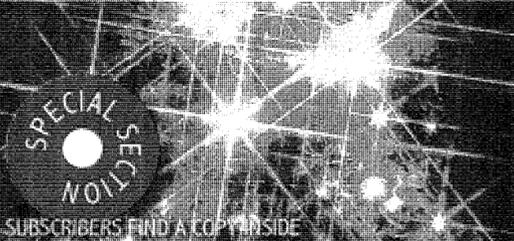


HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

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FOOD, B8

Poster contest

Youngsters have until Friday, Dec. 16, to enter their poster in the Westland Parks and Recreation Department's 18th annual "We Promise You a White Christmas" contest.

One family in Westland will definitely have a white Christmas. Even if there is no snow on the ground on Dec. 21, Parks and Rec will make sure the winner's house has a snow-covered yard. This contest is open to all elementary school children who live in Westland. All they have to do is draw a picture showing their house covered with snow on Christmas Day.

The winner will be announced and contacted on Dec. 20. If there is already snow on the ground, another prize will be awarded.

Drop off posters between 9 a.m. and 10 p.m. daily at the Bailey Recreation Center or mail the poster to Poster Contest, Westland Parks and Recreation, 36651 Ford Road, Westland, MI 48185.

All entries must be received by 10 p.m. Dec. 16.

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Man charged in wife's death has terminal cancer, attorney says

By Ken Abramczyk
Observer Staff Writer

The ex-husband of a 35-year-old woman fatally shot in Livonia Sunday has stage four melanoma and a life expectancy of three to six months, his attorney said.

Benjamin Yee, 46, of Livonia was arraigned Monday before 16th District Judge Kathleen McCann on charges of first-degree murder, assault with a dangerous weapon and committing a felony with a firearm.

Yee is accused of shooting Courtney Lynn Johnson, 35, of Westland

Sunday afternoon after she arrived in her vehicle at Yee's home on Gillman Street in Livonia to pick up their 11-year-old daughter, according to Livonia police.

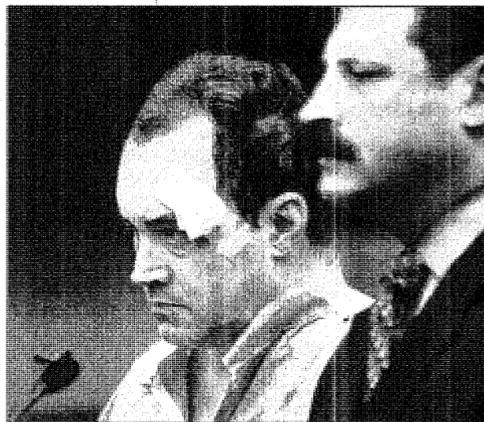
A preliminary examination is scheduled for 9 a.m. Tuesday in 16th District Court. A not-guilty plea was entered for Yee.

Final chemo treatment

Marc Hart, Yee's defense attorney, told the court Yee has stage four melanoma and a life expectancy of three to six months. His final chemo-

therapy treatment was scheduled for Dec. 6. Hart asked the court that Yee's file indicate that he receive medical treatment and a doctor's examination while Yee was incarcerated in the Wayne County Jail.

"I understand that it's his concern, not the court's," Hart said. Yee also suffers from a brain disorder and needed to be examined by doctors, Hart said. Without his medication, his "condition would be life-threatening" to him, Hart said. McCann agreed.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Please see YEE, A2

Benjamin Yee stands in court with attorney Marc Hart.

Santa letters

While Christmas is a very busy time of year for Santa Claus, he always makes time to read letters from children.

Youngsters can be sure Santa knows what they want by writing a letter to Santa. Santa Claus has given the Observer permission to print some of those letters in our Thursday, Dec. 22, issue. But to do that, we need letters. So youngsters, get out some paper and a pen or pencil or a computer and start writing.

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

Letters can also be mailed to Letters to Santa, c/o Sue Mason, 615 W. Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226.

The deadline for all Santa letters is Monday, Dec. 12.

Looking like Christmas



Riley Benci, a second-grader at Wildwood Elementary School, gets ready with help from Santa to pull the switch and turn on the holiday lights.

PHOTOS BY TOM BEAUDOIN

Santa helps city usher in holiday season

By LeAnne Rogers
Observer Staff Writer

Chilly wet weather didn't dampen the spirits of kids, young and old, who gathered Monday evening to welcome Santa Claus to Westland.

In fact, Santa Claus thanked everyone for turning out to greet him despite the weather.

"We tried to make it like the North Pole for you. Was it warm enough in the fire truck?" asked Mayor William Wild, as Santa made his way to the City Hall steps after arriving in a fire engine

with a police escort.

Presenting Santa with the key to the city, Wild noted it was different key than last year — the old one won't work anymore since it had also been subsequently presented to the Easter Bunny.

"You've got to watch that Easter Bunny," said Santa.

Despite a steady wet snowfall and dropping temperatures, youngsters eagerly awaited Santa's arrival and shouted out as the lights and sirens signaled his approach.

Please see SANTA, A2



The trees around Westland City Hall were full of colorful lights after the switch was thrown at the city's annual tree lighting ceremony.

Parents arrested in infant death

By LeAnne Rogers
Observer Staff Writer

The parents of a 2-month-old baby who died Monday have been arrested and expected to face criminal charges in connection with what Westland police described as a suspicious death.

"We have arrested both parents and hope to present charges to the (Wayne County) prosecutor today (Wednesday)," said Westland Police Lt. Michael Match.

The mother, 18, and father, 22, an Inkster resident, had undergone questioning by police as the death of the baby was investigated.

About 5 a.m. Monday, police and Westland Fire Rescue responded to a call about a baby not breathing at a mobile home in the Westland Meadows complex near Merriman and Van Born.

Fire Rescue provided care for the baby boy on scene and transported him to an area hospital where he was pronounced dead a short time later. Autopsy results are being awaited for an official cause of death although the baby's death is considered suspicious.

It could take up to six weeks to receive a written autopsy report.

Please see ARRESTS, A2

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PHOTO COURTESY OF KAREN SANBORN

The shooting took place at approximately 3 p.m. Sunday in the 9400 block of Gillman.

YEE

Continued from page A1

Later, Hart said Yee also suffers from fibrous dysplasia. Fibrous dysplasia is a bone disease that also impacts the skull, in some cases.

Hart would not discuss the case because he just started examining it that day.

"I will be exploring his medical issues that have impacted his condition," Hart said. "He has no prior record of criminal cases."

Detective Michael Mockeridge told the court that Livonia police received several phone calls about shots fired at a home on the 9400 block of Gillman, located near West Chicago and Inkster. Mockeridge said police also received a call from the suspect, who said he had just shot his ex-wife and that the weapon was in a bedroom at the home.

Custody dispute

Lt. Tom Goralski said the couple had joint custody of the daughter. They

MEMORIAL FUND ESTABLISHED

A memorial fund has been set up for the daughter of Courtney Johnson, who was killed on Sunday. Johnson's husband and the father of the daughter, Benjamin Yee, 46, was charged Monday with first-degree murder, assault with a dangerous weapon and committing a felony with a firearm. Donations for Johnson's daughter can be made in person at any Huntington National Bank or mailed

to the Livonia Police Department, 15050 Farmington Road, Livonia, MI 48154. Donors should make checks payable to "Courtney Johnson Memorial Fund." Anyone with questions concerning donations can call Betsy McCue, assistant vice-president/branch manager at the Huntington National Bank, Wonderland Branch, at (734) 261-9737.

Johnson had dropped off her daughter earlier that day, and had returned to pick her up when Johnson was shot, Goralski said.

"When she arrived, he shot her because he was angry at her," Goralski said. Goralski added that

the daughter also witnessed the shooting, but she was not injured.

Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy said the alleged facts in this case were "tragic on so many levels." "An 11-year-old child losing her mother at the hands of her surviving parent is an all-too-familiar end when a family is in distress," Worthy said.

Yee has no criminal record, nor do police have any record of runs to the home, Goralski said. The daughter is currently with her maternal grandmother, Mockeridge told the court.

Karen Sanborn lives down the street from the shooting. She was working at the time of the shooting. Sanborn drove home later Sunday afternoon, but could not turn down Gillman because police had the street blocked off. Sanborn said her daughter's friend was en route on West Chicago to pick up Sanborn's daughter for a baby shower when police vehicles suddenly sped past her. When she arrived on Gillman, they told her she could not drive down Gillman.

"She said they had their guns drawn," Sanborn said. Sanborn has lived on Gillman for 25 years without any incident like this, she said.

"It's just sad," said Sanborn who did not know the victim. kabramcz@hometownlife.com (313) 222-2591

AROUND WESTLAND

Conservation meeting

The Westland Homeowners Committee for Environmental Conservation is inviting the public to attend a general meeting 1-1:45 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 14, at Panera Bread, 35300 Warren Road, Westland. Find out about environmental issues that could impact our state.

For more information, call Lee Duffey at (734) 722-1184.

Surplus food

Eligible Westland residents north of Michigan Avenue can pick up their surplus federal food commodities for December 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 15, at the Dorsey Community Center, 32715 Dorsey Road, south of Palmer.

Residents living south of Michigan Avenue should pick up their commodities from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., the second Monday of each month at St. James United Methodist Church, which is located at 30055 Annapolis, between Henry Ruff and Middlebelt Roads. The phone number is (734) 729-1737.

Senior citizens living in Taylor Towers will pick up their food at Taylor Towers and must call their building manager for their day of distribution.

For the month of December, Tyson whole frozen chicken, frozen blueberries, egg noodles,

green beans, peaches, yams and possible additional items will be distributed. For more information, call the Dorsey Center's surplus food hotline at (734) 595-0366.

Cancer benefit

The VFW District 4 Ladies Auxiliary Pool League is having a dining to donate fund-raiser for cancer aid and research Tuesday, Dec. 13 at the Northville Applebee's. Just present the server with a flyer and a portion of the proceeds will go to fight cancer.

There are flyers available at the Bova VFW Post on Hix, also at Northville VFW on Main Street or e-mail Conniekincer@hotmail.com.

Christmas party

The Westland Community Foundation will hold its annual Christmas reception 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 13, in the media center of John Glenn High School.

The evening will include refreshments and hors d'oeuvres and a performance by the John Glenn Singers. Guests are asked to bring two unwrapped gifts for the children and make a \$5 contribution. Proceeds will go to the Wayne-Westland Salvation Army.

Reservations must be made by Monday Dec. 5. Call (734) 595-7727.

New Years Eve

The Sgt. Romanowski VFW Post 6896 is holding a New Years Eve Celebra-

tion Saturday, Dec. 31.

Doors open at 7 p.m., and a show, featuring Sherman Arnold as Elvis. Brian Grob as Buddy Holly and Kathy Bressler as Patsy Cline, will start at 8 p.m.

The cost is \$18 per person and includes appetizers and hors d'oeuvres, snacks and cash bar. There also will be a basket of cheers and cash raffles.

Reservations must be made by Dec. 15. Call Lorraine (734) 788-4948 or John (313) 719-2748. The post is at 28945 Joy, east of Middlebelt, Westland.

Tax preparers

The Accounting Aid Society seeks volunteers for the upcoming tax season to learn to prepare taxes and file credits for middle- to low-income families in southeast Michigan.

Accounting Aid Society estimates that it will need 674 volunteers who will help 20,613 families receive \$24.4 million in refunds and credits. Tax sites will be in community centers, libraries and other locations throughout Wayne, Oakland, Macomb and Livingston counties from January through mid-April. Training includes tax law and tax computer software and is available at local colleges and universities, plus online.

For more information and to register, go to www.accountingaidsociety.org.

HOLIDAY

Continued from page A1

Santa got help with officially turning on the holidays lights from Riley Benci, a second-grader at Wildwood Elementary School. Riley had earlier read her winning essay in the annual What Christmas Means to Me contest.

"Judging the contest is always my favorite part of the program. It's really hard to judge each year," said Westland Parks and Recreation Director Robert Kosowski, who served as program master of ceremonies.

Members of the Salvation Army band performed Christmas music



PHOTO BY TOM BEAUDOIN

Six-year-old Kaila Trammell of Westland whispers what she would like for Christmas to Santa. Listening in is her sister Kaitien.

for the crowd. Other music was provided by Traci Arena, who performed a solo flute version of the *First Noel* and Martha Robertson, who sang *Silver Bells*.

Just before Santa arrived, the St. Damian Catholic School choir per-

formed two songs.

Following the program, Santa and guests attending the program headed to nearby Fire Station 1 to visit and enjoy hot chocolate and cookies.

irogers@hometownlife.com (313) 222-5428

ARRESTS

Continued from page A1

"It's a suspicious death and that does require us to look further into it. We're trying to piece together what happened," said Match. "Hopefully, we will have some resolution in the near future."

Match declined to comment specifically on what

led police to consider the baby's death suspicious. The baby's twin brother and a toddler, daughter of the twins' father, were removed from the mobile home and are currently in the care of Protective Services.

"That was a safety precaution due to the suspicious circumstances of the baby's death," said Match.

The twins' mother lives at the mobile

home, Match said. The father, was present along with his daughter but he apparently lives in Inkster.

"We're talking to the mom and dad. We're trying to find out what happened," said Match. "There are things that need to be followed up on. We'd be negligent if we didn't look into it."

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Ruth Barnett has been a Westland Goodfellows volunteer for over 20 years and turned out to help again this year.

Yearlong effort lets Goodfellows help 429 families

By LeAnne Rogers
Observer Staff Writer

While many people will need those last couple of weeks before Christmas to wrap up their holiday shopping, the Westland Goodfellows have their work pretty much wrapped up.

The Goodfellows and other volunteers gathered last week to spend a day sorting and packing donations of food, clothing and toys to help make sure no Westland child is without a Christmas. The following day, volunteers helped recipients get their baskets and vouchers for food and gifts.

"We had an enormous amount of stuff donated. The day after the sorting and packing, there was a parade of people from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.," said Goodfellow Donna Knight.

"We're working on the last minute ones (assistance applications). We're winding up our adopt-a-families. The big process is done. It's amazing the amount of stuff that was donated — we got some



Volunteer Tara Scott looks for a spot for a Holiday Barbie as donations to the Westland Goodfellow are packaged for distribution.

exceptional toys."

This year, the Goodfellows helped 429 needy families with 930 children have a better Christmas. The number of a families requesting assistance from the Goodfellows has been similar for the past three years, Knight said.

Along with donated items, the Goodfellows provide vouchers to buy food at Heartland Market and also vouchers for children's clothing and toys.

No longer selling newspapers on street corners, the Westland Goodfellows rely on solicitation letters and other fundraising



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

It was a big day for the Westland Goodfellows as tons of donated food and gifts were sorted for families to pick up the following day.



Tammy Smith sorts puzzles donated to the Westland Goodfellows who provide gift baskets to local needy families.

efforts to fund their holiday efforts.

At Monday's Westland City Council meeting, Goodfellows co-president John Adams, a Westland Fire Department assistant chief, accepted a check for nearly \$59,118 raised by members of UAW Local 900 whose members work at the Ford Wayne Assembly plant. Westland Councilman Bill Johnson is the

UAW Local 900 chairman. Presented with the donations, Adams found himself getting a bit choked up — something he said rarely happens. "But I've never had a check for \$59,000 in my hand before," Adams said. "On behalf of the Westland Goodfellows, I want to thank Bill Johnson and the people at the plant. We couldn't do it without them."

Along with golf outings, Local 900 members also have a bowling fundraiser with silent auctions.

"It's just phenomenal that they raised nearly \$60,000. They are a really great group of people. We admire them and really appreciate them," said Knight.

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(313) 222-5428

Children in spotlight in 'Yes, Virginia'

Spotlight on Youth is presenting *Santa Lives! Yes, Virginia There is a Santa Claus*, a look at 8-year-old girl, Virginia O'Hanlon who has lost her Christmas spirit.

The family play opens at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill at 7 p.m. this evening and looks at the youngster who prompted the famous editorial by Francis R. Church of the *New York Sun Times* when she asked if there really was a Santa Claus.

In this play, Virginia loses Christmas spirit when her classmates bah-humbug the holiday play she writes for the school. Will Virginia get her holiday spirit back? Maybe a surprise visit from Santa Claus is all she needs.

The show is 1 1/2 hours long, perfect for little ones who can't sit still long. Santa Claus will be available after the show to take photos with kids for \$5 per photo.

The show will be presented this weekend only. In addition to Thursday's performance, it will be presents at 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 9, 2 and 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 10, and 2 p.m. Sunday Dec. 11, at The Biltmore Studio of the Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill, Canton.

Tickets are \$9-\$10 each and are available by calling the Village Theater Box Office at (734) 394-5300 or (734) 394-5460 or online at www.cantonmi.org/village-theater or www.spotlightplayersmi.org. They're also available at The Summit on the Park or at the door.

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Pigeon drop scam costs woman \$2,800

An elderly Westland woman is out \$2,800 after falling victim to what's called a pigeon drop scam Nov. 30.

The victim, 74, told police that about 1 p.m. she was in the parking lot of Kmart at Cherry Hill and Wayne Road when she was approached by a woman. That woman showed the victim a small black toiletries/shaving type bag which she claimed to have just found in the parking lot.

The suspect told the victim the bag held \$150,000 in cash and what she described as some valuable bearer bonds. According to the victim, the suspect also told her she worked as an accountant for Kmart, Dollar General and Sav-Mor Drugs.

The woman then asked the victim to be a witness when she told her boss that she had found the money and accompany her to the nearby dollar store.

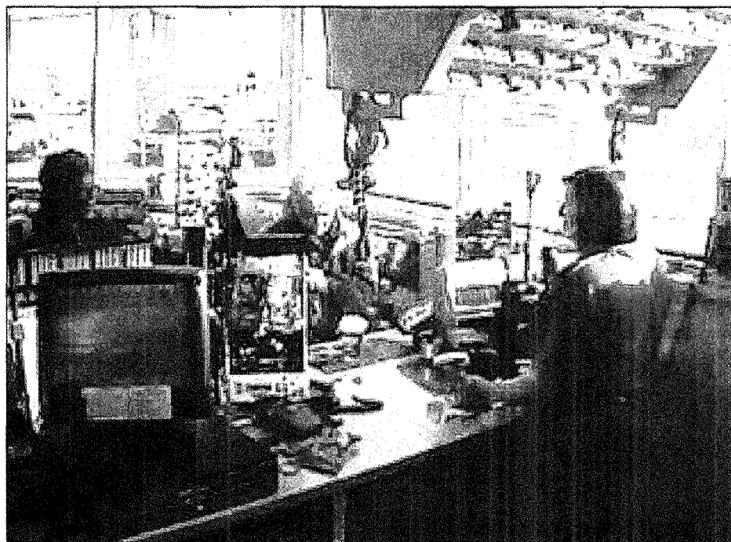
The victim allowed the suspect into her vehi-

cle and the pair drove across the street to the dollar store. The victim waited in the car while the suspect was to go inside the dollar store to speak with her boss, "Mr. Goldberg."

According to the victim, the suspect returned to tell her that "Mr. Goldberg" reported the money had been brought into the country illegally by Japanese businessmen who were trying to hide it. The suspect told the victim the money shouldn't be turned into the police because "they would just take it."

Instead, the suspect told the woman that if they gave "Mr. Goldberg" \$4,000 to make it appear they worked for him, he would transfer the supposedly found money back to them disguised as a pension payment.

The victim told police she didn't really understand all the talk about the pension but the suspect kept talking about God and Jesus and how great Christmas would



Westland Police are looking for information about the woman on the left in the photo. The woman has been identified as the suspect in a fraud that cost a local woman \$2,800.

be with all the money.

The victim drove the suspect to the north-west corner of Central City Parkway and Wayne Road to her bank so she could get her share of the payment. The victim told police she didn't

see the suspect go into the bank as she went to Chase Bank and withdrew \$2,800 against two credits cards.

The pair met up again as agreed in the party store parking lot. After the victim had turned

over the \$2,800, the suspect put the found money bag into her vehicle trunk and told the woman to take it without opening it. The victim said she dropped the suspect off at Wendy's Restaurant.

Once she arrived home, the woman said she called her daughter, who came over after hearing what had happened. The woman cut the bag open to find it contained only receipt books and index cards.

The bag did not appear to be the same one she originally opened, the victim police, since it had a lock on it.

The victim told police she had gotten no contact information from the suspect. They did stop at a Speedway gas station where they turned up on surveillance video. Westland police released images from the video that shows the victim and the suspect, who was described as a black female, approximately 50 years old, approximately 5-foot-2 and 130 pounds. The suspect has short black hair, was described as well dressed and well spoken.

Anyone with information about the suspect is asked to call Westland police at (734) 722-9600.

Snowblower, electronics reportedly taken in break-ins

Break-in

A resident in the 6900 block of Wildwood told police Dec. 4 that someone had broken into his locked garage to steal a snowblower valued at \$750. The officer noted the lock and door frame

had been pried.

Break-in

On Dec. 5, a resident in the 32000 block of Hillsdale Court told police he returned home and found the backyard gate open. Checking the rear of the house, he said he found

the sliding glass door partially open. The door may have been unlocked.

Reported missing were a 42-inch flat screen television, two Xbox video games and a 27-inch laptop computer valued at nearly \$4,000.

The resident told police

his father was at home sleeping at the time but heard nothing. He said he also has two pit bulls who didn't react, so he suspected the thief was familiar with the dogs.

Break-in

A PlayStation with con-

trollers and four games, a laptop, a pearl necklace and a nine millimeter Ruger handgun were reported stolen Dec. 6 from an apartment at the Parkcrest Apartments, 36800 Parkcrest. The missing items were valued at \$2,350.

The owner told police

he returned to find the front door locked but the living room ransacked. In the bedroom, he said he found someone had broken a window with a rock to enter the apartment. The bedroom had also been ransacked.

