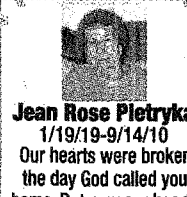


IN MEMORY OF
MELISSA (Williams) LAMBAREN
7-7-1974 to 12-3-2007
Like a song that remains in the heart when the music is playing no more, like a fragrance that stays in the air where a flower has blossomed before, like a star that continues to glow long after the breaking of dawn, the ones we have loved remain with us still, and the beautiful memories go on. Love you and miss you so much! Dad, Mom, Chris, Jenny, Sue, Jess and Marty


Tracey Marie Mirti
It's lonely here without you! We miss you more each day, especially during the holidays!
You are in our hearts & in our memories!
With love, Mom (Clara), Dad (Bob), Kelly, Bobby, Jesse, Jacob, and McKenzie

SAL D'AGNILLO
You're forever remembered. Nothing is the same without you, we are lost in you.
The D'Agnillos





Jean Rose Pietryka
1/19/19-9/14/10
Our hearts were broken the day God called you home. But now our hearts are aglow with precious memories of you. Deeply loved and missed by: Sons Richard (Patt), Raymond (Lynda), Ronald (Betty) an all of your family.




Eleanor Miller Zoumaris
Thank you, God. You blessed us with this lovely lady, Sweetest mom, grandma, aunt and loving friend. She blessed us with gentle patience, Kind understanding and love. Until we meet again, Amen

In Loving Memory of
DeLores Schufz 1937-2009.
Our second Christmas Holiday without you. Everyone misses you very much and thinks of you every day. You were the most loving and caring wife, mother of three children and grandma to six.
Your loving husband and family

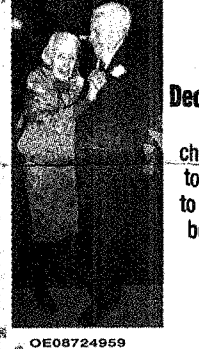



In Loving Memory Of
Charles J. McPhee
October 3, 1940~October 3, 2010

KIM RENZI
April 3, 1970 - April 4, 2009




Forever in Our Hearts
Love, Todd, Marina and Adeline.



In Loving Memory of
Dorothy May & Clyde William Love
Dec. 1, 2010 - Dec. 22, 2009
Good parents give their children roots and wings. Roots to know where home is, wings to fly away and exercise what's been taught them. Thank you, Mom and Dad for giving us both. Love Children, Grandchildren and Great Great Grandchildren


In Loving Memory
Arturo "POPS" Posa
May 6, 1962 - January 16, 2008



Forever In Our Hearts
We Miss You
Love Always,
Jeff, Andi, Chris, Meg, & Matt

Dearest Chuck,
You were both my loving husband and my loyal best friend. I will forever love and miss you. You will always have a place within and a part of my heart that no one else can ever have.

I will love and miss you always.
Mary



ALBERT LEONARD
October 12, 1925 - August 4, 2010
You will always be in our hearts! Each day we think of you, remember the lessons you taught us, how you would be so patient with each of us and the big smile you would get when we accomplished each task. You will never be forgotten. Love always! Your wife, sister, brother, brother-in-law, children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Thursday, December 23, 2010

hometownlife.com

HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Contact Editor, Sharon Dargay

Voice Mail: (313) 222-8883

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Local places to celebrate New Year's Eve

BY DIANE GALE ANDREASSI
CORRESPONDENT

If you haven't already planned something for New Year's Eve there is plenty to do close to home. Many area bars, restaurants, banquet halls and even recreation and community centers have something to offer for this special night.

Here's a sampling of what's happening on New Year's Eve in the area.

Laurel Manor
39000 Schoolcraft Road
Livonia
(734) 462-0770

Livonia's Laurel Manor has been hosting a New Year's Eve party for 24 years. Cost is \$85 per person, which includes a premium bar, wine at the tables with dinner served. Dinner includes filet mignon, appetizers, a dessert afterglow, pizza after midnight, a champagne toast and party favors. Mass Transit will supply the music. Guests are also invited to watch the ball drop in Time Square. Laurel Manor has also teamed up with Marriott Hotels providing a shuttle to the banquet hall and breakfast Jan. 1. The hotel package is an additional \$89 per person.

Tickets can be purchased online or by going to www.laurelmanor.com.

Italian American Banquet Hall
39200 Five Mile Road
Livonia
(734) 953-9724

"New Year's Eve Gala Celebration, Starry, Starry Night" is the theme of this

party Dec. 31.

Party guests do not have to be a member to attend. Fantasia will provide entertainment. Cost is \$85 a person and will include antipasto at 7 p.m., dinner featuring filet mignon, a chicken entree, salad, vegetable, potatoes and dessert, a deluxe bar, red wine at each table, a coffee bar with espresso and cappuccino and a champagne toast at midnight. Reservations will be taken through Dec. 29.

