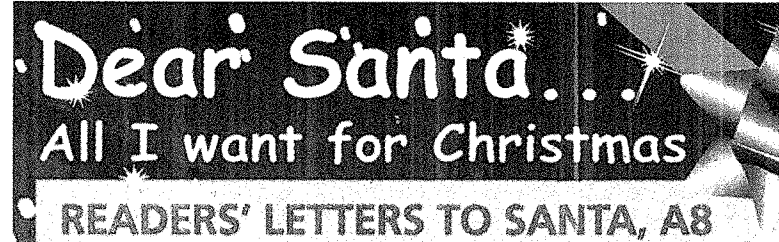


**Q&A WITH SANTA'S NO. 1 ELF**  
BUSINESS, A9



**A TASTE ADVENTURE FOR THE HOLIDAYS**  
FOOD, B8



**Dear Santa...**  
All I want for Christmas  
READERS' LETTERS TO SANTA, A8

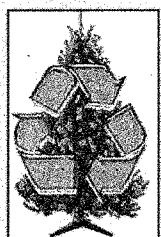
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**Recycle trees**

The City of Westland will continue its Christmas tree recycling program for the 2011-12 season.

Space will be provided for Westland residents



to drop off their Christmas tree at the city's Recycling Center at the rear

of the DPS building at 37137 Marquette, east of Newburgh.

Trees can be dropped off during regular operating hours 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Saturday, Jan. 3-17. The center is closed on Sundays.

Trees should be free of lighting, tinsel and other decorations. A designated and signed area will be provided for drop-off within the recycling center. All trees received will be chipped and recycled for use at the Westland Community Garden and other locations.

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

**Holiday skate**

Looking for something to do during the holiday season?

Check out the Mike Modano Ice Arena which has holiday open skating times and holiday hockey clinics planned.

Enjoy Glow Skate 8-9:20 p.m. Friday, Dec. 23 and Dec. 30, as well as a New Year's Eve Glow Skate 3-4:50 p.m. Or take a break from the hustle and bustle for open skating 1:30-3:20 p.m. Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, and Saturday, Jan. 7, as well as post-Christmas sessions 1-2 p.m. Tuesday Dec. 27 and Jan. 3, and Thursday, Dec. 29 and Jan. 5.

The cost is \$3 for children and \$4 for adults, nonresident charges are \$3.50 for children and \$4.50 for adults. Skate rental is \$3.

The arena will have holiday hockey clinics 12:30-1:50 p.m. Monday, Dec. 26, for Mite and Squirt and 12:30-1:50 p.m. Friday, Dec. 30, for PeeWee and Bantam. Players must preregister to participate. For more information, call Joe at (734) 729-456.

The arena is at 6210 Wildwood at Hunter, east of Wayne Road.

**Above and beyond: Police officers rescue woman from burning home**

By LeAnne Rogers  
Observer Staff Writer

Three Westland police officers are being called heroes for rescuing a bedridden woman from her burning home early Sunday morning.

"They really deserve to be commended. If it weren't for those policemen, I don't know what would have happened," said Thomas Weaver,



Brooks



Fruit



Sleep

whose wife, Suzanne, was unable to flee the burning home where they have lived for 50 years. "I want them to be commended for their work. It was

above and beyond." First to arrive at home, Sgt. Norm Brooks, Officer Robert Fruit and Officer Kameron Sleep are credited with saving the life of Suzanne Weaver, 78, who was confined to a hospital bed in the living room of the home.

"The officers were able to locate her. They had to exit the house to catch their breath (due to heavy smoke), then returned and carried her out," said Westland Police Chief Greg Angelosanto. "They are all heroes."

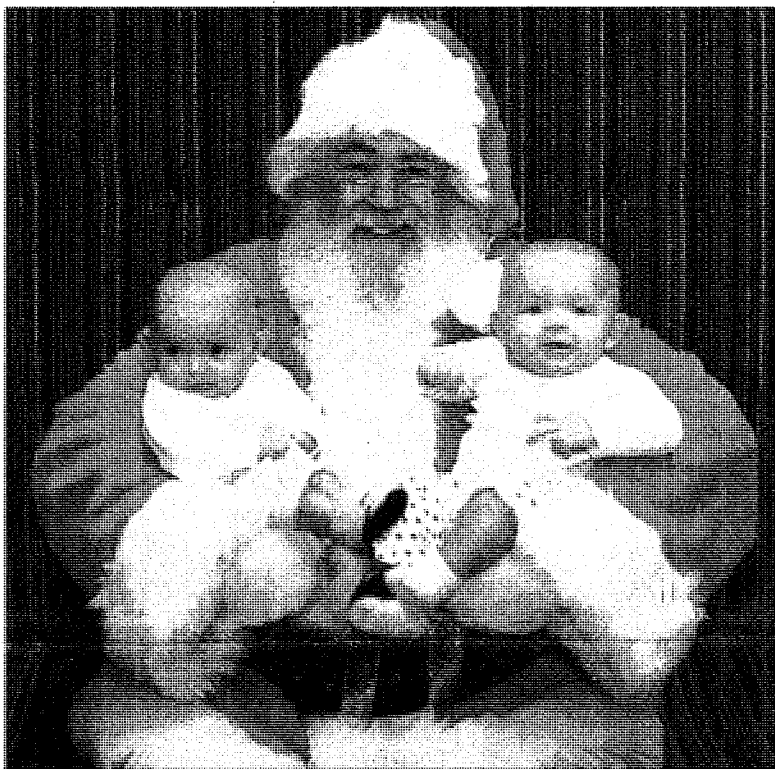
The fire started about 2 a.m. in the basement of the Weavers' home on Bison. Weaver, 79, his grandson and his girlfriend, along with the

girlfriend's four-month-old child, were able to escape the burning home. The younger couple and the baby were sleeping in a basement bedroom. The fire is believed to have been started by unattended candles.

Married 58 years, Thomas Weaver sleeps in a recliner near his wife's hospital bed in

Please see RESCUE, A2

It's not clear who had more fun - Stella and Sophia Wroblewski or Santa Claus - when the twins' parents, Carolyn and Nicholas Wroblewski of Westland, took them to meet the Big Man at Westland Shopping Center. A bit young to whisper in Santa's ear, they oblige their parents in posing for a picture.



**Dear Santa: Youngsters have very special wish lists**

**Editor's Note:** When Santa approached us about printing some of the letters he received from boys and girls, he had one request — that we print as they were written. We agreed. Letters to Santa should not be edited. They are written from the hearts of the children. Their thoughts, their creativity, their hints as to where they live are what makes this holiday a delightful time. We hope you will take the time to read these letters. We did and so did Santa.

**Dear Santa ...**

Can I have a wallet, slippers, a watch, and a walkie talkie. Sam, our elf is watching us and he is my favorite elf in the world. I like him very much. One day he was hiding and noone could find him but I did and he was on the tree. Thank you for sending him to us. I like to be good all day. I like you Santa.

From, Adam Said  
I have been good this year. I would like a doll and pajamas.



Adam Said

Love, Sara Said  
Hi, how are you? My name is Adam Chedid. I am 7 seven years old for Christmas I would wish to have a 3ds.



Sara Said

Hi, my name is Robert Lawfield. I am 18 months

old. I don't know Santa that well. But I have been a good, little guy, as much as I can.

I want a new truck for me to push. When mommy took me to see you, I sat on your lap and didn't even cry!

Robert Lawfield  
Don't work too hard but give me some cool stuff and a ipod and tv.

Griphen Smith

How are you? I am 9 years old. Please if you could send me a psp game I would be so happy. I trust you a lot.

Love, Ali  
How are you? My name is Tala Chedid. I am 3 years old. For Christmas I would wish to have a Barbie game for wii and some clothes.