By LeAnne Rogers

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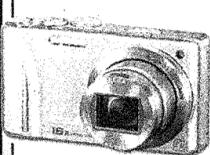
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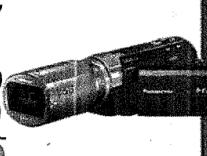
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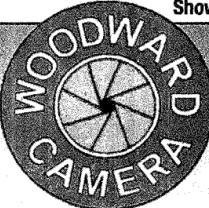
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Westland Nursing, Rehab residents enjoy trip to Apple Charlie's



Thirteen residents of the Westland Nursing and Rehabilitation Center enjoy a day at Apple Charlie's.

It was lucky 13 as 13 residents and 13 staff members from Westland Nursing and Rehabilitation Centre took a bus ride to Apple Charlie's in New Boston to sample fresh cider and donuts.

The first adventure after arriving at the 95-acre farm was a hayride where the visitors were amazed at all the different types of apple trees as they wended through the apple orchards, including the dwarf apple trees for easy apple picking.

While the residents were enjoying the hayride, staff members went through the orchards, picking apples for them

to enjoy. However, before indulging, the residents were instructed to polish the big, red, juicy apples.

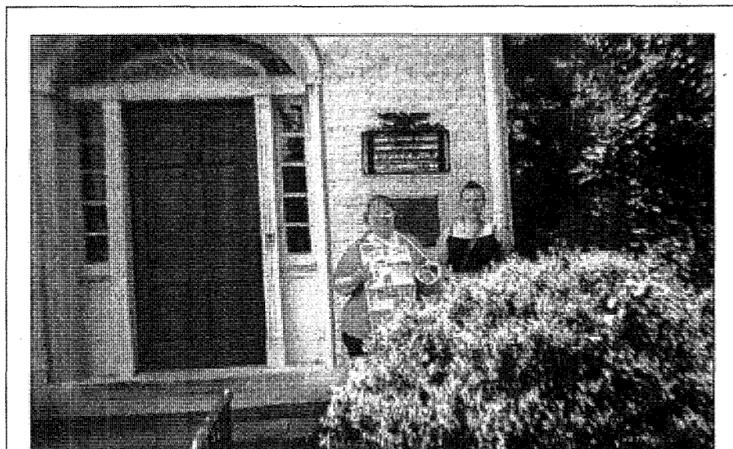
As part of the tour, they got to see how the fresh cider is processed, including the sorting of bad apples from the good apples and the mashing and pressing of the apples to produce the cider.

They visit also included a tour of the animal farm, where residents got to see cows, horses, pigmy goats, a turkey and even a llama and bee hives, where the farmers harvest honey.

The residents also sampled the fresh cider and homemade donuts and most purchased some for

a treat later at the facility.

Olympia Group is an alliance of extended-care facilities that is committed to providing a continuum of short-term and long-term care services. The 230-bed Westland facility provides a wide variety of services to promote recovery from orthopedic injuries, including fractures, dislocations and hip/knee replacements; surgery; acute onset of medical condition; neurological disorders, such as stroke, traumatic brain injury, Parkinson's and ALS, as well as neuromuscular disorders and other complex diagnosis.



Wish You Were Here

Mike and Carol Garrett of Garden City took a trip to visit their daughter and son-in-law, Lisa and Gabe Kleinert of Smyrna, Tenn., and along the way did some sightseeing. One of the places they visited was the ancestral home of James K. Polk in Columbia, Tenn. And it was on the front porch of the Polk home that Carol Garrett and her daughter Lisa posed with their Garden City Observer for a Wish You Were Here. The photographer was Mike Garrett. "Unfortunately, Gabe couldn't join us as he was at work," wrote Carol Garrett. "But we had a wonderful time." If you go on vacation, be sure to take a picture with your Observer and send it to Sue Mason as a jpg at smason@hometownlife.com or by mail to her attention at 615 W. Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226. Be sure to include your name and information about your photo.

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Remember your loved ones that you've lost by placing a special holiday remembrance tribute for the holidays. The Observer and Eccentric/Hometown Weekly Newspapers will be publishing a special "In Remembrance" page for the holidays. Here's the perfect opportunity to honor the memory and celebrate the life of loved ones who hold a special place in your heart.

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How to check on your tax refund status

By Rick Bloom
Guest Columnist

Last year, the IRS issued \$358 billion in tax refunds. And of those refunds, \$116 billion in checks were issued to 45 million taxpayers. In addition, of those checks, about \$153 million, issued to a little over 99,000 taxpayers, were returned to the IRS. The main reason is quite simple — the IRS has the wrong address on file. Among those 99,000 taxpayers with incorrect addresses on file with the IRS, 2,080 are from Michigan and they are owed over \$2 million by the IRS. In the big picture, the dollar amounts of returned checks, particularly to Michigan residents, are relative-



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

ly small. That being said, I've always believed that money looks better in your pocket than it does in anyone else's and I am never cavalier about other people's money. Therefore, I thought it was important to discuss the situation.

If you have not received your refund from last year, you know something is wrong. Even if you have filed an extension, most people should have received their refund by now. If you have not received your

refund, now is the time to be proactive. There are a couple of different ways to find the status of your refund. First is to go to the IRS website (IRS.gov) and click on the online tool entitled "Where's my Refund" to obtain the status of your refund. You may find that you are one of those 2,080 Michiganders and that either you have an incorrect address on file with the IRS or something a little more sinister occurred such as someone stole your refund check and cashed it themselves. Either way it's your money and you shouldn't forget about it.

For those of you who don't feel comfortable using the Internet, you can find the same information by contacting the IRS at (800) 829-1954. If

you determine that your check has been lost, your address is incorrect, or something more sinister occurred, all you would need to do is complete IRS form 3911. Once you send the IRS this form, along with any backup information, it generally takes about six weeks for them to issue a new check.

In dealing with the IRS, it is important to remember that they do not call you nor do they e-mail you. Therefore, if you get an e-mail claiming that they're the IRS and they have a refund check for you, you know that it is bogus and the e-mail is a scam. No matter how legitimate the e-mail looks, it is bogus and you ought to delete it immediately.

For those of you who have not received refunds for a past year, you can follow the same procedures as stated above. The IRS literally has billions of unclaimed dollars owed to taxpayers.

It is mind boggling how much money people just forget about; whether it's IRS or State of Michigan tax refunds, or old bank accounts that are eventually forfeited to the state. These are difficult times and every dollar makes a difference. Therefore, we all have to do a better job of watching our money. After all, no one's going to do a better job of watching your money than you. In that regard, one thing you may wish to do to is sign up for direct deposit. The IRS has been encouraging people to sign up for direct deposit not just because it is easier for them, but because it is also easier for you and me. Of course, just like addresses can be written incorrectly, so can direct transfer information.

Therefore, if you decide to sign up for direct deposit, always make sure you double check the transfer information that you provide the IRS. Transposing of numbers can send your refund into someone else's account.

However, on the whole, a direct deposit for your refund does make sense.

One last point, more and more of us should be considering electronically filing our tax returns. If nothing else, you'll eliminate the risk that your tax return will be lost in the mail. I recognize that whether it is direct deposit or electronically filing tax returns, many of you just don't feel comfortable doing it. I think the main reason people don't feel comfortable is because they think something can go wrong. I agree that direct deposits and filing returns electronically are not foolproof; however, I think most would agree it is safer than using snail mail. Good luck!

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

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GARDEN CLIPPINGS

Coat Drive

The Garden City High School cheerleaders are conducting a coat drive for those in need.

Donations can be dropped off at boxes at the high school, Douglas 3-4 Campus and Memorial 1-2 Campus now through Thursday, Dec. 22. All sizes of new or gently used coats, mittens, hats and gloves will be accepted.

Zumba with Cougars

The Lady Cougar Basketball Program is holding a Zumba fundraiser from 6:30-9:30 p.m. Sun-

day Dec. 11, at Garden City High School, 6500 Middlebelt, north of Ford.

Enjoy one hour of Zumba fun and fitness for only \$7 per session. Bring a towel and water and be ready to go. (No locker rooms will be available).

For more information, call (734) 635-2388.

Light Night

Rufus Harris will be making a return appearance at Garden City Presbyterian Church's Saturday Night Light on Saturday, Dec. 17.

The pastor of The Bridge Church in Pontiac, Harris was the princi-

ple singer and songwriter in a band called Jubal and became one of the most requested recording engineers in Detroit. When the band disbanded, he started sharing his music and message at churches, festivals, and prisons. He is a national platform artist for Chuck Colson's Prison Fellowship and Operation Starting Line — where he shares the Gospel with inmates in different parts of the country.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the free concert starts at 7 p.m. Garden City Presbyterian is at 1841 Middlebelt, south of Ford Road.

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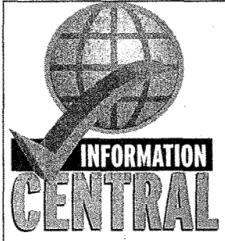
In recent weeks, the investigation of the death of Natalie Wood was officially re-opened. On the night of Nov. 28, 1981, the actress fell overboard while boating off an island with her husband Robert Wagner and actor Christopher Walken. At the time, the coroner ruled her drowning an accident. Based on the comments of the ship's captain, the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department announced it would take another look at what really happened that night.

With these fresh allegations so near the 30-year anniversary of Wood's death, there has been renewed interest in the actress. Here at the library, you can further your knowledge of Natalie Wood's life and career. You can check out what is arguably her most loved role as Maria in *West Side Story*, the musical retelling of *Romeo and Juliet* set in New York of the 1950s. In *Rebel Without a Cause*, she played Judy, the love interest of a tortured young man played by James Dean.

In a smaller role, Wood plays the teenage daughter of a middle-aged Hollywood has-been played by Bette Davis in *The Star*. Another teen role for Wood was in *The Searchers*, where she played the kidnapped niece of a Civil War veteran who sets out to find her, played by John Wayne.

The last movie we have available at the library is the Oscar-winning Christmas classic, *Miracle on 34th Street*, in which Wood played young Susan Walker.

If you'd prefer to read about the life of Natalie Wood, we have two biographies that celebrate her. Take your choice of Suzanne Finstad's *Nata-*



sha: *the Biography of Natalie Wood* or *Natalie Wood: A Life* by Gordon Lambert. Whatever your preference may be, the Westland Library is the perfect place to begin or even to further your familiarization with this accomplished actress.

For more information about suspicious deaths, accidents, actors or all things Hollywood, stop by the library. We are open seven days a week and you can always log on to our website at westlandlibrary.org.

HIGHLIGHTED ACTIVITIES

Open Mic Night: 7 p.m. Dec. 8

Open Mic will add color to your pre-winter blues!!! Poets, songwriters, bands, dancers and more are welcome. We have a friendly group who enjoy entertainers of all kinds and all levels. Our emcee for tonight is Detroit Music Awards-winning bluesman John Latini. No registration is required.

Screenwriting Workshop: 7 p.m. Dec. 8

Screenwriter and novelist, Drew Tierney, leads a new, monthly library workshop teaching you how to write scripts for the big and small screens. Sign up online www.westlandlibrary.org/events or contact andy.schuck@westlandlibrary.org for more information.

Friday Night Movie: 7 p.m. Dec. 9 Come join us as we continue our Fri-

day Night Movies for the month of December. This week's movie is *Super 8*. A group of friends who notice strange happenings going around in their small town begin to investigate a creepy phenomenon. This movie is rated PG-13. Snacks and refreshments are served. Trivia and prizes before the movie. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Job Seekers Lab: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesdays, 5-8 p.m. Wednesdays and 1-4 p.m. Fridays.

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

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

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

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

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

Information Central was compiled by Andrea Perez, homebound delivery coordinator. The William P. Faust Public Library is at 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland. For more information, call (734) 326-6123 or go online to westlandlibrary.org.

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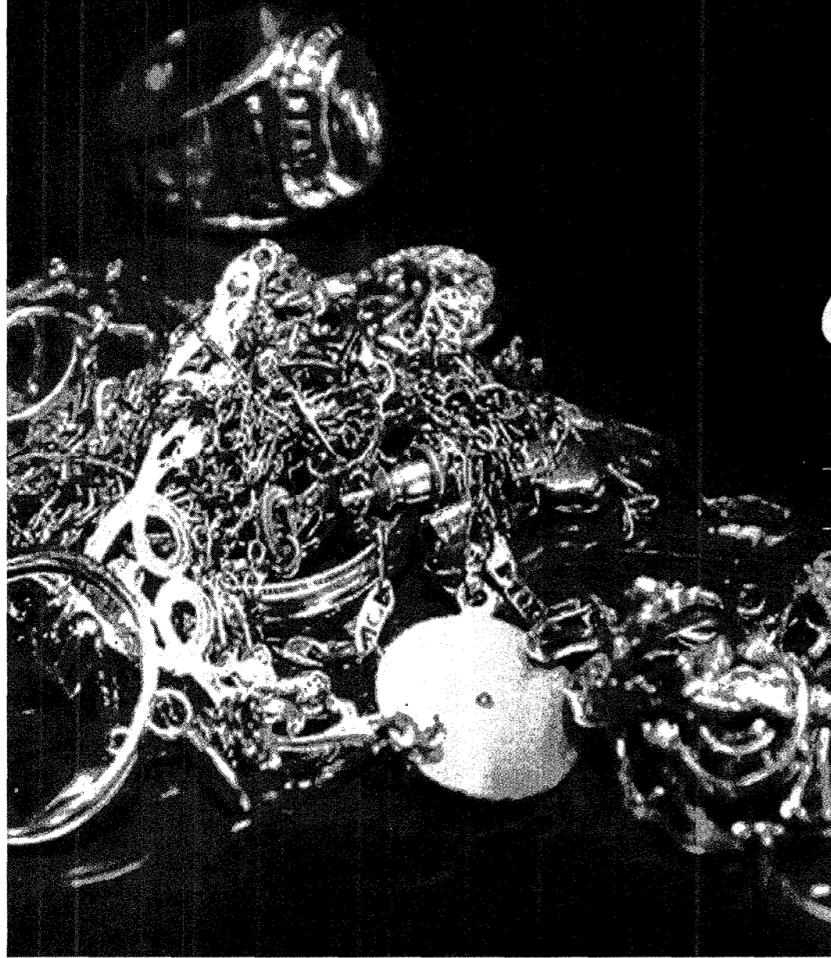
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GC students, staff show off talents

By Sue Mason
Observer Staff Writer

Garden City High School's O'Leary Auditorium will be getting a new sound system, thanks to the talent of the district's students and staff.

The district's annual talent show, Garden City Schools' Students and Staff Got Talent, raised \$2,155 for Angels of O'Leary, a fundraising group started by the high school drama and music departments to upgrade the auditorium's lighting and sound system.

"That's one thing we can check off the list to make things better for our students," said School Superintendent Michelle Cline who started the talent show three years ago "to bring people together to celebrate our educational community."

The show featured 20 acts, ranging from singing and dancing to juggling and representing every school building in the district. High school students Ron Richard and Nikki Hein served as hosts for the show.

The acts included youngsters from the Lathers Early Childhood and Kindergarten Center who wore their pajamas and slippers to sing *Rudolph*, while Shelby Fugitt from the Douglas 3-4 Campus wore a lei and hula skirt for her Hawaiian-style dance.

Chaunzey Motley of the Farmington 5-6 Campus had the Michael Jackson moves for his break dancing and made a second appearance to dance with Cambridge High School's Ryan Stoenwall who donned a silver glove to dance to Michael Jackson's *Billie Jean*.

But the crowd pleaser came from Burger East School for Students with student Jacob McCorry and his teacher Michelle Orow singing a duet of *The Rainbow Connection* from *The Muppet Movie*.

The judges — students at Garden City High School and members of the school board — decided the winners of the talent show award for student and staff. The people's choice award for student and staff was determined by bribe buckets, circulated around the audience by school board member Darlene Jablonowski with help of John Szczotka. The act that raised the most money was the winner.

Winning the talent show was the Morton Brothers Band made up of Ian, Theoren, and Trevor Morton of the Farmington 5-6 Campus and Stu-



Stacey Mutafis, a Burger West staffer, won the staff bribe bucket award for her performance of "Baby Changes Everything."



Dr. Andy Holmberg, a psychologist at Burger East and West, gets a hug from school board Secretary Darlene Jablonowski after winning the educator's "Teaching with the Head and Heart" Hometown Spirit Award.



Youngsters from the Lathers Early Childhood and Kindergarten Center open the talent show with their rendition of "Rudolph."

dents Services Director Stanley Szczotka and his son John who performed *Hey Soul Sister*.

The student bribe bucket award went to McCorry and Orow who raised more than \$86, while Stacey Mutafis, a teacher at Burger West, won for her performance of *Baby Changes Everything*.

"There were only four winners, but they all are winners," said Cline.

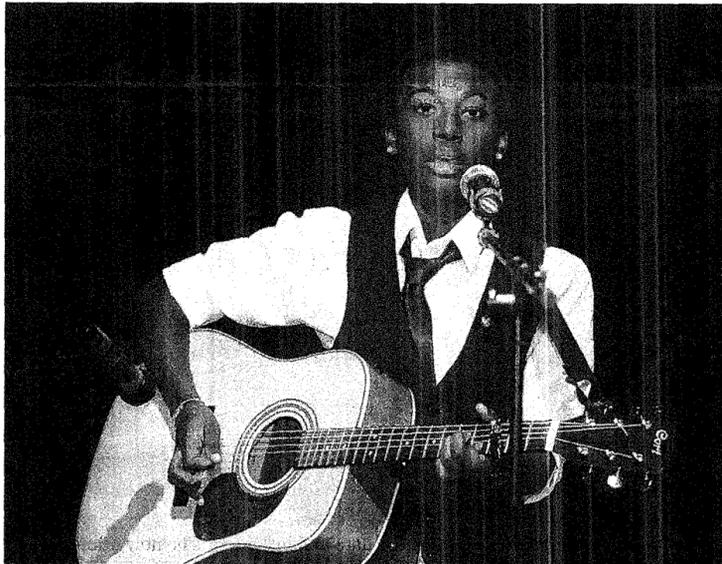
Show goers also bid on a variety of gift baskets in a silent auction, featuring a Night on the Town with dinner and tickets to the Garden City High School Choral Concert and a performance of *Wizard of Oz* in March,

a Christmas tree made of instant lottery tickets, a University of Michigan-themed basket and Barnes & Noble basket filled with books and a book light.

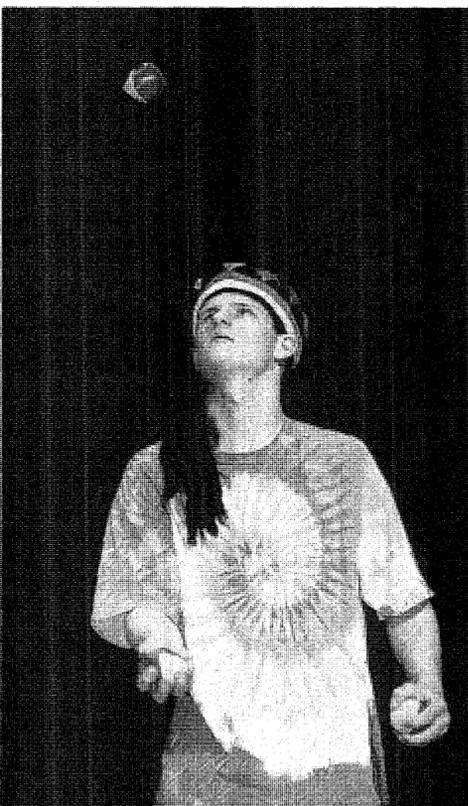
"We have amazing students and staff and we do not celebrate them often enough," said Cline. "The talent on the stage was breathtaking, this was a really positive community outreach event."

The talent show was videotaped and will air on the district's cable channel and be posted on the district's website at www.gardencityschools.com by Friday, Cline added.

smason@hometownlife.com
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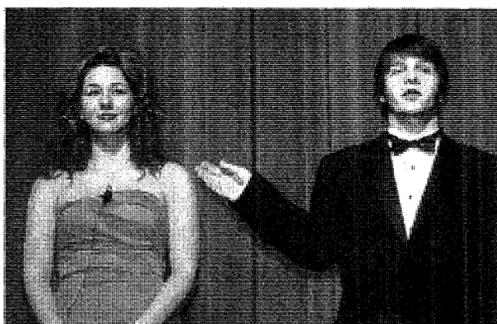
Alyx Claxton from Cambridge High School billed himself as the "next American Idol" for his talent show performance.



Nicholas Griwicki, a staff member at Lathers Early Childhood and Kindergarten Center, shows off his juggling skills.



Youngsters from the Memorial 1-2 Campus got some help for the staff in performing "Rockin' Round the Christmas Tree."



Serving as the hosts were Garden City High School students Nikki Hein and Ron Richard. He also won the Hometown Spirit Award for "Giving Graciously" for volunteerism.



Trevor Morton from Farmington 5-6 Campus performed with his brothers as the Morton Brothers Band.



Mary Dekker, Hope Wayne Clinic coordinator (from left), joins Lillie Tabor, president of the Metro Health Board of Trustees, Geri Hochbaum, Hope Wayne Clinic office manager, and nurse Dorothy Elliott, Hope Clinic board member, in accepting a Metro Health grant of \$20,000.

Hope Medical gets grant to fund clinic

Metro Health Foundation of Detroit recently awarded a grant of \$20,000 to Hope Medical Clinic Inc. to help support the part-time Wayne Medical Clinic coordinator as she works to expand the services provided by Hope's satellite medical clinic in western Wayne County.

Based on the model of Hope Medical Clinic in Ypsilanti, the Wayne clinic provides free medical care to low-income, uninsured adults. All treatment is provided by volunteer medical professionals, supported by a small paid staff. St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia provides laboratory services and X-rays. Referrals for specialty treatment are available through Hope's Ypsilanti Medical Clinic.