1 Under Banquet & Catering
35780 Five Mile
Livonia
(734) 464-5555

Ring in the New Year with "The Ultimate New Year's Experience," 7 p.m.-2 a.m. Friday, Dec. 31. The buffet menu includes carved prime rib, turkey, pork loin, chicken piccata, vegetable medley, mashed sweet potatoes, twice-baked potatoes, Basmati rice, cold bar with shrimp cocktail, smoked salmon and oysters, assorted salads, fruits, vegetables and cheeses and assorted desserts. Cost is \$45.95 per person, plus tax and gratuity. It includes two complimentary drink tickets, a champagne toast, party favors, live DJ, pizza and sliders at 12:30 a.m., open seating for small groups and reserved seating for groups of eight or more.

Sean O'Callaghan's
821 Penniman Avenue
Plymouth
(734) 459-6666

A New Year's Eve dinner with a limited menu



will include rosemary bacon wrapped shrimp, seared sesame crusted Mahi tuna and other entrees along with the daily menu. Music will be provided by Johnny Schreffler, playing contemporary rock to classic rock. Cover charge is \$10 after 9 p.m., which

includes party favors and a champagne toast at midnight. Reservations are suggested.

Station 885 Restaurant
885 Starkweather
Plymouth's Old Village
(734) 459-0885

Station 885, a family-owned

business in Plymouth for 25 years, will start seating at 4 p.m. New Year's Eve. Wally Gibson and Friends will provide live music. There is no set price for dinner, however, there is a limited menu of about 10 items ranging from \$20 to \$40. With the 10 p.m.

seating there is a complimentary champagne toast, free party favors and "plenty of good cheer to go around," according to Robert Costanza, owner.

"We are accepting reservations now," he said. "We will probably sell out, so make reservations early."

O'Tooles
32350 West Eight Mile,
Farmington Hills
(248) 426-6454

A New Year's Eve bash will include a deejay, dancing and champagne at midnight, as well as food and drink specials.

Reservations aren't required for parties of under eight people. The party is hosted by owner Ron Sarcevic and bartender Shelly Reed.

Malarkey's Irish Pub
35750 Warren Road
Westland
(734) 421-0746

There is no cover charge on New Year's Eve. A champagne toast will be provided at midnight. The dinner menu includes a 14-ounce New York strip steak dinner with two drinks for \$19.99. A deejay will provide dance music all night.

"We do a party every year and we usually get a great crowd," explained Anthony Crowley, manager.

Reservations aren't required, but they will be accepted.

Please see **NEW YEAR'S, B7**

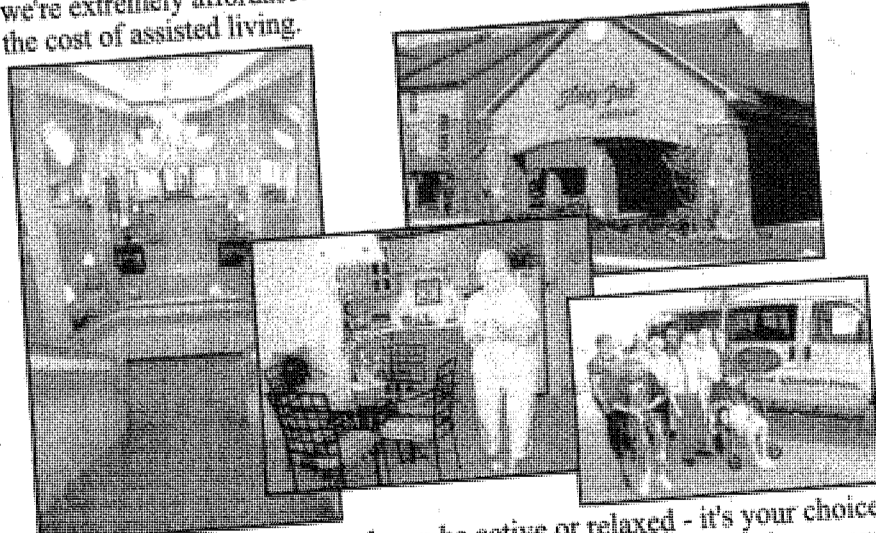
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For more information, please call