Tala  
How are you today. My name is Lian Chedid. I am 10 years old. For Christmas I would wish to have a PS3 and a fighting game with it that has 2 girls and a copel of boys and one of the boys like a girl named clove and other girl witch know one likes is alana and a pair of clothing shirt medium pants size 8.

Lian

Happy holidays! There are two things I want for Christmas. 1. An Ipod touch. The 2nd thing is an alarm clock to wake myself up. Hope you have nice Christmas.

Marco

I have been really good. How is Mrs. Claus? How are

Dominic Jones Jr.

Please see LETTERS, A8

your reindeer? Is Christmas going to be super fun like last year?

Santa I have been really good and these are the things I would like for Christmas. I would like an ipad, a cool new phone and some clothes. I think I should get the ipad because I'm more responsible, I'm more respectful. And I learn how to share. I think I should get a new phone because I am getting older. I think I should get new clothes because I would like to where a new fashion.

Love, Acliyah Elder

How are the reindeer Santa? Do you still like cookies and milk? I want an ipod touch because everyone plays my moms. Santa, I want Bakugans because I collect them and they're fun. I would like to have Pokeymon black and white because I like Pokeymon. I hope everyone gets all the presents they want.

Garrett

I can't wate for Christmas to come for all of the good kids. I hope none of the nice kids are on the notey list! I think I have been good enuff for one toy!

What I want for Christmas is the new Pokemon Catch it, Launch it Battle toy, a new red jacket and the ultimate FX light saber. These are what I want for Christmas.

I know you will find it in your hart to get me these toys, youll have cookies, milk and a present waiting for you.

Dominic Jones Jr.

**Library goes into OverDrive for eBooks service**

By LeAnne Rogers  
Observer Staff Writer

Once Christmas is over, Library Director Sheila Collins expects to see a jump in the number of people using the new downloadable eBooks service now available at Westland's William Faust Library. That will be due to all those Kindles, Nooks and other electronic reading devices that are likely to be under the Christmas tree waiting to be opened.

The library's downloadable content includes eBooks, audio books and music. The material became available Nov. 30 through a contract with OverDrive Essentials, a digital media services company.

The program is available only to Westland library card holders — people with cards from

other libraries have to use their home libraries to access downloadable eBooks. Other requirements are a computer or compatible device and Internet access. Free software to manage downloaded content will be needed.

"It's important that people have a computer or Internet access to download — they can't use the library public use computers," said Collins. "Basically, we couldn't afford the licensing. People have to be sure their device can download or they need a computer. The stores might not tell them that."

It doesn't take a separate account to access downloadable materials — just the standard Westland library card. In a lot of ways, downloading the materials is

Please see LIBRARY, A2

**U-verse now carries city programming**

By LeAnne Rogers  
Observer Staff Writer

Subscribers to U-verse television service can now view Westland council meetings — something Comcast and WOW! customers have done for years.

The council meetings became available through U-verse on Dec. 8 but initially there were some issues with the quality of the broadcast, particularly the sound.

"I believe we have fine-tuned all of the settings to correct the audio and video issues," said Westland Information Technology Director Dan Bourdeau.

On a split vote last summer, the council had approved an agreement with AT&T that allowed WLND programming to become available on U-verse, which uses a different technology than the two competing services.

"I've got it. I'm a hap-

py camper," said resident Jim Davis, who had been among the U-verse subscribers complaining for several years about not having access to municipal programming.

The argument from residents was that they paid franchise fees, including the Public Government Education fees that fund the local municipal channel.

Council members had objected to spending money for a machine to convert a DVD of the council meeting into the format needed to transmit it to U-verse through a DSL line and the monthly charges for the phone line. The cost for the DSL line is approximately \$500 per month which will be paid from the franchise fees.

Comcast and WOW! don't charge the city for offering WLND programming.

Please see U-VERSE, A2

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# GC man charged in attempted holdup at pharmacy

By LeAnne Rogers  
Observer Staff Writer

A Garden City man has been arrested for attempting to rob a Westland Walgreens pharmacy at knifepoint Dec. 11. The pharmacist told police he was filling a prescription just after 10 a.m. when a man, armed with a black handled kitchen knife, jumped over the counter and confronted him. The intruder, wearing a bandana/mask over his lower face, demanded that the pharmacist give

him Fentanyl patches, a strong painkiller. Indicating he needed to get the keys to the safe, the pharmacist told police he moved so that he was closer to the front counter than the suspect. The pharmacist said he pointed at a counter behind the suspect to show where the key was located. When the suspect turned to look at the other counter, the pharmacist jumped over the counter and run. The suspect chased him and the pharmacist later told police he

feared that he was going to be stabbed. A witness who had been waiting for a prescription told police he had seen the suspect walking around the store adjusting his mask. When he heard a commotion, the witness said he saw the suspect leave the store, located at Middlebelt and Warren Road, heading south across Warren. Both the pharmacist and the witness told police the suspect appeared to be wearing extra clothing. The suspect was last

seen heading east onto a side street in Garden City. A Westland officer located the suspect, breathing very heavily, walking eastbound on Rush. He told the officer he was walking to his home on Maplewood from a friend's home at Balmoral and Merriman. When questioned why he was so far out of his way, the suspect told the officer he had been out looking for a job but offered no explanation for his heavy breathing. The man denied being at

Walgreens. A Garden City officer located a sweat shirt and sweat pants matching the description of what the suspect had been wearing in a Dumpster to the rear of Rancho Grande Restaurant, 7034 Middlebelt. Upon further searching, a kitchen knife was also recovered from the Dumpster. Following his arrest, the suspect, 22, told police that he experiences pain to his left hand and had run out of pain medication two days earlier. He said

he decided to rob the pharmacy to obtain painkillers and waited until there were no customers at the pharmacy. The man didn't get any drugs, he said, because the pharmacist had run off screaming. The Garden City man has been charged with armed robbery, assault with intent to rob while armed, assault with a dangerous weapon and habitual offender second-degree.

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## City 'issues' passport to good health

By LeAnne Rogers  
Observer Staff Writer

Eating healthier and getting in better physical shape is probably the most commonly made New Year's resolution. Along with being an All-American City, Mayor William Wild has a new plan that he is hoping will help Westland become America's healthiest city. Officially, the Passport to a Healthy City kicked off with a fundraiser held last month when the MJR Westland Grand Digital Cinema 16 opened. A partnership between the city and St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia, the program is aimed at promoting healthy, active lifestyles for residents. It also helps promote city programs and local businesses. "We had planned to launch it the first of the year. MJR was raising money for St. Mary charities, so we moved it up," said Wild. "We did a soft

launch." To participate in Passport to a Healthy City, residents can pick up their passport at city buildings or St. Mary Mercy Hospital. Then residents can participate in an eligible event to receive a stamp in their passport — 16 stamps is a completed passport. The stamps can earn discounts, prizes and coupons from vendors and retailers at www.cityofwestland.com/healthycity. Participants can earn passport stamps for working out, making healthy good choices or buying some vitamins. Currently, the participating businesses that can provide stamps include Leo's Coney Island, Planet Fitness, the Vitamin Shoppe, the Bailey Recreation Center, Max and Erma's, Henry Ford Opti-mEyes and the Friendship Center. "We're expanding the list. You could take Jazzercise at the Friend-

ship Center to get a stamp or at the library check out a book on nutrition or exercise," said Wild. "You can get a stamp at Max and Erma's if you get a healthy choice on the menu." While it's possible to earn the required 16 passport stamps by eating oatmeal 16 times at Leo's Coney Island, Wild said the idea is to get stamps from a variety of activities. "With education, nutrition and fitness, there is a little something for everybody," said Wild. "More businesses are joining and we've got a lot of gifts." The city has already distributed more than 1,000 passports to residents. A related goal is to make Westland a 100 percent walkable community by completing the sidewalk system. "We're working on grants to finish off our sidewalks. Seventy-five percent of the city has sidewalks. Our goal is to do the other 25 percent," said Wild.

