
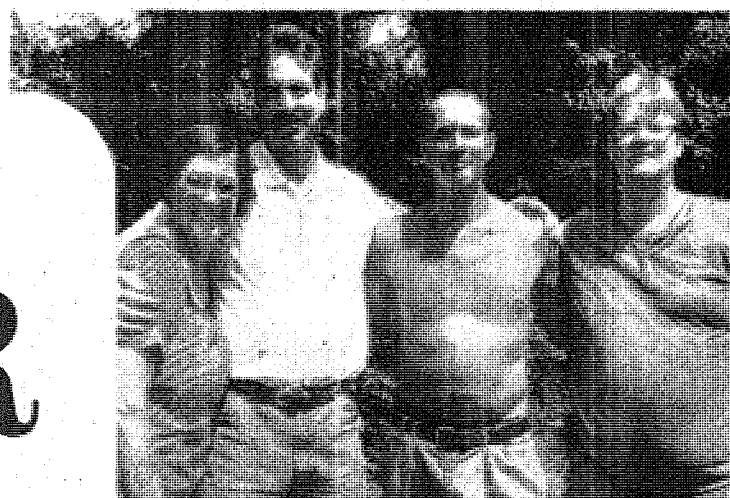


SUNDAY
December 26, 2010The Observer & Eccentric
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WESTLAND
OBSERVER
hometownlife  .comAROUND
TOWN

Holiday city services

Trash and recycling collection will not be affected by the New Year's holiday due to New Year's Eve falling on a Friday.

City offices, including City Hall, the Friendship Center and the Dorsey Center will be closed Thursday, Dec. 30, through Sunday, Jan. 2. The William P. Faust Public Library also will be closed for the four-day weekend. Emergency services will be unaffected.

The Bailey Recreation 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.

Recycle trees

The City of Westland will be expanding its Mission: Green initiative to include Christmas tree recycling. Space will be provided for City of Westland residents to drop off their Christmas tree at the City of Westland Recycling Center at the rear of the Department of Public Service Building at 37137 Marquette, east of Newburgh.

Trees may be dropped off during regular operating hours - 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Saturday. The center is closed on Sunday. The dates for drop-off for the 2010-2011 holiday season are Jan. 4-17. Trees should be free of lighting, tinsel and other decorations. A designated and signed area will be provided for drop-off within the recycling center. All trees received will be chipped and will be recycled for use at the City of Westland Community Garden and other locations.

Christmas trees will continue to be picked up curbside for residents unable to drop their tree off at the recycling center, however, they will not be recycled.

"We hope that our residents will utilize this free service to help keep our city eco-friendly," said Mayor William Wild.

Recycling carts

Westland residents still have an opportunity to get a second 96-gallon cart for curbside recycling. "I would guess that we still have around 500 carts left, so about half of them are gone," said Department of Public Services Director Kevin Buford.

The carts are available on a first come, first serve basis from DPS until the supply is exhausted. The carts were left over after the city completed the first phase of curbside recycling. That program provided the wheeled carts to single family homes for bi-weekly curbside collection.

City officials haven't decided how to handle the recycling program for multiple family developments such as apartments and mobile home parks.

"One of the biggest questions that we get is about how they count the points. It's route-based," said Buford, adding the additional recycling carts will be counted and added to the total used to earn RecycleBank points.

"I'm happy - it helps us out and it helps them (residents) at the same time," said Buford, who expected second cart requests would slow down until spring.

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

Westland church aims to remodel lives, homes

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Completely renovating a dilapidated house and providing a home for a local family is a big project, but that's just the tip of the iceberg for a project sponsored by a local church.

Westland-based Ekklesia wants to provide a home to a local family, but also have a spiritual impact on the family that receives the home and those who participate in the remodeling. The church is sponsoring a program called Life Remodeled, which has the slogan "Remodeling lives, one family at a time..."

"It's a far more holistic program. The more we make relationships with people, it leads to fruit and good things for everybody," said Chris Lambert, an Ekklesia pastor. "We're not going to shove stuff

down their throats. We love people and we show it and live it in tangible ways."

Ekklesia is working to obtain a blighted vacant home in Norwayne from the city of Westland. The home would be gutted and the church has three general contractors who would work with volunteers to totally renovate the home within seven days, working around the clock.

"It's heart-warming. Here is a local grass-roots group that is making a huge commitment to make a big impact in a community," Westland Community Development Director Joanne Inglis said. "That it is in Norwayne makes it even more endearing. A lot of groups want to do a project, but not in Norwayne. Ekklesia has selected Norwayne as the community to work in and I think it's wonderful."

In her meetings with Lambert, Inglis

said she suggested Ekklesia look at Habitat for Humanity's model when it comes to selecting a family for its home program.

"There is an obvious need in Norwayne. Westland is the city we are called to and we want to be involved in the immediate community," said Lambert, whose congregation has services at Westland John Glenn High School. "We'll have a very intense screening process. We want continued movement - if the first one fails, we won't do a second one. We will do all we can to make this a tremendous success."

Ekklesia wouldn't have a mortgage on the home, Lambert said, but a monthly payment would be required from the homeowner.

"They would pay it forward and contribute to future homes. It would not be a loan

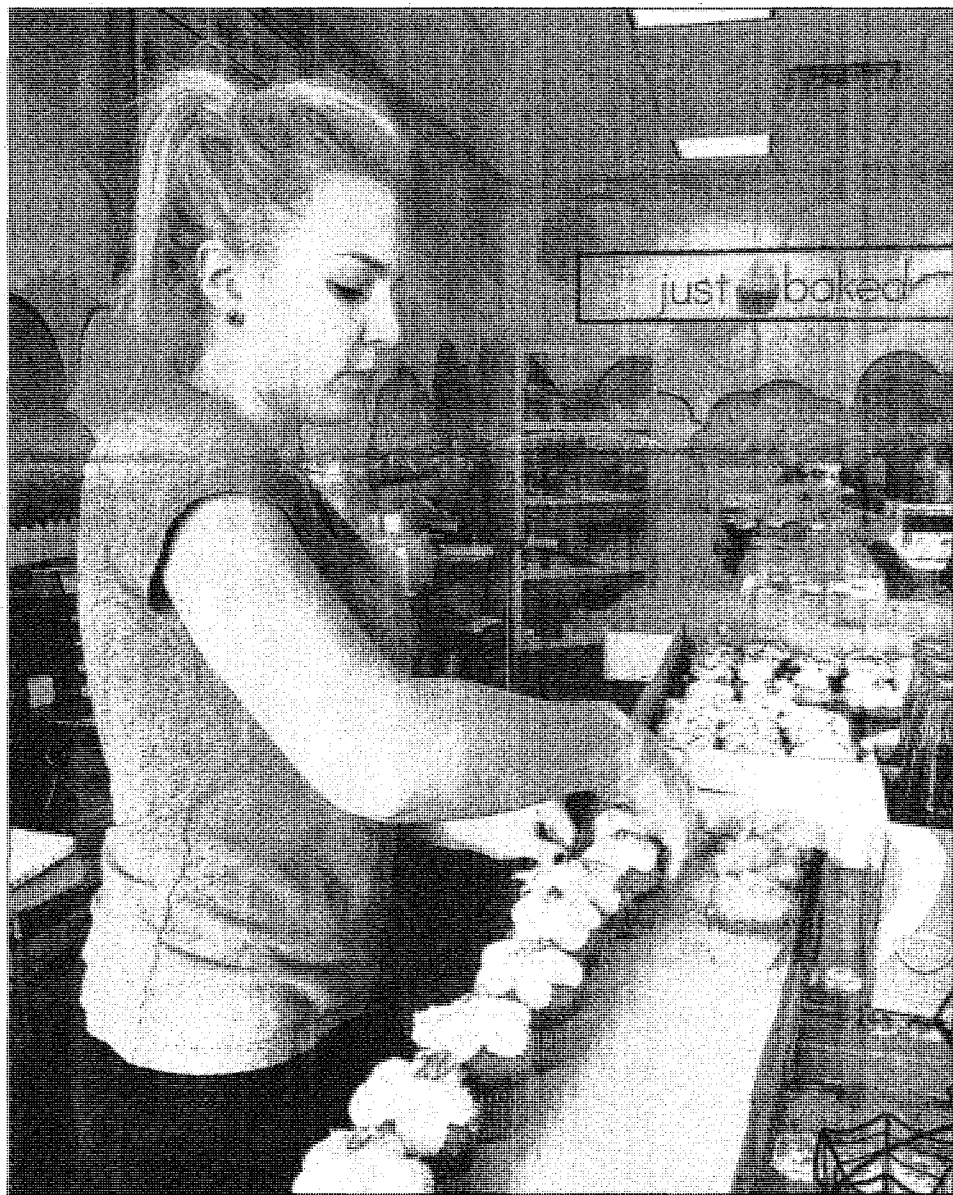
- it's a financial obligation," Lambert said. "It's meant to bless them. It's so they can take responsibility for the house - they can't sell it or mortgage it. There will be a very intense screening process."

Ekklesia would provide financial counseling and support for the prospective new homeowner, but also would provide additional counseling on family dynamics, if the family is willing. That doesn't mean anyone is excluded from participating in the program.

Lambert is hoping to have a Norwayne property acquired from the city by January. The house would be gutted and volunteers would begin reconstruction April 25.

For more on the Ekklesia home program, visit LifeRemodeled.com.

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Meg Jafrate fills a tray with more cupcakes.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Pastry
prowessBY KAREN SMITH
STAFF WRITER

Pam Turkin didn't plan to open a retail cupcake shop. But one day, while baking gourmet cupcakes to sell wholesale to small markets, she found an "open" sign left behind by the previous tenants of the Livonia building where she was working and stuck it in the window.

"People just came in," she said, adding she sold 42 cupcakes at \$2 a piece that first day, Jan. 11, 2009.

Nearly two years later, Turkin and her husband, Todd, of Farmington Hills have five retail stores: Livonia, Canton, Novi (in Twelve Oaks Mall near Nordstroms), Royal Oak and Ann Arbor.

Please see **CUPCAKES, A2**

Cupcake shop
savors sweet smell
of success

Holiday designs by Just Baked.

School board gives OK for 3
administrative appointmentsBY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Wayne-Westland Community Schools has filled three of four administrative positions with the school board's approval of appointments of assistant principals at John Glenn and Wayne Memorial High Schools and principal at Stevenson Middle School.

The board approved Superintendent Greg Baracy's recommendations that Denise Bateson and Jessica Schulz fill the positions at Glenn and Wayne Memorial, respectively, and that Christopher Johnson be hired to head up the Stevenson staff as of Jan. 3.

Bateson has been with the district since 1992 and has taught mathematics at both high schools as well as in the Tinkham alternative program. She started her teaching career in 1989 as a substitute teacher in the Willow Run Community Schools.

A Dearborn resident, she has a bachelor of arts degree from Michigan State University, a master of arts degree from Eastern Michigan University and an educational specialist degree from Oakland University. She was the Wayne-Westland Family YMCA Teacher of the Year in 1999, named Heartbeat of Wayne High in 1997 and nominated for EMU's Exceptional Educator award in 2005 and 2006.

"I've been with this district for 18 years and I plan to spend

the rest of my work life here," Bateson said. "I plan to work very hard."

Also a Dearborn resident, Schulz was a teaching assistant at Michigan State University and a substitute teacher in the Ferndale Public Schools before joining Wayne-Westland in 2004. She also has taught at both high schools and Tinkham as well as Adams Middle School.

She has a bachelor of arts degree from Michigan State University, a master of science degree from Nova Southeastern University and an educational specialist degree from OU.

"Thank you for this tremendous opportunity," Schulz told the school board. "It's very nice, thank you very much."

Johnson, a Canton resident, is a newcomer to the district. He has worked as a teacher in the Walled Lake Consolidated Schools and as an assistant principal in the Dearborn Heights District 7 and the Ann Arbor Public Schools.

He has a bachelor of science degree from Central Michigan University, a master of arts degree from Marygrove College and a master of arts degree from Grand Canyon University.

"You can't believe how excited I am to start in this position, I only wish I didn't have to wait until Jan. 3," Johnson said. "I'm looking forward to working with the students, the staff and the parents."

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Faygo cupcakes are now sold through Busch's, Hiller's and Westborn Market.



CUPCAKES

FROM PAGE A1

They bake 2,800 cupcakes a day, or 85,000 a month. And they've grown from two employees to 65. Pam's mother, Adele Rosen of West Bloomfield, is a silent partner in the business.

At a time when many businesses are struggling or folding, the Turkin's business has grown faster than a cupcake rises while baking. And, they've been profitable from day one.

What's their recipe for success? Flexibility is one ingredient, Turkin said.

INTUITION

"We've listened to the business, and we've listened to ourselves," said Turkin, explaining they don't strictly follow a pre-determined business plan or take other people's advice when it doesn't make sense to them.

Just Baked was going to be a wholesale business, with Todd running it and Pam staying in her marketing job.

But about two months after that fateful day in January, Pam quit her job to work full time in the business. "We just got that busy that fast," she said.

The Turkin's started the business after Pam saw how popular cupcakes were while traveling for her marketing job. She said they picked the idea for the business, then taught themselves to bake cupcakes, trying new flavors on family and friends. Before long, people were asking them to make cupcakes for parties.

Demand grew and before

long the Turkin's needed to rent a commercial kitchen so they leased the former Burkhardt's Bakery on Seven Mile, just east of Farmington Road, in Livonia in December 2008.

They also scrapped the name Motor City Cupcakes when the Realtor who found them the Burkhardt building told them he hated the name. They had already paid "a fortune" to a man in California for designing a logo with that name.

Pam came up with the name Just Baked, which their five teenaged children said they shouldn't use because of the slang meaning of "baked" being drunk or high.

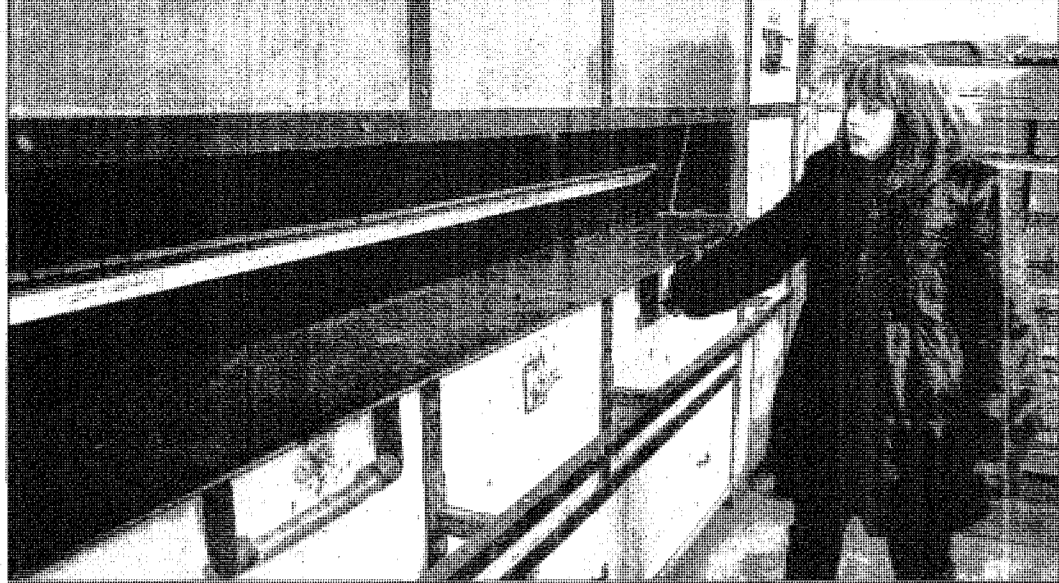
"My kids thought we were clueless," Pam said. But it turned out to be good for marketing. Soon after the Just Baked sign went up, teens and young adults from the area started coming up to Just Baked just to get pictures of themselves underneath the sign.

For older customers, the name conveys how fresh the products are. "Nothing in the store is more than 30 hours old," Turkin said.

As they were starting out, well-meaning people suggested they try selling their cupcakes to large grocery stores. But they chose baby steps instead and sold to small markets.

"When I say baby steps, I mean baby steps," Turkin said. Just this month, they got their first shipment of ribbon with the Just Baked name on it. "Everything excites us," she said as she and some employees oohed and aahed while pulling the ribbon from the box.

As they made money, they reinvested in the business. "If we had a good week, we



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Pam Turkin shows the ovens that once baked Burkhardt's sourdough rye loaves, now turning out more delicate cupcakes.



Kitchen Manager Katie Sieracki tidies up at the end of the production day.

bought a mixer. If we had another good week, we bought a refrigerator," Turkin said.

Another key ingredient to their success? "I think you have to be really dedicated and love what you do," she said. Pam has been putting in 80-100 hour weeks. "Sometimes it gets overwhelming."

Pam's marketing background has also been an asset. "I use everything I ever learned in every job I ever had in this business, and I'm still learning," she said.

She sought out mentors — Jack Erinson, owner of Garden Fresh Salsa in Ferndale, and David Brandon, CEO of Dominos Pizza. She said she

direct-messaged Erinson, and the next day she was in his building. "Most people inherently want to help," she said.

BUSINESS PRO

But Pam herself has good business sense, according to Just Baked general manager Janet Douglas of Livonia, who started out as counter help at the Novi store. "She's amazing," Douglas said. "She's very energetic. We just work until we get everything perfect."

Just Baked specializes in unique cupcake flavors — there are nearly 75 now. Recently, it introduced cupcakes tasting like Faygo pop. "We're always playing with fla-

vors," Pam said, adding many of them are in keeping with the season.

The Turkin's opened up their newest store on Ford Road in Canton earlier this month under their first-ever licensing agreement. If that model works for them, there will be more.

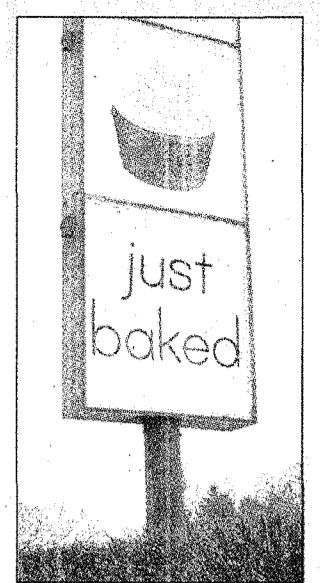
"We definitely want to go east," Pam said, naming Troy, Sterling Heights and Shelby Township as possible locations. Other areas for possible expansion include Brighton and Dearborn Heights.

In addition, they're planning to sell wholesale to the food service industry, including restaurants, banquet halls and schools.

The bakery, which also sells brownies, cookies, cakes, scones, granola, cakes and more, is also starting to do cupcake "chips," similar to bagel chips, to cut down on waste.

"They'll never leave Livonia," Pam said, where residents gave them their start in retail, buying up those first cupcakes and spreading the word about them. "I'm really grateful to the neighbors," she said.

About two months ago, they moved their Livonia retail operations to a storefront across the street from the bakery because they needed more space for baking. Everything they sell is made in the Livonia bakery, which operates now



GO-TO GOODIES

What: Just Baked Goods
Where: Livonia (33254 Seven Mile); Ann Arbor (2463 A West Stadium); Canton (41747 Ford Road); Royal Oak (32828 Woodward); Novi (Twelve Oaks Mall).

When: Livonia (9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Friday; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday; 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday) and Canton (10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday-Saturday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday).

Why: Provide fresh-baked cupcakes and other goodies, nothing more than 30 hours old.
Contact: www.justbakedshop.com

with three shifts.

Katie Sieracki of Livonia, who has a certificate in baking and pastry from Schoolcraft College, is head baker. "I think it's great how much we've grown," said Sieracki, who is charged with figuring out how to increase the kitchen's production with each new business expansion.

But as fast as they're growing, Pam said customers don't need to fear a drop in quality. They still use the same suppliers and have no plans to change — and she's in the kitchen nearly every day overseeing operations.

"We make everything by hand," she said. "Whether it's 100 or 1,000 cupcakes, we make it all the same."

For more information, visit www.justbakedshop.com.

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By Federal Law, hospitals will be in financial trouble if patients return home too soon



Garden City Hospital CEO and President Gary Ley

Four Seasons Rehabilitation and Nursing spoke with Gary Ley about the financial consequences of returning home too soon. Ley is president and CEO of Garden City Hospital.

Over the last 10 years insurance companies, especially, have been developing protocols to not pay for necessary readmissions. As part of the recent changes in federal law, Medicare is following suit. That's why it's important to realize that going home, instead of into a short-term rehabilitation center, will cost hospitals money.

"If readmission is for the same diagnosis, the government tries to deny payment," said Gary Ley, president and CEO of Garden City Hospital. "It has been an issue for a long time. They end up denying and we appeal."

One of the first questions hospital discharge planners ask the family is "can you provide the care necessary for your loved one at home?" If not, a brief stay at Four Seasons could prevent readmission to the hospital because 24 hour nursing care or physical therapy for strengthening can't be provided at home.

"... a short-term stay at Four Seasons reduces the risk of readmission to the hospital...many patients return home too soon"

According to Ley, the diagnosis of congestive heart failure accounts for a high number of readmissions. Four Seasons provides cardiac rehabilitation by physical therapists and daily monitoring of patients by a physician's assistant under the supervision of attending physicians.

"We provide weaning off of oxygen, physical therapy and muscle training," said Pat Lyden, Four Seasons Administrator and RN. "A patient going directly home from the hospital increases readmission and will not receive 24 hour care. If a patient is readmitted within 30 days and goes straight home and is readmitted for the same diagnosis, Medicare will not pay."

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'Magical Night' raises money for Gleaners

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

For a third time, the Canton Community Foundation will bring a touch of Hollywood to town to raise money for a cause that's anything but glamorous — hunger.

It's called Magical Night With The Stars, and it's coming Sunday, Jan. 30, to the Emagine Canton theater on Ford Road east of I-275.

Magical Night starts at 5:30 p.m. with a cocktail reception, followed by a strolling dinner and dessert. Guests create their own finale by choosing a first-run movie to watch.

The event last year raised some \$8,000 for Gleaners Community Food Bank, foundation President Joan Noricks said.

"They have been our designated beneficiary for three years," she said. "The hunger continues to be the ongoing, most pressing need in the community."

Gleaners has consistently been a top provider of food for local organizations across southeast Michigan, such as Canton-based Open Door Ministry, that are dedicated to feeding the hungry.

"By supporting Gleaners, we're helping support all the different groups that benefit from Gleaners," Noricks said.

She cited state statistics indicating that 3,000 residents in Canton, alone, are currently on food assistance programs, though many people have the misconception that residents of upscale areas aren't hurting amid an economic downturn.