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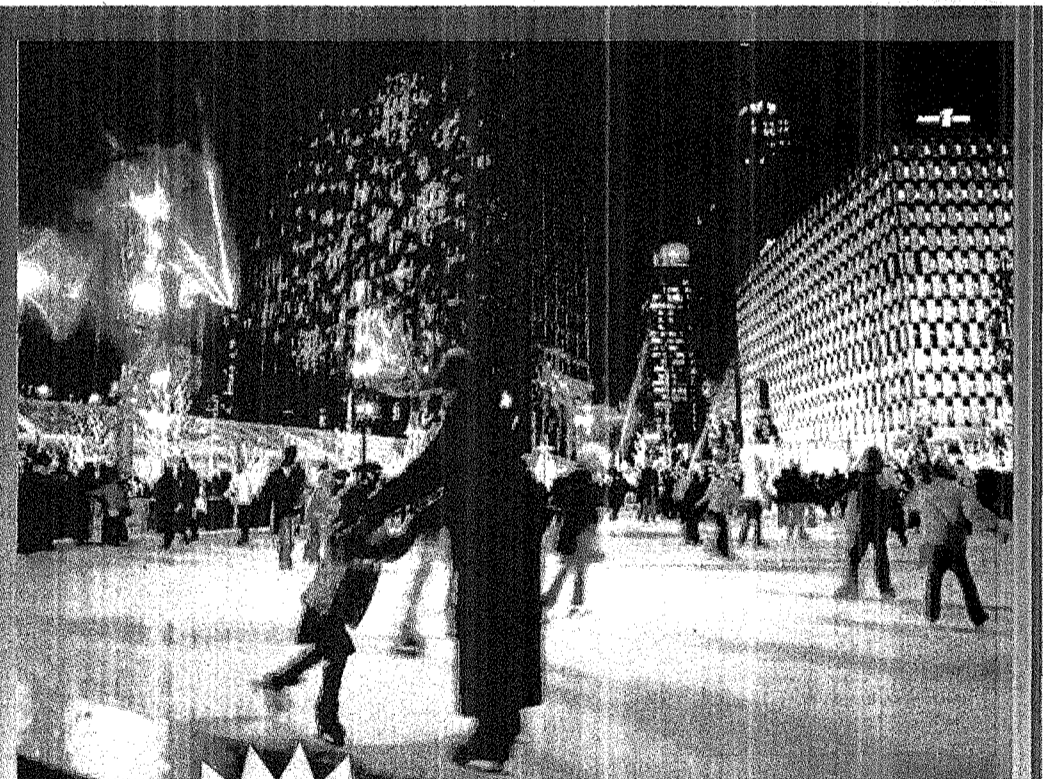
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Happy holidays: Classic eggnog is back

Classic eggnog is pure and simple. Just three main ingredients – eggs, cream and sugar – magically create the quintessential holiday sip of thick creamy custard with puffs of softly beaten egg whites.

For those of us who have lamented the fact that we could no longer safely enjoy homemade eggnog prepared with raw eggs, there's good news. Call it a gift for this holiday season and beyond: pasteurized shell eggs. Safest Choice Pasteurized Shell Eggs enable us to once again partake of all of those favorites that call for raw or lightly cooked eggs, whether it's the yolks or the whites or both, without fear of food-borne illness. Think chocolate mousse, meringues, Caesar salad dressing, French silk pie, mayonnaise from scratch, sunny-side up eggs.

The eggs are pasteurized in the shell using a warm water bath. Only water – nothing else added – makes them safe to consume whether over easy, poached or in your favorite hollandaise recipe. A red circle "P" stamped on each egg lets you know they're safe.

So set out the punch bowl and bring back a tradition. This Classic Eggnog base can be prepared up to one day in advance and refrigerated, a great time-saver during this busy season. It's delicious with the addition of rum, brandy or bourbon, or just topped with a sprinkling of ground nutmeg. Flavored spirits such as vanilla-infused vodka, peppermint schnapps or clear crème de cacao can impart unexpected taste twists to this classic, and for a little whimsy, top each serving with a small scoop of vanilla ice cream or dollop of whipped cream.

To learn more about Safest Choice Pasteurized Shell Eggs, such as where to buy, or to find additional recipes and serving suggestions, visit www.SafeEggs.com.

CLASSIC EGGNOG

Preparation time: 30 minutes

Chilling time: 4 hours or overnight

12 pasteurized shell eggs, separated
 1½ cups granulated sugar
 1 quart (4 cups) heavy cream
 2 cups whole milk
 2 to 3 cups dark rum, bourbon or brandy (optional)
 2 tablespoons vanilla extract (optional)
 Ground nutmeg or cinnamon