## LIBRARY

Continued from page A1

very similar to checking out traditional books and other materials from the library. Patrons can electronically browse the catalog of eBooks by category — fiction, romance, mystery or nonfiction, for instance. Or get lost in virtual stacks. Like standard print books, Collins said only a certain number of electronic copies of the books will be available to be checked out and renewals won't be allowed, if someone is waiting to have the book. On the plus side, it will be impossible to run up any overdue fines with eBooks, Collins notes, as the books no longer will work on the reading



William Faust Library Reference Librarian Megan Esseltine (left) and Library Director Shelia Collins look at an e-reader that can be used to access eBooks and other library materials.

device once the checkout period expires. Library staff have been getting trained on how to use eBooks and other downloadable materials.

Visit the library web site at westland.lib.mi.us for more information.

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(313) 222-5428

## RESCUE

Continued from page A1

the living room of their home. Suzanne Weaver is unable to walk due to diabetes complications. Both were awakened as their grandson discovered the fire. "I went into the kitchen and saw flames coming up the stairs. I call 9-1-1. There was black smoke all of a sudden," said Thomas Weaver. "I ran to get my wife but the black smoke stopped me. I tried three times. I don't know how the officers survived

the smoke." The Weavers' neighbor, Jimmy Zurakowski, also tried to rescue Suzanne Weaver. "He came running over and tried to go into the house," said Thomas Weaver. "Then he went home for wet towels so he could run back in. He was a hero, too." Thomas Weaver and Zurakowski went to the hospital to be treated for smoke inhalation. The officers and family members were treated at the scene by Westland Fire Rescue. Firefighters extinguished the blaze which damaged

the basement and part of the kitchen. Heavy smoke damage was reported throughout the house. The Weavers are staying with their daughter at her apartment while their grandson is staying with his girlfriend at her father's home. "We don't have anything. A friend brought us some clothes. I'm wearing slippers for shoes," said Thomas Weaver. "We can't get into the house — it's all boarded up. We're surviving. We're glad to be alive."

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## U-VERSE

Continued from page A1

Having the council meetings available on U-verse didn't stop the sniping between resident Judy McKinney and Council President James Godbout. Noting he was still on

the council, McKinney quoted Godbout as saying that U-verse would never show the meetings while he was on the council. Godbout has voted against paying to allow U-verse to air council meetings. Godbout corrected McKinney and said that his earlier statement was that he would never vote

to fund the U-verse airing of council meetings. "Not only are AT&T customers funding it but all residents are funding it because the costs come from the general fund," said Godbout. "The city doesn't pay for Comcast and WOW!"

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# SHOP MORE

THIS HOLIDAY SEASON WITH THESE EXTENDED HOURS

DAY	DATE	HOURS
WED	DEC 19-23	8:00AM - 10:00PM
SAT	DEC 24	7:00AM - 6:00PM
SUN	DEC 25	CLOSED
MON	DEC 26	8:00AM - 9:00PM
TUE	DEC 27-30	10:00AM - 8:00PM
SAT	DEC 31	10:00AM - 5:00PM

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### 2012 FIRE AND POLICE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION MEETING DATES

NOTICE OF SCHEDULE OF REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE WESTLAND FIRE AND POLICE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION TO BE HELD DURING THE CALENDAR YEAR COMMENCING JANUARY 11, 2012 AND ENDING DECEMBER 12, 2012:

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE MEETINGS OF THE WESTLAND FIRE AND POLICE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF WESTLAND:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT THE WESTLAND FIRE AND POLICE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF WESTLAND, 36601 FORD ROAD, WESTLAND, MICHIGAN, (734) 467-3190, WILL HOLD REGULAR MEETINGS AT THE FOLLOWING DATES, TIMES AND PLACES DURING THE 2012 YEAR.

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
01/11/12	9:00 A.M.	WESTLAND CITY HALL, 36601 FORD ROAD
02/08/12	9:00 A.M.	WESTLAND CITY HALL, 36601 FORD ROAD
03/14/12	9:00 A.M.	WESTLAND CITY HALL, 36601 FORD ROAD
04/11/12	9:00 A.M.	WESTLAND CITY HALL, 36601 FORD ROAD
05/09/12	9:00 A.M.	WESTLAND CITY HALL, 36601 FORD ROAD
06/13/12	9:00 A.M.	WESTLAND CITY HALL, 36601 FORD ROAD
07/11/12	9:00 A.M.	WESTLAND CITY HALL, 36601 FORD ROAD
08/08/12	9:00 A.M.	WESTLAND CITY HALL, 36601 FORD ROAD
09/12/12	9:00 A.M.	WESTLAND CITY HALL, 36601 FORD ROAD
10/10/12	9:00 A.M.	WESTLAND CITY HALL, 36601 FORD ROAD
11/14/12	9:00 A.M.	WESTLAND CITY HALL, 36601 FORD ROAD
12/12/12	9:00 A.M.	WESTLAND CITY HALL, 36601 FORD ROAD

PROPOSED MINUTES OF EACH OF THE MEETINGS LISTED ABOVE WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION DURING REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS AT WESTLAND CITY HALL, 36601 FORD ROAD, WESTLAND, MICHIGAN, NOT MORE THAN EIGHT BUSINESS DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SAID MEETING, AND APPROVED MINUTES OF EACH MEETING WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION DURING REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS, AT THE SAME LOCATION, NOT MORE THAN FIVE BUSINESS DAYS AFTER THE MEETING AT WHICH THE MINUTES ARE APPROVED.

THIS NOTICE IS GIVEN IN COMPLIANCE WITH ACT NO. 267 OF THE PUBLIC ACTS OF MICHIGAN, 1976.

EILEEN DeHART, CMC  
WESTLAND CITY CLERK

Publish: December 22, 2011



# Feds snub I-275/ Ford plan — again

By Darrell Clem  
Observer Staff Writer

For a frustrating third time, federal officials have snubbed a \$20.3 million proposal to reshape the I-275/Ford Road interchange in Canton and ease traffic congestion around one of Michigan's most accident-prone areas.

Barring yet a fourth round of so-called TIGER grants — Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery — Canton officials concede they will have to pin their hopes on a state-funded solution, which has indeed gained momentum amid bipartisan support from Michigan legislators.

"I'm disappointed we didn't get TIGER III, but we're not going to give up," township Supervisor Phil LaJoy said.

Canton Municipal Services Director Tim Faas said the Michigan Department of Transportation already is moving forward with a traffic and environmental impact study of the I-275/Ford Road interchange that should be completed by 2013.

"They don't fund a study unless there is going to be a project," Faas said.

The overriding question is when, and officials can't say with certainty.

However, the project is expected to gain more momentum when the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, likely in March, is expected to add the long-awaited project to its list of regional transportation projects.

"By the end of 2012, we have a very good chance of getting the project shovel-ready," LaJoy said.

**Project endorsed**  
Officials from Canton,

neighboring communities and Lansing — including the full state Senate and the House Transportation Committee — have formally endorsed the need to fix the beleaguered interchange and ease conditions along traffic-clogged Ford Road.

"Now we're on the radar," LaJoy said.

The project as touted would add new ramps from the southbound I-275 exit to allow motorists to travel either north or south on Haggerty without getting onto Ford Road. It also proposes a northbound service drive along the east side of the interstate from Cherry Hill Road to north of Ford.