"The food distribution is going into areas that typically have not had food emergencies before," said DeWayne Wells, Gleaners president. "The reality is



Elvis and Marilyn Monroe will be part of the "Magical Night with the Stars" in Canton next month.

that people who need food are our next-door neighbors. A little bit of help with food may well help people stay in their homes."

Gleaners this year has distributed about 40 million pounds of food to its partner agencies compared to 36 million pounds one year ago, Wells said.

Those who attend Magical Night are encouraged to dress up as their favorite stars, spurring some past audience members to show up looking like Marilyn Monroe and Elvis Presley, among others.

Tickets are \$75 per person, and sponsorships are available ranging from \$500 to \$5,000. Each sponsorship level offers a number of benefits such as reserved tables, links on the foundation's Web site and publicity during the Magical Night show.

Reservations are required and can be made by calling (734) 495-1200 or online at www.cantonfoundation.org. Deadline to register is Jan. 28.

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

Players hold additions for 'The Producers'

The Farmington Players has put out a call for actors to try out for the theatrical's groups upcoming production of *The Producers*.

Auditions will be held Sunday, Jan. 9, at the Farmington Players Barn, 32332 W. 12 Mile Road, Farmington Hills. Registration begins at 11:30 a.m., followed by auditions beginning at noon.

The play, based on the book by Mel Brooks and Thomas Meehan, with music and lyrics by Brooks, will be directed by Cynthia Tupper, with Mary Ann Tweedie and Michael Schacherbauer as assistant directors. Stan Harr is the musical director, Valie Mould as choreographer and Dave Gilkes and Pat Doman, producers.

Show dates are April 29-30 and May 1, 6-8, 12-15 and 19-21 at the Farmington Players Barn Theater, 32332 W. Twelve Mile, Farmington Hills.

All those auditioning for leads should be prepared to sing the solos suggested in the character descriptions. A karaoke version of the show will be used for everyone instead a live pianist. No singing a capella or singing along with your own tape will be accepted.

Actors trying out for the cho-

rus will only be asked to sing a few bars of *Goodbye* or *Along Came Bialy* (ladies) by themselves.

Actors also should wear comfortable clothes that they can move in and bring dance and tap shoes, if they own them.

Costume fittings and limited music and choreography rehearsals will begin in February. Rehearsals will begin three times per week in March until the show opens. Actors should expect some Friday or weekend rehearsal to accommodate business and travel conflicts. The final schedule will be planned after casting. However, mandatory rehearsal dates will be Sunday, April 17, Saturday, April 23, and dress rehearsal April 25-27.

The casting notice, music and some sides will be available on the Farmington Players website at www.farmingtonplayers.org. For general show information, call Tupper at (248) 553-4506 or by e-mail at cynthiatupper@gmail.com.

Tickets are available for this show and other Farmington Players productions, including *Red, White & Tuna*, at www.farmingtonplayers.org or by calling (248) 553-2955.

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'I always knew ... he was alive'

Siblings find brother in N.C. woods after 32 years

Editor's Note: Due to sensitivity among family members and information sources, some details could not be shared in depth. We attempted to strike a balance in the information, so that this incredible story of perseverance and redemption could be shared with our readers.

BY STACY JENKINS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Something pulled his attention to the edge of the woods, behind a run-down barber shop in a poor, desolate area of Charlotte, N.C.

"The holy spirit told me to walk into the woods," said Keith McDonald, describing the culmination of a 32-year search for his brother, Daniel. "I drew my eyes to a certain branch to go to, but I did not go. It was a strong urge, but I did not do what I was supposed to do."

After all, it didn't make sense that he would find his brother in an urban stand of woods in Charlotte.

But, that's exactly where the Westland man reunited with his brother on that August 2010 day — after link upon link came together to form the chain that led him to a military-style campsite in a clearing, where his brother had been living for several years.

MISSING, NOT FORGOTTEN

Keith McDonald doesn't remember the exact last time he saw his then-22-year-old brother before he enlisted into the Army. He knew Dan was in the 82nd Airborne special forces and stationed at Fort Bragg in North Carolina.

"He went into the Army and just disappeared," said Keith, 54.

Years passed and he hadn't heard from Dan, nor had his



McDonald brothers, from left, Chris, Keith and Dan, reunite at Dan's campsite in the woods in Charlotte, North Carolina in August.

other brother, Chris or sister Diane.

"I always wondered what happened to him," said Keith. "Was he alive or dead? I always knew in my heart of hearts that he was alive, but I didn't know in what condition."

His brother is one year older. They attended Franklin High School while growing up in the area of Joy Road and Middlebelt in Westland. Dan got married young and moved out.

The relationships within the family were somewhat tumultuous, leaving Keith and his siblings to be independent.

Keith said he accepted Jesus Christ as his personal savior as a young man and Dan sort of went the other way. That

could explain the reasons Dan never returned home, but even now, Keith doesn't want to press his brother for answers. He figures he will gain more understanding, with time.

TRACKING

Keith McDonald didn't have Dan's Social Security number until February 2010, but he had no luck in his search. Then he found someone to help him track down Dan through special access to databases — someone who had the tools, skills and resources to find out that Keith had the wrong Social Security number for Dan.

Once he had the correct number, the source was able to pinpoint four possible places he might find his brother.

It was the lucky break he needed.

"I was in awe that I got the information so fast," said Keith.

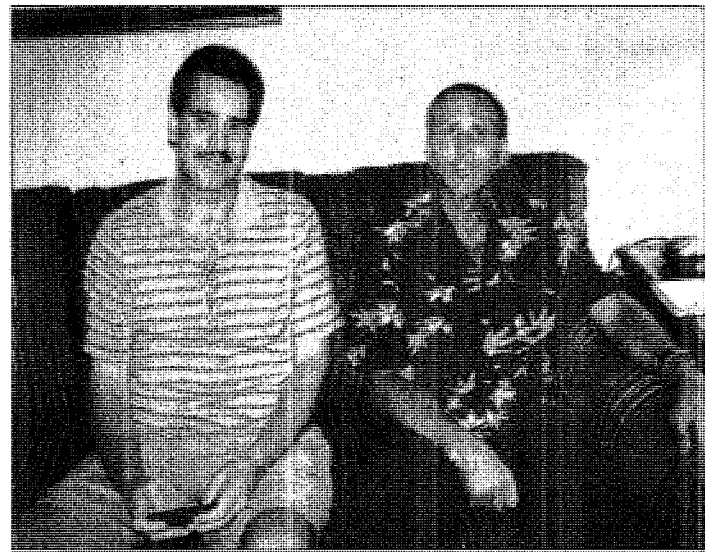
He had already planned a trip to Nashville, Tenn., to visit his sister, Diane Bronner, over the summer, so he asked her if she wanted to join him on the search for Dan.

"She said, 'Let's do it,'" said Keith.

They called their brother, Chris, who lives in Woodbridge, Va., who joined them in North Carolina — after Dan was located.

FIRST STOP

"We went to the highest probable address first, but it turned out to be a barber shop," said Keith, noting it



Keith McDonald, left, with brother Dan McDonald, during the first night of their reunion at a Charlotte, North Carolina hotel.



Dan McDonald, with a bow that was made by his son.

was in a bad part of town, and they had to knock on the door before being let in.

Once inside, no one knew of Dan, but they led them to an apartment building nearby, where Keith and Diane knocked on every door. One possibility turned out to be the wrong guy.

That's when Keith — and Diane as well — noticed the woods behind the barber shop, but they continued on to the Urban Ministries Rescue Mission, two miles down the road. They stopped, on the way, at a men's outreach center, where hundreds of men were staying.

"We went in, and they were very discouraging," said Keith.

Moving on, they reached the rescue mission, only to find a sign on the door indicating it had closed due to flood damage. They ended up at the back entrance, where they found the mission's administrator.

"He directed us to a girl named Liz," said Keith, noting she was not too encouraging because they had no photo of Dan.

Then, a social worker named Megan walked in and said, "I know a Dan McDonald, he lives in the woods with Fancy Nancy," said Keith, tears welling in his eyes as he recalled the moment. "That was just shocking. I finally had hope. It was the first time anyone said they knew where he was."

Please see **BROTHER, A5**

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BROTHER

FROM PAGE A4

Megan explained that their brother was not considered a homeless person, but a camper, who is fiercely independent and is somewhat of a pioneer.

"When she described where he was — Tryon Street — that street is where the barber shop was located. She was shocked that someone from Detroit would know where that barber shop was — but, it was the first place we went.

"She took me right into the woods, where I had been directed to go and didn't listen (earlier)."

RINGING OUT

Walking down a well covered trail, Keith said he could hear the sound of an anvil ringing out. Their grandfather was a blacksmith, so he knew the sound of the tool used to shape metal.

Megan, who Keith describes as a young, enthusiastic and genuinely caring person, approached Dan to ask him if he wanted to meet his family. She didn't want to bombard him or invade his privacy. Dan and Nancy had been raided by the authorities and had their makeshift home torn down in the past.

"I heard Megan ask him if he would like to meet his brother," said Keith.

There was hesitation on both sides.

"I did not recognize my brother, and because of other false alarms, I wasn't sure if it was him," said Keith. "I asked him if he has a

brother named Keith. He said, 'yes.' I asked him if he has a sister, and could he tell me her name. When he named her, that's when I knew I had found my brother. Tears came to my eyes."

RECONNECTING

Dan was stoic, emotionless. "This was a total surprise to him. It didn't sink in for quite awhile," said Keith.

Dan agreed to join his siblings at a Charlotte hotel, where they became reacquainted.

"We were very happy to have our brother back," said Keith. "We started to see the spark come back in his eyes and he actually smiled."

They went shopping the next day for camping supplies and food for Dan to take back to his home in the woods. They were careful to be open-minded and accepting of their brother, without judgment. They didn't ask him why he never came home, or why he chose to live in the woods.

"Whatever he wanted, we just wanted to know he was alive and safe," said Keith. "He seemed to be accepting of our help." His camp had an old pickup truck cab for a shelter, a table for doing situps, a handmade clay oven and even some a clay sculpture of Barack Obama, said Keith. His nicer home, a sturdy A-frame structure, had been destroyed by the authorities in 2003.

They left him back at his camp and went on to figure out how else they could help. They found out that Dan had brushes with the law through the years, but was clean of



With hugs and smiles, the McDonald siblings reunited at Dan's campsite. From left, Diane Bronner, of Nashville, Tenn., Keith McDonald, of Westland, Dan McDonald and Chris McDonald, of Woodbridge, Va.

drugs and alcohol. He was with his companion, Nancy, for some time. She was an intelligent woman who was in the Air Force and spent four years in the chaplaincy program, said Keith.

A local police officer — after arresting Dan several times — befriended Dan and asked him why he kept going back to the woods. He reportedly said he needed a job, so the officer helped him write a resume and helped him with a job search. Keith McDonald contacted that officer, who vouched for Dan being clean.

"We didn't know what lifestyle he lived," said Keith, when considering where to offer Dan a place to live.

A relative in Linden, Tenn., offered Dan a house, and he accepted. Nancy ultimately decided to stay in the woods and not leave with Dan.

Unfortunately, Linden, in Perry County, is a poor community where jobs are scarce. For now, family members are helping him pay for necessities.

"He seems to be adjusting," said Keith. "I'm hoping he can get a job so he can be self-sufficient."

Keith plans to see Dan after the first of the year. Dan has two adult sons living in metro Detroit.

Keith said 2010 is one he'll never forget.

sjenkins@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2369

Church accepts donations for the needy

Teens will again gather outside of Geneva Presbyterian Church in Canton on Boxing Day, Dec. 26.

Nancy Glodich, director of youth ministries, said high school students will spend the night outdoors outside the church "to raise awareness for the homeless situation in the metro Detroit area." She anticipates about 15 students, including older students now in college who've participated in the past.

The young people will be collecting for Fort Street Presbyterian Church of Detroit's Open Door Ministry. Needed are blankets, coats and clothing as well as sleeping bags and toiletries. Organizers of the annual Canton event ask that you don't drop off furniture, appliances, toys or household items. "Coats are always especially welcome," said Glodich of Plymouth Township. "We are accepting donations through Friday, Jan. 7." Geneva Presbyterian Church is on the west side of Sheldon just north of Ford in Canton.

If possible, drop off items 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday, she said, or use the drop box outside the church.

Call (734) 459-0013 for additional information.

It's been at least 15 years for this project, which is based on the custom in the United Kingdom and Canada where items no longer needed are boxed up the day after Christmas for needy people.

HOLIDAY SPECIALS!

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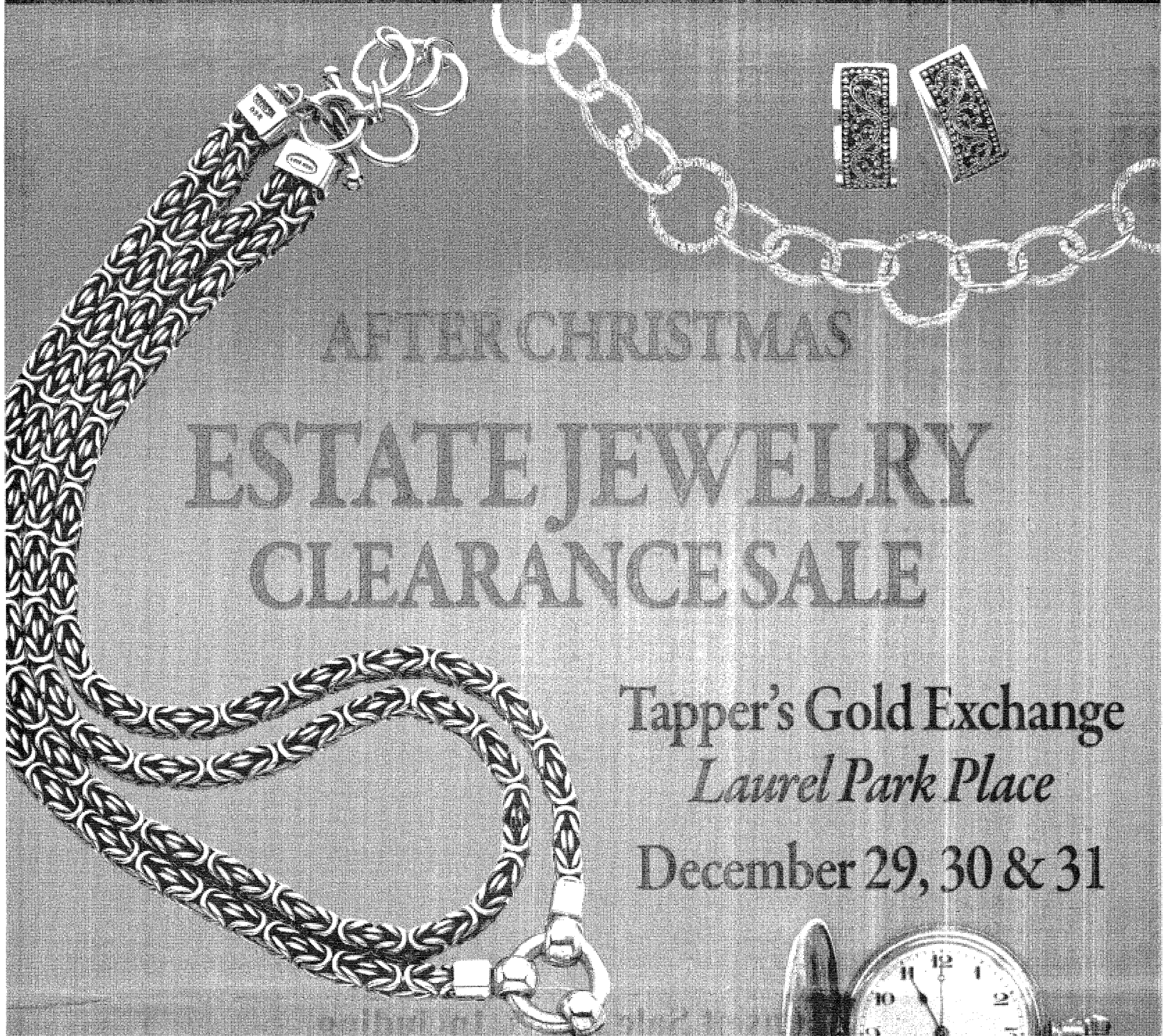
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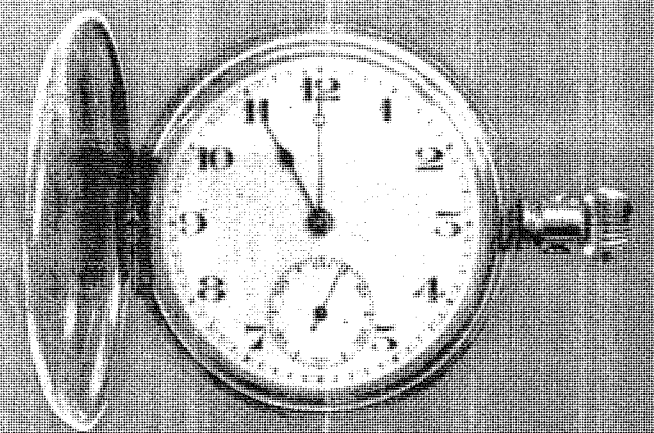
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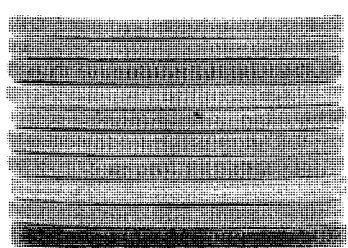
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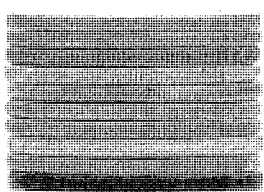
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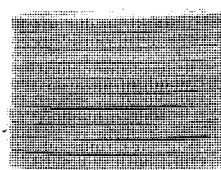
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Wallyball player reports wallet missing

Westland

Larceny

A Garden City resident, 19, told police that someone had stolen his wallet containing \$50 while he was playing wallyball at the Bailey Center, 36651 Ford. The man said he and some friends had left their coats in the hallway while they were on the wallyball court.

The man said his wallet was taken from his coat while his friends were missing cash and a cell phone.

Failed to pay

Police were called to an apartment at 322 S. Hubbard Court Dec. 17 when a cab driver reported that a customer was refusing to pay the full fare for a ride. The cabbie said he picked a woman, whose first name he knew, up in Huron Township and drove her to the address in Westland.

The woman paid \$30 of the \$57.50 fare, the cabbie said, then was to go inside to get the balance of the money.

When the woman didn't return, the cabbie knocked on the apartment door and a man

POLICE BRIEFS

denied the woman was inside. The officer said he got the same response when he knocked on the door but could hear a woman talking inside. Several neighbors also told police the woman was in the apartment.

The officer was able to get a last name for the woman after contacting the resident who lived at the Huron Township home where she was picked up. The resident there identified herself as the woman's mother. A ticket for larceny was mailed to the woman.

Retail fraud

Westland police arrested two Garden City women for shoplifting at Kohl's, 35000 Warren Road, Dec. 18. The women, 16- and 17-year old cousins, were spotted by store security taking items into a changing room but leaving empty handed.

Stopped leaving the store, police said the 17-year-old had three packages of mascara hidden in her purse. She was being charged as an adult.

Police recovered two shirts, a ring, mascara and perfume from the 16-year-old, who is being charged as a juvenile. Both were eventually released to their mothers.

Shoplifting

On Dec. 18, a Livonia man was arrested for shoplifting a bottle of Ezra Brooks whiskey from Meijer, 37201 Warren Road. A store security person reported seeking the man take the bottle of whiskey and head to the baby department where he concealed it down his pants. The man was stopped after he left the store without paying. The whiskey was valued at \$11.

Break-in

A resident in the 39000 block of Cheshire told police Dec. 18 that she had been out of town when her housesitter noticed damage to the front door, which had apparently been kicked. A neighbor secured the home but the resident said she didn't know if anything was missing from the home.

Canton

Retail fraud

An employee of the Marshalls department store on Ford east of Lilley contacted police Dec. 19 after noticing two suspects enter the store, make purchases using two different credit cards and then try to use a third credit card that was rejected. The employee feared the behavior might indicate the cards had been stolen.

The employee notified police in case the purchases resulted in improper charges being made.

Stolen wallet

A man told police Dec. 17 that his wallet was stolen from a locker at Lifetime Fitness, on Haggerty south of Ford, between 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

The man said he placed his belongings in the

locker, secured it and took the key with him.

Garden City

Home invasion

An alert observer called police when she noticed some activity at a vacant home in the 6190 block of Gilman about 1:30 p.m. Dec. 15. The tip resulted in two Garden City men, ages 22 and 23, being arrested for home invasion.

When the police arrived, they saw two men rummaging around inside the house. One of the men came to the side door when the police knocked and gave different stories about why he was there. He told police he was there to do painting and then said that he was there to pick up his tools at a home that he described as being owned by a friend of his father. He later admitted that he didn't actually know who owned the home.

While questioning this man, the police continued to hear noises upstairs. When the police first called to the second man, he didn't respond. He later came out and said that he was hiding in a crawl space. He, too, admitted that he didn't know the homeowner's name.

Officers reported nothing appeared to have been removed from the home. The investment company listed as the property owner couldn't be reached since their listed phone number had been disconnected.

Property damage

A witness called police after he saw a male get out of a Ford Focus, kick a Christmas lawn ornament in the 30000 block of Hennepin and deflate it about 10:45 p.m. Dec. 11.

The police were able to identify and locate the driver. When the officers came to his home, he admitted immediately that he knew why they wanted to talk to him. He said that he and his 15-year-old male passenger were out egging cars and houses when the passenger suggested that he stop at the house with the inflatable lawn ornament.

ONGOING EVENTS

Widowed Men

Time/date: 9 a.m. the second and fourth Thursday of each month
Location: Steve's Family Restaurant, 15800 Middlebelt Road, Livonia
Details: Widowed men of all ages are invited to this informal peer group where men have an opportunity to meet with other widowed men who are ready to help others cope or become involved in other activities planned by Widowed Friends of the Archdiocese of Detroit.
Contact: (313) 534-0399

Earth Angels

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

'50s and '60s as well as some current fare.