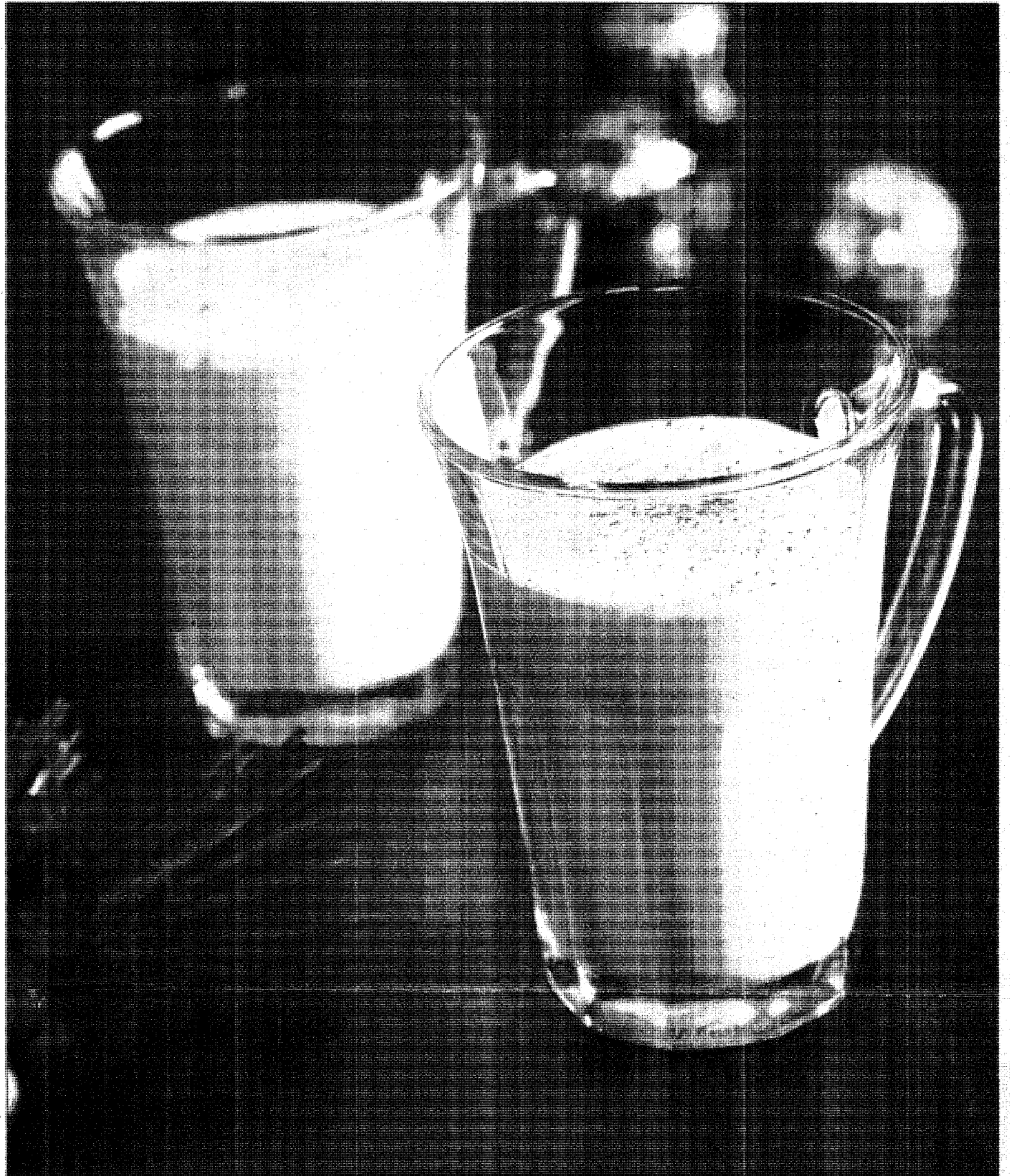
1. Place egg yolks in large bowl. Beat with electric mixer until combined. Gradually add sugar, beating until mixture is thick and pale yellow. Stir in cream and milk, then rum and vanilla, if desired. Cover and refrigerate until chilled or as long as overnight.

2. Just before serving, beat room temperature egg whites with electric mixer until soft peaks form. Stir custard mixture. Gently fold in beaten egg whites. Pour eggnog into punch bowl. Sprinkle with nutmeg.

Makes 20 servings.

Nutrition information (1/20 of recipe): 279 calories*; 21g total fat; 12 g saturated fat; 197 mg cholesterol; 68 mg sodium; 18 g total carbohydrates; 5 g protein.

*With alcohol, calories increase to 330/serving; other nutrition information remains the same as above.



– Family Features

Holiday entertaining made easy as A-B-C!

The holidays may be the most wonderful time of the year, but it can certainly become one of the most stressful times of the year. With holiday dinners and family gatherings, the thought of entertaining all your loved ones may be a bit overwhelming. Boar's Head style expert Jackie Rogers shares party tips that will impress your guests, while making hosting a get together as easy as A-B-C.

Rogers explains that when it comes to a successful holiday dinner or gathering, it's all about the A-B-Cs: ambiance, beverages and cuisine.

A: Ambiance

The dinner table is usually the main gathering place. This makes it a great focal point to set the mood for your get-together. Start with an elegant tablecloth in a rich ivory, crimson red, silver or gold. Add depth and texture by using a coordinating table runner and napkins for a stylish touch. For centerpieces, flowers work for almost any occasion, but if you're feeling a little more inventive, play with candles, pinecones, greenery and ribbon for a centerpiece that really reflects the season.