"I think first of all, the good news is we've raised the awareness and the need all over the state of Michigan," LaJoy said. "That part of it, we've got behind us."

The traffic and environmental study comes next, Faas said, followed by eventual phases for design and construction.

Canton officials got the word last Friday that the I-275 project had been overlooked yet again in third-round TIGER grants.

Moreover, federal officials announced just one TIGER grant for all of Michigan — an effort in St. Clair County to pave a gravel road and improve the Smiths Creek Road Bridge to improve access to a landfill that houses the nation's first "septage bioreactor," which uses garbage and sewage to create energy.

**Other choice**

An estimated 2,300 people a day are projected to use that road, compared to at least 50,000 motorists who travel Ford Road



Canton Municipal Services Director Tim Faas (from left), Supervisor Phil LaJoy and state Sen. Patrick Colbeck, R-Canton, talked state legislators into supporting the project, but the feds still aren't convinced and turned it down for a third time.

every day. Federal officials allocated \$3.6 million for the St. Clair County project, far less than the \$20.3 million sought for the I-275 proposal.

Faas had said early on the competition would be fierce as federal officials approved some \$527 million for project proposals that reached a startling \$14.3 billion.

U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood underscored the same sentiment in a statement he released about TIGER grants.

"The overwhelming demand for these grants clearly shows that communities across the country can't afford to wait any longer for Congress to put Americans to work building the transportation projects that are critical to our economic future," he said. "That's why we've taken action to get these grants out the door quick-

ly, and that is why we will continue to ask Congress to make the targeted investments we need to create jobs."

Canton officials have estimated the I-275 project would create as many as 200 jobs.

LaHood also said the federal TIGER team looked for projects that "will contribute to long-term economic competitiveness, upgrade existing facilities and transportation systems, increase energy efficiency, improve safety and get people where they're going faster and more reliably. We paid particular attention to projects that are expected to create and preserve jobs quickly."

Canton officials had billed the I-275/Ford project as a perfect description of the criteria.

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# Renderings show off new Central City Park

By LeAnne Rogers  
Observer Staff Writer

If you're passing by Central City Park along Carlson, you can get a closer look at what the park is expected to look like in the future.

Renderings of the new layout of the park walking path and soccer fields, pavilions and Farmers Market have been put up on the park fence. There also is a banner identifying the park as the future home of the Veterans Memorial Garden of Westland.

"There are three spots where you can see the renderings when you walk by or drive," said Westland Parks and Recreation Director Robert Kosowski. "They are beautiful renderings of the park."

The renderings can also be seen on the city's allwestland.com website which has photos of the months of work on the park remediation going back to the project start in October 2010.

"The renderings are up for the winter. The crews are done working for the winter," said Kosowski.

Construction at Central City Park had included clearing the 12-acre eastern part of

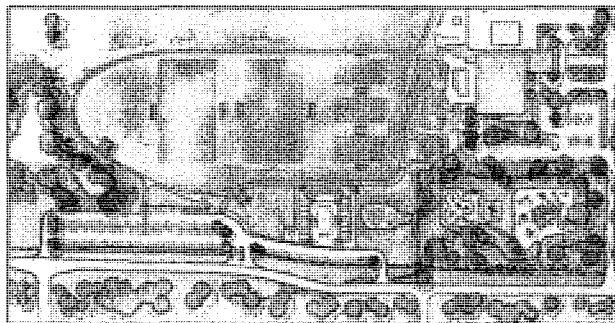
the site along the east side of Carlson. The park was regraded, then covered with a geotextile membrane and 10-15 inches of top soil. Along with passive measures dealing with methane gas, the work is part of efforts to remediate long-standing lead and other contamination in the eastern portion of park.

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

Last year, Westland accepted ownership of the 33-acre park from Wayne County after having leased it for a number of years.

A new sidewalk has been installed along the east side of the park on Carlson along with a 200-space parking lot, new curbs and two entrances and exits which don't cross the park walking path. To allow time for the new grass to get established, it's unclear when the walking path will be opened to the public.

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Renderings like this one showing the layout at Central City Park are on view along the perimeter fence.

## IMMEDIATE CASH FOR GOLD

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Charm bracelets	\$4,400																								
Antique pieces	\$ 5,000																								
1/4 carat diamond	\$ 1,500																								
1 carat diamond	\$ 4,500																								
2+ carat diamond	\$ 25,000																								
Old Silver coins	\$4,000																								
Fine Watches	\$ 6,000																								
Gold Coins	\$ 9,000																								
Sterling Silverware sets	\$3,500																								
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## Parents of dead infant to undergo psychiatric exams

By LeAnne Rogers  
 Observer Staff Writer

A couple charged with abusing and killing their infant son will undergo psychiatric examinations before returning to Westland 18th District Court Feb. 3 for hearings on their competency and criminal responsibility.

The mother of two-month-old Kayden Brandon, Nicole Susanne Roberts, 18, of Westland appeared in court with her attorney Dec. 15 when a preliminary

examination had been scheduled. Like the baby's father, Antonio Pepalonia Brandon, 22, of Inkster, who wasn't present, Roberts waived her right to a preliminary examination within 14 days of arraignment.

An autopsy found that Kayden Brandon died Dec. 5 from asphyxia and blunt force trauma to the chest. Police and Fire Rescue were called to a unit in the Westland Meadows mobile home park just before 5 a.m. about a baby not breathing. Kayden

was not responsive and pronounced dead a short time later at an area hospital.

Brandon is charged with first-degree murder, which carries a mandatory sentence of life in prison without parole, and two counts of first-degree child abuse — one relating to Kayden, the other over injuries to his surviving twin Cameron Brandon.

Roberts has been charged with involuntary manslaughter/failure to perform legal duty,

a 15-year felony, and two counts of felony second-degree child abuse/reckless act.

Both entered not guilty pleas and are being held in lieu of \$1 million cash bond each.

In a statement to police, Brandon indicated he would quiet the crying babies by placing his hand over their mouths for 10-20 seconds until they stopped breathing. Brandon would then bite the infant to startle them into breathing.

The autopsy showed

bite marks on the baby.

Brandon told police he also struck the baby on chest in an effort to stop him from crying or would squeeze the infant tightly to his chest.

In a statement to police, Roberts told police she heard Brandon beating Kayden early Dec. 5 and looked to see him striking the baby, but didn't intervene. Roberts, who told police that she would also place her hand over the babies' mouths to get them to stop crying, said she didn't want a conflict

with Brandon in hopes that he would remain involved with her and the babies.

The surviving twin, who was removed from the home along with a 2-year-old half sister, has a broken femur and ribs which police said resulted from being swung by his legs. The boy is being cared for by Wayne County Protective Services, while the girl has been returned to her mother.

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

## Pickup truck, trailer stolen from yard

### Stolen vehicle

A resident in the 31700 block of Chester reported his white 2007 Ford F-250 truck with

**GARDEN CITY** attached trailer containing lawn care equipment was stolen Dec. 21 from his yard during the night. The vehicle was contained in a fenced area but the thief drove through the fence with the vehicle.

### Break-in

Police were contacted Dec. 20 after a resident in the 6600 block of Inkster discovered nearly \$1,000 worth of tools had been taken from his unlocked garage in the last five days. The man said he was away from home and, upon his return, he discovered tools, a compressor and a snowblower had been

taken.

### Attempted shoplifting

A 35-year-old Westland woman was arrested after she allegedly attempted to steal three bottles of liquor from the Rite Aid at 29447 Ford Road on Dec. 19.

The clerk told police she confronted the suspect who then dropped the liquor and fled in a vehicle. An officer stopped the vehicle a short distance away and the woman was taken into custody.