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

Volunteer Voices

Time/Date: Varies
Details: The Therapy Choir, comprised of people recovering from Traumatic Brain Injuries and Developmental Disabilities. Able bodied and challenged welcome.
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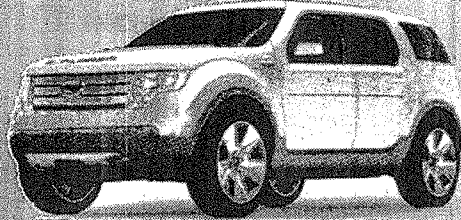
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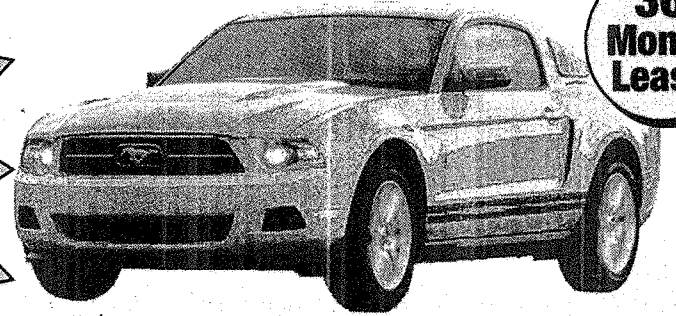


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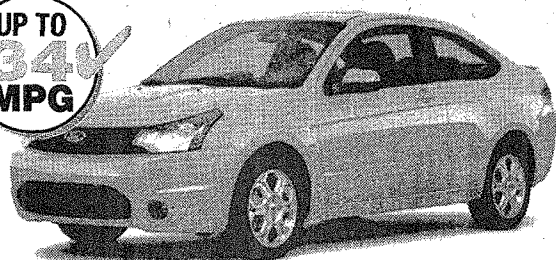
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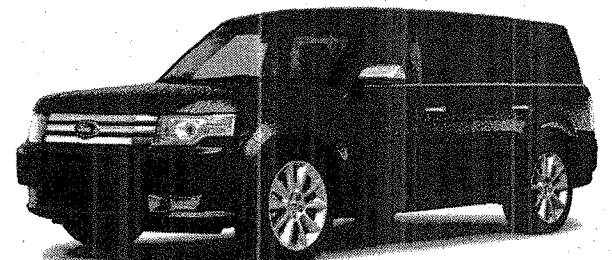


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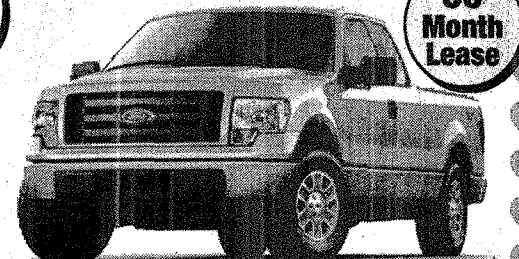


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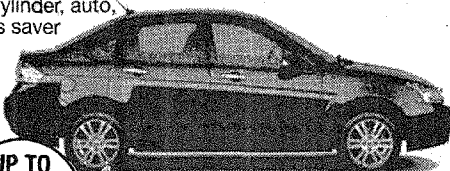
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Try a holiday break on a budget

BY DIANE GALE ANDREASSI
CORRESPONDENT

Holiday break is far from being a break for mom and dad if the kids are bored. But there's lots to keep kids busy in the area that even lifelong residents haven't experienced.

Consider making a keepsake at a pottery store like, Creatopia Pottery in Plymouth, the Bee's Knees in Northville or Pewabic Pottery in Detroit. Whatever you walk out with will become something you cherish forever. Visit creatopiapottery.com, thebeeskneespottery.com or pewabic.org for more information.

The Detroit Science Center could keep you busy for a couple of days with the *Star Trek* exhibit, IMAX theater and Children's Museum. Go to detroitssciencecenter.org to learn more about what is offered.

Take a walk through a neighborhood park, like Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth, which is lined with holiday trees decorated by businesses and residents.

Or buy a bird feeder and book on birds at Backyard Birds in Plymouth, then keep a log of what you spot all year. Go to backyardbirds.net for more information.

If you're on a budget, think about volunteering at a nursing home, church or animal shelter. Just beware that if you choose the animal shelter,

there's a high likelihood of pleas to take home something soft and furry.

You can make hot chocolate and bake cookies, teach your kids how to make a family recipe, watch family videos, visit someone who is homebound or go for a ride and try to find the best decorated house in your neighborhood.

READ A GOOD BOOK

Visit your local library or pick up a book and find a cozy place at the library, home or your favorite coffee shop and read together. Call ahead to make sure the library you plan to visit hasn't altered its operating hours for the holidays.

Check out what is being offered at the Penn Theater in Plymouth, Civic Theater in Farmington or the Redford Theater. The Marquis Theater in Northville has live performances. Visit penntheater.com, downtownfarmington.org, redfordtheater.com/movie and northvillemarquistheatre.com for more information about show times.

Pack your pockets with change when you visit Marvin's Marvelous Mechanical Museum on Orchard Lake Road in Farmington Hills. The museum offers all kinds of gadgets, featuring magic, neon, antiques, posters, airplanes, robots, animation and all sorts of odd and unusual coin-operated games. Go to marvin3m.com to learn more. If you want



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Nick Yonker was among those taking advantage of the groomed cross country ski trails at Maybury State Park in Northville.

the latest arcade machines, find one near you, possibly at Pandemonium, at pandemonium-online.com, in Westland.

Call the local fire station and ask for a tour, write thank you notes for all the great holiday gifts or play board games together. Make up a new one, if you're tired of playing the games you have. Start by picking a theme, rules and what it takes to win. If you put it away with all the other games, it can become a classic — at least in your family.

Clean a corner of the house and make a kid's clubhouse. Think about adding extra incentives, if they discard or donate toys no longer used.

Make lists about what you want to do next summer or something more grand, like life plans. Spend a Saturday morning at the Eastern Market in Detroit and enjoy all the sights and smells for a definite

memory maker.

TAKE A HIKE

Go hiking at Maybury State Park in Northville or Kensington Metropark in Brighton. Go to friendsofmaybury.org or kensingtonpark.org to learn more. There are fees for day and year passes. The trails, however, will rival almost anything you would find on vacation.

Other activities that involve a nominal fee include driving through the lighting display through Hines Park or having lunch or dinner at a drive-in restaurant, like Daly's in Livonia or Sonic Drive-Ins throughout the metro area.

The Hands on Museum in Ann Arbor is another option. Go to www.aahom.org to learn more.

Take the kids on an educational tour at the Holocaust Memorial Center

in Farmington Hills. Go to holocaustcenter.org for more information. Or visit the Arab American Museum, at arabamericanmuseum.org in Dearborn, and then head to La Pita for some hummus and fattoush.

Tour the magnificent flora at Matthaei Botanical Gardens in Ann Arbor or the planetarium and museum at Cranbrook Art Museum and Institute of Science in Bloomfield Hills. To learn more about the gardens, go to mbgna.umich.edu and for information about Cranbrook, go to cranbrook.edu.

Or watch planes take off and land at Mettetal Airport in Canton or Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport.

The Detroit Institute of Arts is inviting patrons to "Let Yourself Go." It's a wonderful place to immerse your kids in culture and world famous art

pieces. Go to dia.org for more information.

Try a new sport or revisit something you enjoyed in the past, like cross country skiing, bowling, roller skating or paintball. Go ice skating at Campus Martius or, better yet, make a rink in your backyard. Meanwhile, when you're in Detroit, take a walk or drive down the riverfront or explore Mexicantown.

If all else fails, go to a hotel for the night and if you shop right you might get a free breakfast and a chance to swim while it snows outside.

Go to a craft store, like Michaels in Livonia, Farmington Hills, Commerce and Southfield or Hobby Lobby in Canton to start a new hobby and maybe it will become something you can do together for a long time.

Whatever you choose is bound to make memories.

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Dianna Surowiec (left) and Carol Oakley (right) help a passenger at the North Terminal bag claim booth. All the volunteers wear the distinctive red vests.



Travelers Aid: Chance to serve, learn

BY JULIE BROWN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Free parking at Detroit Metropolitan Airport is among perks for volunteers of the Travelers Aid Society of Metropolitan Detroit.

More rewarding still is seeing lost travelers reunited with loved ones.

"It's just such a good feeling," said Fran Wood, airport volunteer supervisor for the Society. "You get to watch these reunions happen."

There's a push on to recruit more volunteers for the airport, said Wood, the only employee. Right now, the Airport Ambassador Program, around for more than 30 years, has volunteers ages 16-88.

The program lost its United Way funding in 2008.

"We had a few volunteers who literally refused to leave," Wood said. They talked the airport authority into providing funding.

A condition was having a full-time supervisor and a certain level of staffing for both terminals. In March 2009, there were 15 volunteers, compared to more than 60 today.

"So we're making progress," she said. The volunteers are the information resource group for the airport, helping people get around and then home.

The Wednesday before Thanksgiving, Wood watched a military dad reunited with his wife and young son. "You get to meet people from all over the world," she said. "These people are coming to you for help."

Society volunteers report to airport officials concerns on things like signage. "They truly take to heart what the customers are saying," she said of airport officials, adding customers sometimes confuse the airport with individual airlines with which they have troubles.

Wood works mostly from the Society's downtown Detroit office in social services. Those

included recently escorting a 19-year-old autistic man on airplane travels. The Society doesn't give money to stranded travelers for airplane tickets or other expenses.

"We hold their hand, we point them in the right direction," Wood said.

To volunteer, call (313) 414-6456.

A commitment of four hours a week is requested, and includes free parking at any time along with discounts at airport shops. You'll need an

airport ID badge, so applicants can't have any felonies in their background.

The website is www.TravelersAidDetroit.org, the e-mail info@tasmd.org.

The Society has two booths at the North terminal and three at the McNamara, Wood said. She'd like to sign up 250 volunteers.

"You name it, we need it. You may know somebody who's sitting at home," she said.

jbrown@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-8899

Showplace unveils new name, partner

BY NATHAN MUELLER
STAFF WRITER

The Rock Financial Showplace name will soon be no more.

Starting in January, the state-of-the-art exposition, convention and conference center on Grand River Avenue in Novi will be called the Suburban Collection Showplace after the two sides announced a multiyear, multimillion dollar partnership Thursday.

Nether side would elaborate on exactly how much the deal is worth, but Blair Bowman, president and owner of the Showplace, said it was less than several of the 15 bids he received.

"It wasn't about the money," Bowman said. "The cross-promotional opportunities are truly limitless. You will be seeing and hearing a lot more from us with this new approach."

The showplace has been looking for a new name since Rock Financial changed to Quicken Loans and its advertising and marketing took on a more national focus.

Bowman said he was looking for a local company with a "good reputation" and a "good name," and believes he found it in Michigan's largest dealership group and the 13th largest dealer group in the country.



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Showplace president and owner Blair Bowman, right, shakes hands with Suburban Collection CEO and President David Fischer Jr., after the two announced a multiyear, multimillion-dollar partnership which calls for the renaming of Rock Financial Showplace to Suburban Collection Showplace.

The Suburban Collection has been around since 1948, and David Fischer, chairman and CEO, said they are "having one of our best years in recent history."

He said the partnership made sense to him because it gives the Suburban Collection the ability to reach the 1.5 million visitors who attend the 200-plus events at the 320,000-square-foot Showplace annually.

"This will allow us to continue to grow our presence,"

Fischer said. Throughout December, the five-year-old Showplace will undergo its brand change with new signs, colors and the addition of display vehicles inside and outside.

Bowman also said the partnership is going to help with future endeavors such as a possible expansion and hotel development.

"(The opportunities) are almost endless," he said.

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Medical student forges ahead despite accident

BY LARRY RUEHLEN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Aaron Martinuzzi flexes a muscle running along the top of his right forearm. His wrist arches and turns a few inches.

There is hope. There is hope.

He does the same with his left, but the muscle responsible for raising an index finger at a naughty child barely twitches.

There is much work ahead. "My life is entirely different than folks who were injured like this in the '60s or '70s," says Aaron. "Technology has advanced so much. If they were able to do it, I'll be able to do it."

Aaron, 25, was in medical school at the University of New England-College of Osteopathic Medicine when he broke his neck in a diving accident in August.

He is now a quadriplegic but refuses to let the label define his future.

"I knew exactly what I was facing from case studies in my master's program," says Aaron. "They are facts. Facts can't be ignored. Yes, there have been tough moments. You can either stay in bed all day or live your life — I prefer the latter, living."

"But we talked about it," says his sister, Audrey, 21. "We agreed we'd pretty much rather be six feet under if we couldn't do what we wanted to do."

But that was before the day that forever changed the Martinuzzi family.

DEFY ALL CIRCUMSTANCES

Aaron Martinuzzi's network of family and friends is holding several fund-raisers to help him on his quest to Defy All Circumstances. The easiest way to get all the details is to visit the campaign Facebook page at: http://www.facebook.com/pages/HometownLife.com/122786733297#/?page=Friends-of-Aaron-Martinuzzi/156879984335625?v=app_18015191938
Donations may also be mailed directly to:
Friends of Aaron Martinuzzi
P.O. Box 324
Milford, MI 4838
Anyone who wants to donate may also visit this page to contribute: <http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/aaronmartinuzzi>

This is now and there is work to do.

REHABILITATION

Aaron goes to rehabilitation therapy three times a week at Detroit Medical Center and is intent on spending the next year or so regaining as much movement as possible. There is also the not-so-small matter of learning a new routine dependent on wheelchairs, in-home nurses and indomitable determination.

Audrey, Aaron and their mother, Maria, spoke about the challenge ahead at the

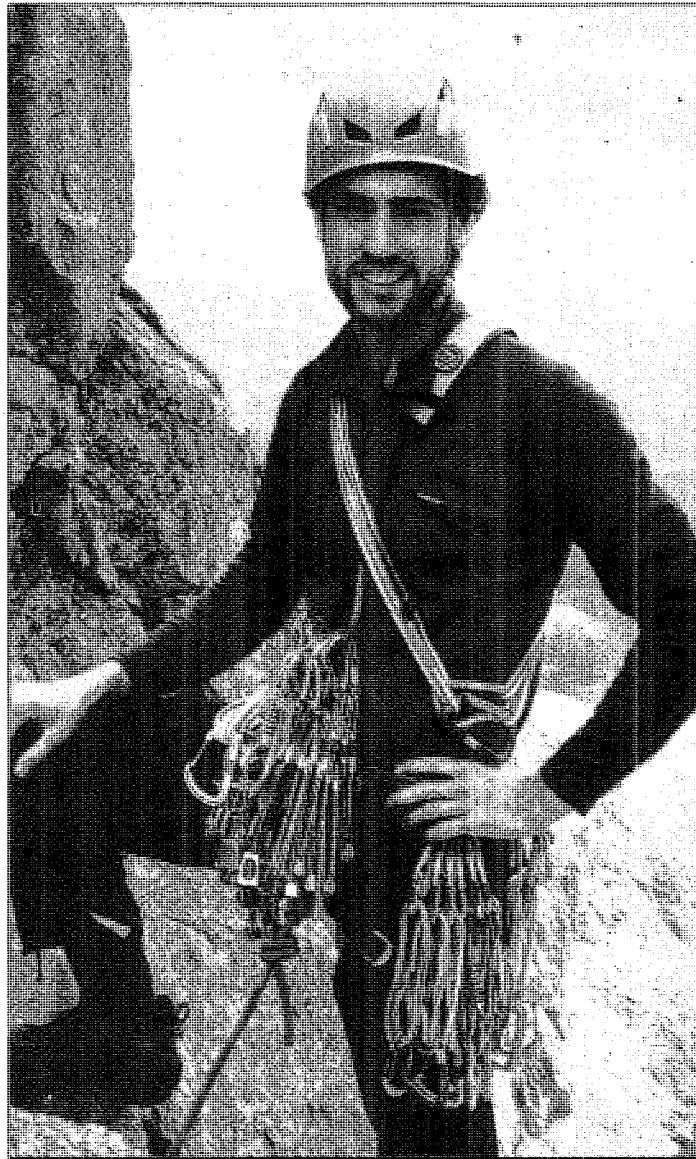
family home in Redford Township while father Neil was at work.

A nurse, a childhood friend of Aaron's, comes and goes with familiarity and soon the small group collects in Aaron's section of the house. The entrance to his study had to be widened and his bedroom was given a makeover. An adjustable hospital bed, extra-wide shower and all kinds of other necessities were installed thanks to the legions of family, friends and even strangers who have offered to help.

A laptop computer with laser-guided mouse serves as communications central. Several photos grace the desk but one stands out. Aaron, an avid climber, and a college friend are standing nearly naked atop Crestone Needle, a 14,197-foot peak in the Sangre de Cristo range in Colorado. Their essentials are covered with climbing helmets, but other than that, they are wearing only boots and smiles.

"Don't worry, there was no one else up there," says Aaron, chuckling at the memory of the impromptu celebration that capped off the daunting climb.

First impressions count and the Martinuzzi family comes across as solid and caring in a way often portrayed in the movies of the 1950s. Not holier-than-thou or saccharine — the kind of family you want to go camping with because you know you'll have a good time.



Medical student Aaron Martinuzzi once climbed mountains and is determined to finish his studies despite becoming a quadriplegic following a diving accident last summer.

were just worried and freaked out."

REALITY AND RESOLVE

Aaron says he slept for much of the first week following the accident due to all the medication he was getting. As the haze lifted, reality began to sink in.

Barring miracle or medical advancement, Aaron wouldn't walk again. And regaining significant use of his upper extremities wasn't likely.

It didn't take long for the "why me" anger to subside and in its place a new resolve was born.

Focus on possibilities. You wanted to become a doctor so finish what you started, he thought.

"The common theme in our family is that Aaron is going to finish medical school," said Maria.

"There are a lot of unknowns," says Aaron. "But I do know I don't want to live with my mother for the rest of my life."

"She can be suffocating with her love," says Audrey, and all three bust out laughing as if truer words were never spoken.

Aaron plans to take a class at Wayne State to get back into the academic groove. He has to figure out the logistics of getting notes from lectures, taking tests and doing clinical work.

He says he'll explore transferring to a local medical school, but will likely end up returning to University of New England-College of Osteopathic Medicine.

After all, he's climbed 14,000-foot mountains so he's not about to turn back at the first sign of trouble.

"When it first happened, I thought I might be better off six feet under," he said. "I couldn't do 99 percent of the things I liked to do. But then my family came out to visit me in Maine and that changed everything. I was glad I hadn't been at the bottom of that pool for eight minutes. I was glad they weren't coming out for a funeral."

"You were brave too," says Audrey, to her mother. "You

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COMMUNITY SUPPORT

"I think it is an old-fashioned neighborhood," says Maria. "Many of our neighbors grew up in Redford and moved back to raise their families here."

One local family donated a specially equipped van, a friend who worked at a hospital found a suitable bed that was just old enough to donate to Aaron rather than keep it in service. Hundreds of people have donated time and money to help Aaron move on with his life. The family gains strength from the tight-knit enclave surrounding Five Mile and Beech. While Aaron

and Audrey were growing up, it was the kind of neighborhood where children played cops and robbers, spent summers at the swim club and went to mass en masse at St. Valentine's Catholic Church.

Aaron attended St. Vals until eighth grade, then went to University of Detroit-Jesuit High School in Detroit. Then it was on to the University of Notre Dame, where he earned a bachelor's degree in American Studies. He earned a master's degree in biological sciences at University of Colorado, which is where he spent his free time climbing, and had just begun medical school when he had his diving

accident.

With all the personal connections formed along the way, it came as no surprise when get well wishes flooded in as the family rushed to Maine to be by Aaron's side after the accident.

Audrey left her studies at Central Michigan University to be with her big brother — a decision her professors greeted with all the compassion a turnip can muster.

"She jumped right in and took care of Aaron," Maria says. "I was nervous and scared, but Audrey was so strong. She was the brave one."

"You were brave too," says Audrey, to her mother. "You

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Detroit Zoo: Wandering through a winter wonderland

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
CORRESPONDENT

It's the most magical time of the year. Winter, that is.

The Detroit Zoo, especially after a snowfall, glistens with wonder as polar bears swim in the pool and lie on their bellies in the tundra enjoying the Michigan weather. As always the Arctic Ring of Life is an extraordinary experience as the big white bears and seals glide overhead and around visitors walking through the 70-foot tunnel.

"The animals that thrive here live in different climates and seasons," said the zoo director, Ron Kagan.

"The zoo is all about the natural experience as opposed to cages so we have so many species particularly active and quite entertaining to see in winter."

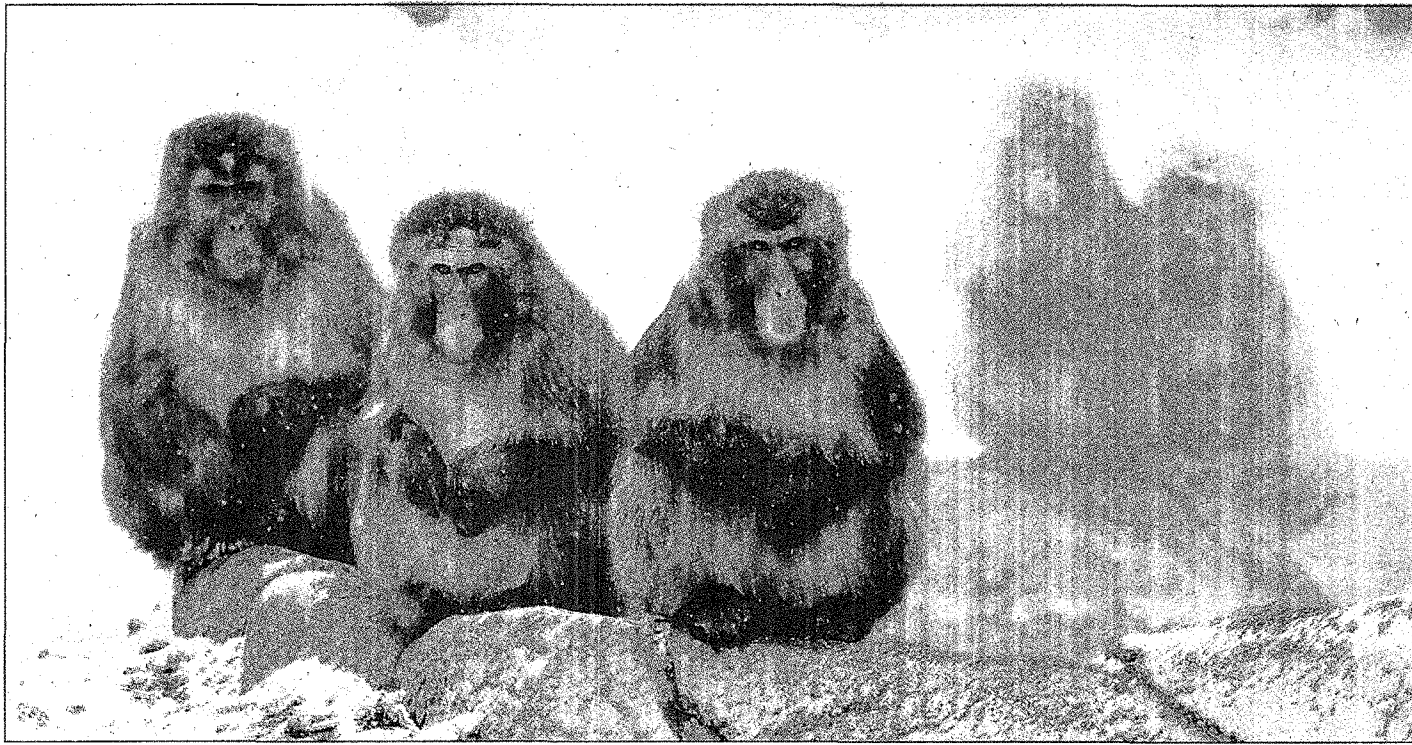
The Siberian tiger is in his element and looks spectacular against the snow in his stripes. Wolverines gallop through their habitat waiting for lunch. These bear-like creatures can be found from North Europe to North America all the way to Siberia so they're naturally active.