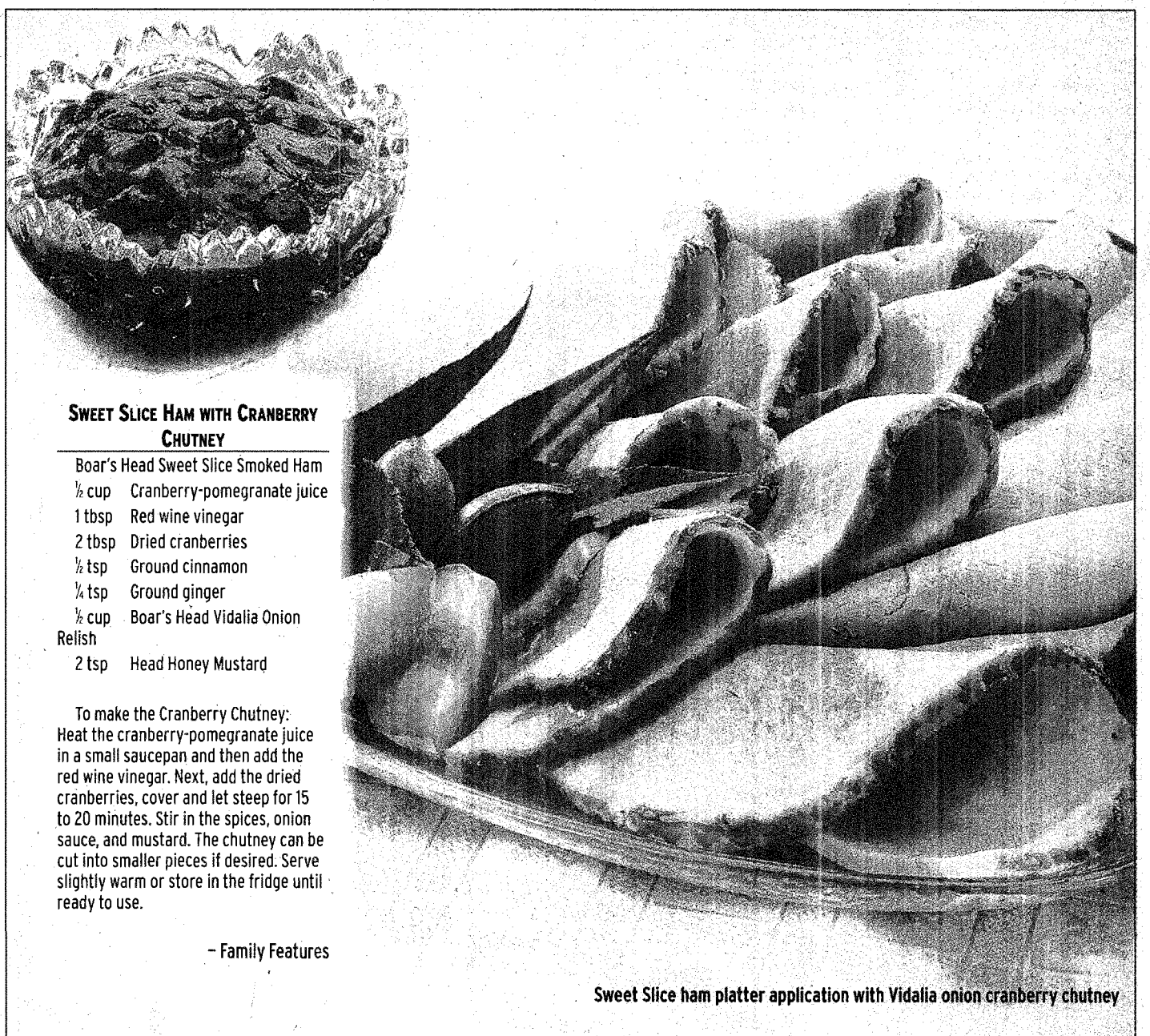
B: Beverages

When it comes to drinks, keep it simple. Make one signature drink for your party. This will allow you to keep things fun and festive without having to spend the entire night taking drink orders. Create an even more memorable occasion by giving your signature drink a signature name – say Santa Sangria or Mistletoe Martini?

C: Convenient cuisine

The holiday season is about mixing and mingling. Don't isolate yourself in the kitchen. Save hours of preparation time by taking advantage of the many dishes that come prepared. A fully cooked, ready to heat and serve ham or turkey like Boar's Head Sweet Slice Ham and Oven Roasted Turkey Breast is a great way to ensure a delicious dinner without any mishaps. Never overcooked and seasoned to perfection, these Boar's Head items are great options for a delicious dinner that's stress-free. And, instead of covering the table in sides, keep it simple with a starch and two vegetables. These steps will provide an impressive, hassle-free meal, while allowing you to spend more time with family and friends.

Here is a recipe to serve as an accompaniment for your holiday ham!