### Attempted theft

A 47-year-old Inkster man was arrested after a homeowner in the 30000 block of Cherry Hill looked out the window and spotted an unknown individual in the homeowner's garage.

As the resident left his home to further investigate, he encountered the unknown man wheeling the homeowner's snowblower down the drive. When the suspect started to flee, the victim pursued him and took him to the ground to await police.

The suspect received medical care for injuries sustained and was taken into custody by police.

### Larceny from vehicle

The owner of a vehicle parked in the 600 block of Deering called police Dec. 18 after discovering someone had entered his unlocked vehicle overnight and removed over \$1,700 in property including a camera, video games and two pool sticks. There were no suspects.

## Man robbed at gunpoint

### Armed robbery

A Wayne man told police Dec. 14 that he was walking to a nearby convenience store about

### WESTLAND

7:45 p.m. and walked behind Madison Elementary School, 1075 S. Carlson, to cut through the neighborhood. A man came from behind a tree, he said, and pointed a gun at his head.

The gunman patted him down, the victim said, taking \$7 from his pocket. He was unable to provide any other description of the suspect, who the victim said fled northeast.

### Computer stolen

On Dec. 8, a resident of a home in the 2800 block of Cascade Court told police that he had left his Apple MacBook on his bed charging and shut the bedroom door before leaving the house. When he returned home about four hours later, he said the laptop computer, valued at \$950, was gone

but the charging cord had been left behind. The bedroom window was ajar.

The man's mother and sister were home the entire time. Police were able to obtain several partial fingerprints on the window. The prints came back to the man's brother. The man told police he had recently cleaned the window so there was no reason for his brother's fingerprints to be on the window. In addition, the man said he suspected his brother had taken the computer due to past problems with thefts.

The brother had an outstanding warrant and listed the Cascade Court home as his address, so officers returned to the home hoping to locate the brother. He was sitting on the couch when officers arrived and was taken into custody.

Once he had been arrested and taken to the police station, the brother told police he doesn't get along with the victim and needed money so he took

the computer by entering through the window. He said he sold the computer to someone for \$200.

### Larceny

A resident in the 300 block of South Marie told police he was awakened by his dogs barking about 4 a.m. Dec. 19 and thought they were barking at squirrels. When he returned home from work later in the day, he said he noticed the garage door had been kicked in. Assorted power tools valued at \$1,000 were reported missing.

### Larceny from a vehicle

A 110-volt power drill, three cordless drills, a hand saw and a GPS unit valued at over \$7,700 were reported stolen from a Ford Econoline van parked in the 600 block of Worcester overnight Dec. 18-19. There was no sign of forced entry and the owner said the van must have been left unlocked.

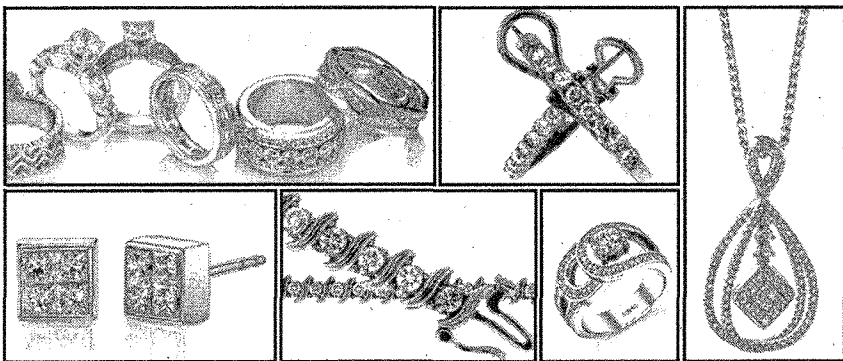
By LeAnne Rogers

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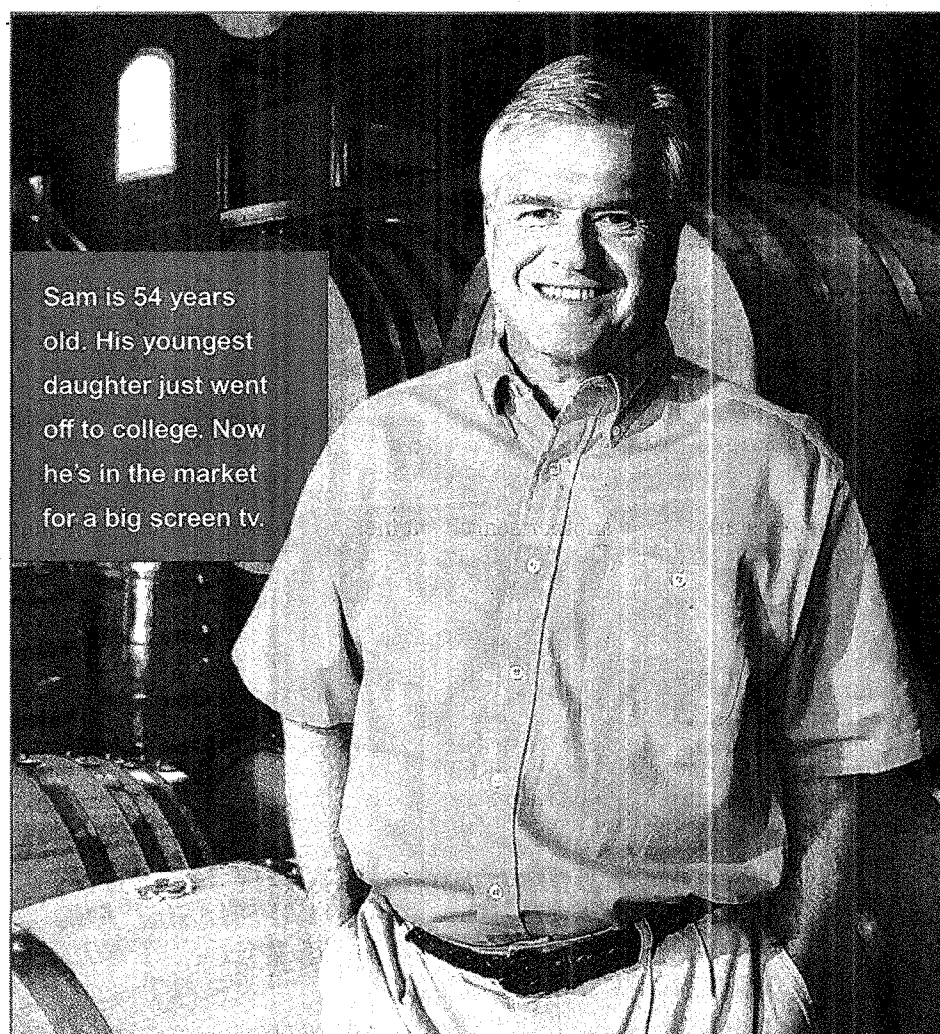
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# Churches use Facebook, Twitter to help tell Gospel story

By Karen Smith  
Observer Staff Writer

God used angels more than 2,000 years ago to announce the birth of Jesus.

Today, churches are using Facebook, Twitter and other modern technology to help spread the Gospel message.

Though the message is the same — God loves everyone so much he sent his only son to save them — the way that message is delivered has changed over the centuries.

“We definitely see social media as one of the languages of the culture (now),” said Josh Isenhardt, 30, social media pastor at NorthRidge Church in Plymouth Township. This generation considers Facebook a modern-day town square. “Why wouldn’t we have a presence there?”

NorthRidge, Bell Creek Community Church in Livonia and Grace Chapel in Farmington Hills are among the local churches that are implementing some of the latest technologies.

## Virtual campus

NorthRidge added a virtual campus this year. It has a brick and mortar campus in Plymouth Township, and meets in schools in Saline and Howell.