Hope opened the Wayne satellite clinic in August 2007 in borrowed space in a church basement. In May 2010 the clinic moved to its own building on Chestnut Street in Wayne. On Dec. 29, an explosion occurred in the building adjoining the Wayne Clinic.

No one was in the clinic at the time of the explosion, and the clinic's medical records, equipment, and supplies were largely unharmed. The building was declared structurally unsound, and the clinic was forced to move. Since February, the Hope Wayne Clinic has leased an office suite at the Metro Place Mall at 35425 W. Michigan Ave., also in Wayne.

The Metro Health grant will help the Wayne Clinic grow its services during the coming year. Plans are underway to return the clinic to a permanent home. A major goal is to recruit more volunteer clinicians who provide patient care, allowing more patients to be seen at each clinic session. The clinic coordinator will also work toward recruiting more specialty-care providers, strengthening church partnerships and increasing services for clinic patients at area hospitals.

"The need for medical care among low-income, uninsured residents of Wayne County continues to grow. We are encour-

aged by what we have achieved at the Wayne Clinic over the past several years with Metro Health's support," said Cathy Robinson, executive director. "There is still a tremendous unmet demand for healthcare in western Wayne, and this grant will help us provide more medical care for patients in need."

Hope Medical Clinic is a nonprofit, interdenominational Christian agency located in Ypsilanti that provides free medical and dental care to uninsured people, plus a range of other services aimed at meeting the needs of low-income individuals and families. Hope Clinic is a United Way of Washtenaw County-funded agency. For more information about clinic hours, services, or volunteer opportunities at the Hope Wayne Clinic, call (734) 710-6688.

Metro Health Foundation is a private Detroit grant-making foundation supporting Michigan organizations in health-care and health-related needs.

BUSINESS HAPPENINGS

Take a ride

All aboard Santa's Polar Express which is making a return trip to Westland Shopping Center Friday and Saturday, Dec. 9-10. Free train rides will be available 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The train starts and ends at the "station" in the Kohl's Court. It's electric, trackless and big enough for passengers of all ages.

And while you're there, stop by and say hello to Santa Claus. He'll be greeting youngsters in the East Court 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday and noon to 6 p.m. this weekend. For more hours, check the shopping center's website at www.westlandcenter.com.

Westland Shopping Center is at 35000 W. Warren Road at Wayne Road, Westland.

Help Goodfellows

Residents are invited to join the Farhat Allstate Insurance in helping the Westland Goodfellows this holiday season.

Allstate Agency Owners Hassan and Sami Farhat of the Farhat Insurance Agency will donate \$5 each time a person obtains an insurance quote from the agency. In addition, the agency is collecting non-perishable food items and toys Saturday, Dec. 10, to support the annual drive.

Residents have the option of visiting or calling the agency at any time for an insurance quote. In addition, the public is invit-

ed to an open house 6-8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 8, at the agency at 956 Newburgh, Westland.

"Giving back is the best part of my job," said agency owner Hassan Farhat. "Supporting families who are in need is a natural extension of what my agency does every day — helping people prepare for the unexpected."

Residents can stop by 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday to drop off non-perishable food and toys for needy Westland families.

For more information, call (734) 467-7840.

Toy collection

Help the Garden City Goodfellows ensure there's no child without Christmas. Drop off new, unwrapped toys through Wednesday, Dec. 21, at Century 21 Castelli, 1812 Middlebelt, Garden City.

For more information about donating, call Barb at (734) 644-2402.

Holiday party

Party Animal Travel is having a holiday party to raise fund for the Garden City Goodfellows. The party will be 6-10 p.m. Friday, Dec. 16, at Joy Manor Hall, 28999 Joy, east of Middlebelt, Westland Michigan.

The party costs \$39 per person and includes a full holiday buffet, dessert, beverage and dancing. During the party, there will be raffles, 50/50 holiday raffle and a chance to win holiday prizes and vacations provided by Party Animal Travel.

For tickets and more information, call (734) 525-9777.

Holiday luncheon

The Garden City and Dearborn Heights Chambers of Commerce will gather at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 13, at Garden City Historical Museum, 6221 Merrieman, north of Ford, for their annual holiday luncheon.

Bring plenty of business cards and some money for the raffle. There will be six baskets, and the money raised will go to charitable organization to help local needy families for the holidays.

The cost is \$15 per person. To reserve a seat, call the chamber at (734) 422-4448.

Copper Country treat

Too busy to cook this holiday season?

Stop by Mary Denning's Cake Shoppe, 8036 N. Wayne Road, north of Cowan, Westland, where Baker Charlie cooks up his Copper Country Style Pasties.

According to Charlie, "These are my mother's recipe. These pasties are made with ground sirloin, potatoes, rutabaga, onions and carrots."

You can pick them up at the store where they are ready for baking or call ahead - (734) 261-3680 - and the shop can have them hot and ready to eat when you get them. A great idea for lunch or dinner. Chicken pot pies and pizza rolls also are available.

And if you're looking for a different kind of Christmas present, they can all be shipped frozen anywhere in the United States.

BUSINESS NEWSMAKERS

Red Kettle Help

Co-op Services Credit Union is partnering with Greater Media Detroit to support The Salvation Army's annual Red Kettle Drive. Now through Dec. 18, people who visit any of Co-op Services eight branches throughout metro Detroit can donate \$1 to receive a paper Red Kettle to sign and display at the credit union.

The Red Kettle campaign is the charity's largest fundraiser of the year that helps provide critical services to people in need.

Co-op Services Credit Union has an office at 35050 Ford, east of Wayne Road, in Westland.

New initiative

A Westland medical practice is partnering with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan to launch a new initiative aimed at improving the quality of care for patients with prostate cancer.

The Michigan Urological Surgery Improvement Collaborative will look at how to reduce unnecessary testing in men with low-risk cancers, and how to provide more appropriate treatment for men with high-risk cancers. Urologists like those at Affiliates

in Urology in Westland will share data and information to develop guidelines for the use of certain therapies. Creating these standards should reduce variation in practice patterns, which can in turn improve the quality and cost-efficiency of care provided to men with prostate cancer.

"Our initial efforts will focus on improving patterns of care in the staging of men with newly diagnosed prostate cancer," said Dr. James Montie, professor of urology at the University of Michigan Health Center, the initiative's coordinating center. "We will use clearly defined evidence to guide us in staging bone and CT scans."

Montie will lead the initiative along with Dr. David Miller, an assistant professor of urology at UMHC.

Montie and Miller worked with colleagues in Michigan, Ohio, Indiana and Virginia to establish the Urological Surgery Quality Collaborative in 2009. That project has successfully reduced variations in practice patterns and improved adherence to recommended staging practices within participating urology groups. The Michigan initiative is based on the principles of the successful multi-

state collaborative.

The new Michigan Urological Surgery Quality Collaborative joins 30 other collaborations among primary care and specialty physicians participating in BCBSM's Physician Group Incentive Program. The program connects physician organizations across Michigan, supporting them in their efforts to collect data, share information and collaborate on initiatives that improve the way health care is delivered in Michigan.

"Data-sharing is one of the key elements that has led to improved care in other quality initiatives facilitated by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan," said Dr. David Share, vice-president and assistant chief medical officer, BCBSM Value Partnerships. "We hope to see similar success in this new program."

The Michigan Urological Surgery Improvement Collaborative is one of the programs under Value Partnerships, a series of initiatives among physicians, hospitals and the Michigan Blues, all aimed at improving quality and safety in medical care. For more information on this award-winning program, go to valuepartnerships.com.

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One wild rock and roll ride

By Diane Gale Andreassi
Staff Writer

Mitch Ryder's autobiography, released this week, recaps his soulful rock and roll music spanning more than four decades and delves into questions about love, his life journey and the changes he needs to make before it ends.

"Devils and Blue Dresses, My Wild Ride as a Rock and Roll Legend," (Cool Titles, \$25.95) is about the rise, fall and rise again in the life and career of the gravelly-voiced legend who makes his home with his wife, Megan, in South Lyon.

At one point in the book, Ryder, previously of Livonia, credits John Lennon with saving his life at a wild party; talks about his 10-city tour with Wilson Pickett and his work with John Mellencamp — who described Ryder as one of his early heroes. He touches on his suicide attempt; his immersion in a world wallowing in drugs and alcohol; making music without compromising his stands; the mistakes he made — the marriages and divorces; the sex, and finally the personal growth he still struggles to make. If that's not enough the book also includes a link for a music download.

With 27 albums to his credit, Ryder still writes and is ready if an opportunity comes to produce another work. Mitch Ryder and the Detroit Wheels were inducted into the Michigan Rock and Roll Legends Hall of Fame in 2005. The group's biggest hit, "Devil with a Blue Dress On/Good Golly, Miss Molly," was voted a Legendary Michigan Song in 2008. In



"Devils and Blue Dresses, My Wild Ride as a Rock and Roll Legend," (Cool Titles, \$25.95) is about the rise, fall and rise again in the life and career of the gravelly-voiced legend who makes his home with his wife Megan in South Lyon.

2009, Ryder was inducted into Michigan Rock and Roll Legends for a second time in recognition of his long career as a solo artist.

Born William LeVise Jr. in Detroit in February 1945, he was the oldest son of eight children in a cash-strapped family. His father, William LeVise Sr., was a singer, but gave it up to support his family.

As a boy, Ryder often stayed with his Italian grandparents in Detroit where he visited clubs and immersed himself in black music. He hung out at The Village listening to the hottest rhythm and blues in the early '60s. His high school band, Tempest, honed its energetic live act at church dances, bar mitzvahs and other venues.

At 17, he recorded an R&B single, "That's The Way It's Going To Be/Fool For You" for the Detroit gospel label Carrie. He went on to front The Peps, a vocal trio. He was also fronted a band called Billy Lee & The RIVERS. Ryder met produc-



er Bob Crewe, who took the band to New York and ultimately opened the door to a lot of other venues. But, it also closed the door to some personal relationships.

"I happen to believe that the most important thing in my life is the art that I practice and that causes complications in my personal relationships, which on the downside is a shame, because those truly are more important than artistic achievements I can create," he said Monday morning.

"So what I have to do while I'm working on these projects is continue to try to strengthen personal relationships with

my immediate family and extended family," Ryder said. "The art is something I can control. If you are in a relationship, control cannot be an issue. The problem is giving up the control and two different people coming together as a unit."

Early fame

Ryder said his early problems were the result of fame that came too early. He mentions the breakup of his first marriage and his abandonment of his two children, Dawn and Joel, as another big regret.

"When you're a teenager and international success is thrown in your lap it's difficult to be ready

for that," Ryder said. "It lead to a lot of bad moves and we got ripped off millions and millions of dollars."

Mitch Ryder and The Detroit Wheels reached billboard chart fame in 1965 with "Jenny Take a Ride;" in 1966 with "Little Latin Lupe Lu" and with the top five smash "Devil with a Blue Dress On/Good Golly Miss Molly." In 1967 "Sock It To Me Baby" reached the top four before Ryder split from the band to pursue a solo career.

Ryder said he angered some powerful people in the music business when he lost faith in their vision for his career. He lost his fame, his money and even his family, at one point working in a Colorado warehouse just to get by.

"I went into music having an idea of what kind of music I wanted to do and it became a contest and struggle to change that course," Ryder said. "I don't think anyone is beyond compromise — even thieves. I was too immature. I didn't have

an advocate. My agent was my manager, my publisher and my legal adviser."

Ryder writes in the book, "Did fame solve any of my problems or make my life easier? Hell, no. Fame only did one important thing for me. It gave me a goal to overcome, or die trying."

"When fame hit I began spending the rest of my life enjoying it, destroying it, retrieving it, and finally trying to prove myself deserving," writes Ryder.

'Ready to roll'

His current wife, Megan, eloquently pens a heartfelt foreword talking about life with Ryder. Learning to feel and express love like hers is a life goal Ryder continues strive toward.

In addition to promoting his book, Ryder is currently working on a musical about love that he hopes to finish by next summer.

"No one thinks I can do it but me," Ryder said. "I hope that will be my crowning achievement — to reach for the impossible, to take on the challenge. I don't want to go to my deathbed and have people say, 'Oh yeah, he's the one who recorded that song 60 years ago. I want to be recognized for my continuous and unstoping art form. I'm deeply enmeshed in it. It's a very complex thing.'"

He also continues to write songs and has 10 that are ready to be released if someone asks. "They're ready to roll," he said. "When the opportunity knocks you have to be ready."

Ryder maintains the high energy, gravelly singing style influenced by Little Richard, and his dynamic stage performances, influenced by James Brown, in current performances.

His biggest obstacle he had to overcome during his career, he said, "Is me."

With a steady following in Germany and throughout Europe, Ryder is planning a two-month tour in Germany this winter and when he can find time away from promoting his book he will continue writing his musical. "The core of the musical is just love," Ryder said. "We spoke of my difficulty in reaching and understanding that and here I am now — looking at finding out what that really means."

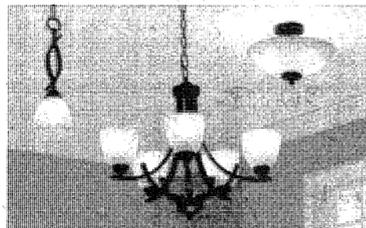
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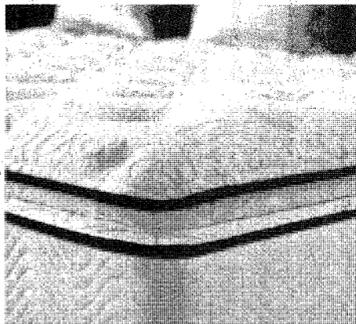


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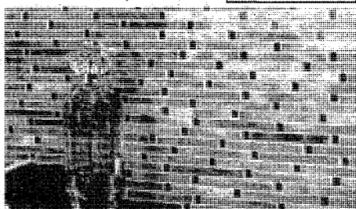
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Official City Newspaper
Complete specifications and pertinent information may be obtained from the Purchasing Office or at http://www.CityofWestland.com The City of Westland reserves the right to reject any or all bids.
William Gabriel
City Controller
Publish: December 8, 2011
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The minutes from regular and special Council meetings are available at:
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Current requests for bids and proposals are available at:
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You can also access this information at Garden City City Hall or the Garden City Library during regular business hours or in the Garden City Police station lobby 24 hours a day.
Publish: Jan. 13, Feb. 17, Mar. 17, Apr. 14, May 12, June 9, July 14, Aug. 11, Sept. 15, Oct. 13, Nov. 17, & Dec. 8, 2011
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Cyber bullying: Parenting trumps child's privacy

By Ken Shallcross
Guest Columnist

I personally would like to thank Senator Glenn Anderson for explaining his decision to vote against the recent anti-bullying bill, and commend him for exposing the inadequacies of the bill. He is certainly on to something, if what he says is true. It appears that while the bill has good intentions, there seems to be a lack of accountability. That prompts me to ask: what good are laws if there is no recourse?

Parents, it's time we take matters into our own hands. We have watched for the past few years as cyberbullying has indeed become the biggest online threat our kids face today. But sadly, the problem won't go anywhere - no matter how many laws get passed - until the parents of the bullies KNOW what their kids are doing online and care enough to step in and stop it.

Statistics, surveys, studies and experts all agree that the best solution for child online safety is parental involvement, awareness and vigilance. But what about common knowledge of the fact that kids are programmed to take risks and naturally do what their parents tell them not to? That's why we created PC Pandora computer monitoring software. It works like a TiVo for your PC and records ALL content - so parents can see exactly what their child has been doing online.

While it's incredibly easy to become just a sales person for our software, I have chosen to

wage a war on cyberbullying by changing the mindset of parenting through a discussion of philosophy.

Why is every parent in the country not using monitoring software? Why do parents continue to let their kids surf in a non-monitored environment? Why do parents hand their children advanced technology and a virtual connection to the real world and never look to see how they are using that tool and Internet connection? Because, for some reason, when it comes to using software to monitor child Internet activity, many parents are still apprehensive. Many parents feel their child's privacy and right to live their online lives as they would trump the duty of parenting. This is ridiculous as much in theory as it is in practice. There is no privacy online. For the most part, everything they do online is public. The only person a child is remaining private from is their parents. That doesn't seem right.

Also, parents will often feel that simple filters and blocks are good enough to keep their kids safe on the Internet. In reality, that couldn't be further from the truth. When kids know no one is looking, and when they can hide behind the screen, they will not think twice before doing something they shouldn't. Also, filters and blocks won't stop your child from creating additional accounts on social networking sites with the intent of using them to bully others.

Cyberbullying relies on anonymity. But if every parent knew how their child was acting towards

others online, bullies would be exposed, and parents could start dealing with the situation head-on. Why do we have a complacency to sit back and pretend there is no problem until our child is a victim? Why is there no pledge or desire from parents to be sure and double check that their child is not part of the problem.

We want to change that mindset. It's one of the reasons we put all our effort into creating a tool that gives parents complete knowledge of what their children are really doing on the computer and on the Internet. When we remove the anonymity and expose the bullies, we'll take a step closer to ending the bullying.

2012 needs to be the year that parents wake up and learn just how little they actually know about their children's online habits. Many parents think they know what their kids are doing, the truth is they most likely have no clue.

It's time to stop guessing and assuming. It's time to know. Don't wait for government to react, be a strong 21st century parent and act first. Know what your kids are doing online and know how they are treating others. Help put an end to cyberbullying by making absolutely sure your child is not a part of the problem.

Ken Shallcross is the director of public outreach for Pandora Corp, maker of PC Pandora computer monitoring software. Monitor Internet activity of your kids and help end cyberbullying now. Visit www.pcpandora.com for more information.

Anderson honored by Fight Crime

State Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, received the 2011 Champion Crime Fighter Award from Fight Crime: Invest in Kids Michigan at the nonprofit anti-crime organization's annual meeting in Lansing this week.

"Senator Anderson has distinguished himself as a leader for children," Pelleran said. "He has consistently supported investments in children that include increasing family functioning through parent education home visiting programs, high-quality preschool and after-school programs, funding to ensure quality public schools, and programs that support the social, and emotional developmental needs of young



Fight Crime: Invest in Kids Michigan state director Kathy Pelleran presents State Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, with an award for his work on behalf of children.

"By working to ensure the success and safety of our youngest citizens, Senator Glenn Anderson is indeed Fighting Crime by investing in kids," she said.

Fight Crime: Invest in Kids is a nonprofit anti-crime organization led by more than 5,000 chiefs, sheriffs, prosecutors and crime survivors. Its 480 Michigan members know that the most powerful weapons in the arsenal to fight crime are the proven programs that help kids get the right start in life - programs like high quality after-school programs, early childhood school readiness, abuse and neglect prevention and getting troubled kids back on track, Pelleran said.

people. This includes bullying prevention.

According to Pelleran, Anderson's efforts brought about the final passage of bully prevention legislation to require that all school districts have policies in place.

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OUR VIEWS

Be ready

Prepare now for the winter weather

After enjoying a beautiful fall season, it's inevitable that Old Man Winter is lurking. He's already teased us with a smattering of snow, but we know the worst is yet to come, those days when the kids go to bed with their pajamas on backwards in hopes of a snow day.

It is Dec. 8, after all. And, this is Michigan, lest we forget.

Here's a little reminder, though. According to the National Weather Service, Michigan's temperatures last winter were below average across the state and the coldest since 1993. This past winter ranked as the 20th coldest winter on record. The most extreme arctic cold occurred on Jan. 13-18, when lows dipped below zero across much of the state. Dangerous wind chill temperatures reached 30-40 degrees below zero. Snowfall and precipitation were also above average, especially here in southeastern Michigan.

Information on winter safety tips including FAQ's, frozen pipes, roof ice dams, flooding, flood damage, heat sources, and generator safety can be found on the Michigan Committee for Severe Weather Awareness website at www.mcswa.org.

Here are some safety tips to help you prepare for a winter storm.

At home

- Gather appropriate goods for your 72-hour emergency kit.
- Have a supply of warm coats, gloves, hats, and water resistant boots available.
- Be sure to have extra blankets available in the event of a power loss.
- Be sure to have items needed for infants, elderly and disabled family members.
- Also have needed items available for your pets.
- Be aware of potential fire and carbon monoxide hazards if using a fireplace, wood stove or other heating device. Never use a fuel-powered heater indoors.

Outside

- Avoid overexertion, such as shoveling heavy snow, pushing a car, or walking in deep snow. Sweating can lead to chill and hypothermia. Cold weather puts additional strain on your heart.
- Be careful walking on snow or ice covered sidewalks or parking lots.
- Wear loose fitting, lightweight warm clothing in layers, with the outer layer being waterproof. Wear a hat and mittens or gloves.
- Keep your clothes dry. Change wet clothing immediately to prevent loss of body heat.
- Understand the hazards of wind chill. As wind speed increases, heat is carried away from your body more rapidly.

Vehicle preparedness

- Winterize your car now. Ensure that there's the proper mixture of antifreeze and water in the cooling system. Top off windshield washer fluid. Check tires, belts, hoses and the battery.
 - Keep fuel level near "full" as much as possible. Low fuel levels allow condensation to build up in your tank, allowing for fuel line freeze-up. In severe weather, it may also be difficult to find a gas station that is open, so fuel up when severe weather is being predicted.
 - Every vehicle should be equipped with the following emergency supplies, kept in a storage bin when severe weather is predicted or when going on a trip: flashlight with extra batteries, cell phone, windshield scraper, jumper cables, fire extinguisher, maps, shovel, blanket/heavy clothes, flares, bottled water/food/snacks, first aid kit, tow chain or rope, de-icer, antifreeze.
 - When on the road, know your routes and plan ahead. This list may sound a little excessive, but if you're caught off guard, you'll be glad you had every one of these items available to you.
- Remember, in a true emergency, you need to be able to take care of yourself and your family first. Emergency responders will be flooded with true 9-1-1 emergencies (fires, medical emergencies, downed utilities, etc.).

COMMUNITY VOICE

How much do you plan to spend for Christmas this year?