WOLVERINES AT THE ZOO

"Wolverines are not found in most zoos," said Kagan. "They're particularly playful, love playing in snow. You see them bounding around, very energetic. Watching animals like wolverines do snow angels is nothing less than amazing."

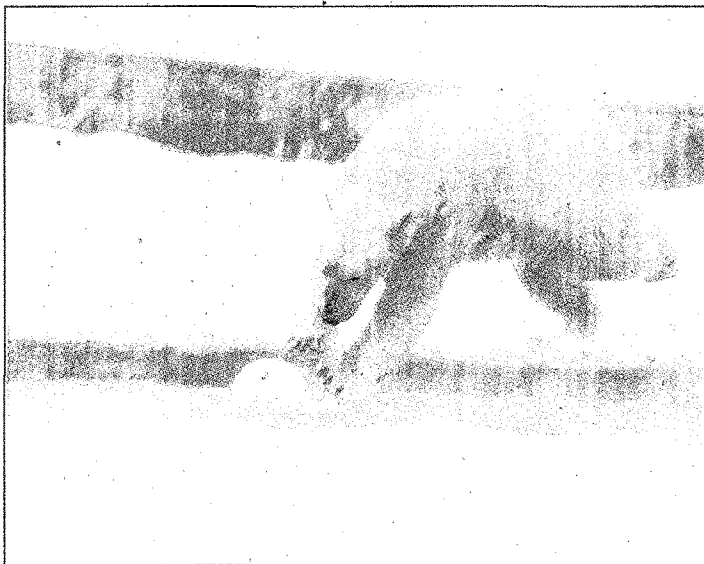
Japanese Macaques or snow monkeys climb up and down trees near their hot tub. A keeper arrives with treats and they flock into the steaming water in search of the Craisins providing plenty of antics as they fish for the treats.

For those looking for respite from the cold, the Wildlife Interpretive Gallery's free flight aviary offers the warmth of a tropical jungle as it bustles with sights and sounds. Scarlet ibis perch overhead, iridescent emerald starlings on a branch as keeper Leslie Keys tosses mealy worms on the ground for spur-winged plovers who snatch up



MARK GASKILL

Whether playing in the snow or relaxing on the edge of their hot tub Japanese macaques or snow monkeys are always entertaining.



JUDY YAKER

A polar bear dives for a ball in the Arctic Ring of Life at the Detroit Zoo.

the snacks inches from visitors' feet.

Inside the giraffe habitat, Kivuli, 2, is curious about visitors.

"She's looking to see what kind of treat you're going to give her," said Dennis-Maue, a docent who volunteers his knowledge about

animals once or twice a week since retiring from the Sterling Heights Police Department.

One of the benefits of visiting the zoo in winter is asking questions and listening to docents talk about the animals. Just look for their red coats.

Did you know snakes, like the



JUDY YAKER

The Siberian tiger is in its element and looks spectacular against the snow.

Forest cobra are only fed every other Wednesday? Have you ever watched one unhitch its jaw to swallow a dead white mouse?

Laura Gogola does all of the time as a docent in the Holden Museum of Living Reptiles. The Berkley woman has volunteered twice a week for the last five-

years.

ANIMALS ARE OUT

"The animals are out all winter," said Gogola who had to pass a 13-week course about animals to become a docent. "There's always something going on."

Outside the indoor exhibits it is cold. Visitors could take a few tips from the volunteer docents who use hand warmers to stop their fingers from freezing and insulated boots to warm toes. Be sure to bundle up with scarves, hats and gloves. Watching the prairie dogs scurry in and out of the holes is well worth it as is the North American elk lying majestically near the white-lipped deer.

Warm up by visiting the barn to see farm animals like pigs, goats, and owls perched high or try the soup, pizza and hot chocolate available at the Arctic Food Court.

Not far away it's feeding time at the penguinarium.

"Winter at the zoo is the best time," said docent Gini Sutherland of Birmingham as she stood alongside docent-in-

training Roberta Russ of West Bloomfield. "We are open in winter."

Sutherland is in her 34th year as a docent. She knows a lot about penguins. She mentions the zoo's three species — Rock Hopper, Macaroni, and King made famous by the film, *Happy Feet*.

"The keeper keeps track of how many fish they eat so they know how much each eats. The first fish is filled with vitamins."

Outside in the Arctic Ring of Life two white arctic fox snuggle in the cold and falling snow. Further into the exhibit keepers train seals to open their flippers in case veterinarian procedures are necessary.

Gina and Jay Chura of Wixom are enjoying all of the activity as they celebrate the first birthday of their son, Jax.

It's nice," said Jay.

"We wanted to come see the polar bears because it's winter," added Gina.

Talini, 6, is having fun running on the ice pack after a quick dip.

The Arctic Ring of Life is one of the most popular attractions at the zoo according to Betsie Meister, mammal department supervisor.


"Polar bears are built for cold weather," said Meister.

"It could be the coldest day of the year and they're out there swimming and playing. It's enjoyable to take a nice walk here. The otters are very active and you can see the giraffes up close."

"The domestic horses are running around in the snowflakes. Rhinos can go outside on a nice day. All the animals like to get a little bit of fresh air in the wintertime, the red pandas, flamingos, vultures," said Meister, adding, "Wear good boots, a warm coat and enjoy it. The zoo is unique in winter. You'll be sorry if you missed it."

The Detroit Zoo is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily except New Year's Day and is located at the corner of Woodward and I-696. For information, visit www.detroitzoo.org.

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Art students use metroparks as their canvas

How do you take art out of the classroom and into the outdoor world? For University of Michigan art professor Michael Rodemer, creating a whole new course centered on the Huron-Clinton Metropark system was a perfect opportunity to get his students out of the classroom and into the field, literally.

Using nature as the cornerstone of the course "Metroparks: Engaging the Environment," Rodemer paired up with metroparks staff to offer students the opportunity to use their artistic talent to showcase important commentaries on the environment, preservation, ecological issues and more, while at the same time drawing attention to the park system and all it has to offer to the surrounding communities.

For their coursework, 20 students developed 13 projects at three metroparks on display both indoors and outdoors. The projects range from a canvas collage to woven willow branches and feature a wide variety of materials, shapes, sizes and messages.

Hudson Mills, Kensington and Indian Springs metroparks are playing host to these pieces of art. Most are on display or are in the process of being installed. Some pieces will remain as permanent exhibits while others will be left to be "reclaimed by nature" as intended by students who used natural materials for their outdoor art.

The bulk of the projects are at Hudson Mills. At Kensington Metropark, Alejandra Rivas-Vasto created woodblock prints. Carly Wilhelm, Kyle Kulik focused their project on Engaging Wildlife Identification Resource at Indian Springs. Megan O'Neil created Prairie Grass Root Paintings at the White Lake metropark.

Nine projects can be seen at Hudson Mills Metropark, in the activity center and along the nearby Acorn Trail. One of the indoor exhibits, "Reclaiming Michigan's Botanical Heritage" by Trisha Previte and Nora Green highlights the native plants found in the park.

"Visitors can learn about the importance of native species by looking at the drawings of big blue stem, New England aster and other native plants, and then reading the accompanying text," said Jennifer Hollenbeck, park interpreter. The artists made the paper on which the plant images are printed using pulp derived



Andrew Hainen shows off his sawmill display at Hudson Mills Metropark.

from invasive species; embedded into some of the paper are seeds of native plants, so that one can plant the paper to encourage the growth of more native species. Children can also see how local sawmills once operated by turning the gears on Andrew Hainen's sawmill display, or see how soil filters water through a coin-drop display.

A walk along the park's Acorn Trail leads to several works of art, including "Oriental Bittersweet Installation" by Brijit Spencer. By constructing a rope-like web incorporating the notoriously invasive non-native plant bittersweet, Spencer actually conveys how invasive species crowd native populations by "crowding" hikers who must pass beneath the archway to continue down the trail.

Hudson Mills projects:

- Oriental Bittersweet Installation - Brijit Spencer
- Wunderkammer - Lauren Sopher
- Butterfly Display - Elyse Shapiro
- Organic-shaped Benches - Laura Gillmore, Katie Barrie, Ekta Shah, Teshia Treuhart
- Outdoor Canvas Collage Series - Anne Schulte
- Reclaiming Michigan's Botanical Heritage - Trisha Previte, Nora Green
- Hudson Mills Sawmill Display - Andrew Hainen
- Soil Percolation Display (Coin Donation Device) - Penn Greene
- Colors of Nature Photography Display - Kristin Calder
- Woven Willow Structures - Allison Hylant, Shaili Das, Mallory Roukema

A vehicle entry permit is required to enter any metropark and is \$5 daily or \$25 annually. Visit www.metroparks.com.

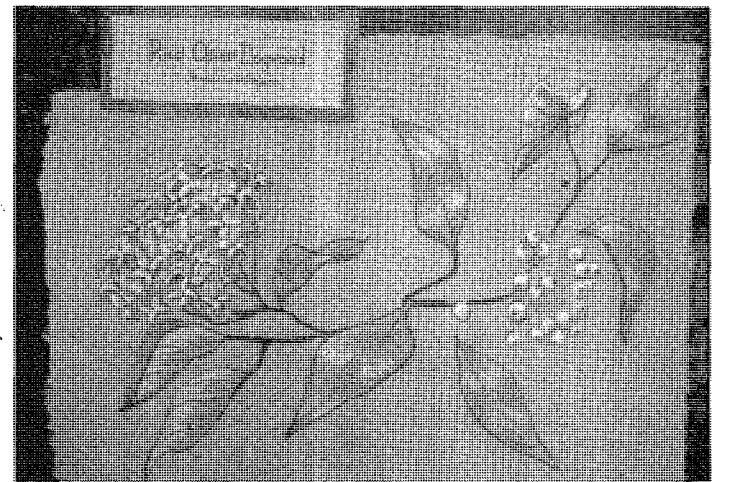
Students Allison Hylant, Shaili Das and Mallory Roukema created woven willow structures at Hudson Mills. The work will eventually be reclaimed by the environment.



Student artist Anne Schulte created an outdoor canvas collage series at Huron Meadows Metropark.



Penn Greene's soil percolation display at Hudson Mills doubles as a coin donation device.



Trisha Previte and Nora Green created work focused on reclaiming Michigan's botanical heritage.



U of M Students Allison Hylant, Shaili Das and Mallory Roukema created woven willow structures at Hudson Mills. The work will eventually be reclaimed by the environment.

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Pre-planning, pre-paying different issues for funerals

Q: Dear Rick: I'm single and am curious about your thoughts on pre-paying for a funeral. I believe too many people get ripped off when it comes to funerals. That's why I thought it would make sense to pre-plan and pre-pay mine. What are your thoughts on this subject?

Money Matters

Rick Bloom

A: I agree that many Americans get taken advantage of when it comes to funerals. After all, most of us don't want to think about a funeral until we have to. The reality is that planning funerals is mostly left to survivors and, unfortunately, they are generally the least able to plan. After all, when someone loses a loved one, they're in a vulnerable position and the last thing they want to think about is the financial aspect of a funeral.

I agree that it is a good idea to pre-plan a funeral. There is, however, a difference between pre-

planning and pre-paying.

Pre-planning can encompass a variety of issues. For example, you can choose the funeral home that you wish to use and the cemetery location or you may want to be cremated.

While you have the time you can research different funeral homes and services and decide which ones you should use.

In addition, you can consider the economic aspect, which is sometimes very difficult for loved ones to handle. Also, don't forget that you can pre-select your casket. Many people are under the mistaken belief that you have to buy your casket through the funeral home. That is not the case. You can buy a casket elsewhere and the funeral home must use it. Funeral homes consider caskets a high-profit margin item and there is generally a substantial markup on them. In today's world you see retailers such as Costco selling caskets, as well as a variety of online retailers.

Pre-paying for your funeral is something totally different and there are a variety of issues that you need to consider before doing

so. For example, what if you decide to move from the community, what happens to your money? Can it be transferred? In addition, you also have to be concerned about what happens to your money if the funeral home goes out of business. Obviously, when it comes to pre-paying for a funeral, there are many issues to consider before you sign a contract and a check.

The one thing that we all have in common is that at some point in time our life's journey will end and yet, it's the one subject that we never want to discuss.

Pre-planning a funeral is a mature thing to do. It allows you the necessary time and resources to make decisions without emotions clouding them. Therefore, it is something that makes sense. On the other hand, pre-paying a funeral is not for everyone and you must proceed with caution.

Good luck!

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



Funeral homes now offer many different ways to accommodate the growing demand for cremation, while still helping extended families come together to share the loss and the stories of a life well lived.

More Americans value funeral services, but few pre-plan

(ARA) - America is a nation of planners — vacations, retirement, careers and even plan right down to daily life.

But, of the two "inevitables" in life — death and taxes — tax planning receives the majority of attention. And while you might be able to avoid paying taxes, you're not going to have much luck avoiding death, yet less than 33 percent of Americans actually pre-plan their funeral.

An overwhelming majority of Americans — 95 percent — say a funeral service is important in honoring and celebrating the life of a loved one. Even individuals who would choose cremation indicate they want some type of gathering service for families and friends to share memories together, accord-

ing to the research conducted by the Funeral and Memorial Information Council.

The act of having a funeral service, regardless of choosing cremation, burial or other disposition, is absolutely critical to the grieving process, said grief counselor Sherrie Williams.

"Many of us don't want our funeral to be a fuss for our loved ones, but the support that is provided during a gathering has proven to help families deal with the grief and loss more effectively," Williams said.

The rise in cremation has changed the way funeral professionals operate. Funeral homes now offer many different ways to accommodate the growing demand for cremation, while still helping extended families come together to share the loss

and the stories of a life well lived.

"Many families are surprised to learn that they can have cremation, but still have a more traditional funeral gathering with visitation and even religious rituals," said Bill Backman III, president of Aurora Casket, the largest family-owned casket supplier in America.

Backman says that anyone seeking to begin the pre-planning process should understand all of their options and funeral directors can provide the best information. Information is also available online.

Families can gain more information about funeral choices at www.FuneralPlan.com, download a free pre-planning guide and find funeral homes in their area.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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often pretend to understand what people say. Even when my surroundings are quiet, it can be hard to

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ADVERTISING FEATURE

Live Longer, Healthier, Happier in 2011

Abbey Park in Lyon Township brings you the best in senior living

By ALISON ACCAVITTI
ADVERTORIAL WRITER

Some New Year resolutions are easier to keep with a little help from friends. Abbey Park's Lyon Township community promises seniors "the best of their lives" in 2011 with days that are filled with fun and friendships.

One of the residents, Thomasine Blake, 82, recently moved from Farmington Hills to Abbey Park in August 2009. She explains, "They just make me feel so welcome here. I haven't met one person who isn't nice." Thomasine Blake continues explaining that, "A lot of residents here are from the South Lyon area and further out."

Many residents share Thomasine's sentiments about their new home. Helen Spehar, 93, said she moved to Abbey Park to be close to her son, who visits her almost daily. "My son Bob saw this unit, and he loved it," Helen said. "I really like it here, and I'm really, really happy. I have friends who live here too."

Abbey Park is a popular new community for seniors looking for affordable retirement living near friends and family. Abbey Park's Lyon Township community is located on Milford Road just across from Coyote Golf Club in Lyon Township. The community has welcomed over 130 new residents since opening in January 2009.

Something for Everyone

Abbey Park brings in the New Year with a festive dinner, and concludes each year with their Community Christmas Celebration and Festival of Trees. Residents recently enjoyed a little midnight madness at a Pearls, Pumps and Pajamas Party. To celebrate autumn, residents were treated to an Oktoberfest event including serving wenchers, marching waiters, bratwurst, German potato salad and apple strudel — along with a little beer and musical entertainment.

A typical week at Abbey Park kicks off on Sunday with an elegant champagne brunch, all faiths church service and cookies and coffee with family and friends. An average week offers the residents more than 45 events and activities to choose from, including live entertainment, Bingo, card clubs, two ice cream socials, weekly dinner trips, chair fitness classes, shopping, scheduled chauffeured transportation, movies and a weekly Happy Hour.

Residents also enjoy monthly casino trips, excursions to Kensington Metro



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

You are never too old to believe. Ed Kustron, a resident of Abbey Park, shares his thoughts and laughs during his visit with Santa at the Christmas Party.

Park and Erwin's Orchards, attendance at local plays and concerts and visits to annual festival such as Milford Memories and Pumpkinfest.

In a community all their own, residents operate a small Country Store with basic grocery and personal items, and participate on a council that comments and suggests amendments and additions to the daily menu and activities schedule.

"They make us feel special here. I don't think we could find a better place to live."

ED KUSTRON, ABBEY PARK RESIDENT

"Anything our seniors are willing to do, we make available to them, said Tamra Ward, Administrator for the Lyon Township location. "We encourage residents to be as active as they can be for as long as possible so they can maintain their independence."

Live Longer, Healthier, Happier

A full activity schedule, great food and a wealth of amenities are just the beginning at Abbey Park. The community features 24-hour staffing, a medical alert system, scheduled chauffeured transportation, a café, theater, chapel, library, fitness center, beauty salon and a beautiful dining room serving delicious meals. All with the reassurance of a full facility generator and a Medicare-certified health care provider on site 24 hours a day.

Abbey Park residents are no strangers to the local community. Group trips

are planned for events like the Milford Fourth of July Parade and Hartland Senior Center's Home for the Holidays, plays and performances at local schools, shopping trips and dinner outings to Deadwood Bar & Grill in Northville and other restaurants in the area.

Although Abbey Park is one of the newest businesses in the neighborhood, they have generously supported many local events and organizations including South Lyon Pumpkinfest, Lyon Township's Kite Festival, Operation Injured Soldier, the Lyon Township Film Festival and Lyon Area Rotary in addition to the Grace Care Center in Trincomalee, Sri Lanka.

Abbey Park is located just 1.5 miles south of I-96 and minutes away from Novi, Brighton and Ann Arbor. It offers affordable luxury and beautifully landscaped grounds and courtyards. Not to be overlooked is the elegant lobby with fountains, fireplaces, a grand piano and several comfortable lounge areas. Abbey Park residents are proud to welcome visitors to their new home.

Life at Abbey Park includes a variety of complimentary conveniences that are often an added expense at other communities. On a daily basis, housekeepers make the beds and take out trash. Residents start their day with continental breakfast in the café, and enjoy a delicious lunch or dinner in the Grand Dining Room. Once a week, all residents are treated to full cleaning services, including laundry of bed linens and towels.

There are nine floor plans to choose from, ranging from one bedroom with one bath to two bedrooms with two full baths and two walk-in closets. All apartments include either a balcony or patio and a medical monitoring system that is easily accessed from several areas within each unit. Hear, water, elec-

tricity and basic cable services are also included.

With an average of 45 weekly events and activities to choose from, days at Abbey Park are full of fun and friendship. Activity Director Cindy Kometh and her assistant Jennifer LaForge work full time to provide opportunities for socialization, entertainment and great food.

The Home of the Brave

Abbey Park also hosts monthly Huron Valley AmVet Post 2006 meetings for veterans and their spouses. Some veterans are eligible for up to \$1900 per month in reimbursed living expenses. "Many veterans are not aware of the Aid and Attendance Benefit available through the Veterans Administration," Ward said. In addition to monthly meetings, the community recently dedicated their "Hall of Honor" commemorating the service of resident Veterans.

World War II Veteran, Ed Kustron, a resident of Abbey Park, is proud of his military service to his country and enjoys reminiscing with the 30 Veterans who are also neighbors in the community. Kustron and his wife, Margaret, moved to Abbey Park from Farmington Hills and are quite sure they've found a happy home. They've become regular players in card games, enjoy the food and new friends and are fond of the Hospitality Director Charles Duty, who regularly makes a special delivery of buttermilk — their favorite drink.

"They make us feel special here," Kustron said. "I don't think we could find a better place to live."

Residents stay connected with friends and family on the Abbey Park facebook page. Visit www.facebook.com to check out photos from year-round events, say hello to Abbey Park residents or keep up with scheduled events. Abbey Park also produces monthly newsletters, weekly activity schedule and a daily posting of menus, schedules and photos from previous events on their in-house monitor system.

"Our friendly staff members arrive each day and work with one directive: to treat our residents at Abbey Park as if they are our own parents," Ward said. "As a result, we all feel like part of one big family here; this is our home away from home."



Abbey Park residents took their creativity, glue and feathers and went wild, during a recent craft project. This was one of the 45 activities are offered each week.