In the virtual campus, members from around the country and world simultaneously visit the church’s website (northridgechurch.com) at 7 p.m. Sunday to watch a rebroadcast of the weekend service and participate in a live-time chat room, even praying for each other.

“Church online is for those people who are not ready to step into the physical location,” Isenhardt said.

Bell Creek Community Church, which meets at Franklin High School in Livonia, used Twitter for the first time this year to remind people to pray during the week. The church tweeted the word “pray” to those who had signed up to be reminded during a series the church held on prayer.

“We found that it was very effective, and it’s something we’re going to keep doing,” said pastor Fred Wright, 43. “It was amazing how many of our folks signed up.”

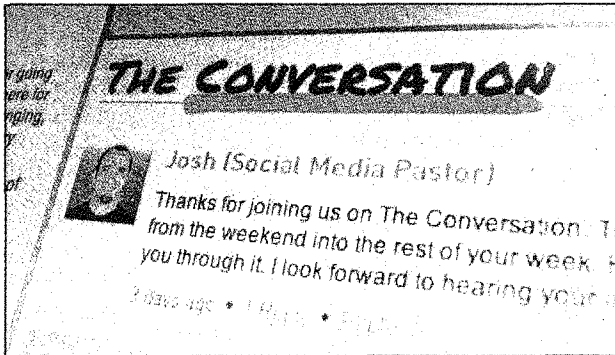
## Twitter a witnessing tool

Grace Chapel started using Twitter as a witnessing tool this summer during a mission trip to Kentucky, said Daniel Rose, 35, assistant pastor.

Members were tweeting on their personal accounts about their experiences renovating three homes and holding a literacy, math and sci-



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Pastor Josh Isenhardt says the goals at NorthRidge Church are to use social media to raise awareness, grow community, encourage engagement and foster spiritual growth.



NorthRidge Church is using social media to aid in spiritual formation. “Ultimately, we want to see people grow to be more like Christ,” pastor Josh Isenhardt said.

ence camp, he said. That sparked conversations with others about what they were doing and why.

Now the church will use Twitter to let people know about its Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services, blasting out tweets and then depending on members to re-tweet them to their followers.

“It’s a very easy way to get a large number of eyes on a small bit of information,” Rose said.

Twitter has also helped build interest in CoffeeDoubt, a group for Christians, atheists, agnostics, theists and others that meets twice weekly in coffee shops to discuss spiritual issues, Rose said.

“We’ve seen a few people come join us because of conversations over Twitter,” he said.

Grace Chapel has Facebook pages for the church as a whole, the youth ministry and CoffeeDoubt.

Rose said Facebook links people who already know each other, while Twitter links people who don’t know each other.

The church’s website (gracepc.org), he said, connects people who don’t know about the church to the church, often through Google or another search engine. The website includes podcasts of each week’s sermon that people can listen to on their computer or download to their iPhone.

## Spiritual formation

At NorthRidge, Facebook raises awareness of what God is doing

through the church, builds community and gives people a place to share their burdens, Isenhardt said.

But, the next step is using it for spiritual formation. “Ultimately, we want to see people grow to be more like Christ,” Isenhardt said.

To that end, the church posts two or three questions a week based on the weekend’s message. “We keep bringing it up to the forefront of their minds,” Isenhardt said. “We want them to carry the truth from the weekend through the rest of the week.”

Wright said the church’s website (bellcreek.org) is still its most effective technological tool because it connects people looking for a non-denominational church in the Livonia area to Bell Creek. He said the church has worked hard to make it easy for people to find and navigate the website, where they can learn about the church’s beliefs, listen to a sermon and submit a prayer request. The next step, he said, is ramping up the content to include articles on topics like raising children as a single parent and strengthening marriage. “The website is designed to deliver good content,” Wright said.

## Website gets most results

Rose said Grace Chapel’s website is better than Facebook and Twitter for getting people

into the church on Sunday morning, but he said, they are just scratching the surface with what technology can do. For example, the youth’s Facebook page has an e-vite component so youth can easily invite their friends to church events. “A lot of the high school students use Facebook almost as a planner,” he said.

The next step, he said, is using Facebook more interactively as an extension of the Sunday sermon or Sunday school.

Garden City Presbyterian (gardencitypresbyterian.org) is using Facebook to promote its monthly Christian concert series and other special events, said Herschel Ele, pastor/head of staff. It hasn’t yet started using Twitter.

However, the church’s new electronic sign on Middlebelt just south of Ford Road has been more effective than any other technology in getting people in the doors, he said. That’s probably because people have to intention-

## December a month of holidays

Christmas is the celebration of the birth of a savior more than 2,000 years ago, as told in the Gospels and foretold in the Old Testament, according to Christian scholars.

No one knows for sure what day Jesus was born, but his birth is celebrated on Dec. 25.

Other holidays are also celebrated in December.

Jews celebrate Hanukkah, which means “dedication” in Hebrew, and commemorates the re-dedication of the holy Temple in Jerusalem following the Jewish victory over the Syrian-Greeks in 165 B.C.E.

This year, the eight-

day observance started Dec. 20 and continues until Dec. 28. At the heart of the festival is the nightly menorah lighting: a single flame on the first night, two on the second evening, and so on till the eighth night of Hanukkah, when all eight lights are kindled.

Kwanzaa is an African- and Pan-American holiday celebrating family, community and culture. This year, Kwanzaa will be observed Dec. 26 to Jan. 1.

The month ends with New Year’s Eve when revelers of all faiths and ethnic backgrounds welcome the start of a new calendar year.

ally connect to Facebook or the church’s website to get information about events instead of just happening to be driving by, he said.

“If people are intentionally connecting, they’ve probably already decided they’re going to come to whatever is going on here anyway,” said Ele, 64.

Other ways area churches are using modern technology include e-giving, where people can have their tithes directly taken out of their bank accounts, and Google calendar, where people can easily add events to their iPhones or Smartphones.

## Personal invites best of all

Yet with all the modern technology available to

churches today, nothing will take the place of people personally talking to their family and friends about Jesus and inviting them to go to church with them, Rose said. “At the end of the day there’s one best way (to spread the Gospel message) and that’s being involved in the life of your neighbors.”

Nor can people live the Christian life in isolation, Isenhardt said. They need to be in the physical presence of other believers, encouraging, praying with and hugging each other.

In those ways, the church hasn’t changed since Christ’s birth more than 2,000 years ago.

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# Be wary of investment advice for coming year

By Rick Bloom  
Guest Columnist

As I was doing my reading and research this weekend, one topic that kept coming up was the best investment moves for 2012. I can't tell you how many articles there were all dealing with what investors should do in 2012. What I thought was so humorous was that someone would read an article that would say, for example, the best move for 2012 is to buy gold, and then there would be another article that would say the best move for 2012 is to sell gold.

It shouldn't be a surprise to anyone that there were conflicting ideas as to what would be a good move for 2012. In addition, I read numerous articles that recommended a particular stock or mutu-



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

something from them, I think the more important issue is how we should react when we read these articles.

I've always questioned any articles that claim that a particular investment is the best one to buy. My question always is, the best investment for whom? To me, one of the key mistakes that so many of these articles make is that they fail to address who the investment is best for. If you're an investor needing current income, the

al fund as the best investments for 2012. Although I find these articles interesting and I do sometimes learn

investments in your portfolio may be totally different than someone who is saving for a retirement that may be 30 years down the road.

Take, for example, an individual stock such as Ford. In order to buy Ford stock, someone had to sell Ford stock. It doesn't necessarily mean that one investor made the right decision and the other one made the wrong decision. In fact, they each could have made the right decision because they based their decision upon their goals and objectives. When you read these articles, the key point to remember is that even though they identify what they believe is the best investment move in 2012, the advice should be considered as generic and may not apply to your own individual situation.