We asked this question at Westland Shopping Center in Westland.



"About \$150, I'm going to college right now."
Tesha Giese
Garden City



"\$500, it's about what I usually spend, but I may cut down this year."
Bernie Lockenone
Dearborn Heights



"Probably at least \$500."
Mike Abramowicz
Canton



"I never have an idea, it's always a surprise."
Elaine Grzebyk
Westland

LETTERS

Thank you, Westland

Thank you to everyone who participated in Westland's recent City Council election. Also, thank you to the Westland Observer for allowing me to personally thank everyone who voted, my personal supporters, all other candidates, the Westland mayor and city clerk, and election workers and volunteers.

Getting to know politics in Westland has been an exciting experience because I've spent many months getting to know so many citizens whom I otherwise wouldn't have met. I would like to thank all of you who supported me in the Nov. 8 election.

To all my neighbors in Westland: You have a lot of heart and I feel blessed knowing how many of you care. To all of those elected: The best of luck with the challenging work that lies ahead. It's not easy to be in your shoes and to serve while keeping the common good in mind. I'm rooting for you and for our success as a community. I will anticipate connecting with you all again and serving in the future.

Kevin Coleman
Westland

Feral cat problem

Recently, American Bird Conservancy, the nation's leading bird conservation organization, called on the mayors of the 50 largest U.S. cities to help stop the epidemic of feral cats that threaten our bird populations as well as scores of other wildlife species. In the letter, ABC urged the mayors to support responsible pet ownership and to oppose Trap-Neuter-Release programs that promote the feeding of outdoor cats.

Cat overpopulation is a human-

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

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Deadline: Letters must be received by 9 a.m. Monday to be published in the Thursday edition.

caused tragedy that affects the health and well-being of cats, our native wildlife and the public. Outdoor cats, even when well-fed, kill hundreds of millions of wild birds and other animals each year in the United States, including endangered species. Birds that nest or feed on the ground are especially vulnerable.

The domestic cat is an extremely effective predator that has been introduced by modern man into an environment whose native species are ill-equipped to defend themselves. For the cats, it means one easy meal after another. For native wildlife, it is a death sentence. It is not surprising, therefore, that studies indicate that the 95 million outdoor and feral cats on the loose in the United States kill at least 532 million birds each year, possibly significantly more.

Specifically, ABC is asking the mayors to issue a policy directive oppos-

ing TNR, and to halt city funding for the practice, if any is currently being expended. Clearly, dog overpopulation problems aren't solved by simply turning unwanted dogs loose onto the streets; the same should be true for cats. And TNR simply does not work in reducing the free-roaming cat problem. Study after study shows that TNR colonies do not diminish over time. Instead, they become dumping grounds for unwanted pets, and cats too wily to be trapped continue to breed. Instead, ensuring responsible pet ownership must be at the core of any long-term solution to cat overpopulation.

Cats can also transmit diseases such as rabies, toxoplasmosis and cat scratch fever to humans. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has declared that cats are the top carrier of rabies in domestic animals. Food left out at TNR colonies attracts not only more cats, but hungry wildlife as well, which increases the chances for interactions with rabid animals.

ABC suggests communities concerned about feral cats work to enact mandatory licensing programs, the fees from which can fund programs to help find homes for unwanted pets and educate pet owners about keeping their cats indoors. The dumping of unwanted pets at colony sites only serves to continue the inhumane cycle. Some TNR programs track TNR managers and neglect to track the TNR colonies themselves, compromising their ability to monitor related health and safety issues.

Darin Schroeder
vice president for Conservation Advocacy
American Bird Conservancy

GUEST COLUMN

Notaries become accountable to real estate deals

By **Bernard J. Youngblood**
Guest Columnist

Gov. Rick Snyder has signed into law a major step toward protecting property rights. Michigan prosecutors may now pursue felony criminal charges against notaries who knowingly partake in mortgage and deed fraud schemes. In addition, Public Acts 201 through 204 elevates mortgage fraud as a specific felony with new and more severe sentencing guidelines for those convicted.



Bernard J. Youngblood

As the register of deeds for Michigan's largest county, I enthusiastically endorse and support this new legislation.

In Wayne County, we have been at the forefront of prosecuting mortgage and deed fraud. Our Wayne County Mortgage and Deed Fraud Task Force was formed in 2005 and was the first of its kind in the nation. Our task force partnered closely with our state legislature to advocate for these new property protection laws.

Prior to being elected as the Wayne County's register of deeds

in 2001, I worked 30 years in the real estate industry as a real estate licensee and appraiser. Working within a variety of complex transactions in the greater Detroit metropolitan area has proven to be invaluable. My experience showed me that homes were being stolen from their rightful owners with literally the swipe of a pen.

In 2005, I invited the Wayne County prosecutor and sheriff to engage in a meaningful discussion about how we could collaboratively combat this new wave of crime developing before us.

After consultation with many victims and other authorities, it became apparent our existing law enforcement agencies did not have the resources available to chase down the streams of paper trail for this new crime activity. So we created our new Mortgage and Deed Task Force under the leadership of three Wayne County elected officials.

The following years of courtroom appearances were both frustrating and enlightening. It became readily apparent that the books lacked appropriate sentencing guidelines commensurate with the severity of stealing people's homes.

Many cases led to convictions for misdemeanors resulting only in a period of probation. The

courts were not armed to deliver the appropriate punishment to those involved with the paperwork intricacies of forgery and stealing a home or falsifying a mortgage. With this new legislation, that has now been changed.

Armed with six years of fraud investigating activity, the Wayne County team produced evidence and testified before the legislators on the need to update Michigan law.

Our investigative experience of more than 850 cases have punctuated the need for identifying a new specific crime and the increasing the sentence guidelines for the likes of the past 77 individuals found guilty. These new public acts will safeguard the right to property ownership in Wayne County and throughout the great State of Michigan.

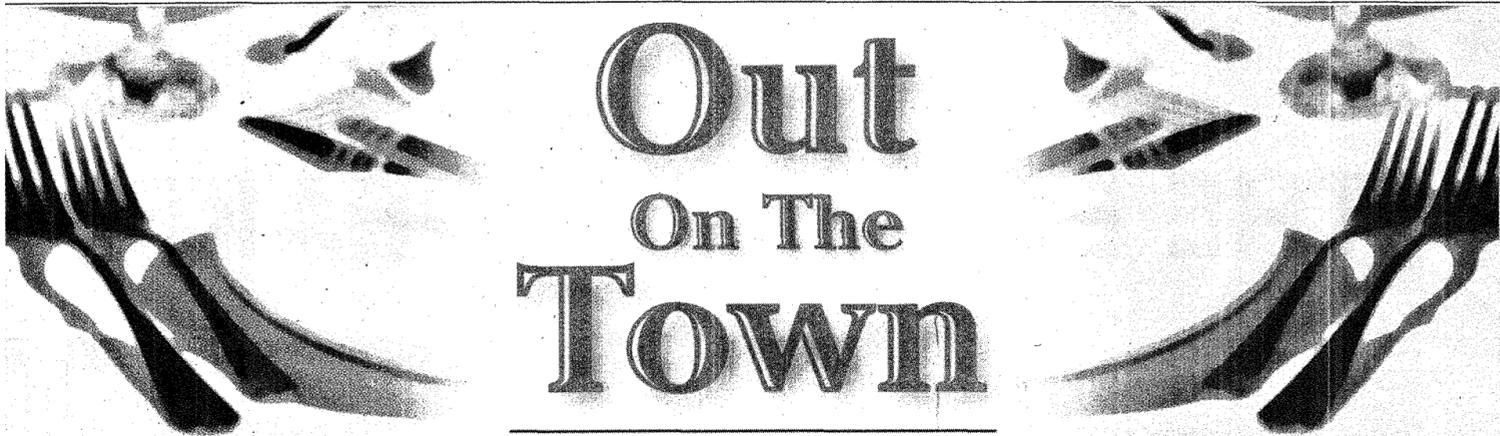
It has been a pleasure to be a part of this trailblazing effort that continues to serve, and I salute Gov. Snyder and the state legislature for their leadership and efforts.

Bernard J. Youngblood is the Wayne County register of deeds. For more information, call (313) 224-5854 or send an e-mail to rodhelp@co.wayne.mi.us.

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Liggett star torches Blazers

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

It's no coincidence why Madison Ristovski wears the No. 1 jersey for the Grosse Pointe Woods University-Liggett girls basketball team.

The 5-foot-10 senior guard left little doubt Monday night why she's a top candidate for Miss Basketball as she propelled the host Knights to a season-opening 73-32

victory over a formidable Livonia Ladywood squad.

Ristovski, who has signed with Michigan, finished with a game-high 29 points, but also dished out seven assists, many of which were highlight reel, no-look dishes for easy baskets.

In fact, it was the Ristovski show as younger sister Lauren, a freshman, added 15 points, while Haleigh, a junior, put the brakes on Lady-

GIRLS HOOPS

wood's talented junior point-guard Andie Anastos (four points).

Ladywood (1-2) hung with Liggett for a quarter, trailing only 15-13.

But the Blazers were outscored 16-4 during the second period and 25-9 in the third as Madison Ristovski nailed three consecutive NBA-range triples during the final 1:27 to give the Knights

a commanding 56-26 advantage heading into the final period.

"As good as advertised is the easiest way to put it," Ladywood coach Anthony Coratti said of Madison Ristovski and the Knights. "They sped us up and we made some uncharacteristic errors. It's very correctable stuff, so we'll be fine.

"I have not seen a person guard Andie (Anastos) guard her like No. 2

— Haleigh Ristovski — did. That was as impressive as No. 1 (Madison Ristovski) was.

"They're good, and they were better than us today."

Liggett is coming off a 25-2 season and a runner-up finish in the Class C state finals.

All five starters return including sophomore guard-forward Bre'nae

Please see **HOOPS, B2**

Naubert gets WHAC honor

The Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference announced late Monday that Madonna University sophomore guard Bobby Naubert (Livonia Stevenson) was selected Men's Basketball Player of the Week (ending Dec. 4)

The 5-foot-10 point-guard led the Crusaders to a perfect 2-0 week and the program's first 2-0 start to WHAC play since 2007 with a 66-64 upset win at No. 7 Indiana Tech and a 74-69 win over reigning NAIA Division II National Champion Cornerstone.

Against Tech, Naubert posted his second double-double of the season with 25 points and 10 assists while also pulling down four rebounds as MU won in Fort Wayne for the first time since 2007.

On Saturday against Cornerstone, Naubert just missed his second double-double of the week, pouring in a team-best 20 points while handing out seven assists.

Naubert averaged 22.5 points, 8.5 assists, 2.5 rebounds and a steal per game last week while shooting 69.6 percent from the field and 66.7 percent from beyond the arc.

Streaking MU wins 6 in row

Earns spot in NAIA poll

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

The state of Madonna University men's basketball couldn't be any better right now.

The Crusaders won their school-record sixth straight Saturday at home with a 74-69 Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference victory over Cornerstone, the defending NAIA Division II national champion.

The sophomore guard tandem of Bobby Naubert (Livonia Stevenson) and Travis Schuba are developing into a Frazier-Monroe and Thomas-Dumars backcourt combination after scoring 20 points apiece.

"It's just really good teamwork, we're working well together," said Naubert, a 5-foot-10 point guard who leads the nation with 8.2 assists per game. "Everyone just knows their roles on the

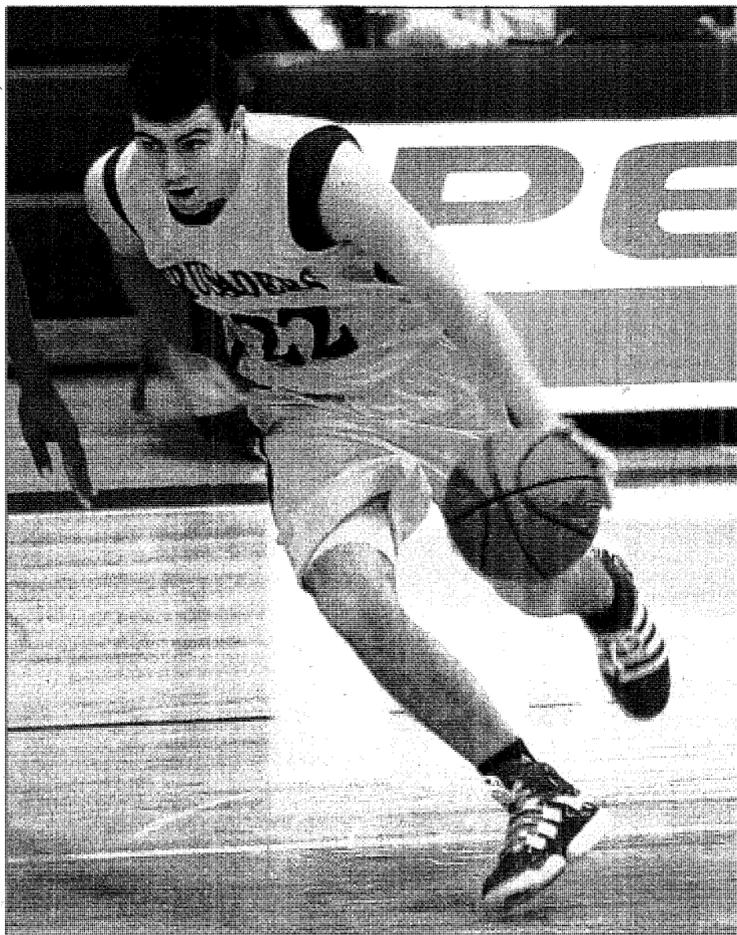
team. Everyone is working hard and we're getting good wins."

After starting out the season 0-4, MU now stands 6-4 overall and 2-0 in the WHAC.

And for the first time in school history Monday, the Crusaders earned an NAIA Division II men's basketball coaches poll ranking, appearing at No. 23.

"Our team has really bought into the idea of not focusing on winning or losing, more trying to do the best we can every day, both in practice and when we have a game," Madonna coach Noel Emehiser said. "We don't focus on the last game, whether it was a win or a loss. We don't focus on the next game, just try and stay on the idea being our best on each play and for an entire game."

Please see **STREAK, B2**



ANNA-MARIE GATT | MADONNA SPORTS INFORMATION
Travis Schuba, a sophomore from Rapid City, has been averaging 21 points per game during Madonna's school-record six-game winning streak.

Warriors no match for Annapolis, 63-34

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

The early stage of the 2011-12 boys basketball season is going to be a learning process for third-year coach Doug Haller and his Lutheran High Westland squad.

The Class D Warriors opened their season against Class A opponent Dearborn Heights Annapolis — which lost only one

senior from last year's 16-7 squad — and the result was predictable as the Cougars rolled to a 63-34 victory.

"We knew physically they were going to be bigger and a little more athletic," Haller said of Annapolis. "To beat a team of that caliber, you've got to take care of the ball and you've got to rebound better to start. If we don't do that we're

BOYS HOOPS

going to be in big trouble ... and we were."

Annapolis boasted a veteran front line that consisted up 6-foot-5 senior center Zackary Fields (19 points), along with 6-4 senior Colton Millia (nine points) and 6-3 junior Cody Nickrand (11 points).

"Zack (Fields) is consistent in there, he's strong

and he's got some good moves," Annapolis coach Robert Yoches said.

"Even a good post (player) will have a difficult time. You have to be very physical to stop him."

The Warriors fell behind 32-10 at halftime shooting only 4-of-19 from the floor, while committing 20 of their team total 32 turnovers.

"We've got to take better care of the ball, we

know that, and we've got to box out better," Haller said. "It's all got to be kind of a team thing. We can't have letdowns. That game was capable of being closer than it was, but you've got to be pretty good to compete with a team of their talent, size and everything else. But the one thing I liked was our effort right until the

Please see **WARRIORS, B3**



Gym dandies

The Xcel Silver Team from Livonia Ultimate Gymnastics captured first place with a score of 110.27 at the Gymnastics on the Grand Meet held Sunday in Grand Rapids. Team members include: Anna Baumgartner, Melani Kieling, Allison McDonnell, Marissa McVey, Madison Muszynski, Madison Pargoff, Jessica Semaan, Sarah Sokolowski and Kennedy Thurlow.

Lady Ocelots fall in tournament final

A technical foul with five minutes remaining turned the tide Saturday for host Kalamazoo Valley Community College as the Cougars downed Schoolcraft College, 95-77, for the Gillette Invitational women's basketball title.

The Lady Ocelots (7-2) had rallied from a 10-point deficit (52-42 with 12:26 to play) to pull within three, 68-65, when Charlise Slater was called for face-guarding Kendra Cook, who stepped to the line and nailed two free throws.

The unbeaten Cougars (9-0) then scored on the subsequent possession to complete the four-point play and it sparked a 26-11 run to end the game.

It was the most points allowed by a Schoolcraft team since the 112-102 loss to Glendale (Ariz.) CC on Dec. 22 — the same season Schoolcraft advanced to the NJCAA Division II

championship game.

Jennifer Lofts paced Kalamazoo Valley with 24 points and 10 rebounds, while Cook also notched a double-double with 18 points and 13 boards.

Megan Holland chipped in with 17 points and Sabrina Aguilar dished out eight assists.

Domonique Jones paced Schoolcraft with 22 points to go along with six rebounds and four assists.

Amber Sammons chipped in with 17 points and 10 boards, while Shawnicka Thomas and Slater scored 15 and 10 points, respectively, for Schoolcraft, which shot 41.4 percent from the floor (29-of-70), but only 4-of-20 from 3-point range (20 percent).

The Cougars connected on 21-of-34 free throws, compared with Schoolcraft's 15-of-19 (78.9 percent).

MU's Altman All-America

The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics has announced the 2011 Tachikara-NAIA Volleyball All-America teams as selected by the NAIA Volleyball All-America Selection Committee and Madonna University senior middle hitter Karie Altman (Taylor/Allen Park Cabrini) was selected to the All-America third team.

The 6-foot-1 Altman becomes the 46th All-America selection in the 25 year history of the Madonna volleyball program. She was a 2010 honorable mention All-America selection as a junior.

A 2010 CoSIDA/ESPN the Magazine Academic All-America for her work in the classroom, Altman paced the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference in attack percentage (0.385) and kills per set (4.1) while ranking third in total kills (456) and fourth in blocks per set (0.9).

Altman's attack percentage is the fourth best nationally, while her kills per set average ranks ninth and her 456 total kills is good for 31st in the country.

A two-time All-WHAC first-team selection, Altman was recently named to the Daktronics/NAIA Scholar-Athlete team for the second straight season.

U-D lacrosse signs Birney

University of Detroit Mercy women's lacrosse coach Laura Maness announced the signing of seven student-athletes to NCAA letters-of-intent for the 2013 season including Livonia Ladywood senior Kylie Birney (Plymouth), who finished her junior year with 56 goals and 14 assists.

Birney, who helped the Blazers to the Division 2 state semifinals, earned honorable mention All-State honors and made the All-Catholic League squad.

PREP WRESTLING CAPSULE OUTLOOK

LIVONIA CHURCHILL

Head coach: Marty Altounian, 14th year.
 League affiliation: KLAAs Kensington Conference (South Division).
 Last year's dual match record: 12-10.
 Notable losses to graduation: Jacob Meadows (first-team All-Area), Jon Bannoura (first-team All-Area), Mike Harp, James Locklear.
 Leading returnees: Jon Locklear, Soph., 119 (third-team All-Area); Josh Perez, Soph., 112; Ben Leck, Jr., 135; Manny Haddad, Jr., 285; Justin Baker, Jr., 140.
 Promising newcomers: To be determined.
 Altounian's 2011-12 outlook: "This team will be young and will have to work extra hard to overcome some kids that quit from last year's lineup. We seem to lose football players every year and have to scramble to cover the holes. We will be fine with the guys who are still here. They are hard-working, gritty young men. We should have some very nice growth out of our team throughout the year. They are learning more and more every day."

LIVONIA FRANKLIN

Head coach: Dave Chiola, 12th year.
 League affiliation: KLAAs Kensington Conference (South Division).
 Last year's dual match record: 23-7.
 Titles won last year: Livonia City and Division 1 district champions.
 Notable losses to graduation: Matt Roos (first-team All-Area), Steve Tuyo (first-team All-Area); Josh Hatfield (third-team All-Area); Alex O'Connor.
 Leading returnees: Gabe Martinez, Sr., 119-125 (first-team All-Area, state qualifier, 55-10); Dan Martinez, Jr., 119-125 (second-team All-Area, state qualifier); Avery Opperman, Sr., 160 (third-team All-Area, regional qualifier); Omar Haymour, Sr., 285 (third-team All-Area, regional qualifier); Allen

Steele, Jr. 171 (regional qualifier); Ryan Simmons, Sr., 215; Jordan Atienza, Soph., 140-145 (third-team All-Area, 48 wins);
 Promising newcomers: To be determined.
 Chiola's 2011-12 outlook: "This will be a difficult year for us I think. While we have many talented kids in the lineup - we lack depth at certain weights and have major holes in our lineup. We have a lot of guys that all grew into the same weight, so we will have some experienced guys on the bench, while some very inexperienced kids will be starting for us. We'll see how it goes as the season progresses. We will definitely need some dark horses to step up and surprise some people."

LIVONIA STEVENSON

Head coach: Dan Vaughan, eighth year.
 League affiliation: KLAAs Kensington Conference (Central Division).
 Last year's dual match record: 5-27.
 Notable losses to graduation: Ash Alhaj.
 Leading returnees: Joe Scott, Sr. 189 (second-team All-Area); Jacob Range, Sr., 215-285 (regional qualifier); Kody Roy, Jr., 145; Corey Davis, Sr., 130; Samer Shebak, Sr., 152.
 Promising newcomers: To be determined.
 Vaughan's 2011-12 outlook: "We'll be young, but our goal is to get better every single day and in every tournament. We have a full roster and then some. It's pretty exciting. We have a large freshman group that can fill all the weight classes. We have a youth club now and we'll see how it hopefully impacts us the next four years."