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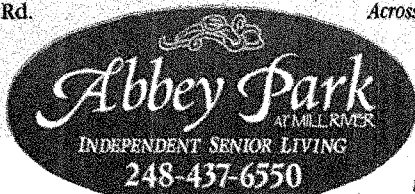
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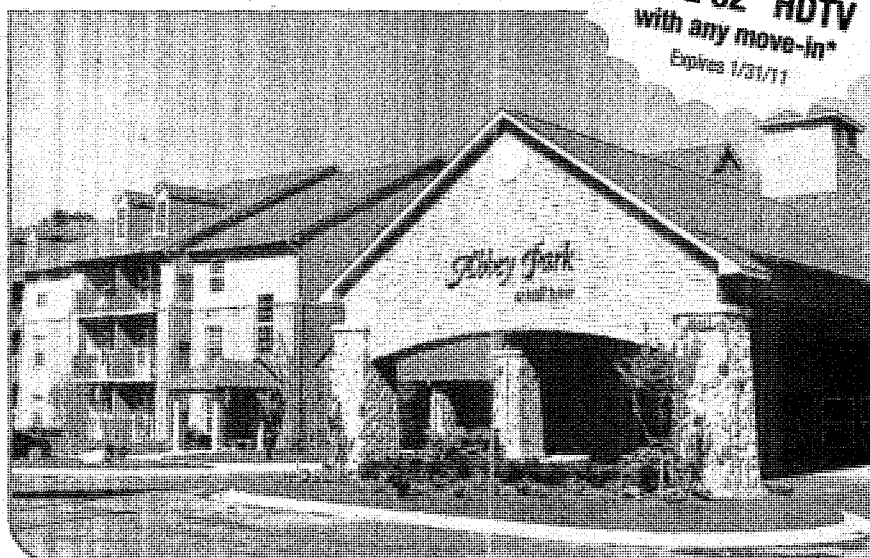


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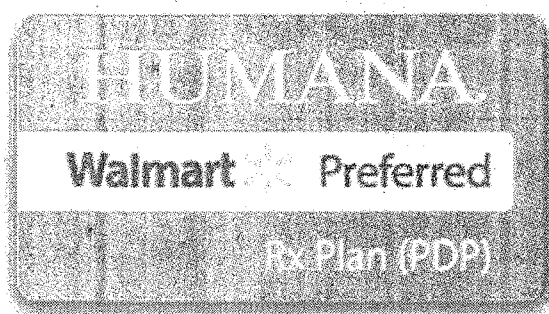
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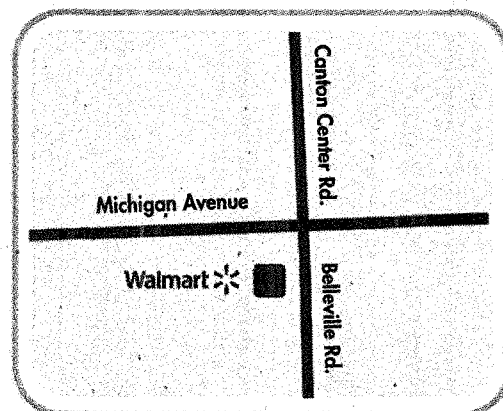
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Rollback \$1.98

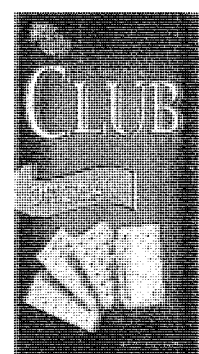
was 2.48

- **Ritz Crackers**
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Everyday Low Price \$5.47

- **André Champagne and Sparkling Spumanté**



Rollback \$2.50

was 2.88

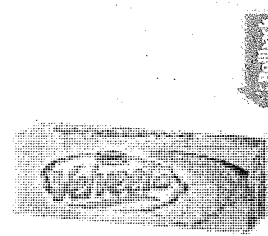
- **Club Crackers**
- Variety of flavors
- 16 oz.



Rollback 75¢

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ST. CECILIA
ALUMS CONTINUE
LUNCH MEETINGS
PAGE B5

Lever's near-record night sparks Canton

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Going into Wednesday night's game, Canton senior point guard Dietrich Lever II knew he'd have to ramp up his already potent offensive game for the Chiefs to have a chance against Dexter.

That's because the visiting Dreadnaughts featured a big, physical lineup led by 6-9 senior center Dave LaMore and because Canton's counterpart — 6-7 junior forward Paul Baumgart — would not be playing due to a bout with the flu.

So all Lever did was throw down 38 points, just three shy of Butch King's 33-year-old team record, as the Chiefs hung on for a 53-51 non-conference boys basketball victory. Canton now is idle until Jan. 5.

"He (Baumgart) was sick so we had to pull it out for him," said Lever, who had his long-range jumper going to the tune of five triples. "It was a team effort though, we all came to play and everybody stepped up. We did what we had to do."

Canton head coach Jimmy Reddy said Baumgart, who is averaging 14 points per game, was dehydrated and "there was no way he could go so we had him stay home and rest. We just tried to do without him and we got it done somehow."

WHAT A DISPLAY

Lever's offensive show, which included long-range shots and spectacular drives to the basket, undoubtedly proved to be the main reason for the victory.

But Reddy liked the hustle and resolve his other players showed to bounce back from a big first quarter deficit and hold off a late Dexter rally.

With Canton leading 52-51 with 17 seconds to play, Chiefs' sophomore guard Josh Mayberry missed both free throws. Senior guard Ben Spreitzer jumped into the fray and came out with the offensive rebound, one of his team-leading five boards for the night.

After a timeout, Lever canned a foul shot to make it 53-51 and the Chiefs (2-2) had to hold their collective breath. Dexter guard Matt Muchmore (17 points) penetrated the lane but missed a close-in attempt that would have sent the contest to overtime.

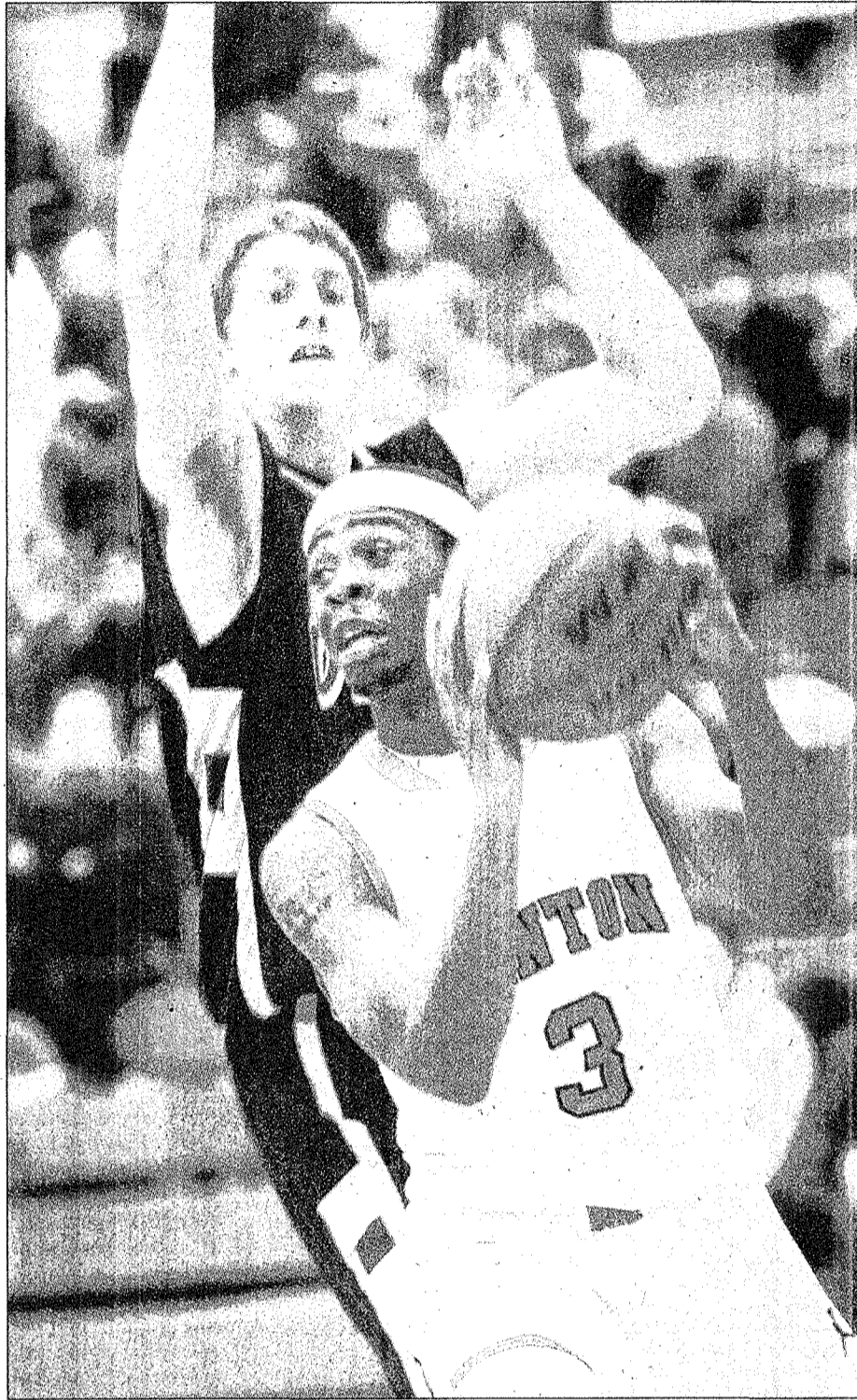
"I think Ben Spreitzer's offensive rebound after the missed free throw was huge, absolutely huge," Reddy stressed. "It got us another possession, we got a timeout and got Dietrich to the line to make a free throw."

Also contributing was junior guard Kyle Adams, who chipped in at both ends of the floor during the third.

Adams blocked an inside shot and later sank a trey as the Chiefs out-scored Dexter 18-9 in the stanza to take a seemingly commanding 42-32 lead into the fourth.

Still, no lead was safe on this night. LaMore (11 points, 11 rebounds) sparked the Dreadnaughts with a pair of slams in the final quarter.

Please see **CANTON, B2**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Looking to score another basket Wednesday is Canton's Dietrich Lever II (No. 3), despite tough defense from Dexter's Jay Lewis.

SIDELINES

Hoop Shoot champs

Among the age-group champions who earned titles at the 39th annual 2010 Livonia Parks and Recreation Elks Lodge No. 2246 Hoop Shoot contest Dec. 4 at the Livonia Community Recreation Center included:

Jimmy Seewald, Boys 12-13 (19-of-25 free throws); Natalie Spala, Girls 12-13 (14-of-25); Nathan Micallef, Boys 10-11 (13-of-25); Heather Burke, Girls 10-11 (9-of-25); and Drew Alsobrooks, Boys 8-9 (19-of-25).

The six champions advance to the Southeast District finals on Sunday, Jan. 2 at the Flat Rock Community Center.

Walleye meeting

Gary L. Towns, Lake Erie Management unit supervisor for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, will be the featured speaker at the Metro-West Steelheaders meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 4 at the Livonia Senior Center, located at the southeast corner of Farmington and Five Mile roads.

Towns will give a presentation on the walleye situation in Lake Erie and new MDNR methods to determine daily limits.

Also, Buggy's Baits, will give a presentation on his line of spoons.

For more information, call Jim Robertson at (734) 383-2790; or visit www.metroweststeelheaders.org.

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.

'Fish On' at show

Michigan's biggest fishing exposition — the Ultimate Fishing Show: Detroit — will be held Jan. 13-16 at Rock Financial Showplace in Novi.

More than 400,000 licensed anglers live in southeastern Michigan and have the opportunity to check out some of the country's top fishing boats and angling gear in a spacious four-acre indoor venue. Guides also will be present to help book angling adventures from the many charter boat captains, lodgers and outfitters.

Some of the world's best fishermen will be featured and non-stop seminars, free with admission, are scheduled. Lake Ultimate, the nation's largest indoor lake with 110,000 gallons of water, will be stocked rainbow trout.

For more information and show times, go to www.UltimateFishingShow.com, or call 800-328-6550.

One more game for U-M teammates, cousins

BY DAN O'MEARA
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

As first cousins and longtime teammates, Mark Moundros and Jon Bills have many shared football experiences with one more to come on New Year's Day.

Both are members of the University of Michigan football program, and they've been preparing this week for the Gator Bowl in Jacksonville, Fla.

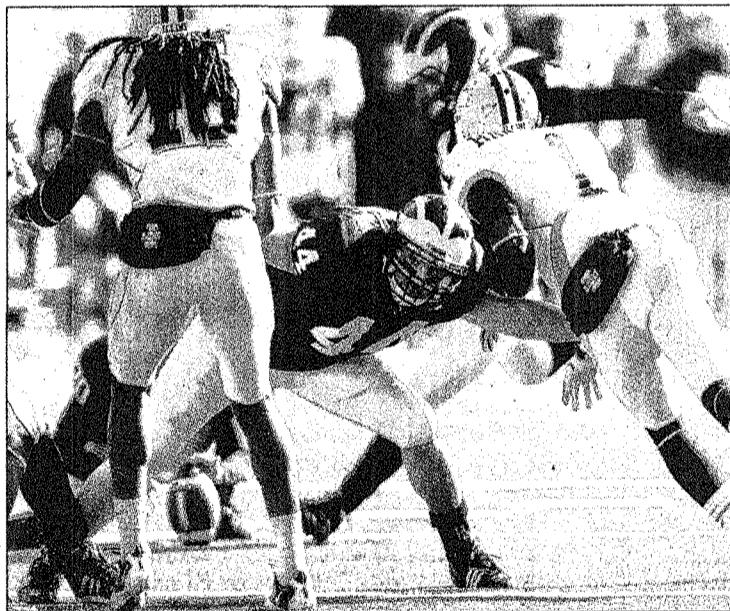
Moundros is a fifth-year senior and team captain who will likely play his last football game when the Wolverines face Mississippi State.

"It's crazy, that it's all coming to an end," he said. "I'm really going to miss playing football here and going to school here. It's a great university, and it taught me a lot on the field and off it."

Both players are former North Farmington High School stand-outs and walk-ons; they're also roommates at the U-M.

Moundros plays on special teams and is a backup at weak-side linebacker. Bills, who had been a tight end, is a student assistant coach who must be content to see the game from the pressbox.

While driving to a golf outing last summer with Moundros' older brother, Kirk, also a former Raider and U-M player, they were involved in a car acci-



U-M PHOTO

Fifth-year senior and team captain Mark Moundros blocks for an attempted field goal against Illinois.

dent near Alpena.

Bills suffered a broken neck. He recovered and has full use of his limbs, but the injury ended his playing career.

"I'm a full-time student; I just can't play football any more," Bills said. "I contribute any way I can. If I'm not going to play football, there's no better place I can be as far as academics."

"It was a pretty significant injury, and I'm just thankful for being able to walk. The doctor told me I was two millimeters from being paralyzed from the

neck down. I'm thankful I'm still able to do what I'm doing. I'm having a blast."

Mark Moundros was the only one of the three who remained conscious throughout the ordeal, suffering bumps and bruises. He was able to start the football season on time.

"I'm just thankful he's alive and everyone in both cars survived the accident, being as bad as it was," Moundros said. "I'm just thankful to have him out

Please see **U-M, B2**

Franklin can't cage Lions, 43-34

Poor foul shooting and turnovers plagued Livonia Franklin in Wednesday's 43-34 setback to South Lyon in the Franklin Holiday boys basketball tournament consolation game.

It was 26-all after three quarters before South Lyon put it away with 17-9 fourth-period run.

Luke Short and Joe Remstad scored 12 and 11 points, respectively, for the Lions, who improved to 2-3 overall.

Junior Tommy Smith led the Patriots (0-5) with a game-high 16 points.

Franklin committed a total of 28 turnovers and made only 4-of-13 free throws.

South Lyon connected on just 17-of-35 foul shots. "Twenty-eight turnovers is intolerable and the poor shooting doesn't help either," Franklin coach Jeremy Rheault said.

Brighton, the tourney champion, had seniors Ben Kil and J.J. Evans named to the all-tourney team.

Farmington, the runner-up, had senior Anthony Rutledge and junior Chris Hare earn spots, while South Lyon placed junior Ryan Nelson and senior Tom Berry.

Smith and junior Max Shamus made all-tourney for Franklin.

N. FARMINGTON 36, CLARKSTON 33: The visiting Raiders finished with a 15-2 run and overcame a 31-21 deficit Tuesday in an OAA Red Division makeup game.

Jasmine Harris scored 16 points to lead North (3-3, 2-2). Holly Snabes and Stevie Jones added six points apiece. Harris also had seven rebounds and Jones three assists.

Delaney Kenny led the Wolves (2-4, 2-4) with nine points. Clarkston had a 29-21 lead after three quarters.

"We started slowly and had a good fourth quarter," North Coach Tim Carruthers said. "The kids dug deep, played really good defense and pulled out the win."

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U-M
FROM PAGE B1

there coaching with us. We're around each other so much we're pretty much brothers." Moundros (6-1, 233) won the starting fullback job as a red-shirt freshman in coach Lloyd Carr's last year. When Rich Rodriguez took over the next year he brought in the one-back, spread offense, eliminating the fullback role.

Moundros has excelled on special teams, making 22 career tackles. A familiar site is No. 44 racing down field to cover a kick or punt.

"I'm just happy when we win a football game whether I play or not," he said. "If my role is to play special teams, that's what I'm going to do."

"I worked hard every day and wherever the chips fell they did. I just played as hard as I could and controlled what I could control. It may not be a lot of opportunities, but I try to give my best on the plays I do get to play."

Moundros was moved to linebacker this year and had one start against Purdue. It was the 11th of his career, the others being at fullback.

"Oh, I've definitely enjoyed it," he said. "I've enjoyed every day. I just love to play the game of football and sharing these moments with the guys."

"Playing linebacker is a great experience, getting to know both sides of the ball. Maybe it'll help me somewhere down the road as a coach."

Bills, who is a year younger than Moundros and was



U-M PHOTO

Jon Bills of Farmington Hills participates in spring drills earlier this year.

listed as a redshirt junior this year, spent one semester at Michigan State as a student only.

"I missed playing football," Bills said. "I missed having something else besides school. I grew up a Michigan fan my whole life. If I was going to play, I was going to do it all out and go to the biggest stage I knew and that was Michigan."

He got some advice from Moundros but not necessarily arm-twisting encouragement to transfer to Michigan. "His brother helped me a lot on it, as did my (North Farmington) principal Mr. (Rick) Jones, who set the whole thing up. They just wanted to make sure I was committed to it and it wasn't a spur of the moment type feeling."

Bills (6-3, 240) played on special teams and at tight

end in two games last season against Western Michigan and Delaware State. He expected to be playing this year, but he's considering a future in coaching now.

"I'm just trying to see what the whole college coaching thing is about," Bills said. "It's in flux right now. I'll see how everything plays out; I'll play it by ear."

"It's definitely different. When everyone else is getting ready to go play, you're getting ready to go yell at them to play. I miss it but I'm also having an awesome time, and I'm really glad to be there."

Bills also made the Dec. 26 trip to Florida for the bowl game. While Moundros is on the field Saturday, Bills will be in the pressbox, telling the offensive line coach what he's seeing.

Moundros will receive a degree in education, and he plans to teach high school and coach football. Bills will be able to graduate in May with a degree in sports management. But first there's the bowl game.

"I'm really excited to get out there and play one last game with the Michigan uniform on," Moundros said. "It's such an honor to wear the winged helmet and jersey, and I'm excited to play another game."

"I transferred right when everyone was getting back from the Capital One Bowl (and a win over Florida), and all I heard was what an awesome experience that was," Bill said. "I'm looking forward to getting to one myself. It's my first one and I can't wait."

CANTON
FROM PAGE B1

Before long, Dexter was within a basket of tying the game.

Reddy knew it wasn't going to be a cakewalk anyway — especially playing against LaMore with Baumgart out.

"That guy was going to be hard to block out no matter what," Reddy said. "And Dexter really does a good job of pursuing the ball, they play hard."

"So it was going to be a battle on the glass no matter what, if Paul was here or not."

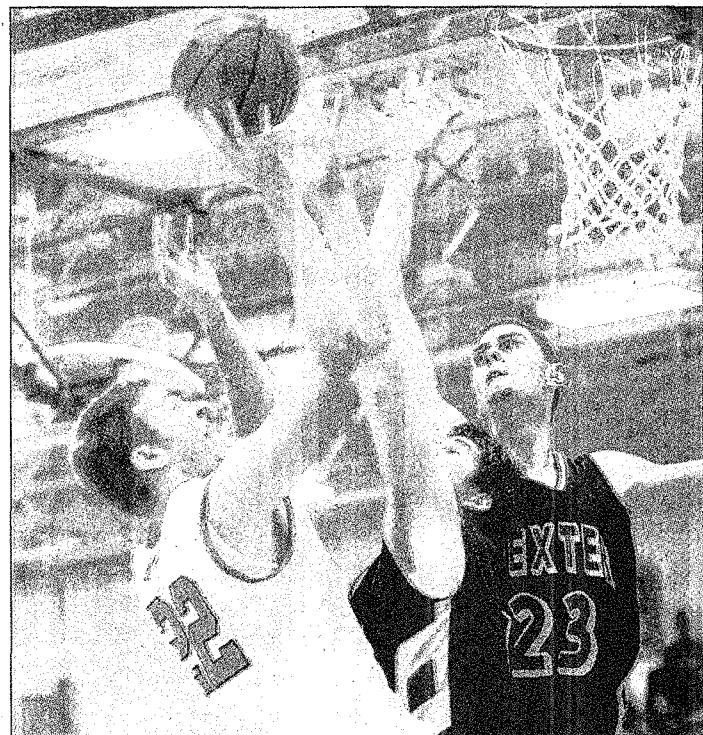
EARLY TROUBLE

However, if not for Lever's hot hand, the game never would have come down to the wire in the first place.

Dexter (1-3) came out strong and built a quick 12-4 advantage with Cornell-bound LaMore and guard Jay Lewis combining for 10 of those points before the first quarter was half over.

But two treys by Lever, who recently signed to play Division 2 college basketball at Ferris State, pulled the Chiefs to within 14-12 after one frame. On the latter, Lever dribbled well beyond the top of the arc and waited for the clock to tick down before launching a three-ball as the horn sounded.

The Dreadnaughts had no



BILL BRESLER (STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER)

Canton senior forward Cody Sheeler (No. 22) goes up against Dexter 6-9 senior center Dave LaMore (No. 23) and forward Tyler Dunham (middle) in a bid to score a layup Wednesday night.

defensive answer for Lever in the second quarter either, when he scored 10 of the Chiefs' 12 points. He drained back-to-back triples within a 45-second span to help Canton open a 24-19 edge. It was 24-23 at the half.

"Dietrich was special tonight," Reddy said. "He was making some crazy shots around the rim. The reason he's so hard to guard is he made his three tonight."

"He made his three-shot early, he made a deep one, and when you got to come out and guard him that far away he's really hard to guard."

Dexter's extra defensive attention to Lever around the arc opened up the lane on several occasions, particularly on an over-the-head reverse layup with 2:50 to play to give Canton a 46-42 lead.

tsmith@hometownlife.com

THE WEEK AHEAD

BOYS BASKETBALL

Monday, Dec. 27
(Country Day Roundball Classic)
N. Farmington vs. Detroit Allen, 11 a.m.
(Woodhaven Warrior Classic)
Salem vs. Carleton Airport, 5 p.m.
Woodhaven vs. Edsel Ford, 7 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 28
Woodhaven Warrior Classic, 5 & 7 p.m.
Thurston at Chelsea Tourney, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 29
Thurston vs. Adrian at Chelsea Tourney, 3 p.m.
(Country Day Roundball Classic)
Harrison vs. Det. Western, 11 a.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Monday, Dec. 27
(Bishop Foley Holiday Tourney)
Rochester Adams vs. S.L. East, 5:45 p.m.
Clarenceville vs. Bishop Foley, 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 28
Stevenson at Notre Dame Prep, 2 p.m.