One of the problems that many investors have is they've listened to too many people. They will go to a party and listen to what someone says about investing and automatically change their portfolio to reflect what that person said. As investors, you have to be cautious as to whom you take investment advice from and make sure that the investment advice relates to your own individual situation. In addition, you also have to make sure that the person you're listening to knows what they are talking about.

One thing that I have learned over the years, especially with the growth of the Internet over the last decade or so, is that there is a lot of bad advice out there. Some people who are providing advice in the financial world today are truly clueless as to

how things work. I've read some articles lately and, based upon the advice provided, I honestly don't know whether I should laugh or cry. The bottom line is there are a lot of people that give advice; the question is whether it is actually good advice.

When you receive financial advice, I cannot stress enough how important it is that, whether in my column, another article or from someone at a party, you relate it back to your own individual situation. We live in a world where no two families have the same financial situation. It used to be in this country, 50 or 60 years ago, that many people were in the same situation.

Fast forward to today and everything is so different. For example, think about how easy mortgages were to obtain 50 or 60 years ago. Back then, you had your choice of either a 30-year or a 15-year mortgage; pretty much, that was it. Fast forward to today and there are literally hundreds of different mortgage programs available. The mortgage program that is best for you may not be the mortgage program that's best for your neighbor.

Also, think about how much the investment world has changed. When you go back 50 years ago, most people didn't invest their money and, if they did, there weren't that many investment alternatives. Fast forward to today, and every one of us literally has tens of thousands of differ-

ent investment vehicles that we can choose from. When I got started in my career, there may have been 500 or so mutual funds. Today, there are literally tens of thousands of mutual funds. The bottom line is our world has become more complex and so has our own personal financial planning situations. That is why it is so important that you always relate financial information advice to your own individual situation.

Is there a move for 2012 that make sense for everyone? Sure, and it is the same "move" that everyone should have made in 2011, 2010, 2009, etc. — be involved with your financial situation. It would be nice if we could put our finances on automatic pilot and not think about them, but we can't. In today's ever-changing world, it is more important than ever that we be involved in our personal finances.

I wish I could tell you that the area of personal finance is getting easier, but it is not. As time goes by, everything becomes more and more complex. I wish it wasn't this way, but it is and you and I have to accept it. As we get ready to enter 2012, my best piece of advice is to keep involved, ask questions and always stay within your comfort level. Good luck!

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. His website is www.bloomassetmanagement.com. If you would like Rick to respond to your questions, please e-mail Rick at rick@bloomassetmanagement.com.

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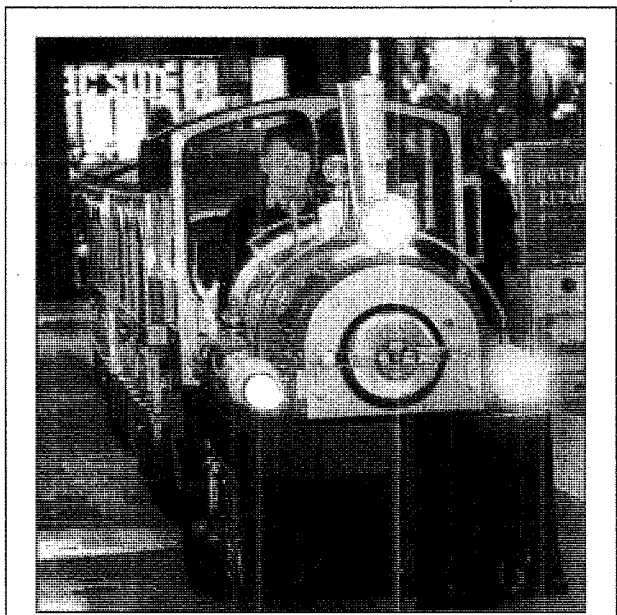
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Adults and children who have visited Westland Shopping Center this Christmas shopping season have been treated to free rides on Santa's Polar Express, a trackless train that has been cruising around the mall on select days. "It's the only train of this type in North America," according to Patrick Derrig, the mall's marketing director.

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6. 1994 Pontiac	1G2JB14T9R7580222
7. 2001 Oldsmobile	1G3NK52T91C173469

Publish: December 22, 2011



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

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**INFANT CARE**

**Time/Date:** 6:30-9:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 12  
**Location:** Classrooms 1 and 2 at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, Five Mile and Levan, Livonia  
**Details:** St. Mary Mercy Hospital is offering a "Getting to Know Your Newborn and Caring for the Sick Infant Care Class. Gain knowledge about caring for your newborn. This class taught by a registered nurse, will teach new parents the basic characteristics and needs of a newborn to include diapering, bathing, feeding, growth and development patterns. In addition to baby basics the class will also include how to recognize when a baby is sick. Car seat and home safety will also be covered. This class is open to anyone who cares for an infant. We encourage spouses or support person to attend this class at no additional cost. The fee is \$55.  
**Contact:** To register, call St. Mary Mercy Hospital's Marian Women's Center at (734) 655-1162, or register online at [stmarymercy.org](http://stmarymercy.org)

and click on "classes and events."  
**Widowed Friends**  
**Time/Date:** 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 22  
**Location:** St. Kenneth Church, 14951 N. Haggerty Road, Plymouth  
**Details:** Widowed Friends, a peer group in the Archdiocese of Detroit, invites the widowed to celebrate Mass together at St. Kenneth Church in Plymouth. It will be followed by refreshments, social time and information about other widowed activities in a safe and friendly setting. Check-in starts at 2 p.m., Mass is at 2:30 p.m.  
**Contact:** For more information call Pat at (734) 895-6246.  
**ZUMBA FITNESS**  
**Time/Date:** 8 p.m. Thursdays, beginning Jan. 5  
**Location:** Merriman Road Baptist Church, 2055 Merriman, Garden City  
**Details:** Zumba Fitness classes at Merriman Road Baptist Church will feature rhythms set to high-energy Latin, international, and Christian music. Before you know it, you will be feeling fit and your energy level will be soaring. It's easy to do, and suitable for all exercise levels. Registration is 7:30 p.m., class begins at 8 p.m. and is approximately one hour long. Adults 18 years or older only. Wear comfortable workout wear - a sweat towel and a bottle of drinking water are recommended, too. A donation will be taken at the door for every class to cover the cost of the

certified Zumba instructor's services. Visit [www.MRBC.us](http://www.MRBC.us) and click on Women's Ministries, 'Girlfriends of Grace', and 'Zumba Fitness for Women' or e-mail us at [info@mrbc.us](mailto:info@mrbc.us)  
**Contact:** For more information, call (734) 421-0472.  
**GRIEF RECOVERY**  
**Time/Date:** 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 8  
**Location:** Our Lady of Loretto Church, 17116 Olympia in the Six Mile and Beech Daly area of Redford  
**Details:** Widowed Friends, a peer group in the Archdiocese of Detroit, invites widowed men and women to attend a six-week Grief Support Program, "Living with the Loss of a Spouse." The program will cover such things as loneliness and other difficulties related to the grief process. The program will be facilitated by trained "peer" members. The cost is \$20. Safe social activities are also explored near the end of the sessions.  
**Contact:** Call Joan at (248) 478-1084 to register.  
**ORGANIZATIONS**  
**FRIENDS OF ELOISE**  
**Time/Date:** 7 p.m. third Tuesday of the month (except July, August and December)  
**Location:** Collins House in the Westland Historic Village Park, 857 N. Wayne Road between Marquette and Cherry Hill, Westland.  
**Contact:** Jo Johnson (734) 522-3918