WESTLAND JOHN GLENN

Head coach: Bill Polk, 12th year.
 League affiliation: KLAAs Kensington Conference (South Division).
 Last year's dual match



Kyle Gillies
John Glenn



Gabe Martinez
Franklin



Dimitrus Renfroe
Wayne

record: 25-12.
 Titles won last year: Salem Invitational and Division 1 district champs.
 Notable losses to graduation: Kameron Jones (first-team All-Area); Derrick Campbell (third-team All-Area); D'Vonteono Anderson, Jon Mayes.
 Leading returnees: Kyle Gillies, Jr., 112 (first-team All-Observer, fourth in Division I, 53-9); Travis Mann, Jr., 152-160; Danny Croft, Sr. (captain), 171 (third-team All-Area); Kevin Wacker, Sr., 145-152; Anthony Long, Sr., 152-160.
 Promising newcomers: Dylan Morantes, Jr., 285 (transfer from Livonia Churchill); Zack Bower, Jr., 285.
 Polk's 2011-12 outlook: "I am excited about the group of kids we have returning from last year's team. They are a hard working core of wrestlers that are ready to make their mark at John Glenn. At this point I want to continue to be consistent with our goals and aspirations for the program. We did not make it back to Battle Creek last year due to obstacles that were not overcome so we look to get back on that track again. I like the leadership of our older kids and the work ethic of our younger ones so far. We were lacking some important tools as a team last year, but we seem to come together nicely at the end. My expectations are nothing less than making another run to the team state finals and earning more state medals individually."

WAYNE MEMORIAL

Head coach: Steve Vasiloff, seventh year.
 League affiliation: KLAAs Kensington Conference (South Division).
 Last year's dual match record: 20-6.
 Notable losses to graduation: Kevin Newborn (first-team All-Area), Jalen Jones (second-team All-Area), Nate Cavanaugh.
 Leading returnees: Dimitrus Renfroe, Sr., 215 (first-team All-Area, sixth in Division 1, 52-11); Tristan Jarosiewicz, Sr., 125; Devon Adams, Sr., 130; Allen Parker, Jr., 140; Sam Ekanem, Jr., 160; Lucas Hoffbauer, Jr., 171; Devin Korzetzki, Sr., 189.
 Promising newcomers: Jake Preiss, Fr., 103; Dominick Sanders, Fr., 112; Aaron Heinenon, Fr., 152.
 Vasiloff's 2011-12 outlook: "We are looking to improve on a 20-6 season from last year. We are one of the teams that has been fortunate enough to get better every season for the last five or six years. This is the first year I will be graduating more than a handful of seniors, and these guys have been working hard for four years. You'll be able to see it in our matches. Now that we have the experience. It's time to take down some of the teams that we have struggled against every season."

LIVONIA CLARENCEVILLE

Head coach: Aaron Davis, second year.
 League affiliation: Independent.

LUTHERAN WESTLAND

Head coach: Joseph Schmidt, third year.
 League affiliation: Michigan Independent Athletic Conference.
 Last year's dual match record: 7-9.
 Notable losses to graduation: None.
 Leading returnees: Zach Francis, Soph., 125 (second-team All-Area, state qualifier); Adam Seta, Jr., 130; Stewart Art, Sr. 135; Matt Dewitt, Soph., 140; Jacob Richter, Jr., 145; Nolan Edwards, Sr., 152; Jonah Lambert, Soph., 152; Kole Niemi, Soph., 152; Matt Sankey, Sr., 160; Martin Kemp, Jr., 160 (regional qualifier); Philip Welte, Sr., 171; Alex Reardon, Jr., 189; Brad Hura, Soph., 285.
 Promising newcomers: Matt Parent, Fr., 130; Caleb Richter, Fr., 125; Andrew Tuomi, Fr., 103; Nic Wisner, Fr., 112; J.R. Garcia, Fr., 112; Jacob Boval, Fr., 119; Patrick Capola, Soph., 119; Conner Evan, Fr., 130; Nathan Abbott, Fr., 135; Alex Davenport, Fr., 135; William MacMann, Fr., 140; Joshua Kuhn, Fr., 145; Joshua Matthews, Fr., 152; Cody Martines, Soph., 171; Thomas Krueger, Fr., 189; Cullen McNamara, Jr., 215; Newman Harper, Soph., 145.
 Schmidt's 2011-12 outlook: "I'm very excited going into this year our numbers are the best in school history as we have 34 kids out and two deep at almost all weight classes we will also be able to fill all the weight classes without bumping anyone for the first time in about six or seven years. The upper-classman are setting a nice example for the youngsters as this is the hardest working team that I can remember. This might also be the nicest group of kids we've had, which makes coaching a lot of fun. We were also able to add two assistant coaches in Justin Palka and Matt Lyon, and I've already seen the benefit of those two in the room. If the team keeps the hard work ethic up, I think its going to be a fun year."

STREAK

Continued from page B1

It was 39-39 at halftime in a rough-and-tumble physical game.
 Cornerstone (4-6, 1-1)

featured 6-8 sophomore center Dan Possehl, who finished with 15 points and seven rebounds.
 "We just really wanted to attack them, get them in foul trouble," Naubert said. "They've got a lot of really good guards

and we really have good shooters, so we just wanted to get the ball to the open guy and just get good shots, and get a win today."
 The Crusaders built a pair of eight-point leads in the second half as

Schuba nailed his fourth triple to make it 61-53 with 7:05 remaining and Matt Jenkins added a layup with 6:39 left to put MU up 63-55.
 Cornerstone never got closer than three the rest of the way as Schuba hit a pair of key free throws with 19 seconds to put Madonna ahead 70-66 and seal the victory.
 Junior forward Eoghann Stephens added 10 points and senior forward Tyler Coker added a team-best eight rebounds for MU.
 Cornerstone got a game-high 22 points from sophomore guard Wes Hudson, while senior guard Justin Yoder added 17.
 "They're such a physical team and they play at such a quick pace - we were really trying to play our game instead of falling into the trap of playing a Cornerstone-speed game," Emehiser said. "We did fall into that trap a couple of times, especially in the first half, but our guys are smart enough to make the adjustment out of it."

Naubert's assist numbers have doubled this season and it's been by design.
 "Me and coach (Emehiser) have been working a lot on reading defenses and hitting the open guy when they crash on me," the Stevenson grad said. "We have great shooters on this team in Travis Schuba, Matt Jenkins and Fred Williams, so we were just getting them the ball in open space and they were hitting shots. They've been playing well."
 And the Naubert-Schuba guard combination is establishing itself among the upper echelon of the WHAC.
 "Those two guys just really make each other better - with Schuba's ability to stretch the defense and take away the help side, and Naubert's ability to drive, penetrate and score," Emehiser said. "The two are a fantastic tandem as far as what they bring to the team. But most importantly, they play well together and feed off

each other. Just like rest of the team - each and every person is fulfilling their role on the team right now on both ends of the ball."
 MU will try and extend its school-record win streak to seven at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at home against University of Michigan-Dearborn.
LAKELAND (OHIO) 101, SCHOOLCRAFT 97: Schoolcraft College (5-2) put up a struggle Saturday before falling to host Lakeland Community College (9-0), the third-ranked team in NJCAA Division II.
 Chaz Rollins, a 6-6 freshman forward, paced the victorious Lakers, who led 50-42 at halftime after trailing by as many as 10, with 27 points.
 Freshman guard Deran Banton and 6-7 sophomore center Brendan Cooper added 20 and 17, respectively.
 Schoolcraft's 6-5 sophomore forward Karl Moore led all scorers with 33 points and added 17 rebounds.
 Corey Reynolds (Livonia Clarenceville) contributed a triple-double with 16 points, 10 rebounds and 11 assists. Sophomore forward Daniel Hill (Wayne Memorial) added 13 points and six boards, while LenDerrick Witcher had 10 points and five rebounds. Schoolcraft made 20-of-31 free throws.

HOOPS

Continued from page B1

Andrews, who added 11 points.
 Liggett plays in the Blue Division of the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference, which primarily consists of Class D and C schools.
 So third-year coach Wayne Gigante has beefed up his non-conference schedule with the likes of Ladywood, Dearborn Divine Child Goodrich, Detroit Cass Tech, Inkster and Beverly Hills Detroit Country Day.
 "Those (nonconference) ones let us know what kind of team we

have, that's the bottom line," Gigante said. "We've got some players, so you have to challenge with what you've got."
 Ladywood got 14 points from senior guard Briana Combs, who hit four 3-pointers. Junior guard Shelby Walsh added eight points, while senior center Morgan Chops contributed five points and eight rebounds.
 But the Blazers turned the ball over 20 times and shot only 11-of-49 from the floor (22.4 percent).
 "Defensively we played well," Gigante said. "They (Ladywood) hit some 'threes' on us early. You've got to get out and contest that, but we stopped their dribble penetration to some degree and we trapped."
 Madison Ristovski scored in a variety of ways - driving to the basket while using her left hand, hitting mid-range pull-up jumpers and draining (five) triples.
 "I'm a lucky coach - there's nobody better," Gigante said. "I've been around about 10 years doing girls basketball and I haven't seen anybody

like that. It looks like she's a boy. You watch her take a jump shot from three feet behind the line. That doesn't look like a girl, it looks like a boy. She's tremendous. She's a great kid, works hard, great leader."
 And the Liggett coach said Miss Basketball candidate now plays both ends of the floor.
 "Defensively she's stepped up her game tremendously over the past two or three years," he said. "She's progressed. When she was a sophomore when I came here she was a horrible defender, but got better as the year went on. Last year, really became better and better. This year ... different attitude defensively. Because she's so programmed offensively, I think that got a little lost in the shuffle during the development stages. She knows at the next level that 'I've got to be able to defend.' She's that good."
 As good as advertised for sure.

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Zebras survive squeaker; Trojans lose in OT, 60-55

Defense and rebounding were the keys to Wayne Memorial's season-opening 44-43 boys basketball victory Tuesday night at White Lake Lakeland.

The Zebras jumped out to a 12-3 first quarter lead, but had to rally late for the win thanks to a triple by Michael Cooper and a Sean Moore layup off a pass from Brian Smith with only 20 seconds remaining to give Wayne a three-point cushion.

Dezmon Burleigh paced the Zebras with 15 points, while Cooper added 11.

"We played well defensively and kept our composure at the end," Wayne coach Mike Schuette said.

Chuck Sanders and Troy Baertson paced the Eagles with 12 and 11 points, respectively.

Lakeland was 7-of-14 from the foul line, while

Wayne attempted just four and hit one.

INTER-CITY 60, C'VILLE 55 (OT): On Tuesday, sophomore guard Evan Kraatz pumped in 26 of his game-high 30 points in the second half and the four-minute overtime period as host Allen Park Inter-City Baptist (1-0) outlasted Livonia Clarenceville (0-1).

Nate Packwood added 19 points for the Chargers, who outscored Clarenceville 10-5 in the overtime session.

Kassius Kelly scored a layup off a feed from Sam Brown with only three seconds remaining in regulation to sent the game into overtime at 50-all.

Three Clarenceville players scored in double figures led by Kimani Dooley's 14 followed by Nick Covin and Brown with 13 and 11, respectively.

Both teams struggled at the foul stripe with Clarenceville going 5-of-17 (29.4 percent) and Inter-City making only 11-of-24 (45.8 percent).

"It was the free throws and being over hyped up in the first quarter," said Clarenceville coach Justin Johnson, whose team trailed 13-6. "We were all over the place. It was good and bad adrenaline. We had turnovers and couldn't

make a shot."

DEARBORN 43, CHURCHILL 29: Junior guard Ali Farhat scored a game-high 25 points Tuesday to lead the Pioneers (1-0) to a season-opening victory over host Livonia Churchill (0-1).

Churchill, getting nine points from junior forward Romello Brown, connected on just 10-of-39 shots from the field (25.6 percent) and only 6-of-12 foul shots (50 percent).

After trailing 20-13 at halftime, the Chargers got within six in the third period, but could get no closer.

"They (Dearborn) beat us in transition, they attacked the glass and got out and ran on us," Churchill coach Jim Solak said.

HURON VALLEY 60, ARBOR PREP 35: Sophomore Ryan Schaffer's game-high 27 points propelled Westland Huron Valley Lutheran (1-0) to season-opening victory over Arbor Prep (0-1), a team made up primarily of freshman and sophomores.

Huron Valley led 25-19 at halftime before pulling away with a 19-5 third-quarter run.

Mike Donatelli, hitting five triples, paced Arbor Prep with 25 points.

The Hawks made only 4-of-14 free throws, while Arbor Prep connected on 7-of-14.

Chargers rip Dearborn McCowan wins in debut, 47-13

Senior center Erin Menard scored 17 points and junior guard Sydney Anderson added 11 Tuesday night as Livonia

GIRLS HOOPS Churchill captured its season 2011-12 girls basketball opener against visiting Dearborn, 47-13.

Churchill overcame a slow start after leading 17-7 at halftime with an 18-5 third-quarter run followed by a 12-1 spurt in the final period to win going away.

"The girls played very hard tonight," said Matt McCowan, who won in his varsity debut at Churchill coach. "We are glad we got a win in the first game. We came out in the first half and struggled to score. We were very excited for our first game so we needed to take a breath and play."

"Erin Menard stepped up and played well. We have a lot of work to do and have to get better each day. This is a good

start. It was a great win for our girls tonight and they should be proud."

Churchill was 9-of-16 from the foul line, while Dearborn (0-2) was 2-of-7.

"We played well defensively," McCowan said. "We capitalized on their turnovers and it really set the tone."

BELLEVILLE 51, WAYNE 39: On Tuesday, Kaylin Counts and Dijah Ruffin tallied 18 and 13 points, respectively, leading the Tigers (1-0) past host Wayne Memorial (1-1) in a non-conference encounter.

Freshman guard Kayla Horn led the Zebras, who trailed 25-20 at halftime, with a team-high 16 points. Senior guard Jaylyn Hammac chipped in with 11 points.

Belleville took a 34-31 lead into the final quarter before outscoring Wayne 17-8.

Belleville made 13-of-29 free throws (45 percent), while the Zebras hit 4-of-10 (40 percent).

CRESTWOOD 42, LUTHERAN WESTLAND 34: Sabrina Kent's 18 points carried Dearborn Heights Crestwood (3-0) to a non-conference win Tuesday at Lutheran High Westland (1-2).

The Chargers jumped out to a 19-6 halftime advantage and never looked back.

Senior center Amanda Teranella had 16 points and 10 rebounds for the Warriors, who went 2-of-9 from the foul line.

Taylor Wiemer added eight points, while Aldreanna Fikes grabbed a team-best 13 rebounds.

"We had a rough first half," Lutheran Westland coach Sandi Wade said. "Our turnovers led to quick points for them and we weren't getting back on defense. We made some adjustments at halftime and came out better in the third, but didn't play to our potential to the fourth quarter. You can't play one quarter of basketball and expect a win. You have to play all four quarters."

SOUTHFIELD CHRISTIAN 60, CLARENCEVILLE 47: Three players scored in double figures Tuesday, but it wasn't enough as Livonia Clarenceville (0-3) fell at Southfield Christian (1-0).

Charity Godbolt and Emily Thrasher paced the victorious Eagles with 19 and 12 points, respectively.

Angela McAlpine led the Trojans, who were tied 24-all at halftime, with a team-high 18 points. Ayanna Buckley and Ashley Murphy contributed 12 and 10, respectively.

Southfield Christian made 15-of-20 free throws (75 percent), while Clarenceville hit only 9-of-24 (37.5 percent).

THE WEEK AHEAD

- BOYS BASKETBALL**
Thursday, Dec. 8
5'field Christ. at C'ville, 7 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 9
Stevenson at Churchill, 7 p.m.
Franklin at Milford, 7 p.m.
Robichaud at Glenn, 7 p.m.
Belleville at Wayne, 7 p.m.
Luth. W'sid at G'hills, 7:30 p.m.
(Mich. Lutheran Tourney)
HVL vs. Mich. Lutheran, 8 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 10
Michigan Lutheran
Tourney, 5:30 or 7 p.m.
- GIRLS BASKETBALL**
Thursday, Dec. 8
C'ville at Luth. N'west, 7 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 9
Churchill at Stevenson, 7 p.m.
Wayne at Lakeland, 7 p.m.
- PREP HOCKEY**
Saturday, Dec. 10
Ladywood vs. Lahser
at Hazel Park Arena, 2 p.m.
- PREP WRESTLING**
Thursday, Dec. 8
Luth. W'sid at Memp., 5:30 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 10
Harrison Hawk Havoc, 9 a.m.
Grand Blanc Invitational, 9 a.m.
Rocket Duals at Glenn, 9 a.m.
Garden City Novice, 9:30 a.m.
Blissfield Invitational, 10 a.m.
- BOYS SWIMMING**
Thursday, Dec. 8
Wayne at Garden City, 5 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 10
EMU Classic, 1 p.m.
Rocket Relays at Glenn, 1 p.m.
- PREP BOWLING**
Saturday, Dec. 10
Farmington Tournament
at Drake'shire Lanes, 9 a.m.
- GIRLS COMPETITIVE CHEER**
Saturday, Dec. 10
Southgate Tournament, TBA.
- MEN'S COLLEGE HOOPS**
Friday, Dec. 9
Owens at S'craft, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 10
MU at Siena Hts., 7:30 p.m.
- WOMEN'S COLLEGE HOOPS**
Friday, Dec. 9
Owens at S'craft, 5:30 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 10
Siena Hts. at Madonna, 1 p.m.
Edison (Ohio) at S'craft, 1 p.m.
TBA - time to be announced.

Franklin clears Skyline icers, 4-2

Livonia Franklin made a 2-0 first-period lead stand up on its way to a 4-2 non-conference boys hockey

PREP HOCKEY victory Saturday over host Ann Arbor Skyline at the University of Michigan's Yost Arena.

Goals by Josh Dudek (from Mike Dibble) and Josh Leonard (unassisted) gave the Patriots two-goal cushion.

In the second period, Richard Wiczorek scored the first of his two goals off an assist from Leonard to make it 3-0.

But Skyline got its first goal before the period ended on Randy Strassburg unassisted goal to cut the deficit to 3-1.

Wiczorek scored again in the final period from Leonard to push the Patriots back up 4-1 before Kyle Hagen answered from Nate Wegryn and Nathan Elnor for the Eagles.

Freshman goaltender Matt Monendo stopped 19-of-21 shots as the Patriots evened their overall record at 2-2.

"We controlled play for most of the game," said Franklin coach Scott Wirgau, whose team tied Skyline in the season opener, 4-4. "We tried to play too aggressive and found

ourselves in the box with unforced penalties. This game is way too hard to also give advantages to opposition by taking penalties that we know are stupid plays."

Skyline, outshot 32-21, slipped to 0-3-1 overall.

G.P. SOUTH 4, LADYWOOD 1: Claire Boyle scored all four goals Saturday as Grosse Pointe South (3-1, 3-1) downed host Livonia Ladywood (0-4, 0-4) in a Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League game at Plymouth's Arctic Pond.

Tenley Shield assisted on three of Boyle's four goals for the Blue Devils, who led 2-0 after one period and 3-0 after two.

Erin Doyle scored for the Blazers in the third period off assists from Jackie Kristofik and Hannah Pereira to spoil Anastasia Diamond's shutout bid for South.

Diamond made 21 saves, while Ladywood's Sarah Koch stopped 27-for-31 shots.

PORT HURON 6, LADYWOOD 0: Alyssa Ayers' hat trick carried host Port Huron (3-0, 3-0) to a Michigan Metro victory Friday over Livonia Ladywood (0-3, 0-3) at Glacier Pointe Arena.

Haley Cox and Andrea Rumley each added a goal and assist for Port Huron, which scored three times each in the second and third periods.

Morgan Thompson also chipped in with three assists as Port Huron outshot the Blazers, 29-20.

Port Huron goalie Heather Weiss made 20 saves en route to the shutout, while Sarah Koch had 20 stops for the Ladywood.

PREP BOWLING RESULTS

BOYS BOWLING RESULTS WESTLAND JOHN GLENN 23 HOWELL 7

Dec. 6 at Novi Bowl
John Glenn scorers: Jordan Hornes, 257-204-461; Steven White, 214-227-441; Daniel Ammons, 226-200-426; Mitch Dean, 249; Tommy Ruark, 220; split score, 173-153. Team totals: 1,100-1,024-2,124 (17 points); Baker games: 237-219-456 (6 points).

Howell scorers: Jack Herndel, 209-235-444; Spencer Lademman, 265; Justin Halstead, 224; Brad Pfohl, 216; Aaron Osborne, 198; Steve Golm, 169; Nick Webb, 167. Team totals: 1,069-936-2,005 (3 points); Baker games: 265-212-477 (6 points).

Glenn's dual match record: John Glenn, 2-0 overall.

WESTLAND JOHN GLENN 22 GRAND BLANC 8

Dec. 5 at Novi Bowl
John Glenn scorers: Daniel Ammons, 223-247-470; Thomas Brusseau, 227-232-459; Steven White, 213-191-404; Tommy Ruark and Mitch Dean, 214 each; Jordan Hornes, 147; split score, 203. Team totals:

1,024-1,067-2,091 (12 points); Baker games: 181-183-374 (10 points).

Grand Blanc scorers: Ryan Wytueki, 255-235-490; Quinnave Humphrey, 234-189-423; Travis Sutherland, 198-209-407; Nick Pietrowski, 174-171-345; Lucas Dixon, 190; Nick Ross, 183. Team totals: 1,044-994-2,038 (8 points); Baker games: 142-165-307 (0 points).

Dual match records: John Glenn, 1-0 overall; Grand Blanc, 0-1 overall.