Thurston at Chelsea Tourney, 5 p.m.
(Wayne Memorial Shoot Out)
Frankfort vs. Southgate, 11 a.m.
Ecorse vs. Old Redford, 1 p.m.
Wayne vs. Cass Tech, 3 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 29

Stevenson vs. Detroit University-Prep at Pontiac Notre Dame Prep, noon.
Thurston vs. Adrian at Chelsea Tourney, 1 p.m.
Foley Holiday Tourney, 5:45 & 7:30 p.m.
(Wayne Memorial Shoot Out)
Cass Tech vs. Frankfort, 11 a.m.
Southgate vs. Ecorse, 1 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 30
(Roundball Classic at Country Day M.S.)
John Glenn vs. S'field-Lathrup, 8:20 p.m.
PREP HOCKEY
Monday, Dec. 27
(Traverse City Central Holiday Tourney)
Salem vs. Traverse City West at Centre Ice (Huntington Rink), 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday-Wednesday, Dec. 28-29

Traverse City Central Tourney, TBA.

PREP WRESTLING

Tuesday, Dec. 28
Montrose Invitational, 9 a.m.
Oxford Team Tournament, 9 a.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 29
Salem Holiday Invitational, 9 a.m.
MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Wednesday, Dec. 29
(Hope College DeVette Classic)
Madonna vs. Malone (Ohio), 5:30 p.m.
Hope College vs. Marygrove, 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 30
DeVette Classic at Hope, 5:30 & 7 p.m.
WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Tuesday, Dec. 28
Madonna at Oklahoma Christian, 4 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 29
Madonna at Southern Nazarene, 4 p.m.
TBA - time to be announced

Canton hit the wall in the fourth quarter Wednesday, ultimately dropping a 48-45 girls basketball game to host Detroit Country Day.

The Chiefs, now 3-2, led 39-31 after the third quarter of the non-conference matchup when their shots stopped falling.

"I thought the players really played some good ball the first three quarters and then all of sudden we stopped playing in the fourth," said Canton head coach Brian Samulski. "We didn't pass and cut well in the

fourth quarter. I need to do a better job of teaching that in practice so we can finish the game with a win."

Canton came out firing to open the game, building leads of 12-9 after one quarter and 28-17 at the break.

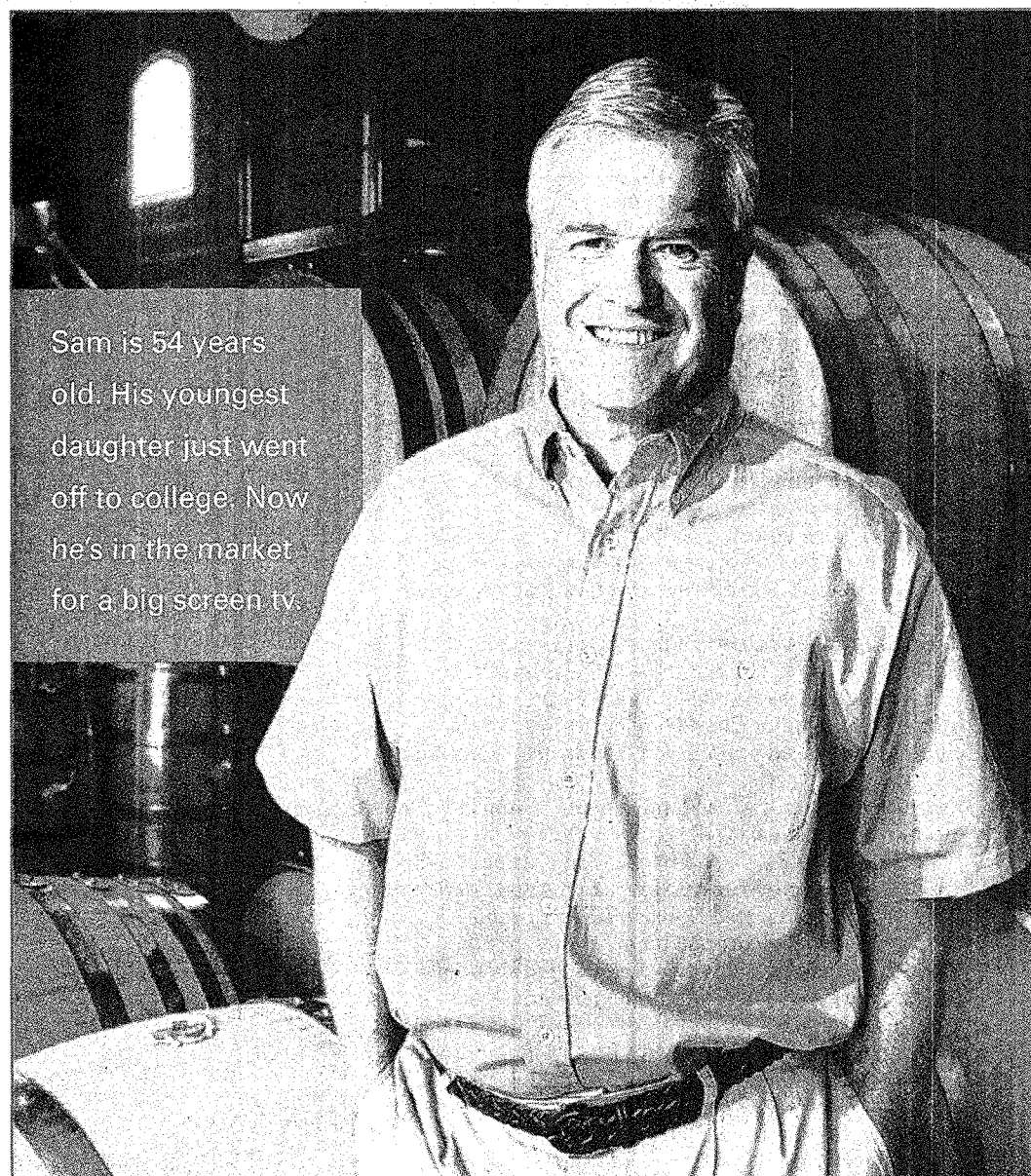
Leading the Chiefs were Kayla Bridges (14 points, 10 rebounds), Kari Schmitt (14 points, seven rebounds) and Sara Schmitt (seven points, six rebounds).

For the Yellowjackets, Amber Deane and Aerial Powers registered 16 and 11

points, respectively.

It was Canton's second defeat to a strong team in two nights, with the Chiefs having also lost to Inkster. But Samulski preferred to remain positive, noting that "playing teams like Inkster and Country Day back-to-back will benefit the girls in the long run."

The Chiefs return to action 6 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 5 at Salem. It will be the opener of a girls-boys varsity twinbill, with the Canton-Salem boys game to follow.



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

Do you know what sparks Sam?

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SPORTS ROUNDUP

Need baseball players

The Livonia Legends, a 10-and-under travel baseball team, needs a few players to complete their roster for the 2011 season.

Evaluations will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 8.

For more information, call Livonia Franklin varsity baseball coach Matt Fournier at (734) 968-0499.

MU/Total Baseball camp

The Madonna University baseball program will stage a holiday baseball camp (session II) from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday through Wednesday, Dec. 27-29, at Total Sports in Wixom.

The camp features instruction by the MU baseball coaching staff and players.

For more information, call (248) 668-0166; or visit TotalSportsComplex.com.

Combine training

Combine training for high school football to prepare for the 2011 season will be Sundays, beginning Jan. 20, at the Auburn Hills Sports Dome.

Players will be taught drills and techniques used to prepare college seniors for the NFL Combine and use SPARQ, Michigan Preps and NUC testing protocols.

To register, visit www.coach-jacksonspeed.com; or call coach Jaime Jackson at (248) 535-7404.

MU First Pitch banquet

Detroit Lions broadcaster and Fox 2 Sports Director Dan Miller will be the featured speaker at the Madonna University baseball program's second annual First Pitch banquet, Sunday, Jan. 23, at the Italian American Club in Livonia.

The event begins at noon with a social hour where fans can meet and get autographs from the 2011 Crusader players. The meal and program follow at 1 p.m.

Individual tickets are \$60 (tables for 10 are \$600). Proceeds from the event will help defray costs for the MU baseball program including travel, uniforms and other needed amenities.

There will also be a silent auction where attendees can bid on

sports memorabilia items, along with vacation and golf packages, sporting event tickets and more.

Last year's featured speaker, former University of Detroit baseball coach and Philadelphia Phillies Whiz Kid pitcher Bob Miller will also be in attendance.

Last year MU posted a school-record 48 wins and advanced to the NAIA National Tourney for the second straight year.

Ranked No. 11 in the NAIA Preseason Coaches Poll, MU opens its season Feb. 18 at the Tennessee Valley Invitational.

For First Pitch banquet ticket information or sponsorship opportunities, call Linda Hall at the MU Advancement Office at (734) 432-5603.

MU softball camps

Madonna University women's softball coach Al White and his staff will hold two sessions of winter camps, specializing in individual instruction, including:

Fundamental Camp No. 1 - 9 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Saturdays, Jan. 8, 15, 22 and 29, at the MU Activities Center, 36600 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia;

Fundamental Camp No. 2 - noon-2:30 p.m. Sundays, Feb. 6, 13, 22 and 27, at the MU Activities Center. The cost is \$150 for each camp.

For more information, call White at (734) 432-5783; or assistant coach Steve Gentilia at (734) 776-1716. You can also e-mail awhite@madonna.edu.

Franklin baseball camp

The fifth annual Franklin Future Stars spring baseball camp for boys and girls in grades 3-6 will be Saturday, Feb. 12 at the high school fieldhouse, located at 31000 Joy Road, Livonia.

Session 1, consisting of hitting, base running skills and infield work, will be from 9-11:30 a.m.

Session 2, consisting of pitching, catching, outfield and defensive kills, will be from 12:15-2:45 p.m.

Lunch will be from 11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Each camper will bring his or her sack lunch. Campers and instructors will eat a supervised sack lunch together in the bleachers of the

fieldhouse.

The cost for each session is \$25, or \$45 for both sessions.

E-mail Franklin varsity baseball coach Matt Fournier at mfournie2@livoniapublicschools.org; or call (734) 968-0499.

WSU softball camps

Wayne State University will stage a series of hitting, pitching and catching camps for girls softball players in grades 4-12 at the Matthaei Building, 5101 John C Lodge, Detroit (corner of Warren).

The hitting camp will be from 9 a.m. to noon (Session 1) or 1-4 p.m. (Session 2) on Sunday, Jan. 9. Pre-registration cost is \$35 or \$40 at the door.

The pitching and catching camp will be from 9-11 a.m. (Session I); 10:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m. (Session II); or 12:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m. (Session III) on Sunday, Jan. 16, 23, 30; and Feb. 6. The cost for the entire four Sundays is \$100.

For more information, call (313) 577-7513; or (586-864-4233. You can also e-mail ab6906@wayne.edu; or kenta-pa@comcast.net.

Application forms are available on wsuathletics.com.

Micro-Soccer Shootout

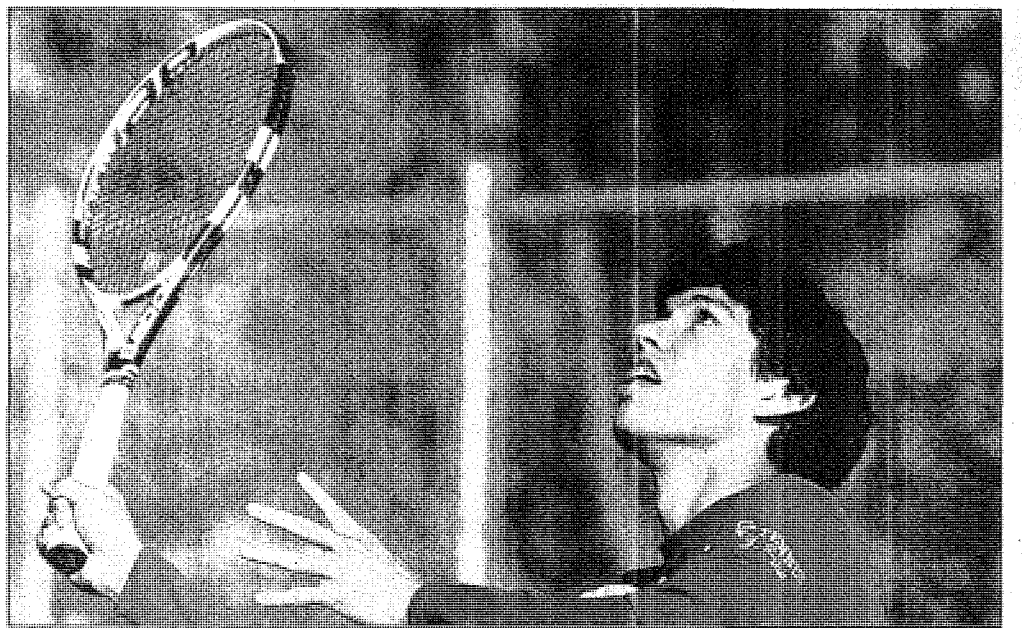
The University of Michigan will stage its ninth annual Winter 3v3 Micro-Soccer Shootout camp, Saturday-Sunday, Feb. 5-6, at the Oosterbaan Fieldhouse in Ann Arbor.

The cost is \$100 per team with a guarantee of four games. All proceeds will go directly to the U-M men's soccer program.

All skill levels are encouraged to participate with under-12 through men's and women's adult on Saturday followed by under-7 through under-10 recreational and competitive divisions on Sunday.

Registrations can be picked up at local soccer store outlets or obtain at www.umsoccer.com. (Registrations must be postmarked by Friday, Jan. 28 or dropped off by Monday, Jan. 31.)

For more information, call (734) 647-1201; or e-mail ldurkee@umich.edu.



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Hoxie honoree

Livonian Joe Dube, a senior at Novi-Detroit Catholic Central High, recently earned SEMTA's Hoxie Award given to the top junior male player in Southeast Michigan. He was recognized for his achievements and contributions both on-and-off the court. Dube, who posted a career record of 131-8 with the Shamrocks, was the MHSAA Division 1 No. 2 singles champion as a freshman and was runner-up at No. 1 singles his sophomore, junior and senior years while helping CC to this team title this fall. In U.S. Tennis Association play, Dube was the Boys 16 SEMTA Junior Qualifier champion in 2008 and 2009 and was ranked No. 1 in Southeast Michigan and No. 4 in the Midwest. Dube carries a 3.99 grade-point average and is a member of the Gabriel Richard Club. His community service includes volunteer work at the Marycrest Manor, St. Genevieve Parish and the Livonia Family Y. He will continue his tennis career on a scholarship to Marist College (N.Y.).

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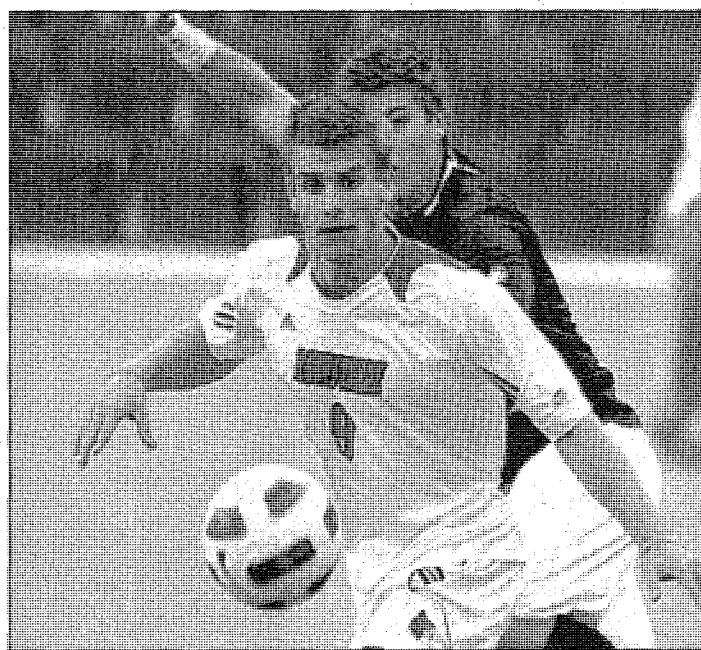
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University of Louisville's Colin Rolfe, a 2008 graduate of Plymouth High School, competes during the recent Big East championship soccer game.

Big year and big honors for Rolfe

What a year it was for 2008 Plymouth High School graduate Colin Rolfe with the University of Louisville men's soccer team.

Rolfe, a junior forward from Canton, started all 22 games and led Louisville to a No. 1 ranking and the program's first College Cup.

He led the team in scoring with 25 points, earned first-team All-Big East honors and was named the Big East Tournament's offensive MVP.

He also spearheaded Louisville to the national championship game, a 1-0 loss to the University of Akron.

His efforts have earned several prestigious honors, including being named a NSCAA

First-Team All-American and MLSsoccer.com's NCAA Player of the Year.

Rolfe also is one of three finalists for the 2010 Missouri Athletic Club's Hermann Trophy, the highest individual honor in intercollegiate soccer.

Joining him are Indiana's Will Bruin and Akron's Darlington Nagbe. The finalists were determined in voting by Division I men's head coaches at institutions who are members of the National Soccer Coaches Association of America.

Rolfe will be invited to the Missouri Athletic Club in downtown St. Louis for the Friday, Jan. 7 news conference and award announcement.

Rocks to travel, bond, compete

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

One of the challenges high school hockey teams often face is not getting to play a ton of games.

For Salem, that is about to be rectified.

The Rocks' varsity boys hockey squad will charter a bus on Monday immediately following practice at the Plymouth Cultural Center.

When the players exit the bus, they will be in Traverse City — where they will play three games over three days at the Traverse City Central Hockey Tournament.

"We'll be ready to play when we get up there," said Salem head coach Ryan Ossenmacher, adding that the Rocks will be in a tourney featuring "eight of the top teams in the state. So I think we'll be ready, strictly because it's a good opportunity for these guys more than anything else."

Ossenmacher said his squad (4-4-2 overall) will play games on Monday and Tuesday nights



The Salem varsity boys hockey team, including forward Nick Hayes (No. 10, right), shown from a game earlier this season, will play three tournament games this week up in Traverse City.

and another on Wednesday afternoon before returning to Plymouth-Canton Educational Park.

"It's a tournament, you get three games regardless (of how the team does)," he said. "And in high school hockey you don't get that many chances because it's limited to 24 games."

In addition to Salem, teams

in the tourney include Orchard Lake St. Mary's, Traverse City Central, Traverse City West, Traverse City Reps, Midland, Saginaw Heritage and Toledo St. Johns.

The opportunity to play several games isn't the only lure for wanting to participate, Ossenmacher added.

During the long bus ride,

'It's a tournament, you get three games regardless. And in high school hockey you don't get that many chances because it's limited to 24 games.'

RYAN OSSENMACHER, Salem coach

players will play musical chairs in order to get to know teammates a little better.

"Being on the bus together, eventually you run out of stuff to talk about that's superficial," Ossenmacher said. "You run out of the 'how's your day, who's your girlfriend' type of talk and you have to really get down to knowing the person."

"Because when you sit next to someone for six hours, you're going to talk to them about meaningful stuff a lot of times."

And knowing each other better can only help the team as a unit when the tough KLA schedule resumes in early January.

tsmith@hometownlife.com

11 players ejected as Patriots tie Lakeland

Eleven players were ejected Wednesday night as Livonia Franklin and host White Lake Lakeland battled to a 3-3 boys hockey draw.

The disqualifications came with only 1.4 seconds left after a scrum and melee ensued in front of the Franklin net.

The only player remaining on the ice when play resumed was the Lakeland goalie.

"Both I and the Lakeland

coach (Tim Ronayne) will be appealing (disqualification) call," said Franklin coach Scott Wirgau, whose team

outshot Lakeland, 31-26. "The game became very chippy. Lakeland was the bigger and more physical team, but Franklin was much quicker and more skillful."

Franklin, now 4-6-1 overall, led three different times scoring a goal in each period.

Travis Barnes scored from Zach Wiacek and Jerome Schlaff at 9:18 of the opening period, but Lakeland's Kyle Zunich countered from Ryan Biono and Evan Ronayne at 11:53.

Just 17 seconds into the second period, Franklin's Adam Michael scored from Tyler Dewhirst and Kevin Webb to make it 2-1.

But just 1:20 later, Zunich

notched his second of the night from Jordan Blanz and Ronayne to knot the count at 2-all.

Wiacek's goal only 34 seconds into the final period gave the Patriots a 3-2 advantage, but Lakeland tied it with only 2:42 remaining on Anthony Kobak's goal from Graham Shearer and Nick Kobak.

With the tie, the Eagles now stand 4-3-3 overall.



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COMMUNITY LIFE

Sunday, December 26, 2010

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Lunch bunch

Former classmates reminisce, mingle, with 'family'

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

The high school they attended 58 years ago has been closed for more than a decade. Their elementary school — where many of them met for the first time in 1940 — was shuttered this year. But a select group of St. Cecilia school graduates continues to nurture their friendships, school spirit and fond memories through monthly reunion luncheons in the Elks Lodge in Livonia.

"We all had IHM nuns," said Joanne Sonnenberg of Canton, whose late husband graduated in 1952 from St. Cecilia High School in Detroit. She graduated from St. Michael's in Flint, but continues to attend the monthly St. Cecilia Class of 1952 luncheons because her husband's former classmates are like family.

"Different orders might have their own styles, but when you have the nuns, you have the nuns. There's a commonality that stays with you," Sonnenberg said, explaining their mutual faith as the glue that has cemented the long-time school friendships.

"This is what traditional Catholic schools did. You were family no matter where you'd go."

Jerry Glasgow of Plymouth graduated from a class of some 700 students at Cooley High School in Detroit, but prefers the intimate gathering of his wife's, St. Cecilia classmates to a big public school reunion. The couple has attended the monthly reunion luncheons at the Elks Lodge since they were started by alumni 15 years ago.

"They're so damned nice," he said with a chuckle, describing the St. Cecilia grads. "My wife enjoyed meeting her own classmates all the time and then I got to know them and they treated me like I was one of their classmates." Glasgow even arranged



Mary Ann Badash of Livonia organizes the alumni gatherings.

for the group to take a reunion cruise to the Caribbean. He ended up getting sick a few days before sailing and stayed home with his wife, but both have attended other milestone gatherings for the Class of 1952.

MONTHLY REUNIONS

The luncheons, held every third Tuesday of the month, draw residents locally and from out of state. Several of the graduates split their time between Michigan and warmer southern or western states.

"If someone is coming in and it's not the third Tuesday, they call me and I get a group together," said Mary Ann Badash of Livonia, a key organizer in the group. "We might meet twice that month. It's just so we have everyone together. We accommodate them all."

Badash founded the first reunion luncheon with the late Arlene Healy 15 years ago. Badash had retired in Ohio and moved back to Michigan

when she ran into Healy at the post office.

"I had only been back in Michigan a couple of days. She meets me in the post office and yells 'Mary Ann Badash — Class of 1952!' That's the type of person she was. She was a great enthusiast. So, we put something together."