SWEET SLICE HAM WITH CRANBERRY CHUTNEY

Boar's Head Sweet Slice Smoked Ham
 ½ cup Cranberry-pomegranate juice
 1 tbsp Red wine vinegar
 2 tbsp Dried cranberries
 ½ tsp Ground cinnamon
 ¼ tsp Ground ginger
 ½ cup Boar's Head Vidalia Onion
 Relish
 2 tsp Head Honey Mustard

To make the Cranberry Chutney: Heat the cranberry-pomegranate juice in a small saucepan and then add the red wine vinegar. Next, add the dried cranberries, cover and let steep for 15 to 20 minutes. Stir in the spices, onion sauce, and mustard. The chutney can be cut into smaller pieces if desired. Serve slightly warm or store in the fridge until ready to use.

– Family Features

Sweet Slice ham platter application with Vidalia onion cranberry chutney

Guess who's coming to dinner?

A little communication goes a long way when planning for special diets

BY SHARON DARGAY
OGE STAFF WRITER

Cousin Sarah's a vegan who is sensitive to wheat.

Uncle Bob is allergic to nuts. Your daughter's new boyfriend's a vegetarian who can't stomach gluten.

And they're all invited to Christmas dinner.

What's a hostess to do?

"I've been at both ends of this, being the hostess and the guest," said Caroline Trapp, a Farmington Hills resident, nurse practitioner and diabetes educator. "It's such a caring question when someone says 'do you have any special diet concerns?' The funny thing is, when I'm asked it's usually by someone who doesn't know me at all, so I know they ask all their guests that. Most people who know me know how I eat."

Trapp and her husband both follow a vegan diet, which excludes meat and dairy products. As a dinner hostess, she asks guests about special diet needs while planning an event and offers a variety of foods on the big day.

As a guest, she mentions her diet restrictions when she responds to an invitation and offers to bring a dish to pass. She didn't always speak up, but learned the hard way at a dinner party.

"My husband and I were in an awkward situation," she said, recalling a four-course dinner the couple attended. "All of the courses contained meat or dairy. Our diet became the topic of conversation. You never want to talk about the reasons for not eating animals during someone's carefully-planned meal. The hostess had put so much work into it, it ended up almost wasting food. In retrospect it would have been much better to say something ahead of time."

BRING A DISH

Val Wilson of Westland trained as a macrobiotic chef, teaches cooking classes and also follows a vegan diet. She says it's

up to the guest to mention their diet needs when they're invited to a dinner party. She always offers to bring a dish to pass.

"The hostess may not have a clue what to do for someone who is vegan. People who aren't vegan may only think about vegetables. You show up at a party and they say, oh I knew you were coming so I made this vegetable tray. Okay. That's a snack. There are grains and beans and all kinds of stuff we eat."

"I pretty much assume if I go to a get together there won't be anything I can eat. When I show up at a party and everyone seems to notice I'm not eating this or that or I've brought my own dish. People always ask questions."

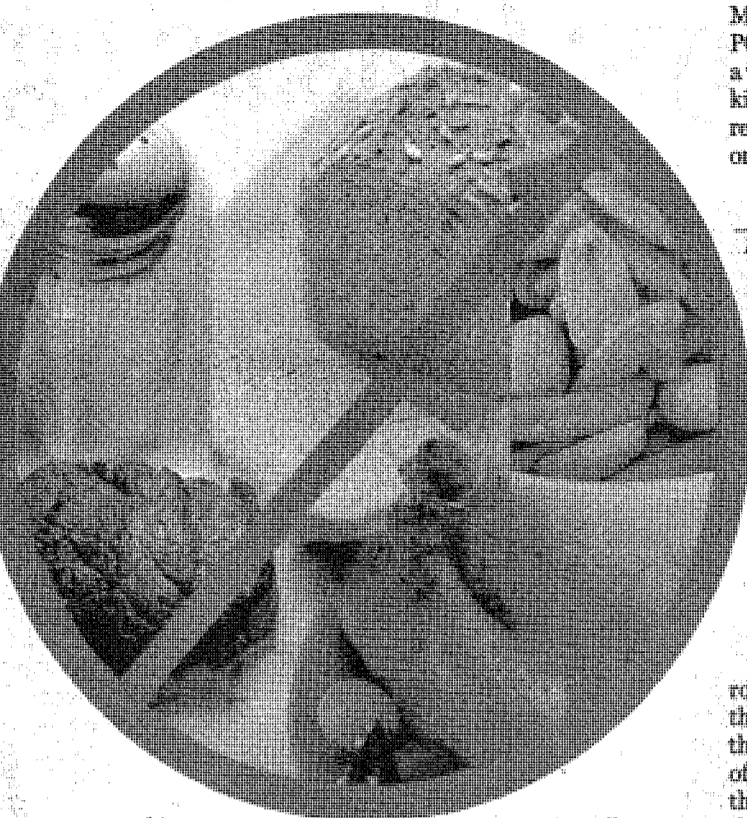
Wilson doesn't use the dinner table as a soap box, but will share her views on healthful foods and cooking if the conversation turns toward her diet.