GIRLS BOWLING RESULTS HOWELL 21

WESTLAND JOHN GLENN 9

Dec. 6 at Novi Bowl

Howell scorers: Cheylyn Wilson, 164-233-397; Danielle Robion, 189-183-372; Maribeth Golm, 187-155-342; Janer Pellerin, 149-146-295; Victoria Clawson, 143; Crystal Reimes, 139. Team totals: 832-856-1,688 (17 points); Baker games: 175-146-321 (4 points).

John Glenn scorers: Jessica Pate, 149-179-328; Caitly Lenard, 152-158-310; Yvette Ayers, 144-135-279; Olivia Cabildo, 137; Sara Aulidge, 134;

Bre Riblett, 132; split score, 111. Team totals: 716-715-1,431 (3 points); Baker games: 178-144-332 (6 points).

Glenn's dual math record: 1-1 overall.

WESTLAND GLENN 24.5 GRAND BLANC 5.5

Dec. 5 at Novi Bowl

John Glenn scorers: Jessica Pate, 181-178-359; Sara Aulidge, 140-153-293; Montana Graszak, 167; Yvette Ayers, 142; Olivia Cabildo and Bre Riblett, 136 each; Caitly Lenard, 134. Team totals: 733-742-1,475 (14.5 points); Baker games: 122-141-263 (10 points).

Grand Blanc scorers: Chelsea Cardinal, 169-195-364; Martisa DiPonio-Brittaney Farver, 161-93-254; Adrea Sykes, 179; Jazzmyne Newman, 142; Alexis Flenniken and Samantha Handa, 138 each; Hannah Larsen, 113; Abby Manning, 105. Team totals: 724-701-1,425 (2.5 points); Baker games: 113-132-307 (0 points).

Dual match records: John Glenn, 1-0 overall; Grand Blanc, 0-1 overall.

What a difference two days make.

The Madonna University women's basketball team bounced back from a 31-point conference drubbing on Saturday in Grand Rapids to beat host Saginaw Valley State on Monday night, 62-55.

Kaylee McGrath (Livonia Stevenson) scored 13 points, while Shantelle Herring and Heather Pratt each added 12 as the Crusaders evened their overall record 4-4.

McGrath also dished out seven assists, while Becca Wojcinski grabbed a team-high nine rebounds for MU, which led 29-22 at halftime.

Kristie Porada's jumper with 11:27 left in the first half gave MU an 11-9 advantage and the Crusaders never led Saginaw Valley get closer than four the rest of the way.

Michelle Lindsey's jumper with 7:30 remaining in the game gave Madonna its biggest lead of the night, 50-29.

"This is a great win and it certainly helps restore our confidence," MU coach Carl Graves said. "We are learning to win and the season is still young. Our conference is one of the toughest in the nation so we need to grow through every practice and every game. We built a substantial lead and were able to work on some things down the stretch."

Cheritee Green came off the bench to score 16 points and Samantha Zinzow added 11 for the Cardinals (2-4).

CORNERSTONE 87, MADONNA 56: There was nothing grand about Madonna University's performance Saturday afternoon in Grand Rapids as the Crusaders (3-4, 1-1) fell to host Cornerstone (6-4, 2-0) 87-56 in a Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference

encounter.

MU never recovered after falling behind 50-15 at halftime.

"I take full responsibility for this team's performance," MU coach Carl Graves said. "We, as a program, weren't ready for today. I did not have them prepared for a good team today. We will study this film and make sure that we never let the MU community witness this type of performance from us again. My student-athletes work too hard and don't deserve to be embarrassed this way. I will do better for them - they are a great team."

Melissa Veltkamp, hitting 12-of-17 shots from the floor, finished with a game-high 32 points to pace the Golden Eagles.

Katelyn Cousins chipped in with 21 points, while Samantha Flietstra added 10 as Cornerstone shot 50.7 percent from the field (35-of-69).

Erin Bentley's 14 points paced the Crusaders, who shot only 31.3 percent from the floor (21-of-67).

Michelle Lindsey and Kristie Porada added 10 points each, while Kaylee McGrath (Livonia Stevenson) added eight points and a team-high nine rebounds.

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SPORTS ROUNDUP

Pom pon clinic

Livonia Franklin will stage a pom pon clinic for girls ages 5-12, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 15, at high school.

Included in the \$20 cost is T-shirt and snack.

Participants will do a performance during the Franklin boys basketball game Friday, Dec. 16.

The registration deadline is Monday, Dec. 5. To pre-register, call Nancy at (734) 502-0877.

Learn to Skate

The City of Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation will offer its Learn to Skate winter session II beginning the week of Jan. 9 through Feb. 27 at Edgar Arena, located at 33841 Lyndon (one half mile south of Five Mile and just west of Farmington Road).

Each class for the eight-week program is 25 minutes.

Classes offered include: ages 4 and up - 5 p.m., 5:25 p.m., 6 p.m. or 6:25 p.m. Mondays; hockey skills - 6:25 p.m. Mondays; and 3-year-olds only - 5 p.m. Mondays. (No equipment is need for boys hockey skills. No sticks or pucks are used. Limited skate rental is available at no charge.)

Walk-in registration will be from 6:30-8 p.m. (residents) and 7-

8 p.m. (non-residents) on Wednesday, Jan. 4 at the Livonia Community Center, 15100 Hubbard (at Five Mile).

The fee is \$62 (residents) and \$76 (non-residents).

Private lessons are also available.

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

Softball camps

Coach Al White of Madonna University will stage a series of winter softball camps for ages 7-18 including:

Hitting - 9-11:30 a.m. (session 1) and noon to 2:30 p.m. (session 2) on Sunday, Dec. 18 (cost \$30);

Fundamentals (session 1) - 9-11:30 a.m. Saturdays, Jan. 7, 14, 21 and 28 (cost \$125 before Dec. 1 or \$150 after Dec. 1);

Fundamentals (session 2) - noon to 2:30 p.m. Sundays, Feb. 5, 12, 19 and 26 (cost \$125 before Dec. 1 or \$150 after Dec. 1).

For more information, visit www.MadonnaCrusaders.com; or e-mail White at awhite@madonna.edu.

You can also call the MU softball office at (734) 432-5783 or Steve Gentilia at (734) 776-1716.

Pitching clinic

Detroit Tigers pitching coach Jeff Jones will be the featured instructor at the pitching clinic hosted

on Sunday, Jan. 22 by the Livonia Stevenson High baseball program.

Jones will be joined by former pro pitcher Dave Marcon, owner and scout of Indy Pro Showcase, along with the Stevenson coaching staff.

Session I (ages 9-12) will be from 10 a.m. until noon followed by Session II (ages 13-18) from 12:30-2:30 p.m. at the Stevenson fieldhouse.

The cost is \$40 (checks should be made payable to the Stevenson High School Baseball).

For more information, call Stevenson baseball coach Rick Berryman at (734) 455-8623; or e-mail Berry3724@aol.com.

K-8 wrestling club

The newly-formed Livonia Wrestling Club for youths in kindergarten through eighth grade will be run 6-7:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, Nov. 29 through March 29, at the Franklin High School wrestling room, 31000 Joy Road, Livonia.

The \$75 registration fee can be paid at the first practice of the season (includes T-shirt).

Checks should be made payable to: Livonia Wrestling Club.

For more information, e-mail Dave Chiola at chiola44@yahoo.com or call (248) 752-2340.

ed victory, Annapolis' play was spotty at best.

"People were over anxious and doing a lot of silly things," said Yoches, whose team has finished second two years in a row in the Red Division of the Western Wayne Athletic Conference. "Committing 25 turnovers in that game was ridiculous. It's the first game. We have things to work on."

As do the Warriors, too.

encounter.

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The Lessons and Carols service includes members of the music ministry at St. John's Episcopal Church in Plymouth. Their concert is Sunday, Dec. 11.

Advent service combines music, art

Julie Ford describes the annual Lessons and Carols service at St. John's Episcopal Church in Plymouth as "half concert and half worship service."

"It has lots of music in it, but it also has prayer from scripture," said Ford, the church's music minister. "We do seven scripture readings and all talk about the prophecy of Christ. It's mainly Episcopal churches that do Lessons and Carols. It's our little niche. It's a beautiful service."

Lessons and Carols, an Advent service, is part of St. John's concert series, Resounding Art in Sacred Space. It starts at 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11 in the church, 574 S. Sheldon. Members of the church's music ministry, including the Youth Choir, Handbell Choir, Parish Choir and Son-Shine will perform in a format that alternates music with scripture read-

ings. Ford will direct the performances.

A reception and exhibit of paintings by C. Robin Janning, will follow the service and concert. Janning is a church member and St. John's webmaster. Each concert in the Resounding Art in Sacred Space series includes an art exhibit.

"She is a very talented artist and her art fits in with the whole idea of Advent. It's very abstract with lots of colors in it. They're a mixture of media, paint and collages."

Admission to Lessons and Carols is free, although the church will accept donations for Gleaners Community Food Bank of Southeastern Michigan.

For more information about the service, call the church at (734) 453-0190, Ext. 16, or visit www.stjohnsplymouth.org.

— By Sharon Dargay

Passages

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BEDELL, DR. WILLIAM

Age 77, of Chelsea. Survived by Marilyn and his children Brian, Brad (Norma), Barry, and Beth (Dave) Sheffey. Proud grandfather of Austin (Holly), Evan, and Rachel, and great-grandfather of Harris. Visitation will be held at Fred Wood Funeral Home-Rice Chapel, 36100 5 Mile Rd., Livonia (E. of Levan). Friday from 3 PM until 9 PM. A funeral service is planned for 11PM Saturday at the funeral home. Memorial contributions may be made to the leukemia and lymphoma society 1421 E. 12 Mile Rd. Madison Heights, Michigan 48071 and the Alzheimer's Association 20300 Civic Center Dr. Ste 100, Southfield, MI 48076. Please visit online guest book fredwoodfuneralhome.com



BURRESS, J.W.

Age 89, Dec 4, 2011 of Westland, formerly of Canton. Beloved husband of Nadene. Dear father of Jan Munday, Peg McElroy, and the late Michael, Ronnie and Barbara Kay Burress. Loving grandfather of Julie Kelley and the late Jimmy and David Owens. Proud great-grandfather of Jordan and Brendan Kelley. Dear brother of the late Clarice Bruce and Frankie Walker. Visitation Thursday, 2-8pm and Friday 2-8pm at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 980 N Newburgh Rd., (btwn Ford & Cherry Hill), Westland. Funeral Service Saturday 10am at the funeral home. Interment Washtenog Memorial Park. Memorials may be made to Alzheimer's Association or to Merriman Road Baptist Church. To share a memory, please visit: vermeulenfuneralhome.com

MAKEPEACE, NANCY L.

Age 81, of Hendersonville, NC, formerly of Plymouth, former resident of Tonquish Creek Manor, Plymouth. Loving sister of Phyllis (George) Maddox and Ruby (Ray) Lawrence. Beloved aunt of Terry Wasalawski, Linda Wall, Larry Wasalawski, Penny Wasalawski, Dennis Lawrence, Deborah Price, Merie Maddox and Laurie Maddox. Dear friend of Betty Brink, Clara Cervelli, and Karen Dingley. Visitation Saturday (12/10) 11 AM until 1PM, funeral service at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 46401 W. Ann Arbor Rd., (Btwn Sheldon & Beck), Plymouth. Interment Parkview Memorial Cemetery. To share memories please visit: vermeulenfuneralhome.com



POTOCZAK, JAMES J.

December 2, 2011. Beloved husband of 44 years to Loretta. Loving father of Todd and the late Terri. Loving brother of Rose (Lawrence) Kulik, Monica (William) Reinhold, and the late Leonard. Dearest brother-in-law of JoAnn Potoczak, Dolores Cwik, Henry (Karen) Kopicko and Elaine (Henry) Micallef, and many nieces, nephews and beloved friends. Memorial services will be held Friday, December 9 at 1pm at R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home, 31551 Ford Rd., Garden City. Visitation from 10am until time of service at 1pm. Memorial contributions may be made to Pancreatic Cancer Action Network. (www.pancan.org) Please sign the on-line guestbook at www.rgharris.com

May peace be with you in this time of sorrow.

RELIGION CALENDAR

Send calendar items to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com. Or mail items to Dargay, Observer, 615 Lafayette, Level 2, Detroit, MI 48226.

Dec. 8-14

ADVENT SERVICES

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays through Dec. 21
Location: Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 28000 New Market Road, Farmington Hills
Details: Special worship services
Contact: (248) 553-3380

SPECTACULAR

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 14
Location: NorthRidge Church, 49555 N. Territorial, Plymouth

Details: An all-star cast of Christian recording, artists including Steven Curtis Chapman, Newsboys, Francesca Battistelli, Natalie Grant, Selah and Anthem Lights, along with special guest authors/speakers Max Lucado and Randy Frazee, perform favorite Christmas carols along with a musical journey from Genesis to Revelations. Tickets are \$30-\$75. Order at www.tickets.com or (800) 965-9324
Contact: www.rushconcerts.com or (734) 414-7777

COMICS, COLLECTIBLES

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 10
Location: Redford Aldersgate

United Methodist Church, 10000 Beech Daly, Redford
Details: Comic, sports cards and collectibles show; admission \$1 for adults, free for children, 10 and under
Contact: (313) 850-1223

CONCERT

Time/Date: 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11
Location: St. John Lutheran Church, 23225 Gill, Farmington Hills

Details: Christmas Music featuring the Madonna University Chorale directed by David Wagner. Refreshments will be served; admission free
Contact: (248) 474-0584

CONCERT

Time/Date: 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11
Location: Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church, 9601 Hubbard, Livonia

Details: Advent Collage Concert will include the adult Chancel Choir; the Rosedale Praise Team; the adult Carillon Handbell Choir; the instrumental group, Grace Notes; youth ensembles including the Cherub Choir, Chapel Singers, Chapel Bells, Chime Choir and Cathedral Bells. An afterglow will follow. Free admission
Contact: (734) 422-0494

CONCERT

Time/Date: 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11
Location: Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 4000 Six Mile, west of Haggerty,

Northville
Details: The church's Christmas concert will feature its chancel choir, children's choir, teen choir, handbells and orchestra. Admission is free
Contact: (248) 374-4740

CONCERT

Time/Date: 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11
Location: Trinity Church, 34500 Six Mile, Livonia

Details: "A Trinity Family Christmas" will feature standards and classics, both traditional and modern. Admission is free
Contact: (734) 425-2800

CONCERT

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 9
Location: Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia

Details: Detroit Lutheran Singers Christmas concert; \$10 general admission; \$7 for senior citizens and students, 12 and older
Contact: detroitlutheransingers.com

CONCERT

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 9
Location: Geneva Presbyterian Church, 5835 N. Sheldon, Canton

Details: "Twelve Bells of Christmas," bell concert by the Capital City Ringers of Lansing, directed by Jane C. Wright. Donations accepted for admission

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Quirky musical

College students pen play about their professor



Zirk

By Sharon Dargay
 O&E Staff Writer

When Willard Zirk thought no one was paying attention to his lecture one day two years ago, the Eastern Michigan University music professor began spouting non sequiturs. "I started saying anything ... 'And so, I ate a cow' ... 'And went to the zoo.' It had nothing to do with the content," recalled Zirk, a Saline resident.

Freshmen Heather Huber of Livonia and Jacob Nurse of Harrison Township were not only listening, but taking notes and memorizing his absurd comments, along with stories and jokes he sometimes told in class.

"He's a really nice guy and kind of quirky," said Huber, describing Zirk. "We were sitting in his music literature class at the end of sophomore year and said we should write a musical about Dr. Zirk. It was, ha ha wouldn't it be cool and funny?"

The roommates worked on a story and co-wrote songs over the next year before tackling arrangements for the pit orchestra. Although neither student has musical theater production experience, the duo held auditions, selected a cast, recruited a costumer, backstage crew, pit orchestra and led rehearsals for two months. They even obtained a \$250 grant for costume expenses from the Livonia Arts Commission. A music service fraternity at the university also kicked in \$500.

Zirk! The Musical, will make its debut 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11 at Pease Auditorium on the Eastern Michigan campus in Ypsilanti. Admission is a suggested \$3 donation.

Student composers

"I respect their writing so much. It's clever writing," said Zirk, who recently attended a rehearsal.



Jake Nurse of Harrison Township and Heather Huber of Livonia will see their musical play come to fruition on Sunday, Dec. 11, on stage at Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti.

"They are wonderful students, young geniuses that applied themselves so diligently in their discipline. They are destined to be composers.

"It's not a chintzy production. It's high-quality work."

Zirk, who enjoys carpentry, made the sets for the show. His interest in sailing — he plans to build a boat next year — inspired the musical's plot. In the musical, Zirk and his wife, Gayle, go boating, end up shipwrecked on an island, and encounter a native tribe.

"It's a comedy. It's light-hearted," Huber said. "It's funnier if you do know him (Zirk) but if you don't, you're seeing a portrait of him."

Multi-talented

Huber plays guitar, tenor sax, bassoon and piano. She also teaches piano and bassoon.

"I have loved music since I was 4 and figuring out Little Mermaid songs on my parents' keyboard," she said. "I just wanted to do everything

music-related when I got to high school."

She graduated from Stevenson High School in 2007 and enrolled at Eastern Michigan University. She'll student teach next semester and plans to graduate with a bachelor's degree in spring 2012.

"We have ideas for other musicals," Huber said, describing the writing process as "a blast."

"I really enjoy writing pop music. I was in a couple of bands in high school and col-

lege. I've gotten good at lyrics and rhyming. That came in handy. And it helps to have a classical background."

Whether Huber and Nurse continue collaborating depends on the direction their careers take, Huber said. With a minor in German, she's considering a stint overseas teaching English.

"If we both teach near each other, we might write more musicals. This has been such a great experience. It's been nice."

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GET OUT!

Art

ART & IDEAS

Time/Date: Through Dec. 24; gallery hours are 1-6:30 p.m. Thursday and 1-7 p.m. Friday-Saturday, or by appointment

Location: 15095 Northville Road, in Plymouth

Details: "Downtown Foot Art" includes works by the gallery's artist-in-residence, Shaq Kalaj. She focused on historical buildings in downtown Plymouth for her series of works which she sketched and painted with her feet in the outdoors over the summer

Contact: (734) 420-0775

DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS

Time/Dates: 2 p.m. Sundays

Location: 5200 Woodward, Detroit

Details: Target Family Sundays, storytelling, performances, free with admission

Exhibits: Rembrandt and the Face of Jesus exhibit runs through Feb. 12, 2012 and includes 64 works. Tickets are \$16 for adults; \$8 for youth, 6-17. Other exhibits include Detroit Revealed: Photographs 2000-2010, an exhibit of 50 photos through April 8, 2012; Gift of a Lifetime: The James Pearson Duffy Collection of drawings, paintings, prints, sculptures and photographs through March 18, 2012

www.dia.org

NORTHVILLE ART HOUSE

Time/Date: Through Dec. 10

Location: 215 W. Cady, Northville

Details: The seventh annual Northville Holiday Art Market includes hand-crafted work in painting, printmaking, glass, mosaic, fiber, photography, jewelry and mixed media for sale by well-known local artists. Hours for the market are 1-5 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday. **Contact:** (248) 344-0497

PLYMOUTH COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL

Time/Date: 1-3 p.m. Dec. 17

Location: 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth

Details: Artist reception for exhibit that runs through Dec. 22, featuring works in colored pencil, ink, pastel and watercolor by members of Pam Grossmann's adult drop-in drawing classes. Exhibit hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Thursday **Contact:** (734) 416-4278

Comedy

Go Comedy!

Time/Date: Various show times Wednesdays thru Sundays

Location: 261 E. Nine Mile, Ferndale

Details: Improv most nights. Open mic/jam ses-

sion show for improvisers is 10 p.m. Wednesdays

Contact: (248) 327-0575; gocomedy.net

JD'S HOUSE OF COMEDY

Time/Date: Various show times Wednesday-Saturday evenings

Location: 25333 W. 12 Mile, inside Star Theatre complex, Southfield

Details: Stand-up shows, 8 p.m. Thursday and 8 p.m., 10:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday; Apollo amateur night, 8 p.m. Wednesday

Contact: (248) 348-2420 or www.ticketmaster.com

JOEY'S COMEDY CLUB OF LIVONIA

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Mondays, open Mic; 8 p.m. Tuesdays, Local Legends; 8 p.m. shows Wednesdays, Thursdays; 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays

Location: 36071 Plymouth Road, Livonia **Details:** Chad Daniels, Dec. 7-10; Joey's Comedy All Stars, Dec. 22; John Roy, Dec. 28-31 **Contact:** (734) 261-0555, www.kickerscomplex.com

MARK RIDLEY'S COMEDY CASTLE

Time/Date: Kivi Rogers, through Dec. 10; Lars Callieou, Dec. 15-17; David Dyer, Dec. 22-23; Joe Devito, Dec. 29-31

Location: 269 E. Fourth, Royal Oak

Contact: (248) 542-9900, www.comedycastle.com

REDFORD THEATRE

Time/Date: 8:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 9

Location: 17360 Lahser, just north of Grand River Ave., in Detroit

Details: Cedric the Entertainer; tickets are \$52-147, available at ticketmaster.com

Contact: www.thecrofoot.com

Dance

MOON DUSTERS

Time/Date: 8:30-11:30 p.m. every Saturday; dance lessons 7-8 p.m.

Location: Livonia Civic Center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia

Details: Singles and couples dance to music of the '30s, '40s and '50s; free refreshments. Dance lessons cost \$6; dance and lessons are \$11; dance only is \$7 for guests, \$6.50 for associates and \$6 for Moon Dusters members

Contact: Joe Castrodale, club president, (248) 968-5197

FOOD AND RECIPES

Get homemade cookies at Livonia churches

Take a break from holiday baking this week.

Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church and Timothy Lutheran Church, both in Livonia, will sell dozens of different Christmas cookies at their holiday cookie walks on Saturday, Dec. 11.