WORD OF MOUTH

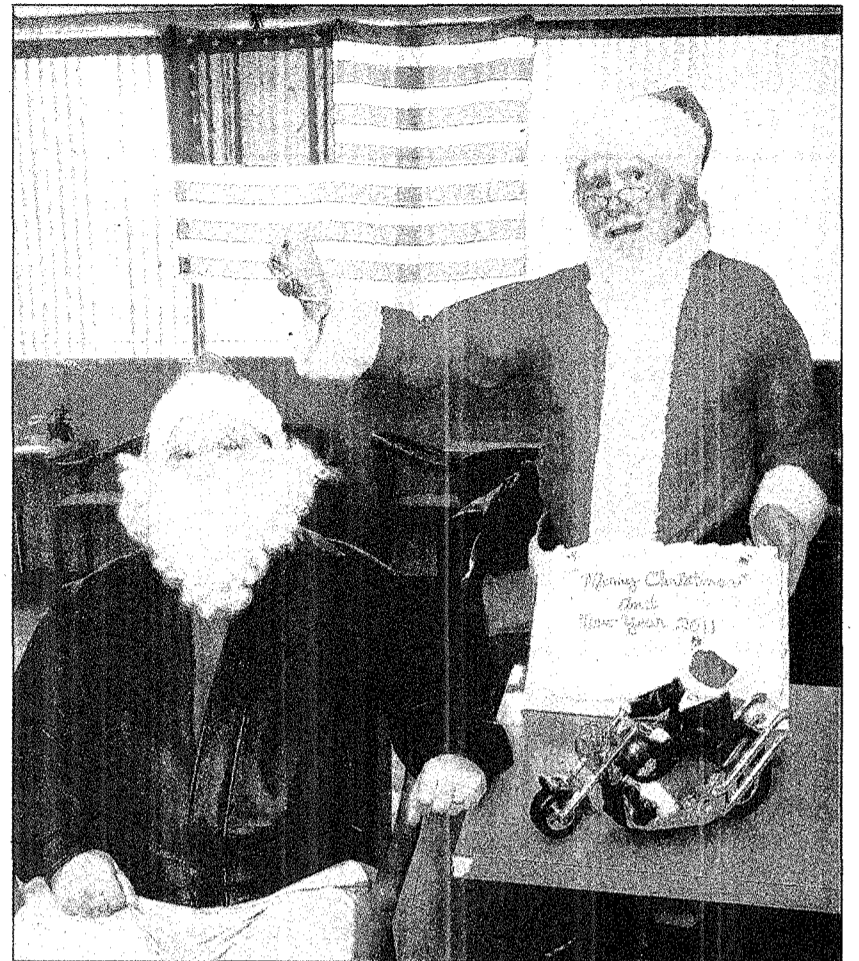
The first luncheon consisted of a handful of women, including Badash's sister, Lorraine Pysz of Livonia. As word spread about the monthly event, its membership grew, attracting male graduates and spouses.

"There were only 63 people in our class and I think it was such a special bond," Badash said. The former classmates support each other through times of grief and sickness and celebrate happy times together.

Mary Alice Wiertella is in charge of flowers and gifts for ill or deceased alumni. Audrey Convery maintains and updates the address list and keeps track of deaths in the class.

Michael Sullivan of Detroit has dressed as Santa Claus for the holiday lunch the past few years. On Tuesday, he passed around ornaments and candy canes and urged classmates to join him in song, before introducing class president Bill Larou, as his "alter-ego." Larou, a former Dearborn Heights resident now living in Tennessee, donned a Santa wig, beard and black leather jacket and elicited laughs as he rocked out to *Born to be Wild*.

Another jokester, Vince Robinson of Rochester Hills, wore a gold bib complete with toothpicks and hand wipes in its crumb pouch. Badash's sister makes the accessory for class members who want to wear at least half of St. Cecilia's gold and green colors.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Bill LaRou (left) plays Santa's alter ego to Mike Sullivan's Santa Claus at the monthly reunion of St. Cecilia's class of 1952.

MOTOWN BASKETBALL

The school has been known more for its basketball players than comedians. NBA alumni include Magic Johnson, Isiah Thomas, Derrick Coleman, Julius Erving, Chris Webber, Juwan Howard and Jalen Rose among others.

But many of the 1952 grads were the football players in their day, Badash said. And everyone claimed Irish heritage, because St. Cecilia's was considered an Irish parish and school, she added, joking that her name was O'Badash in class.

"To think this all started back in 1940," said Jim Daly of Farmington Hills, a St. Cecilia student from first through 12th grade. "It's been a long time with all these wonderful people."



Joanne Sonnenberg of Canton, talks with classmate Catherine Doran Dovey of Rochester Hills and Georgetown, Texas. Behind is Mary Alice and Rudy Wiertala of Dearborn Heights.

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Each proposal shall be accompanied by a certified check in the amount of five percent (5%) of the proposal, payable to the City of Livonia, as security for the acceptance of the contract. A Bid Bond in the Michigan standard form issued by an approved surety company may be furnished in lieu of a certified check.

No bidder may withdraw his proposal within sixty (60) days after the date set for the opening thereof. All work must be completed by November 30, 2011, unless extended by the City. The City reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive irregularities in bids.

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Redford, Michigan 48240**

Redford Union School District will receive single prime sealed bids for the MacGowan Elementary Roof Replacement Project until 2:00 p.m. local time on January 25, 2011 at the District Office Board Room, 18499 Beech Daly Road, Redford, Michigan 48240 at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. The Board of Education will not accept any bid(s) received after 2:00 p.m. on January 25, 2011.

Bidding documents, including the Proposal Form, Drawings and Specifications, will be on file at the Offices of the Architect, Wold Architects and Engineers, 202 East Third Street, Suite 200, Royal Oak, Michigan 48067, (248) 284-0611; at the following Plan Rooms: CAM, 43636 Woodward Avenue, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302; MHC/Repro Max, 36060 Industrial Road, Detroit, Michigan 48150; and Reed Construction Reports electronic plan room at www.reedpr.com; bidding documents may be viewed online also from Plan Well at www.dunnblue.com by clicking on the PlanWell icon, then the Public Plan Room icon, select MacGowan Elementary Roof Replacement Project

This project includes: Complete removal of approximately 50,500 SF of existing roofing system (membrane, insulation, metal coping and wood blocking) and replacement with a new EDPM adhered roofing system (membrane, insulation, metal coping, and wood blocking).

Dunn Blue Reprographic 1009 West Maple Road, Clawson, MI 48017 (248) 288-5600, facsimile (248) 288-1198, will provide complete sets of the Bidding Documents to prospective bidders and subcontractors. The copies will be available about January 6, 2011. Both a deposit check in the amount of \$70 and a non-refundable check in the amount of \$30 made out to iRedford Union School District" for each set ordered are required. The following information must accompany the deposit: Company name, mailing address, street address, phone and facsimile numbers and type of bidder (i.e. General, Mechanical or Electrical Subcontractor to General, or other). A refund of \$70 will be sent to prime contractors who submit a bid to the Owner and subcontractors for each set (including addenda) returned to Dunn Blue Reprographic in good condition within ten (10) calendar days of the award date, subject to the conditions of AIA Document A701. Refunds will not be given if the plans are returned to the Architect's Office.

Make proposals on the bid forms supplied in the Project Manual. No oral, telegraphic or telephonic proposals or modifications will be considered. Submit with each bid, a certified check or acceptable bidder's bond payable to Redford Union School District in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of the total bid. The successful bidder will be required to furnish satisfactory Labor and Material Payment Bond, and Performance Bond.

All Bids shall be accompanied by a sworn and notarized statement disclosing any familial relationship that exists between the owner(s) or any employee of the bidder and any member of the Board of Education or the superintendent of the School District. The Board of Education will not accept a bid that does not include a sworn and notarized familial relationship disclosure statement.

Bids may not be withdrawn within sixty (60) days after the scheduled time of opening bids, without the consent of the Owner. The Owner reserves the right to accept any bid or to reject any or all bids, or parts of such bids, and waive informalities or irregularities in bidding.

A voluntary pre-bid meeting will be held on January 11, 2011 at 1:30 p.m. at MacGowan Elementary, 18255 Kinloch, Redford, Michigan 48240.

The Owner requires Substantial Completion of the project on or before August 12, 2011.

Board of Education
REDFORD UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

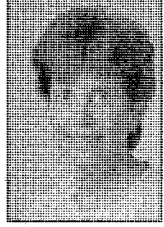
Publish: December 26, 2010 & January 2, 2011

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Turow's sequel is worth the read

It was a big deal earlier this year when author-lawyer Scott Turow came to Canton's Cherry Hill Village Theater for an appearance put on by area libraries. He made other local appearances to promote his new legal thriller, "Innocent."

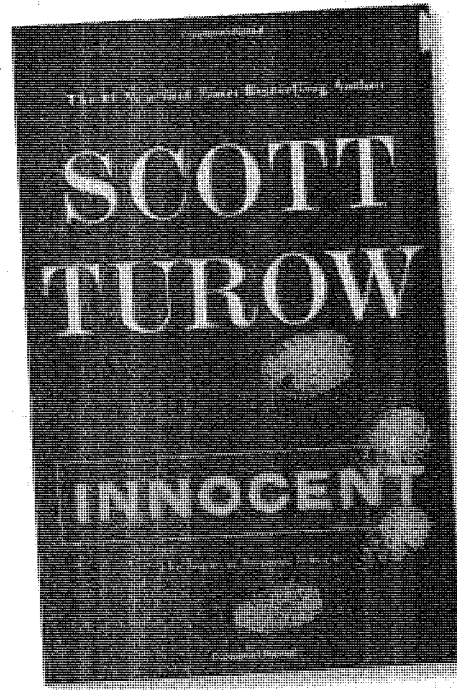
"Innocent" is the sequel to 1987's "Presumed Innocent," in which protagonist Rusty Sabich, a top prosecutor in fictitious Kindle County, was accused of and tried for the murder of a former lover and colleague.



Julie Brown

In the sequel "Innocent," Rusty, who was acquitted of the first murder, is again charged and tried for murder, this time of his wife, Barbara, who has died under mysterious circumstances. Much of the debate over Rusty's actions involves his day-long wait before notifying authorities Barbara had died. Rusty is now a top judge and many would like to see him fall.

"Innocent" again brings Rusty's legal adversary, Tommy Molto, whose late in life marriage and becoming a father have given him added perspective. Tommy is joined by an ambitious younger colleague who pushes the investigation and prosecution at every turn.



Rusty's and Barbara's son, Nat, is a strong character as a now young man pursuing a law career of his own.

Nat was the reason Rusty decided to stay and make the marriage work, but I had less of a sense from "Innocent" of the

Sabiches' marriage. Barbara was mentally ill and the marriage rocky, but it seemed to lack depth beyond that.

I found some of the courtroom testimony, especially the pharmacology and computer details, a bit tedious, somewhat like being on a jury and having to listen as someone's life is in the balance.

Of course, a book reader can walk away. I didn't and read this 406-pager in just a couple of days on vacation, so obviously I found some good in it.

It helped that my Plymouth District Library book group had recently reread "Presumed Innocent," as the sequel relies on a knowledge of the first book. I missed that book discussion, but managed to get to another one just a few days later at the William P. Faust Public Library of Westland.

Also reappearing in the sequel is Sandy Stern, now practicing with his daughter, as Rusty's defense lawyer. I enjoyed spending time with these characters, and all the political and legal intrigue of Kindle County, but on balance would recommend "Presumed Innocent" over its sequel.

Julie Brown of Plymouth Township is presentation editor for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. She can be reached at (313) 222-6755 or jcbrown@hometownlife.com.



Noelle, 2½, has a sweet personality.



Kippy is a sweet, playful Greyhound.

ADOPT A GREYHOUND

Noelle and Kippy are the featured dogs this week from Greyheart Greyhound Rescue and Adoption.

Noelle is 2 1/2 years old. She has a white coat with red markings on it, brown eyes and a sweet spirit.

Kippy is a handsome male Greyhound with brindle color and white markings on his shiny coat. He's 2 years old and slightly smaller than most Greyhound males. He has a sweet personality and is playful and loving.

To meet Noelle or Kippy, call Greyheart Greyhound Rescue at (866) 438-4739; www.greyheart.org

**SYNOPSIS OF THE MINUTES OF THE 1,670th
REGULAR MEETING**

LIVONIA CITY COUNCIL - DECEMBER 1, 2010

Meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m. Present: Conrad Schwartz, Brian Meakin, Laura Toy, Maureen Miller Brosnan, and James McCann. Absent: John Pastor and Joe Laura.

#414-10 Resolution by Toy and Brosnan, unanimously adopted, approving the minutes of the 1,669th Regular Meeting of the Council held November 17, 2010.

President McCann announced there is new data on Items #4 and #6.

AUDIENCE COMMUNICATION:

Nicholas Thornton, 29579 Nottingham Circle, was concerned about truck cabs and trailers being parked overnight for days at a time in the Wal-Mart and Sears parking lots in the Seven Mile and Middlebelt area. President McCann asked the resident to give his contact information to the Director of Legislative Affairs, who will have the Director of Inspection contact him regarding the matter.

Sandra Thornton, 15564 Shadyside, addressed the poor condition of the exterior building of Sears. She also stated the parking lot has debris from last winter, a monument sign is in disrepair, and there are old political signs on the corner. Also, she was concerned if there was adequate access to exit the Sears building in the event of an emergency or fire. President McCann said he will have the Director of Inspection address her concerns as well.

The following items were received and filed:

A communication from the Department of Finance, dated October 20, 2010, re: forwarding various financial statements of the City of Livonia for the month ending September 30, 2010.

A communication from Frank Kalinski, dated December 1, 2010, re: the subject of transit in Livonia. (CR 364-02)

A communication from the Department of Law, dated November 24, 2010, re: work and costs associated with reports provided to the Inspection Department by each colocator verifying compliance. (Petition 2010-07-06-01)

A communication from the Department of Law, dated November 16, 2010, re: annual fee information. (Petition 2010-07-06-01)

The following resolutions were offered by Schwartz and Brosnan:

#415-10 Recognizing the Livonia Baseball and Softball Association as a non-profit organization operating in the community for the purpose of obtaining a charitable gaming license from the State of Michigan to host a Texas Hold'em fundraising event.

#416-10 Recognizing the Livonia Police Honor Guard as a non-profit organization operating in the community for the purpose of obtaining a charitable gaming license from the State of Michigan to raise funds for their annual trip to Washington, DC for National Police Memorial Week.

#417-10 Appropriating and authorizing the expenditure of the additional amount of \$112,800.00 from the Unexpended Fund balance of the Michigan Transportation Fund (Major Roads) to be paid to Orchard, Hiltz and McCliment, Inc., 34000 Plymouth Road, Livonia, Michigan 48150, for construction engineering costs in connection with various road improvements and traffic signal modernization on Newburgh Road, from Laurel Park Drive north to Seven Mile Road, until Federal funding becomes available for reimbursement. (CR 297-10)

A roll call vote was taken on the foregoing resolutions with the following result:
AYES: Schwartz, Meakin, Toy, Brosnan, and McCann.
NAYS: None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

#418-10 Resolution by Toy and Brosnan, unanimously adopted, approving a two (2) year extension of the existing contract with Branch Tree Service, Inc., 24195 Mound Road, Warren, Michigan 48091, for completing all work required in connection with the Municipal Tree Trimming Program, and to provide personnel and equipment for routine tree maintenance and tree emergencies in all sections of the City for an estimated total cost not to exceed \$460,000.00 per year; FURTHER, approving the use of the Daniel R. Andrew Public Works Facility for contractor parking of trucks/

equipment needed for the City's operations whenever the need arises and as long as space is available; FURTHER, removing the requirement for performance and surety bonding. (CR 360-10)

#419-10 Resolution by Meakin and Toy, unanimously adopted, determining to take no further action regarding Petition 99-2-8-35 submitted by Jack M. Freij requesting to utilize an SDD license for an existing store located within the Merri-Five Shopping Center, on property located on the north side of Five Mile Road, between Merriman Road and Bainbridge Avenue, in the Southwest 1/4 of Section 14. (CR 146-95)

#420-10 Resolution by Schwartz and Meakin, unanimously adopted, determining to take no further action regarding Petition 99-2-8-8 submitted by Phoenix Land Development requesting site plan approval in connection with a proposal to construct commercial buildings on property located at 33330 Plymouth Road (Rosedale Town Square), in the Southwest 1/4 of Section 27, and the proposed use of the balance of the George Burns Theatre property. (CR 254-99)

#421-10 Resolution by Meakin and Toy, unanimously adopted, determining to take no further action regarding the general issue of SMART - for tracking purposes. (CR 364-02)

#422-10 Resolution by Brosnan and Schwartz, unanimously adopted, determining to take no further action regarding the subject of the proposed relocation of the Northville Cider Mill (Parmenter's) to the Greenmead property. (CRS 466-03, 575-03, 576-03, 577-03 and 578-03)

#423-10 Resolution by Toy and Schwartz, unanimously adopted, determining to take no further action regarding the request for an additional payment from the City to The Senior Alliance in the amount of \$17,000.00 per year for the years 2005, 2006 and 2007 - for tracking purposes. (CR 550-04)

#424-10 Resolution by Brosnan and Toy, referring the proposed amendment to Section 380 of Title 13, Chapter 20 (Livonia Sewage Disposal System) to provide for enforcement of the prohibition on discharging hazardous waste into the City sewers, to the Infrastructure and Community Transit Committee for its report and recommendation.

A roll call vote was taken on the foregoing resolution with the following result:
AYES: Schwartz, Meakin, Toy, and Brosnan.
NAYS: McCann.

#425-10 Resolution by Meakin and Toy, approving, for preparation of the Ordinance for submission to Council; Petition 2010-07-06-01 submitted by the City Planning Commission pursuant to Council Resolution 225-10 and Section 23.01(a) of Ordinance No. 543, the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Livonia, as amended, to amend Section 18.42A of Article XVIII of the Zoning Ordinance in order to better insure that operators and colocators do not have radio frequency (RF) energy emissions or other detrimental field output and to require colocators and operators to notify the Inspection Department of changes in ownership and contact information, (as revised to eliminate the proposed \$150.00 certification fee). (CR 225-10)

A roll call vote was taken on the foregoing resolution with the following result:
AYES: Schwartz, Meakin, Toy, and Brosnan.
NAYS: McCann.

AUDIENCE COMMUNICATION: None.

Toy wished Brian Meakin a Happy Birthday; his birthday is December 11, 2010.

President McCann wished his son Tyler a Happy 21st Birthday; his birthday is December 3, 2010. He also wished his grandson, Kaiden, a Happy 3rd Birthday on December 4, 2010.

By Meakin and Toy, unanimously adopted, adjourning this 1,670th Regular Meeting of the Council of the City of Livonia at 8:25 p.m. on December 1, 2010.

TERRY A. MARECKI
CITY CLERK

*The foregoing is a summary of the Council's proceedings in synopsis form as authorized by CR 1158-68. The full text of the official minutes of this meeting is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and is available to the public upon request.

Publish: December 26, 2010

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RELIGION CALENDAR

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

DEC. 30-JAN. 15

Concert

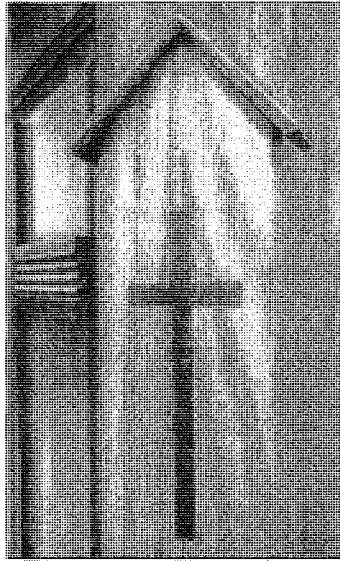
Time/Date: 7 p.m., Jan. 15, 2011
Location: St. John Armenian Church, 22001 Northwestern Highway, Southfield
Details: Oakland Choral Society presents "Rachmaninoff's 'Vespers' in Church Slavonic. Carols and an original composition will be included in the program; tickets are \$15 and \$25, available in advance or at the door
Contact: (248) 391-0184

Lecture

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 4, 2011
Location: Congregation Beth Ahm, 5075 West Maple, West Bloomfield
Details: Howard N. Lupovitch launches a new three-part lecture series about the Talmudic sage, Hillel. The series will continue Tuesday, Jan. 11, 2011 and Wednesday, Jan. 19, 2011. Both begin at 7:30 p.m. and will include a question-and-answer

session with Lupovitch. Each lecture will be self-contained and can be attended independently. Students are encouraged to read the book "Hillel's World" by Joseph Telushkin. The series is based on the book. Tuition for the series is \$40 or \$15 per lecture. Advance registration is encouraged but not required. Students may pay at the door

Coming up: An "Extended Afternoon Edition" of Shabbat Limud, featuring singing, learning, prayer and camaraderie will start with a light Kiddush lunch at noon and end with havdalah to mark the end of Shabbat, just before 6 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 8, 2011. There is no charge, but donations for the program will be accepted. No reservations are required. Participants can also feel free to skip lunch and come just for the learning and other after-lunch activities. Drop-ins are welcome throughout the afternoon. Sessions for teens and adults will be taught by Beth Ahm member Jeff Silver, a law professor at the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law, and Howard N. Lupovitch, who holds the Waks Family Chair in Jewish History at the University of Western Ontario. Sessions include "The Nature of Judicial Decision-Making in Jewish and American Law" and "Should Israel Have a Constitution?"
Contact: (248) 851-6880



New Year's worship
Time/Date: 7:30 p.m., Dec. 31
Location: Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 28000 New Market Road, Farmington Hills
Details: Worship with communion
Contact: www.poplcm.org

ONGOING

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

Classes/study
Emmanuel Lutheran Church
Time/Date: 7-8 p.m., second

Monday of the month
Location: 34567 Seven Mile, between Farmington and Newburgh roads, Livonia
Details: Open Arms Bible class for adults with developmental disabilities and special needs. Includes songs, Bible lessons, crafts and activities, prayer, snacks and fun.
Contact: Judy Cook at Emmanuel, (248) 442-8822 or e-mail to jcook59@att.net.
Livonia Unity
Time/Date: Monday movement Qigong, 7-8:30 p.m.; Thursday Qigong meditation, 10-11:15 a.m., and Friday Therapeutic Qigong, 7-8:30 p.m.
Location: 28660 Five Mile, Livonia
Details: Learn Qigong, the ancient form of Chinese energetic medicine - rid the body of toxic pathogens and painful emotions
Contact: (810) 813-4073 or gary@energeticarts.org.
Men's Bible study
Time/Date: Breakfast at 7 a.m. and study at 8 a.m.
Location: Kirby's Coney Island, 21200 Haggerty, Northville Township
Contact: John Shulenberg at (734) 464-9491
New Life Community Church
Time/Date: Jobs seminar, 8-9 a.m., Fridays; reading program for students in grades K-12 and martial arts instruction, both at 10 a.m., Sundays
Location: 42200 Tyler, Belleville

Contact: (734) 846-4615 for information
Nicole's Revival
Time/Date: 10:30 a.m., Monday-Friday
Location: YWCA Northwest Branch, 25940 Grand River, west of Beech Daly, Redford
Details: KJV Scripture Reading, Communion and Prayer
Contact: (313) 531-1234
Our Lady of Loretto
Time/Date: 6:30-7:30 p.m. Monday
Location: Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford
Details: Scripture study
Contact: (313) 534-9000
Ward Presbyterian
Time/Date: 7 p.m., Mondays
Location: Room A101, 40000 W. Six Mile, Northville
Details: Learner's Bible study is held
Contact: (248) 374-5920
Clothing bank
Canton Christian Fellowship
Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., fourth Saturday and 5-6:30 p.m., second Wednesday
Location: 41711 Joy, between Lilley and Haggerty
Details: Canton Christian Fellowship Clothing Bank offers free clothing (men, women and children) for those in need
Contact: (734) 404-2480, visit www.CantonCF.org or send e-mail to info@cantoncf.org

Fellowship dinner
St. James Presbyterian
Time/Date: 6 p.m., the first Thursday of the month
Location: 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford
Details: Cost is \$8 and includes dinner, beverage and dessert. The Cookie Lady, Susan Navarro, provides the meals
Contact: (313) 268-7780. The church phone number is (313) 534-7730
Food Bank
New Hope Church
Time/Date: 5-7 p.m., every Friday by appointment only
Location: is 44815 Cherry Hill, Canton
Contact: Call pastor Ranay Brown to schedule an appointment at (734) 270-2528.
MOMS
Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church
Time/Date: 9:30-11:30 a.m., second Tuesday, MOPS; 7-8:30 p.m., first and third Thursday, MOPNext. Both programs run through May
Location: 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia
Details: Mothers of Preschoolers is aimed at mothers of infants through kindergartners; MOPNext supports mothers of school-aged children. The theme will be "Momology - The Art & Science of Mothering" for MOPS and "Boundaries" for MOPNext
Contact: Rebekah Creeden at (734) 524-0283 for MOPS and Susan Magner at (248) 478-3643 for MOPS

GARDEN EVENTS

Send garden information and photos to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com

LIVONIA GARDEN CLUB

A speaker from English Gardens Floral Design Department will demonstrate the basics of arranging fresh cut flowers at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 4, 2011. The Club meets at the Livonia Senior Center at Five Mile and Farmington Road. Visitors are welcome.