Jeanie Weaver, who offers an annual vegetarian sampling dinner at the Metropolitan Seventh-day Adventist Church in Plymouth and Linda Main of Canton, a registered dietician at Garden City Hospital, both agree that guests with special dietary needs should offer to bring a dish to a dinner or party.

ALLERGIES, DIABETES

"If I invited family over and knew someone had an allergy or was vegetarian, I would try to accommodate their preferences," Main said. "I'd at least prepare a dish they could eat and be considerate of their needs. I had some friends whose son had a peanut allergy and I wasn't aware of it. We invited them over for dessert. I think everything I made had peanuts. She had brought something for him but had I known, I would have taken the time to make something suitable for him."

Main said she'd "leave it up to the guest" when it comes to diabetic concerns. Simply cutting sugar out of the dessert or leaving the maple syrup out of the squash casserole doesn't guarantee that a diabetic guest



can eat everything on the menu. Diabetics also carefully regulate how many carbohydrates they consume.

Wilson suggests serving rice, squash or sweet potato — a hearty vegetable or grain — rather than a processed "fake meat" product to a vegan or vegetarian guest.

"Sometimes people go out and buy a fake turkey thing. I've never found any that have good flavor and you end up spending a lot of money when you could just buy sweet potato or squash," Wilson said. "Something that would be simple for them to include would be to take a sweet potato, put it in the oven whole and bake for an hour at 350. Don't put marshmallows on. Let people put whatever they want on. Sweet potatoes are so delicious if you just drizzle oil on it."

Trapp, who has a collection of some 75 vegan and vegetarian cookbooks, offers guests lots of options so they'll find at least one item they can eat.

"A pasta bar often works well with different sauces and different pastas," she said, adding that

variety allows guests to keep their special diet needs private. "For a formal sit-down meal I like to bring something that would work for everyone. I have a spinach lasagna that travels well." She's also considering a white bean and sweet potato stew for the holidays.

"We're invited to a holiday party every year and the hostess has definite ideas about what she wants on the table. I don't want to disrupt her plans for her table, but over the years we've worked it out. I bring a vegetable tray and bean dips and hearty snack crackers or bread, so those of us who don't want to eat meat have something that is filling."

For more about Wilson's cookbook and cooking classes, visit www.macroval.com. For more about Weaver's Vegetarian Extravaganza visit www.veggie-holiday.com. Trapp is a member of VegMichigan and Physicians Committee for Responsible

Medicine. She suggests visiting PCRM's 21-day program for a vegan diet at <http://21-day-kickstart.org>. VegMichigan has resources at <http://vegmichigan.org>

WILD RICE PILAF

By Val Wilson

1 1/2 cups brown rice
3/4 cup wild rice
4 cups water
3 Tablespoon tamari
4 shiitake mushrooms (soaked)
1 onion (diced)
3 garlic cloves (minced)
2 celery stalks (diced)
2 carrots (diced)
1 teaspoon thyme
1/2 teaspoon rosemary
1/4 cup parsley (minced)
Cook the shiitake mushrooms for about 15 minutes in the soaking water. Then drain the water and use it as part of the 4 cups water to cook the rice. Cut mushrooms into thin slices. Pot boil the brown rice and wild rice with the tamari and 4 cups water for one hour. While rice is cooking, saute each of the vegetables in toasted sesame oil for about 5 minutes each. Saute the garlic for only one minute. Saute the mushroom as well. When rice has cooked and the vegetables are all sauteed, mix them together with the thyme, rosemary, and parsley. Bake, covered, at 350 degrees for 30 minutes.

GOLDEN FRUIT SOUP

From Natalie Weaver

1 large (46 ounce) can pineapple juice.
1/2 cup Minute tapioca
3/4 cup golden raisins
1 package Raspberry Danish Dessert
1 large (46 ounce) can sliced peaches
1 large can pineapple tidbits
1 (15 ounce) can apricot halves
1 (10 ounce) package frozen raspberries

1 small frozen orange juice concentrate

Cook pineapple juice with the tapioca until smooth, add raisins and Danish Dessert while stirring constantly for an additional 5 minutes. Remove from heat and add all fruits along with their juices and frozen orange juice concentrate and any additional sweetener according to taste. Other dried fruits may also be added if you so choose.