Holy Transfiguration's sale will start at 9 a.m. — with doors opening at 8 a.m. — at 36075 W. Seven Mile; (248) 476-3432.

The 18th annual cookie walk will feature perogies, apricot rolls, poppy seed rolls, nut rolls, sweet bread and homemade European and holiday cookies such as Russian Tea Cakes and Peanut Butter Balls. Coffee and treats will be available when the doors open.



ARCHIVE PHOTO

If you want to serve homemade cookies this Christmas, but have no time to bake, head for the annual cookie walks, Saturday, Dec. 11 at Timothy Lutheran Church and Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church, both in Livonia.

Trinity Lutheran's cookie walk will start at 10 a.m. and offer a variety of Christmas cookies sold by the pound, along with

bake sale goodies. The church is located at 8820 Wayne Road, south of Ann Arbor Trail; (734) 427-2290

Kick off holiday baking with reader's recipe

Ready to start filling the holiday cookie jar?

Start with this favorite recipe from Nancy J. Brown of Redford.

She says "These are the all-time favorite cookie in the Brown household. Can one husband, seven children, 11 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren be wrong? And although they seem like a lot of work, they really are not. They are worth every bit of effort, especially considering you have eight dozen absolutely delicious, scrumptious cookies. The really are one luscious cookie."

Hungarian Double Deck Pastry

- 5 cups all purpose flour
- 1 1/2 cups white sugar, divided (plus extra for sprinkling on finished recipe)
- 4 teaspoons baking powder
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- Pinch of salt
- 2 1/2 sticks of good quality margarine, room temperature (I use Imperial)
- 4 egg yolks
- 1 pint (1 cup) commercial sour cream
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 1/2 cups ground walnuts
- 2-pound jar apricot jam. (If you cannot find a 2-pound jar, weigh out 2 pounds. Using more will result in it oozing out and making a mess of the bottom of your oven).

Sift together dry ingredients, using 1 cup sugar. Cut in room temperature margarine. Add egg yolks, sour cream and vanilla and mix by hand. Divide into 3 equal portions — wrap in wax paper — chill.

Mix together the 2 1/2 cups of ground walnuts and remaining 1/2 cup sugar.

Roll out the first portion of dough into a 10- by 15-inch rectangle on a floured surface. Place in an ungreased 10- by 15-inch jelly roll pan (it has sides). Sprinkle evenly with 1/3 of the walnut/sugar mixture.

Roll out the second portion of dough and place it on top of the first layer. Spread with jam (which I have stirred for easier spreading) and top with remaining nuts/sugar mixture.

Roll out the third portion of dough, place on previous layers and sprinkle lightly with sugar.

Bake in a 350 degree oven 25 to 30 minutes, until lightly browned. Cool thoroughly in pan.

Cut the baked and cooled pastry in half the long way of the pan — then in fourths cross way of the pan so that you have eight equal portions. Wrap each portion in aluminum foil and refrigerate until ready to use. These will keep nicely, refrigerated for two weeks or frozen for several months.

To serve, (thaw if necessary) and cut each portion into 12 squares and place in mini paper cups.

If you want to share a holiday recipe with readers, e-mail it to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com and we'll publish it in an upcoming issue. Or mail it to the Observer at 615 W. Lafayette, level 2, Detroit, MI 48226.

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Thursday, Dec. 13th at 7 PM

Maronite revert & founder of the Army of Apostles, **Paul Thomas**, shares his timely faith journey, telling what led him from the drug scene and its resultant "street life" back to his family faith in this Eastern rite of the Catholic Church.

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41304 Concept Drive
Plymouth, MI 48170

Deadline for submissions: 12/28/2011

All entries need to be received at the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers by close of the business day on Dec. 28th. Winners to be announced in the January Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights.

Scoop's Craft Corner:

Want to make a special ornament for your Christmas tree? It is super easy and lots of fun. All you need is salt, flour, water, vegetable oil, a rolling pin, a cookie sheet, decorations, some help from your parents and lots of imagination.

Materials Needed:
 • 2 Cups Flour
 • 1 Cup Salt
 • 2 Tbsp Vegetable Oil
 • 3/4 - to - 1 Cup Water

Instructions:
 Mix together flour and salt. Add the oil and then slowly add the water and stir until you get a nice clay consistency. Once completely mixed, make into the

desired shapes. Bake in a 250 degree oven for approximately 1 hour. This will vary depending on how thick your creations are. One hint, do not make shapes too thick or they will crack with baking.

Before star is placed in the oven, make a hole for the ribbon using the end of a straw. Once the star is out of the oven and cooled, use your creativity. Use colorful ribbon to hang your new ornament. Have FUN!



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grapes

What can possibly make the holidays easier and fun, more delicious and sweet, more festive and bright, and yet traditional all at the same time? The answer is fresh grapes. Luckily, grapes from California are in plentiful supply in all colors — red, green and black — throughout the holiday season.

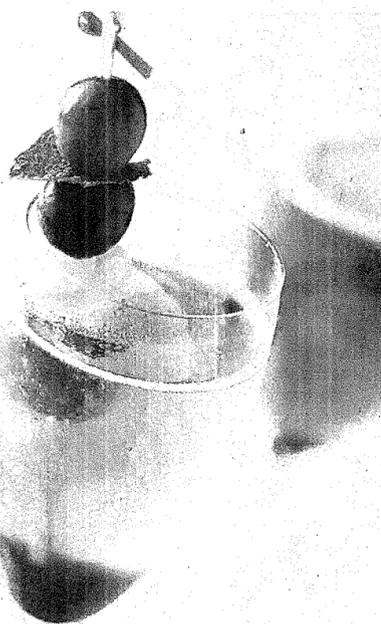
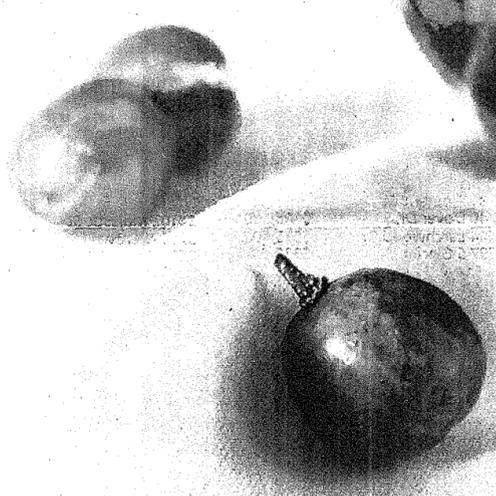
For a dinner or buffet, fresh grapes can be added to two favorite sides, stuffing and cranberry relish, with delightful and satisfying results. There are many familiar stuffing ingredients in Wild Rice Stuffing with Grapes and Hazelnuts, but the distinction in the dish is the wild rice, the toasted hazelnuts and fresh grapes. The grapes add a warm, still-juicy brightness to the stuffing, one that's perfect with any kind of poultry, from turkey to game hens to goose.

In Grape Cranberry Relish, two seasonal fruits work very well together. Grapes provide natural sweetness, so the amount of sugar that's added to quiet the strong tartness of cranberries is much reduced compared to similar recipes. The relish is a nice blend of still-noticeable grapes in a sauce that's remarkably luscious.

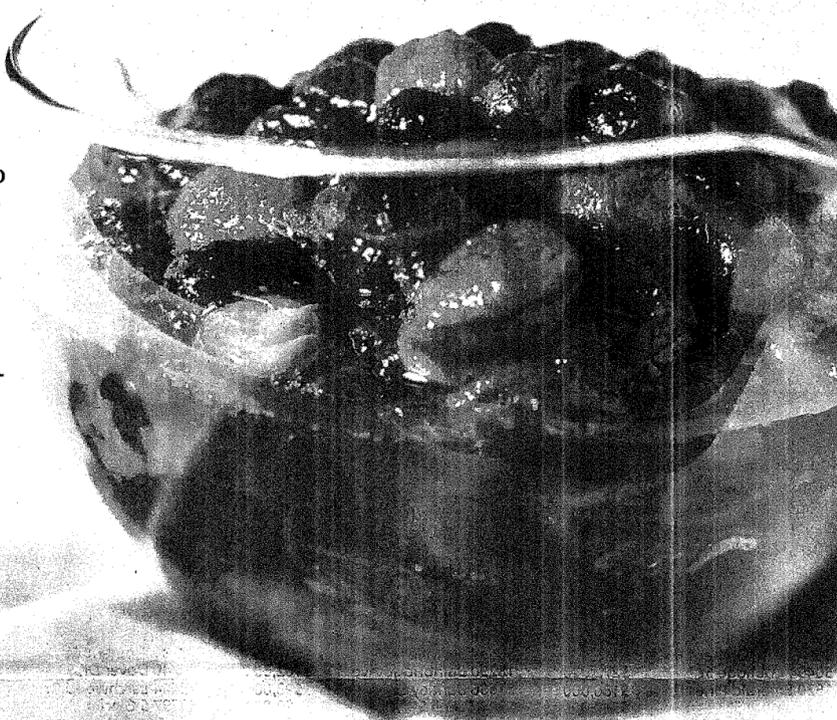
Pluck the gift of grapes this holiday season and you'll enjoy every juicy bite no matter how you choose to serve them. For more recipes, visit www.grapesfromcalifornia.com.

Make Grapes Your Healthy Holiday Ally

- Fresh grapes are low in calories — just 90 per $\frac{1}{2}$ cup serving — yet are satisfying and very, very good for you. Grapes of all colors are a natural source of beneficial antioxidants known as polyphenols, which may help contribute to a healthy heart.
- Snack on grapes before going out. They'll fill you up, so you can graze in moderation.
- Offer grapes on appetizer plates and as a side so friends and family can share in the goodness of this beautiful fruit.



Serve a beautiful sparkling wine cocktail flavored with a dash of crème de cassis and adorned with colorful grapes and fresh mint.



Cranberry Grape Relish

Yields: 3 cups

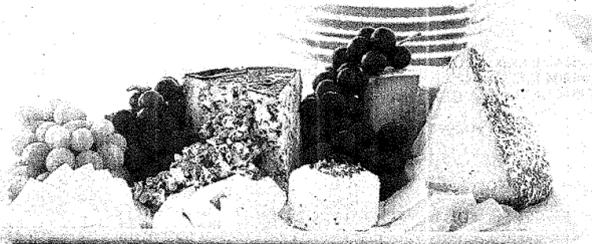
- 2 cups red seedless California grapes
- 1 12-ounce package cranberries, fresh or frozen
- 1 orange, juiced and zested
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup sugar

Place all ingredients in heavy saucepan and bring to a boil over high heat. Reduce heat to medium and cook, stirring occasionally for 10 minutes until thick and shiny. Let cool thoroughly, then store in airtight container in refrigerator for up to one week. Serve alongside roast turkey, pork or ham.

QUICK TIPS FOR HOLIDAY ENTERTAINING WITH GRAPES

Fresh grapes are a versatile fruit with multiple uses.

- Grapes make for easy decorations and centerpieces in bowls and on platters or draped from a cake plate.
- Grapes can be easily "frosted" with sugar, spices and finely chopped nuts. Simply wet or dip clusters in liquid gelatin before rolling grapes in your favorite mixture. Use them to decorate cookie plates, cakes, puddings, mousses and more.
- Looking for an easy hostess gift? Wrap grape clusters — multiple colors work best — in tissue paper and place in a pretty basket, tied with a ribbon.
- Grapes are a quick and easy potluck treat, guaranteed to please, especially when you have very little time to throw something together.



Arrange grapes around your cheese plate and cut into mini-clusters for easy eating.

Wild Rice Stuffing with Grapes and Hazelnuts

Yields: 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups

- 2 cans (28 fluid ounces total) low-sodium chicken broth
- 1 cup wild rice
- 4 slices bacon, diced $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch
- 1 tablespoon butter, unsalted
- 1 large onion (1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups chopped), diced $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch
- 2 stalks ($\frac{3}{4}$ cup chopped) celery, diced $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch
- 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups button mushrooms, sliced
- 2 cloves garlic, fresh, minced
- 1 teaspoon thyme, fresh, minced
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon salt
- $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon black pepper, ground
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup parsley, fresh chopped
- 1 cup hazelnuts, toasted and coarsely chopped
- 2 cups California seedless grapes, rinsed

In heavy saucepan, bring chicken broth to a boil. Add wild rice and stir. Cover pan and reduce heat to low. Let simmer for one hour, until rice is tender and has popped open.

Meanwhile, cook bacon in fry pan over medium until almost crisp, about 8-10 minutes.

Add butter to bacon pan, then add onions, celery, mushrooms, garlic, thyme and salt and pepper. Cook over medium heat for 5 to 7 minutes, until onions are translucent.

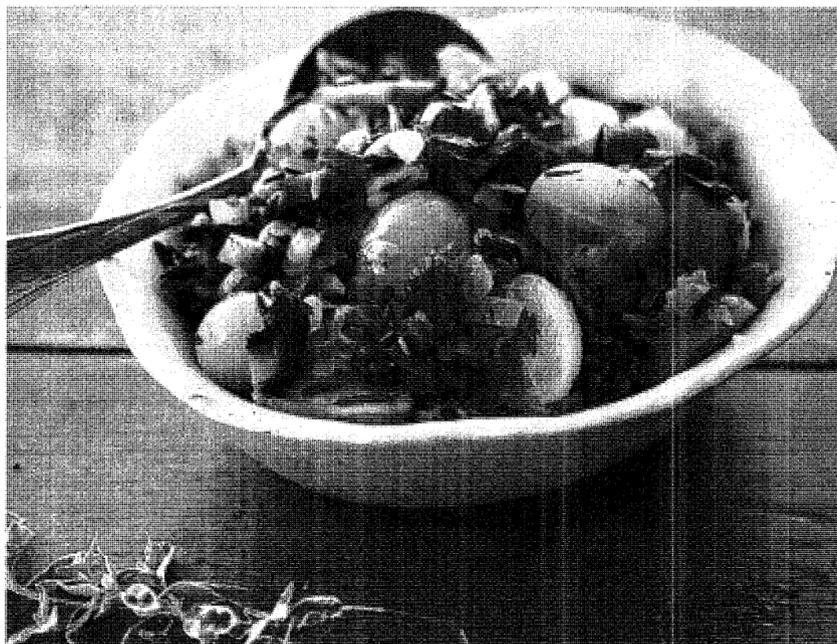
Remove from heat and fold in parsley, hazelnuts and grapes.

Add rice with any remaining liquid in pan to vegetable mixture and toss well to combine.

Stuffing may be used to fill turkey, game hens, or chicken. Stuffing may also be baked separately in a casserole dish covered with foil; bake at 350°F for 20 to 30 minutes until hot throughout.

To toast hazelnuts, place in 350°F oven for 9 to 12 minutes. Rub in a clean dish-towel to remove skins.

Note: If you make ahead and refrigerate, cook time will be 30 to 40 minutes until hot.



Looking good: Curb appeal matters whether selling, staying

Check facts on structure

Realtors tell those selling a home that curb appeal always matters. Those considering buying a property will notice piles of trash or unpleasant odors right away.

Curb appeal is important for sellers, but also contributes to the quality of life for those not planning a move. Whether you're in the market or not, a well-maintained home is appreciated by neighbors and the homeowner alike.

Visit www.houselogic.com/buyandsell for tips on preparing a home for sale. Some tips include:

- Stay in synch with your neighborhood. Avoid being the proverbial sore thumb of the neighborhood. Regular maintenance and energy-efficient upgrades will provide a return on your investment.

- Stash your trash. Have mercy on your neighbors by renting a Dumpster and removing trash. A 20-yard Dumpster is about \$400 to \$500.

- Choose exterior colors wisely. Shock value is highly overrated when it comes to curb appeal. Your exterior color choices should be in harmony with other neighborhood homes. Scout around first before you paint or stain — your neighbors will thank you.

- Hire a landscape designer. A modest investment in a pro landscape plan will pay off big-time when it comes time to sell your house. If you're averse to



regular lawn maintenance, consider a condo or apartment.

- A place for everything. You may be proud of your diligent recycling and trash maintenance routine, but that doesn't mean it should be on display for the world to see. Keep trash bins off to the side, and built a low-cost privacy screen to hide them from view.

- Chained to a bad fence option. Chain link fence is sturdy, reliable and relatively inexpensive. It's great for bordering back and side yards, but

out front, it's flat-out ugly. With so many great fencing options available at a fairly modest cost, you owe it to yourself to re-fence.

- When high-tech is low-cool. Technology has brought many wonderful things into our lives, but good-looking exteriors aren't necessarily included. If you're a techno-geek, keep your antennae and solar collectors hidden from view behind shrubbery or privacy screens.

- Ease up on the lawn ornaments. Front yards are great

for well-trimmed shrubs and fetching flowers, but they really aren't the place to display an overabundant collection of lawn ornaments. Moderation is a virtue, and helps preserve the value of your property.

- Don't stain your reputation. A little routine maintenance keeps little problems from becoming big eyesores. An annual cleaning keeps brick siding looking fresh. Scrub stains out and seal with a top-quality primer before painting over exterior stains.

By Robert Meisner
Guest Columnist

Q: Our subdivision documents preclude a mobile home from being parked temporarily on land unconnected to utilities because it is not a building (structure). Before closing on a lot purchase, one of our owners parked his mobile home on the lot. The mobile home sat on a trailer and remained unconnected to any plumbing or utilities. Moreover, no site work had been done in preparation for placing the mobile home on a foundation. Do we have a basis to pursue the mobile home owner?

A: As in most of these bylaw enforcement matters, it depends on the facts of the case. To the extent that the association had the



Robert Meisner

right to approve any building on the lot, it is likely that buildings would include the

structures and mobile homes could reasonably be defined as structures. The fact that the mobile home was not connected to utilities did not mean that it was not a structure and, of course, it depends upon the language of your deed restrictions and whether the deed restriction expressly covered structures that were intended, designed or arranged to be used or occupied, and not just those actually in use.

Q: Can you tell me which states post the top state foreclosure rates, and how does Michigan stand?

A: As of August 2011, Nevada, California and Arizona posted the top state foreclosure rates. However five other states account for more than half of the U.S. total. Michigan documented 13,016 properties with foreclosure filings in August, the third highest state in the country. It doesn't look like things are slowing up in the foreclosure business. I can tell from my experience in representing community and condominium associations that unfortunately the need to pursue collections continues to increase.

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and the author of Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track, second edition. It is available for \$9.95 plus \$1 shipping and handling. He also wrote Condo Living: A Survival Guide to Buying, Owning and Selling a Condominium, available for \$24.95 plus \$5 shipping and handling. Call (248) 644-4433 or visit bmeisner@meisner-associates.com. This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-WAYNE

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Aug. 30 to Sept. 2, 2011, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

CANTON	
49655 Cherokee Cir	\$269,000
568 Cherry Orchard Rd	\$119,000
50494 Coolidge St	\$272,000
1520 Emerald Pines Dr	\$186,000
633 Filmore St	\$340,000
47413 Fox Run Dr	\$236,000
41543 Glade Rd	\$128,000
220 Harvard St	\$189,000
4675 Hunters Cir E	\$60,000
43135 Ironsides Ct	\$135,000

2160 Liberty St S	\$290,000
45471 Michael Ct	\$138,000
637 N Corrine Blvd	\$145,000
7129 Pittsford St	\$204,000
41824 Princess Dr	\$196,000
GARDEN CITY	
32533 Cambridge St	\$82,000
30944 Florence St	\$75,000
1525 Lathers St	\$10,000
6456 Whitby St	\$70,000
LIVONIA	
30599 Six Mile Rd	\$200,000
18290 Bainbridge Ave	\$102,000
27656 Barkley St	\$93,000
9599 Cavell St	\$2,000
20616 Chestnut Cir	\$85,000
17330 Fairfield St	\$185,000
15055 Hubbard St	\$17,000
9915 Mayfield St	\$119,000
37077 Munger St	\$107,000

28528 N Clements Cir	\$59,000
30878 Orangelawn St	\$127,000
16783 Penn Dr	\$144,000
9004 Pere Ave	\$115,000
33679 Pondview Cir	\$33,000
35132 Scone St	\$120,000
17341 Stamwich St	\$120,000
8925 Sunbury St	\$94,000
18241 University Park Dr	\$70,000
NORTHVILLE	
245 First St	\$80,000
45731 Clement Ct	\$355,000
16740 Dover Dr	\$106,000
44444 Larchwood Dr	\$575,000
49697 S Glacier	\$330,000
789 Thayer Blvd	\$326,000
PLYMOUTH	
9151 Briarwood Dr	\$90,000
42910 Joy Rd	\$74,000
382 N Evergreen St	\$230,000

REDFORD	
11324 Garfield	\$32,000
16841 Glenmore	\$43,000
18763 Macarthur	\$52,000
23310 Meadow Park	\$35,000
18671 Norborne	\$10,000
12130 San Jose	\$26,000
17690 Wakenden	\$40,000
WESTLAND	
37542 Barkridge Cir	\$54,000
1554 Berkshire St	\$73,000
7421 Floral St	\$53,000
34102 Majestic St	\$81,000
5700 N Crown St	\$23,000
8551 Perrin Ave	\$90,000
32118 Sandra Ln	\$83,000
1700 Stieber St	\$40,000

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-OAKLAND

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Aug. 22-26, 2011, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

BEVERLY HILLS	
18642 E Chelton Dr	\$225,000
16904 Kinross Ave	\$192,000
BIRMINGHAM	
1998 Bowers St	\$355,000
1652 Henrietta St	\$740,000
450 Larchlea Dr	\$400,000
2205 Pembroke Rd	\$163,000
1601 Quarton Rd	\$482,000
1473 S Eton St	\$90,000
315 S Glenhurst Dr	\$339,000
411 S Old Woodard Ave Unit 555,000	
1589 Sheffield Rd	\$154,000
650 W Lincoln St	\$325,000
BLOOMFIELD HILLS	
5592 N Adams Way	\$110,000
2058 Fawnwood Way	\$250,000
2451 Hunters Pond	\$570,000
7371 Lindenmere Dr	\$490,000
4438 Stony River Dr	\$345,000
986 Stratford Ln	\$135,000
2906 Whittier Dr	\$250,000
BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP	
1523 Ashover Dr	\$246,000
2654 Bridle Rd	\$220,000
4602 Brightmore Rd	\$500,000