AT ENGLISH GARDENS

Learn how to properly select and care for plants that will thrive indoors at a free presentation, 1 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 8, 2011 at all English Gardens stores.

All stores also will offer a "Make it and Take it" workshop at 2:30 p.m. that same day. The workshop costs \$29.99. The store will supply the materials needed to create a seasonal basket filled with long-lasting green and flowering plants. Participants can sign up online at www.english-

gardens.com. Other upcoming programs:

- A free program at 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 15, 2011, will teach the basics of creating an outdoor room.
- A free presentation on arranging fresh flowers is scheduled at 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 22, 2011 at all stores except Brighton and Eastpointe locations.
- A Make it & Take it workshop on floral arranging starts at 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 22, 2011, at all stores except Brighton and Eastpointe. The store will provide everything needed to design a gorgeous fresh flower arrangement with a touch of spring. The workshop costs \$24.99. Sign up online.
- Learn to attract birds and wildlife to your yard through a free presentation at 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 29, 2011.
- Youngsters can choose between a pine cone or orange cup bird feeder in a Make it & Take it workshop at 2:30 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 29, 2011. Cost is \$5. Sign up online.

Meet Greyhounds, sign up for no-kill conference

Greyheart Greyhound Rescue and Adoption of Michigan plans several local adoption events over the next two months. Meet Greyhounds from 1-4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 2, 2011 and Feb. 6, 2011 at the Canton PetCo, 43435 Ford Road, in Canton.

From 12:30-4:30 p.m., Jan. 9, 2011 and Feb. 13, 2011, they'll be at Celebrity Pets in Laurel Park Place, 37700 W. Six Mile, Livonia.

Visit the organization's Web site at www.greyheart.org.

NO KILL CONFERENCE

Early registration ends Dec. 31 for the The Michigan Pet Fund Alliance's "Getting to the Goal," a conference on the no-kill movement for homeless animals in Michigan.

The conference is March 25, 2011 at the Ann Arbor Holiday Inn Express and will include keynote speaker Susanne Kogut, executive director of the open admission, no-kill, Charlottesville SPCA,



the Michigan 1st Award Program for Animal Welfare, and representatives from shelters and rescue organizations from throughout the state. The conference is designed for shelter staff, board members and volunteers,

county and city officials, rescue organizations, veterinarians, animal control officers and animal lovers and advocates. It's aimed dispelling myths about the "no-kill equation" for shelters and communities and will present the Alliance's formula to make Michigan a no-kill state.

Cost is \$49 on or before Dec. 31 and \$59 afterward. Conference sessions include Saving Free-Roaming Cats, Turbo-charging Pet Adoptions, The Pit Bull Dilemma, Spay/Neuter, Shelter Health, Michigan Animal Welfare Legislative Activity, Michigan Animal Welfare Initiatives, Reducing Surrenders/Increasing Redemptions, The No-Kill Equation, and Shelters/Rescues/Fosters Working Together. Participants also can learn how a dedicated shelter manager turned her shelter into a no-kill facility in a short time. They'll also get a chance to tour a mobile shelter.

Sign up at www.michiganpetfund.org and click on "special events."

Video games make a holiday party more fun

Whatever holiday you're celebrating, or even if you're just looking for any reason to get together with friends or family, having fun things to do can be the difference between a night to remember and looking at the clock, wondering how quickly you can make an exit.

While time-tested activities like board games or card games never go out of style, introducing video games - particularly social gaming - to your event, can make any activity a blast. Here are reasons why these kinds of games are perfect for gatherings.

1. Make your house the go-to place

Whether you'd rather host family gatherings for the holidays or make your house the place where your kids and their friends hang out, the right kind of games and gaming systems can make your house the spot where everyone wants to come.

2. Games can introduce new skills

Video games used to be an activity that one or two people played with a small controller while the rest of the group stood around and watched. Now, however, social gaming has made playing video games a group activity that can teach new skills

The new game "Guitar

Hero: Warriors of Rock" for example, offers players a full band experience with its band-in-a-box with a guitar controller, drums and a microphone. The game features more than 90 songs on the track list and lots of features. Another musical experience is "DJ Hero 2" which comes with two turntables and a microphone to pit DJ against DJ in unique "Battle Mixes."

3. Games can be replayed often

You can play many of these games over and over without losing interest. You can play different roles or characters in many of these kinds of games, which helps keep the

games fresh for longer periods of time.

4. Games work for the mind


For both parents and kids, musical games can be introductions to great songs that you might not otherwise have the opportunity to hear.

5. Games work for the body

Although many board games can keep you rooted to the couch or kitchen table, video games can get you moving and active. If you're a spectator waiting your turn during a musical game, it can serve as a soundtrack for a great dance party.

Courtesy ARA content

Arthritis Today
JOSEPH J. WEISS, M.D. RHEUMATOLOGY
 18829 Farmington Road
 Livonia, Michigan 48152
 Phone: (248) 478-7860



MEDICINE OR INJECTION

A person presents to the doctor with arthritis in the wrist, shoulder or knee. How does a doctor decide if the patient needs medication or would benefit the most from an injection?

The first point that a doctor considers is if the patient's pain is limited to the painful knee or shoulder or is the painful joint the most prominent site for pain that is throughout the body? If the pain is at one joint only, then injection into that single source of irritation makes sense. If pain is more widespread, then a medicine that will find its way through the whole body becomes the best option.

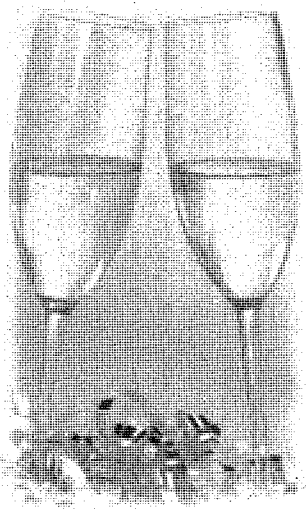
The second point is the underlying condition. If gout is the cause of the hand, knee or ankle pain, then injection likely is the best therapy. The reason is that gout is self limited. If the doctor did nothing, then the attack would clear in four to five days, but those would be painful and incapacitating days. A single injection into the painful joint will end the attack overnight.

In contrast, if the cause of joint pain is rheumatoid arthritis; then medication on a regular basis is necessary. Certain conditions such as rheumatoid arthritis result from an ongoing inflammation. Resolution requires continuous treatment. Tablets daily, injections weekly or infusions monthly provide the necessary ongoing therapy.

At times, the doctor undertakes both immediate injection and continues or starts long term medication. Doing both at once often occurs in rheumatoid arthritis. The person may present with a swollen knee that needs immediate aspiration and continuing pain in the hands and feet that necessitates daily medication.

OE08725440

New Year's Eve
 at
George Murphy's
 Dinner: 7:00 - 9:00 pm
 Entree of your choice:
Prime Rib Au Jus or Crab Stuffed Salmon
 *Each served with potato, vegetable & salad
Champagne Toast at Midnight!
D.J. and Dancing at 9:00 pm
Pizza served after midnight
 \$30 per person




Please call us at:
248-473-1300
Reservations Required

George Murphy's
 at The Creek
 36000 Seven Mile • Livonia

OE08726051


WAYNE STATE University Physician Group
 Department of Orthopaedic Surgery



Richard L. Needleman, M.D.
Foot and Ankle Specialist

Dr. Needleman is an orthopaedic surgeon specializing in foot and ankle problems:

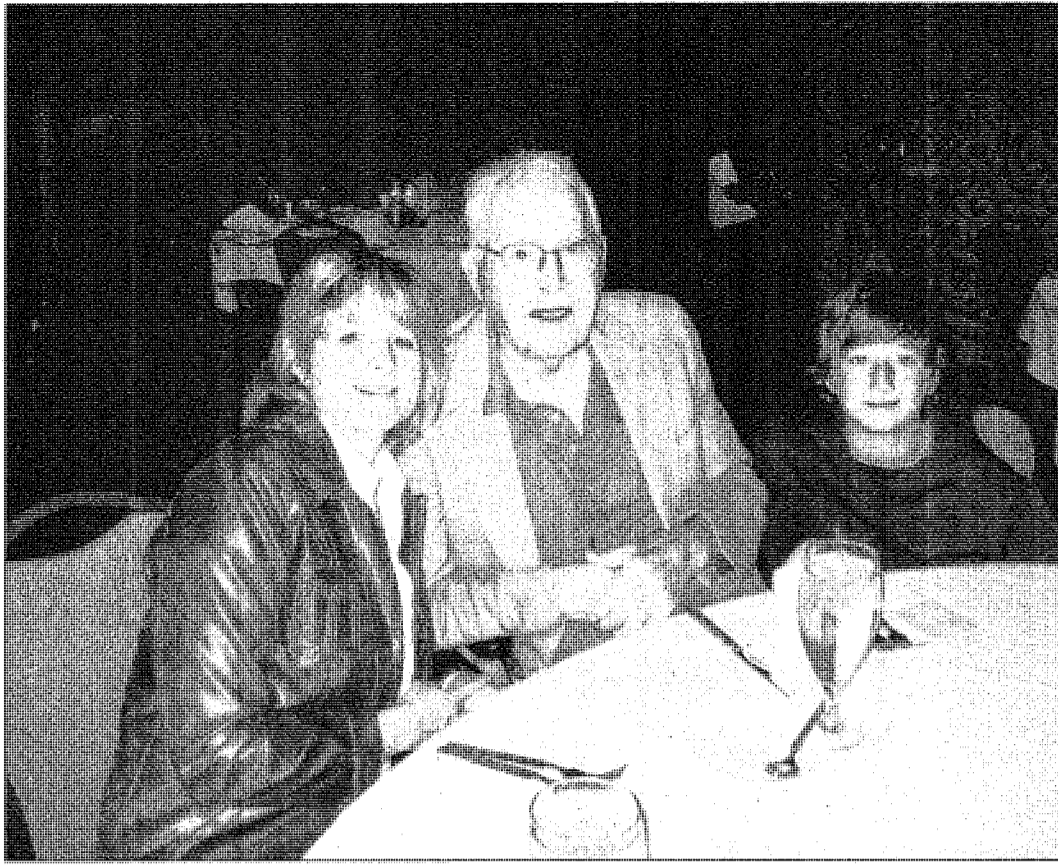
- Bunions
- Flat Feet Disorders
- Fractures
- Heel Pain
- Foot Reconstruction
- Sports Medicine

Affiliated with


5958 N. Canton Center Rd.
Suite 700
Canton, MI 48187
734-254-9500

Dearborn Medical Park Building
18100 Oakwood Blvd.
Suite 300
Dearborn, MI 48124
313-429-7977

Accepting new patients • For more information go to: wsupgortho.com



Clarence Carlson of Canton attended The Senior Alliance's birthday celebration. He is flanked by his granddaughter, Denise Fuller, and his great-grandson.

Centenarians honored at celebration at Andiamo's

The Senior Alliance (TSA) threw a party recently for all of its clients, age 100 or older. Canton residents, Clarence Carlson and Beatrice Archibald were among the centenarians honored at the event, which was held at Andiamo's Restaurant in Dearborn.

Carlson brought his granddaughter and great-grandson with him to the event. Archibald, whose niece was on hand, told participants the secret to a long life is hard work. Other clients at the luncheon included Jearlean Talley, 111 years old, from Inkster, who gave credit for her longevity to God, and Annita Pierfederici of Lincoln Park.

TSA is a private, non-profit agency in Wayne County that coordinates a network of support services to help its elderly clients function as independently as possible.

The agency helped Carlson transition from a nursing home

back into the community and provides services to Archibald that enable her to remain in her own home.

Carlson brought his granddaughter and great-grandson with him to the event. Archibald, whose niece was on hand, told participants the secret to a long life is hard work.



Beatrice Archibald (right) of Canton celebrated at The Senior Alliance's (TSA) birthday party for centenarians. Seated next to her is her niece and standing behind her is TSA support coordinator, Marilu Cole.

Other clients at the luncheon included Jearlean Talley, 111 years old, from Inkster, who gave credit for her longevity to God, and Annita Pierfederici of Lincoln Park.

Twelve TSA staff members attended the luncheon to assist the seniors. Byron Thomas, a TSA staff member, kicked off the festivities by singing You Are So Beautiful. Each senior received a gift card and flowers.

Other centenarians who received a gift and a gift card were Ida Pagliarlungo, Susan Swish, and John West.

Red Kettle donations still sought

Salvation Army bells at 350 red kettle locations in Metro Detroit stopped ringing on Friday, Dec. 24, but the non-profit organization continues to accept online donations for its annual appeal.

The Salvation Army must raise \$3.3 million in order to reach its \$7.8 million Red Kettle Campaign goal. It's behind approximately \$288,000 in donations from this time last year.

Funds raised by the Red

Kettle Campaign are used to support vital programs and services offered to people in need year-round. Monetary gifts help maintain crucial human services such as food and shelter for children and adults throughout the year. The Salvation Army uses 85 cents of every dollar raised to provide direct services to people in need.

Contributions can be made by sending a check to The Salvation Army at 16130

Northland Drive, Southfield, MI 48075; calling (877) SAL-MICH; giving online at www.salmich.org until Jan. 31, 2011; or texting 'give' to 80888 to make a \$10 donation.

Last year, The Salvation Army of Metro Detroit was involved in providing 3,181,865 million meals and 724,134 nights of shelter for the homeless. For more information about The Salvation Army, call (877) SAL-MICH, or visit www.salmich.org.

KNOW THE SCORE: Check out the numbers in today's sports section

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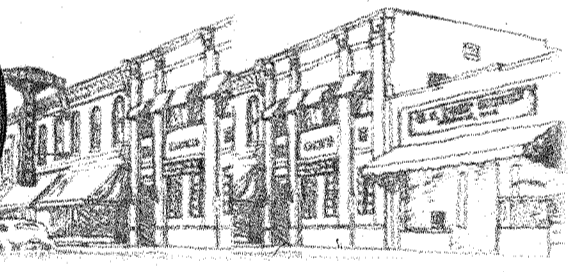
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On your feet: Get active by playing a video game

If you thought playing video games was only for those with a sedentary lifestyle, think again. A new survey from the American Heart Association shows that playing video games that require movement or exercise can lead players to participate in more real-world physical activity. It was conducted Oct. 25- Nov. 1 by the American Heart Association and included a total of 2,284 male and female respondents ages 25-55.

According to the survey, 58 percent of people who play active-play video games have begun a new real-life fitness activity like walking, tennis or jogging since they started playing the games. Also, 68 percent of people who play active-play video games say they became more physically active since getting involved in video games.

Inspired by these results, Nintendo and the American Heart Association are combining fun and fitness this holiday with "12 Days of Getting Active." The series of daily tips help make it easy for people to get active, even when they are challenged with busy schedules and sweet temptations. The tips are posted at <http://www.activeplaynow.com>, the joint American Heart Association-Nintendo online information center, and focus on how active-play video games can get everyone in the family engaged in fun, physically active behavior leading into and through the New Year.

"We are looking at active-play video games as part of a realistic approach to fitness," stated Barry A. Franklin, director of Cardiac Rehabilitation and Exercise Laboratories at William Beaumont Hospital in Michigan and an American Heart Association volunteer. "We are finding that they often act as a gateway to other forms of physical activity. So as people get up off the couch to play Wii games, they're likely to stay up and do more, like walking, jogging or playing tennis."

MEN VS. WOMEN

The survey also showed that 82 percent of those who engage in active-play video games now play more with family and friends, suggesting that these types of video games inspire social fun. The holidays are a great time to keep this trend going.



PHOTO COURTESY ARA CONTENT

Some video games get players off the couch and on their feet.

According to the survey results, men are more likely than women to play active-play video games with their children (men 65 percent vs. women 56 percent). Men are also more likely than women to play active-play video games with someone else on the same console (men 51 percent vs. women 36 percent). However, women like active-play video games more than men for a number of reasons. They can stay active at home (61 percent), can play day or night (49 percent), can try things they wouldn't normally do, like skiing (47 percent), and can push their physical limits (24 percent).

The American Heart Association and Nintendo of America are engaged in a first-of-its-kind, multifaceted strategic relationship aimed at helping people create healthy lifestyles through physically active play. The two organizations are working together on multiple fronts to help consumers discover how active-play video games contribute to healthy living. The American Heart Association brand appears on boxes for the Wii Fit Plus and Wii Sports Resort software and for the Wii system itself. For more information about Nintendo's strategic relationship with the AHA, visit <http://www.activeplaynow.com>.

Alzheimer's Association

The Greater Michigan Chapter provides a welcoming and secure environment for families and individuals experiencing the early stages of Younger Onset Memory Loss. Participants can take part in ongoing discussions that focus on issues that affect those with memory loss under age 65. Meetings are 5:30-7 p.m., the third Tuesday of the month, at Bloomfield Township Senior Services, 4315 Andover, Bloomfield Hills. To register call The Harry L. Nelson Helpline at (800) 272-3900.

Aquatic classes

The YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit and the Arthritis Foundation have partnered to offer aquatic classes designed to ease the pain of arthritis. Classes are held 10-11 a.m., Tuesday and Thursday at the Farmington branch; 1-1:45 p.m. Monday and Wednesday at the Livonia branch; and 2-3 p.m. Wednesday and Friday, at the Birmingham branch. All classes are offered to members and non-members of every age and participants do not need to know how to swim to participate. To join, interested individuals can contact their local YMCA branch or visit www.ymcadetroit.org.

Fitness classes

Keep warm, avoid any sudden exertion in snow shoveling time

Shoveling snow can be dangerous at any age. According to the American Heart Association (AHA), individuals who are outdoors in cold weather should avoid sudden exertion, like lifting a heavy shovel full of snow. Even walking through heavy, wet snow can strain a person's heart.

"Fifteen minutes of snow shoveling is considered moderate physical activity even for young adults," stated Roy Misirliyan, a cardiologist at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, in Livonia. "The combination of exertion, cold air and hypothermia puts a large strain on the heart. People with a history of coronary artery disease, hypertension, diabetes

and tobacco use should consider alternatives to shoveling snow."

Individuals with coronary heart disease often suffer chest pain or discomfort called angina pectoris when they're in cold weather. Some studies suggest that harsh winter weather may increase a person's risk of heart attack due to overexertion. "Cold air makes breathing more difficult and puts more strain on the body and heart, so precautions should be taken, especially for those with a history of heart disease," Misirliyan added.

Always dress properly for the cold weather. The AMA recommends wearing layers of

clothing to keep warm. Air is trapped between layers, forming a protective insulation. A hat helps, too. Much of the body's heat can be lost through the head. Ears especially are prone to frostbite and hands and feet tend to lose heat rapidly.

If there is no alternative to shoveling snow, treat it as any other vigorous exercise.

"Try to warm up, take frequent breaks and stay hydrated," Misirliyan said. Also know the warning signs of a heart attack. "Stop immediately and call 9-1-1 for emergency assistance if you have symptoms of nausea, shortness of breath, dizziness, pain in the chest, shoulder, neck or arm."

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

Exercise classes for men and women continue through April at the Metropolitan Seventh-Day Adventist School, 15585 Haggerty, north of Five Mile. Jeanie Weaver is a certified personal fitness trainer with 30 years of teaching/training experience. The sessions infuse Pilates, functional strength training, balance work, flexibility and motivational techniques in a 90-day fitness plan. Call (248) 446-9176 or (313) 300-0957. E-mail jeanieweaver@charter.net.

Food Addicts

Food Addicts in Recovery Anonymous (FA) is a recovery program for people having trouble controlling the way they eat. Based on the 12 steps of AA. Open to all and free. Weekly meetings are held 9-10:30 a.m. Wednesday, at Geneva Presbyterian Church, 5835 Sheldon, Canton. (866) 914-3663; www.foodaddicts.org

Hearing Loss Association

The Western Wayne Chapter provides information, education and support for those with hearing loss, their families and friends. Meetings are 6:30 p.m. the second Wednesday of the month at Garden City Hospital, 6245 Inkster, Garden City. Contact aftrack@comcast.net or (734) 664-3297.

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