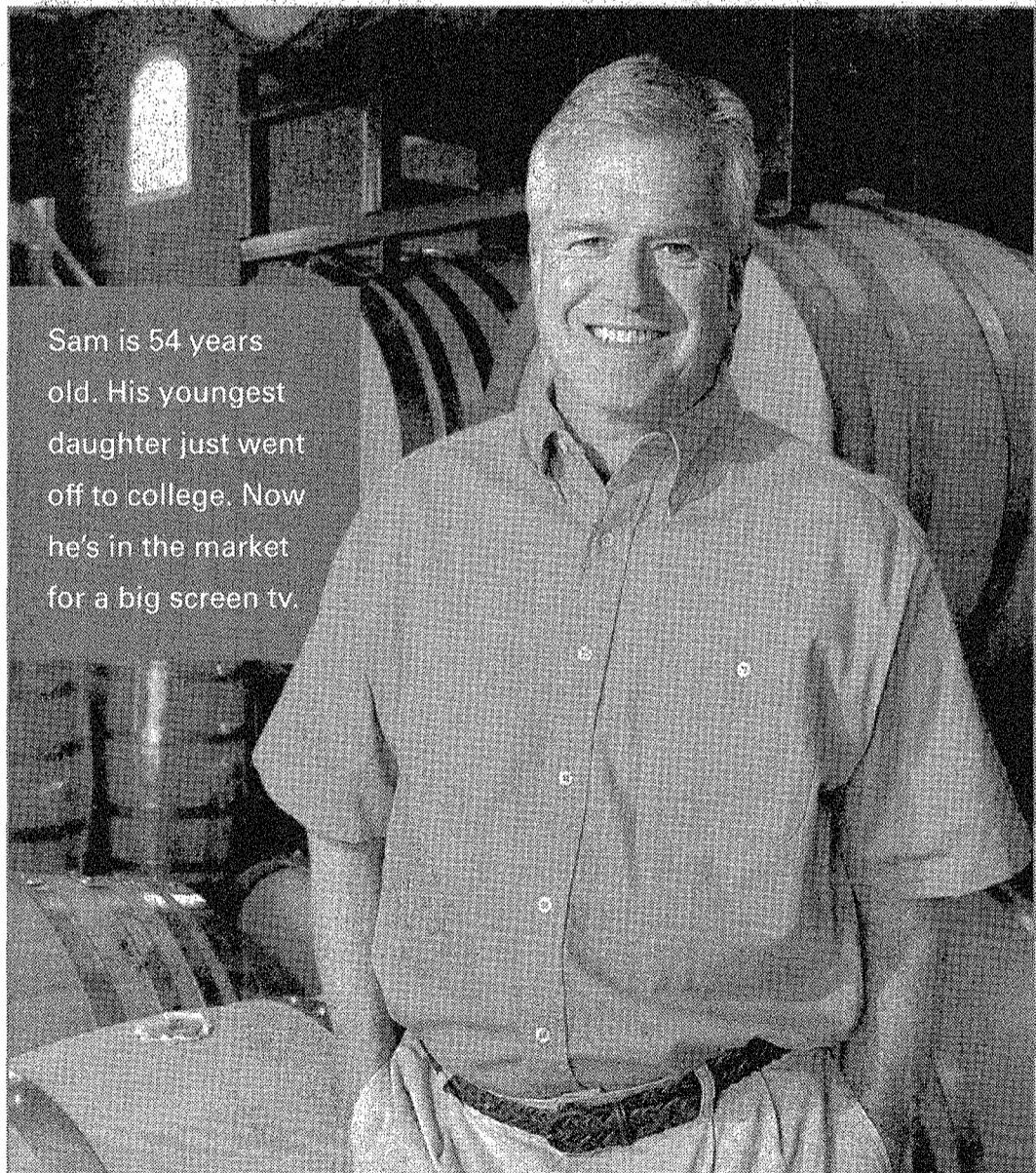
This fruit soup may be served either hot or cold over sliced bananas. May also be used as topping for pound cake or toast. May be topped with a dash of soy cream or whipped topping. Find the Danish Dessert in the pudding aisle of your grocery store.

PORTOBELLO MUSHROOM STEAKS (VEGAN AND GLUTEN-FREE)

Submitted by Caroline Trapp

1/4 cup ketchup
2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
1/2 teaspoon crushed garlic
4 medium Portobello mushrooms
Olive oil, as needed
Salt and pepper
Minced fresh parsley, chives or scallions for garnish (optional)

Combine ketchup, vinegar, and garlic and set aside. Carefully remove mushroom stems, but leave caps whole. Rinse caps under water, gently rubbing the surface to remove any dirt. Place a thin layer of olive oil in a large skillet and heat over medium-high heat. If you do not have a skillet large enough to comfortably hold all four mushrooms at once, cook them in two batches or use two skillets. Place mushrooms in skillet, stem-side up. Cover and cook about 5 minutes. Turn over, reduce heat to medium, cover and continue to cook until fork-tender in the center, about 5 minutes longer. Season with salt and pepper. Spoon reserved sauce equally over each mushroom. Garnish with fresh herbs, if desired. Serve whole, or slice mushrooms on the bias (with the knife held at an angle).



Sam is 54 years old. His youngest daughter just went off to college. Now he's in the market for a big screen tv.

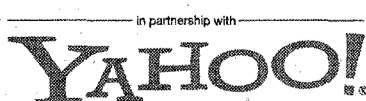
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