3370 Burning Bush Rd	\$650,000
6895 Castle Ct	\$280,000
4861 Cimarron Dr	\$1,260,000
2820 Colonial Way	\$185,000
1100 E Glengarry Cir	\$1,400,000
815 E Long Lake Rd	\$240,000
2399 Heronwood Dr	\$635,000
5103 Iron Gate Rd	\$235,000
1411 Kirkway Rd	\$1,550,000
125 Maywood Ave	\$520,000
1322 N Glengarry Rd	\$830,000
1872 Packer Rd	\$160,000
4599 Ranch Ln	\$450,000
4837 Stoneleigh Rd	\$600,000
6775 Wing Lake Rd	\$166,000
COMMERCE TOWNSHIP	
5299 Baronette Ln	\$265,000
8627 Cooley Lake Rd # 303	\$119,000
2100 Glen Iris Ct	\$29,000
3700 Loch Bend Dr	\$320,000
3291 Melmoor St	\$35,000
1300 Penarth St	\$118,000
5864 Pickbourne St	\$75,000
3100 Pikewood Ct	\$487,000
3144 Pikewood Ct	\$425,000
4404 Racewood Dr	\$195,000
2978 Ravinewood Dr	\$428,000
5604 Tuscola St	\$72,000
8635 War Bonnet Dr	\$120,000
FARMINGTON	
23077 Farmington Rd	\$140,000
23450 Hillview Ct	\$220,000
21027 Meadowlark St	\$140,000
33315 Shiawassee Rd	\$240,000
26347 Valhalla Dr	\$277,000
FARMINGTON HILLS	
32268 Baintree Rd	\$164,000

28334 Bayberry Rd	\$105,000
38622 Brandmill	\$102,000
32615 Briarcrest Knls	\$119,000
27184 Cambridge Ln	\$400,000
25628 Castlereigh Dr	\$174,000
32580 Chesterbrook St	\$128,000
30887 Country Ridge Cir	\$197,000
20910 Deerfield	\$381,000
34239 Glouster Cir	\$238,000
28645 Herndonwood Dr	\$96,000
24347 Kensington	\$126,000
29692 Olympia Ct	\$50,000
28314 Peppermill Rd	\$20,000
29398 Regents Pointe	\$107,000
30703 Shiawassee Rd	\$28,000
29200 Spring St	\$260,000
28455 Thorny Brae Rd	\$123,000
23021 Tulane Ave	\$45,000
26147 Valhalla Dr	\$260,000
36634 W Lyman Rd	\$144,000
29248 Wyndham Ct	\$155,000
FRANKLIN	
24447 Bloomington Ct	\$136,000
Lathrup Village	
26520 Meadowood Ct N	\$116,000
MILFORD	
1791 Bristol Dr	\$480,000
832 Duke	\$85,000
625 E Commerce St	\$118,000
480 Rowe Rd	\$219,000
2772 Stone Meadow Dr	\$506,000
2051 Trinity Ln	\$395,000
NOVI	
25725 Arcadia Dr	\$375,000
24482 Bashian Dr	\$58,000
27491 Belgrave Pl	\$45,000
233 Bernstadt St	\$79,000

41294 Carriage Hill Dr	\$395,000
50767 Drakes Bay Dr	\$610,000
41683 Juniper Cir	\$115,000
24576 Le Bost Ct	\$425,000
40538 Lenox Park Dr	\$229,000
22121 Shadybrook Dr	\$232,000
25442 Sutton Ct	\$50,000
21208 Wheaton Ln	\$417,000
SOUTH LYON	
58753 Carriage Ln	\$40,000
142 Easton Dr	\$230,000
61116 Greenwood Dr	\$41,000
25875 Hunters Ln	\$245,000
24339 Martindale Rd	\$172,000
23906 Prescott Ct	\$61,000
23563 Prescott Ln W	\$61,000
52933 Willowbrook Dr	\$61,000
SOUTHFIELD	
27301 Apple Blossom Ln	\$60,000
19421 Cherry Hill St	\$75,000
18165 Goldwin St	\$93,000
21438 Hiawatha Trl	\$115,000
21704 Midway Ave	\$23,000
17241 Revere St	\$78,000
28155 San Marino Dr	\$88,000
27335 Selkirk St	\$85,000
16055 Templar Cir	\$71,000
5000 Town Ctr	\$74,000
WHITE LAKE	
1112 Clearwater St	\$148,000
8875 Eastway Dr	\$260,000
1225 Grove Point Dr	\$75,000
8431 Highland Rd	\$385,000
8031 Springdale Dr	\$110,000
1105 Suggen Rd	\$193,000
2580 Tackles Dr	\$187,000

REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

Career Seminar

Keller Williams Realty will offer a Career Seminar 6:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 15, at 40600 Ann Arbor Road, Suite 100, Plymouth. Learn about the \$50,000 income guarantee. For more information, contact: Lesley Aiello at (734) 459-4700 or laiello@kw.com.

Finance Seminar

Learn how to finance your purchase and rehab projects in and around Detroit. Hear from an expert in the lending business, Trent Dalrymple, who has more than 25 years of experience. Real estate and investment profession-

als are welcome. Seating is limited so call (248) 547-3006, or sign up at www.metro-mi.com. These free one-hour seminars will be 6-7 p.m. on the first and third Thursday of the month at Metro Mortgage Investments, 26711 Woodward Ave., Suite 301, Huntington Woods.

Real Estate Sales and Appraising

Learn about a career in residential real estate. Attend a free one-hour seminar, or shadow a top agent to get an inside feel of the business. Seminars are at noon or 6 p.m. Wednesdays.

To reserve a spot, contact Keller Williams Realty International, at (248) 893-2500, 27555 Executive Drive, Suite 100, Farmington Hills 48331.

Seminar on Tuesdays

A free Reverse Mortgage Seminar is 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday at Colonial Mortgage Corp., 33919 Plymouth Road, Livonia. No obligation.

Learn about reverse mortgages. RSVP with Larry Brady at (800) 260-5484, Ext. 33.

Free Foreclosure Tours

Free Foreclosure Tours are 1 p.m.

every other Sunday. Meeting place is Panera Bread on the southeast corner of Middlebelt and I-96. E-mail Georgia@addedvaluerealty.com or visit FreeForeclosureTour.com.

On Facebook

RE/MAX has launched a new Facebook page for customers and the public to get direct answers for their real estate questions from RE/MAX experts. The new site is a chance for the public to ASKRE-MAX and get clear, expert answers in real time.

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CANTON: 44750 Leslie 3 bdrm, 1.5 bath, 1900 sq. ft. 2 car garage, newly decorated, \$1500/mo. Call: 248-330-9262

CANTON: 720 SCOTSDALE \$1,450/mo with a sec dep of \$2,492.50 to move in. 5 bdrms, 3 1/2 bathrooms, family room w/ fireplace, finished bsmt, 2 car garage, patio, shed, stove & refrigerator. Prices and Pets are neg. Showtimes for this home are Wednesdays and Sundays at 4pm or by appointment. Please call 313-520-5966 for more information or email us at scm901@yahoo.com

COMMERCE TWP. Lovely 3 bdrm, 2 bath, bsmt, lake privileges, appl., fenced yard. \$955. 248-588-6119

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Mobile Home Rentals

Homes For Rent
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REDFORD: Newly decorated 4 bdrm, 2.5 bath, bsmt, lg family room, kit. & dining rm. 2.5 car gar, \$975. 586-247-1186

SOUTHFIELD: 2 bdrm. No bsmt. No pets. No Sect. 8. Lg. lot. \$1500 to move in. \$750/mo. 248-827-2122

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Viewing Jan
Joe Carli, Professional Auction Service
734.451.7444
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Office Supplies
BEAUTY SALON EQUIP FOR SALE: Styling chairs, shampoo bowls and chairs, reception chairs, dryer chairs, pedicure chair, manicure station and chair, work stations, reception desk, glass shelves, chair mats, washer/dryer, ceiling fan and misc. items. Cash only. Dec. 10, 3:30-6pm & Dec. 11, 10-5pm. Only 2 days! 328 South Harvey, Plymouth. (248) 459-9888

Video Games, Tapes, Movies
PAC MAN MACHINE Never been painted. Original condition. Takes quarters. Exc. cond. \$600. 313-277-6698

Christmas Trees
Mutch's Hidden Pines LLC
303 W. Newark Rd., Lapeer (1/2 mile east of M-24)
Featuring Fraser, Canaan, and Blue Spruce
*Cut your own & pre-cut
*Visit our 150 year old barn for gifts, wreaths, hot chocolate & more!
*Wagon Rides
*Visit with Santa from 10am-4pm Sat. & Sun. only
Free Shaking, Bailing and Drilling.
Business Hours:
Friday, November 25, 9:00am-5:00pm
Friday's Dec. 2, 9, 16, 12:00pm-5:00pm.
Saturday's & Sun's, Nov. 26-Dec. 18, 9:00am-5:00pm.
Visa & MC accepted.
(810) 667-2711
www.mutchshiddenpines.com

ESTATE AUCTION
Fri., Dec. 9th, 7pm
Cultural Center
325 Farmer Plymouth MI
Collectibles;
Tools; Outdoor Items;
Harley Davidson Items;
Collectible Toys;
Household Items;
Cash/MC/Visa
Bank Debit Cards
No Checks
Doors Open 6pm
Joe Carli, Professional Auction Service
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ESTATE SALES
AN ESTATE SALE
Onchar Lk Rd. & Old Dominion Dr, West Bloomfield, across WBHS.
Thurs-Sat. Dec. 8-10th, 9:30am-5:30pm
Thomasville, Ethan Allen, Hitchcock, Waterford, Americana & antiques, vintage, bath sets, dining rm set, leather couch, bookcases, desks, lamps, antique picture frames, household, etc.

Estate Sale Filming for HGTV's Cash & Cari
Season 3
GREAT FINDS incl. Mid-century furniture, Vintage Pursses & Tools!
2750 Indian Mound S. Bloomfield Hills MI 48301
Dec 10th, 10-6pm
http://reporposestate.com
248.719.8332

ESTATE SALE- LIVONIA- Fri & Sat. Dec 9 & 10, 10-4pm.
Reasonably priced. 27464 Five Mile; 1 blk W of Inkster

GARDEN CITY ESTATE SALE
of Avid hunter & fisherman, 45 yrs accumulation. House & garage loaded! Pristine trophy mounts, Big Jon Downriggers and gear, antiques, jewelry, vintage trains, silver, cameras, tools, jigs sewing machine, household, furniture & much more! Thurs. 12/8 & Fri, 12/9, 10-4pm. 32135 Leona, Merriman & Cherry Hill.

NOVI ESTATE SALE: Fri., Sat. & Sun. 9-5. 309 Eubank. Household items, tools, air conditioners, furniture.

Garage/Moving Sales
MOVING SALE: Grosse Pointe. By appt. Haversham drop leaf table, Hitchcock chairs, Ethan Allen nightstands, patio table, Sligh grandfather clock, Trek bikes (2), Drexel Heritage grand tour dining room set, Henredon couch, & Baker wing arm chair.
By Appt. Sat. 12/10 AM 313-623-5005
Visit Craig's List for pictures

Household Goods
BUFFET - OAK: With matching armoire and wine rack, excellent cond, \$425/best offer. Westland, 734-467-6352

COUCH: Formal decorative couch, muted, woven steen, paisley print, oriental look w/real blue deep green, rust/gold. \$225/best offer. 248-254-3575

WALDOCK TREE FARM
We Grow:
Canaan, Concolor, Corkbark, Fraser & Korean Fir, Black Hills, Blue Norway & Serbian Spruce. All trees shaken, wrapped & drilled for free!
Large trees up to 19' Wreaths
Homemade Donuts, Coffee, Tea, Hot Cocoa, Cider and a Gift Shop in our warm barn. Open Fri. Sat. & Sun. 9am til Dark. 3090 Dutchler Rd., Howell. Take I-96, exit 137, South to Coon Lake Rd. West to Dutchler Rd. Follow the signs.
For more info & a map. (517) 546-3890
Waldocktreefarm.com

Hospital/Medical Equipment
Aluminum Loading Ramps
Handicapped & mobility, heavy duty & portable. For vans or RVs. 3 pieces. One 6 ft & two 1 1/2 ft. with handles. Like new. \$295/best. 313-533-0098, 313-515-3330

CI PAT MACHINE-
In mint cond., 2 yrs old, top of the line. \$350. 734-449-7226

Miscellaneous For Sale
BEAUTY SALON EQUIP FOR SALE: Styling chairs, shampoo bowls and chairs, reception chairs, dryer chairs, pedicure chair, manicure station and chair, work stations, reception desk, glass shelves, chair mats, washer/dryer, ceiling fan and misc. items. Cash only. Dec. 10, 3:30-6pm & Dec. 11, 10-5pm. Only 2 days! 328 South Harvey, Plymouth. (248) 459-9888

Household Goods
MISC: Unfinished adult size rocking chair, \$50. Stationary exercise bicycle, \$50. Call 734-261-3327 after 7pm.

SOFA RECLINER, TABLES,
queen bed, all in excellent cond. Best offer. Call Frank: (734) 994-3091

SOFA: Gold, 84 inch, like new, \$100. Triple dresser with mirror, twin headboards & night stand, \$100. Games table with 4 upholstered chairs, \$75. Call: (248) 486-8180

TABLE - BUTCHER BLOCK:
With 4 king chairs, almost new, \$300. Call: 248-374-0873

Appliances
FRIDGE - SIDE BY SIDE:
Gas range, wall microwave & dishwasher. Very good cond, almost new. 734-895-9510, call after 5pm.

Office Supplies
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Musical Instruments
PIANO- Gulbransen baby grand piano circa 1918, walnut stain, origin. Ivory keys. Exc cond./tone! Asking \$2000. 248-626-3725

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CAT/KITTEN ADOPTIONS
Every Sun. 12-4 at Pets Supplies Plus, 43665 Ford Rd., Canton. (734) 595-3646

KITTENS Cute, lovable, fluffy kittens. Great for Christmas! To good home only. Leave message. 248-672-2638

Dogs
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FT Mortgage Servicing Rep
Minimum 1 yr. mortgage servicing exp. and demonstrated understanding of basic real estate functions.
Complete job description and locations available at: dfcufinancial.com
see Mortgage Servicing Rep
Applications accepted at all DFCU branches through December 31, 2011
Credit record in good standing required
Equal Opportunity Employer.

Banking
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Michigan's largest Credit Union currently seeking friendly, service oriented individuals.
Now hiring
Assistant Branch Manager
for the Metro Detroit Area.
Minimum qualifications include: 2 yrs. supervision experience in a sales/financial environment. Coaching and customer service exp. Demonstrated professionalism with motivation to attain new skills in a dynamic environment.
Complete job description and locations available at: dfcufinancial.com
See description for Asst. Member Relations Mgr
Accepting applications through Friday, December 30, 2011
Apply in person at any DFCU Financial Branch Office
Credit record in good standing required
Equal Opportunity Employer.

ACCOUNTANT/OFFICE COORDINATOR:
Go to web site for details: southlyonfirstmco.org

APPOINTMENT SETTER
Ideal for anyone who can't get out to work. Work from home PT, schedule pick-ups for Purple Heart. Call Mon-Fri., 9-5pm. 734-728-4572 or email: phoneworking@aol.com

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Michigan's largest Credit Union Wants you to join their team!
FT Mortgage Servicing Rep
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Apply in person at any DFCU Financial Branch Office
Credit record

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cars.com

Auto Misc.
Aluminum Loading Ramps Handcapped & mobility, heavy duty & portable. For vans or RVs. 3 piece, One 6 ft & two 1 1/2 ft. with handles. Like new. \$295/best. 313-533-0098; 313-515-3330

WE PAY TOP DOLLAR For Clean USED CARS

AVIS FORD (248) 355-7500

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A Brother's Towing \$250-\$600 for Junk Cars
Cash on the Spot. Free Removal. 313-304-7544

Family Owned Business
Buying all vehicles. Any cond. \$300 minimum. Free Pick-Up. Thank You. (248) 579-7488

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We buy running and junk cars, etc. We pay \$50-\$5000 cash on spot. Get more cash than dealer trade in or donation. 313-320-1829

UNWANTED AUTOS, LLC
\$300 & up for autos; \$400 & up for full size trucks, vans & late models. (248) 467-0396

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CHEVY AVALANCHE 2006
Sandstone, 271, 4WD, and loaded! Winter ready! Just \$18,973! 888-372-9836

CHEVY SILVERADO 2011
Summit White, LT, 2500HD, and 16K1! This truck is a beast! Just \$31,595! 888-372-9836

FORD F150 2008
Silver Slate, 8K, 5 speed and XLI Great Truck...Great Price! Only \$14,995! 888-372-9836

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2 Dr., air, auto, CD. 2000 miles on new Rhino crate 302 engine and rebuilt transmission, oversized AT tires, relocating and will consider all offers! \$2000 - 734-751-4836

Mini-Vans

CHEVY ASTRO VAN 2000
Senior owned, 1 owner, very good cond., many extras, new Michelin tires, \$4,200. Call: (734) 421-8547

CHEVY UPLANDER 2005
Tan Almond, LT, DVD, and remote start! Perfect for holiday travel! Just \$12,495! 888-372-9836

CHRYSLER Town & Country Van LXI 1998: Hunter green, tan leather int., no rust, loaded, exc. cond. \$5,000. Plymouth: 1-734-451-7378

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Mini-Vans

PONTIAC MONTANA 2001
Hot Chocolate, 57K, alloys, and power options! Family budget friendly! Reduced to \$7,877! 888-372-9836

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Vans

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Silver/gray interior, 138,300 miles, looks good, runs great, 1 owner, only \$3300. Call: 734-427-1046

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15 passenger, White, 36K \$21,995

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Summit White, FL, CD, 52K, and ABS! Perfect work van! Reduced to \$16,972! 888-372-9836

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Burgundy, AWD, only \$9,995

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CHEVY TRAILBLAZER LT 2002
4X4 Black \$7,895

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DODGE DURANGO 2002
Gray, sharp, only \$7,995

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Silver, leather, 4X4 \$12,995

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meticulously maintained, 4x4, loaded, sunroof, leather, detailed. \$5500. 734-777-0269

GMC ENVY SLT 2008
Gray, 31K, certified, \$22,549

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Bronze Metal, PL/PW, ABS & OnStar! Cruise in style! Reduced to \$21,983! 888-372-9836

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GMC TERRAIN SLT 2010
AWD, Black \$28,995

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GMC YUKON XL 2000
Gray SLT, runs great Must See \$8,495

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73K \$19,650

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AWD, Black, 84K \$13,495

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AWD, 73K \$12,495

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1 owner, non-smoker, garaged, stored in winter, under 72,000 miles, full power, alarm, light blue/dark blue leather seats. Runs & looks like new inside & out. All records & maintenance receipts. It's a beauty! \$6500/best. (734) 422-9584

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Silver-Blue 67K, \$25,495

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Bleached White, CX, sunroof, and chrome! Quality engineering! Only \$13,997! 888-372-9836

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Autumn Red, CXL, 16K & OnStar! Luxurious Buick engineering! Just \$23,995! 888-372-9836

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LACROSSE SUPER 2008
V8, 37K \$19,495

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CADILLAC 2009
AWD, Black, loaded, \$26,995

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Like new, loaded \$11,995

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CADILLAC SRX 2004
AWD, loaded, \$11,995

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COUPE DeVILLE 1984
Family owned 26 yrs. Good Cond. Minimum Rust. \$3200. 810-417-7002

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Gun Metal Gray, SS/RS, convertible, and loaded! Show 'em who's boss! Call for price! 888-372-9836

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Pacific Blue, LS, remote start, and onstar! Great for road trips! Just \$13,331! 888-372-9836

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CHEVROLET IMPALA LTZ
Gray, loaded, 19K \$19,149

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MALIBU LTZ 2010
Loaded! Only \$18,650

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MALIBU 2008
Jet Black, LTZ, leather, and remote start! One sweet ride! Reduced \$14,353! 888-372-9836

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MALIBU 2012
Silver Star, LT, OnStar & remote start! Only 600 miles! Reduced to \$18,797! 888-372-9836

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Ford

TAURUS 2010
Stunning Silver, limited, chrome, and sync! Top to bottom loaded! Just \$26,995! 888-372-9836

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ACADIA 2009
AWD, Dark blue, \$27,995

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ACADIA 2009
Silver, only \$24K, \$24,795

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Blue Harmony, SLT, leather & AWD! Roomy & loaded! Reduced to \$26,331! 888-372-9836

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Silver Fox, sport, 8K, and 4WD! Great on any road! Reduced to \$19,971! 888-372-9836

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Must see (wife's car). Perfect maint. LIKE NEW. Full pwr and options. \$6,950 or Best Offer. 248-613-5650

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Blue Breeze, SE, alloys and ABS! Showroom Sharp! Reduced to \$14,881! 888-372-9836

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MARQUIS 2005
LS Loaded, Limited Edition \$10,995

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Black Hawk, sunroof, leather, p/w & ABS! 1 Sporty Elegance! Reduced to \$11,871! 888-372-9836

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Hyundai

GENESIS 2010
V8, moon, nav. 21K miles, Black \$29,995

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4X4 WRANGLER 2004
Red, mint condition \$14,895

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4X4 WRANGLER 2008
Silver, low miles \$17,995

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Lou LaRiche

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Silver, sport, 28K, sport, and 4WD! Command the road! Reduced to \$17,999! 888-372-9836

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Lou LaRiche

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