**WESTLAND ROTARY**  
**Time/Date:** 12:15 p.m. Thursdays  
**Location:** Joy Manor, 28999 Joy, east of Middlebelt, Westland  
**Details:** Community Service programs and planning. Catered lunch; visitors welcome. Check [www.westlandrotary.com](http://www.westlandrotary.com) for more information about meetings, programs and events.  
**Contact:** Jeff at (734) 261-5010  
**AMERICAN LEGION**  
**Time/Date:** 7 p.m. first Tuesday of the month  
**Location:** Harris-Kehrer VFW Post, 1055 S. Wayne Road, Westland  
**Details:** American Legion Westland Post 251 meets at the VFW hall the first Tuesday of each month. The post welcomes all veterans male and female who have been honorably discharged.  
**Contact:** Bill Acton at (734) 326-2607, Ron Nickels at (734) 455-3415 or visit the website at [www.post251.com](http://www.post251.com) or [www.post251.org](http://www.post251.org)  
**LIONS CLUB**  
**Time/Date:** 11:45 a.m. the second Monday of the month and at 6:30 p.m. the fourth Monday of the month  
**Location:** Big Boy Restaurant at Wayne Road and Hunter in Westland.  
**Details:** The Westland Lions Club holds lunch and dinner meetings on Mondays.  
**Contact:** For more information, call Debbie Dayton at (734) 721-4216.

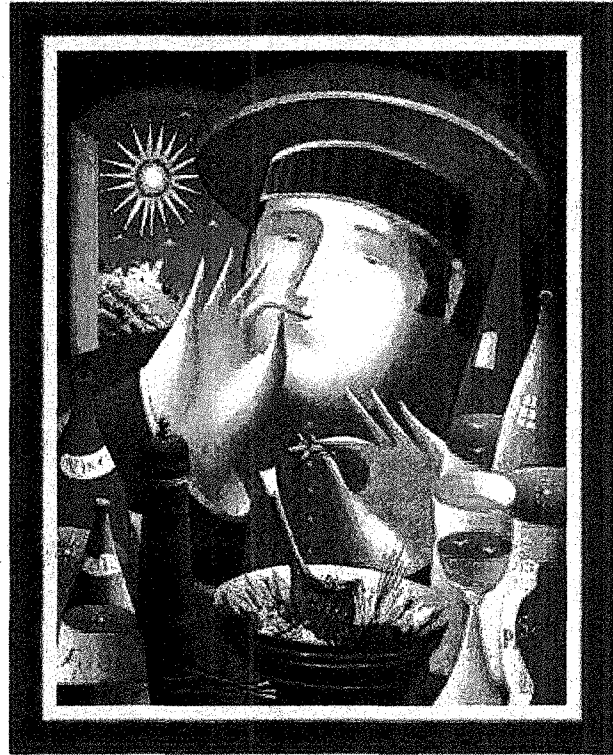
**WRITING GROUP**  
**Time/Date:** 7 p.m. the second Wednesday of every month  
**Location:** Wayne Public Library, 3737 S. Wayne Road, Wayne  
**Details:** The Story Circle Network is made up of women who want to explore their lives and souls through life-writing, writing that focuses on personal experience through memoirs and autobiographies, in diaries, journals and personal essays. Participants should bring a notebook or laptop computer to each meeting to spend some time writing, and for those who are comfortable doing so, sharing their writing. Membership in Story Circle's National Network is optional. Participation in the group is free.  
**Contact:** [www.storycircle.org](http://www.storycircle.org) or send an e-mail to [shephy@yahoo.com](mailto:shephy@yahoo.com)  
**TOASTMASTERS**  
**Location:** Westland Easytalkers Toastmasters Club meets every Thursday at 6:45 P.M. in the lower level of the Bailey Recreation Center, located behind the Westland City Hall on Ford between Wayne Road and Newburgh.  
**Details:** Toastmasters provides a supportive environment where members can overcome the fear of speaking in public. The membership is a diverse group from different walks of life.  
**Contact:** For information, call Bill at (734) 306-3980 or Curt at (734) 525-8445.

**FISH DIAL-A-RIDE**  
**Details:** Fish Dial-A-Ride of Western Wayne County is seeking volunteer drivers and phone messengers. Volunteer drivers, using their own vehicles, designate days, times, and areas they are willing to drive. Volunteer phone messengers arrange client rides with our volunteer drivers one day each week from the comfort of their home. Fish Dial-A-Ride of Western Wayne County is a not-for-profit community service that provides free door-to-door rides to non-emergency medical and other necessary appointments for senior and disabled residents of Garden City, Livonia, and Westland who are unable to drive and have no alternative transportation.  
**Contact:** For more information, call (888) 660-2007 and leave a message.  
**EARTH ANGELS**  
**Details:** Earth Angels, a children's entertainment/performance non-profit group composed of kids ages 9 - 16 years old, is currently looking to fill spots. There's opening for girls ages 9 - 11, with at least two years of dance experience, and boys, ages 9 - 12 with no experience needed just an interest in performing. The group delivers a high energy show made up of choreographed dance routines spiced with theatrics and lip-synching to the great Oldies music of the '50s and '60s as well as some current fare.  
**Contact:** [www.earthangel-sontour.org](http://www.earthangel-sontour.org) or by e-mail to [eangel1986@comcast.net](mailto:eangel1986@comcast.net)



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# Dear Santa...

## All I want for Christmas

### LETTERS

Continued from page A1

Merry Christmas! My name is Emily. Please can I have a new Mario game for my Dsi because I am bored with the other one's. Can I also have cute clothes because the others are a little small for me. I want and ipod touch so I can read. That will be all.

I hope I am not on the naughty list.

Emily

How are you? I know you eat a lot of cookies on Christmas eve. What's your favorite? How do you deliver all those presents in one night? I think that I should get at least a few presents this year because I been good in school, I get good grades, I help my mom out a lot, I do my chores, and I help my teacher.

Speaking of wishes I mite as well tell you my Christmas list! OK, I would like a real dog, a husky mabe, also I would love a bratz doll set, or even a iPad that takes pictures. I deserve all those things because I was and always will be respectful and responsible.

Kylia C. Woodfolk

It's me Anthony. Do you know me? I have two brothers. These are things I want. (1) Call of duty MW3 for the computer. (2) Harry Potter 5-7 for the computer. (3) Dude Diary 2. The last thing I want is Diary of a Wimpy Kid Cabin Fever.

Thank you for reading my letter,

Anthony

Mary Christmas. I have been reley good this year. I just want three things this year. One of the things I want is to get a new home. I haven't been one of the bad kids this year. I am going to have to move befor Christmas. I want a lalaloopsy. I have been a good girl this year. I only have five. They get lonely. I also want another tigea. I only have one, she gets lonely.

I will be waiting in my bed.

Morgan Marie Wayna

Merry Christmas and happy new year! There aren't a lot of things I want. I want an xbox because my game system broke. I want and ipod because I never had one before. I want a computer because I never had one of those either.

Julian Donaldson

How are you doing? Are you ready for the big awesome day? I have been really good for the past year I have been really nice to my sister I have not been mean to my little sister.

I really want a CSI kit, Chinan Malcin CD, Dance Central for the Xbox connect and Wipeout Four magazine Preteen and toly me craf's I think I deserve these things because I been so good for the past year.

Love, sincere Cain

First let me tell you that you a generous, helpful man. You always give to others and that's what I like about you. I think I deserve at least three things for Christmas from you because I have been so good this year.

I think the three things I should get for Christmas are a 3ds, a lap top, and a game for my 3ds. I think I deserve 3ds, lap top and a game for my 3ds because I haven't been arguing with my brothers like last time my mom told me.

Hello Santa!! How are you and your wife doing? I have been very good this year. I've been nice, responsible, thankful and respectful.

I really want a wii, Dance Central for Xbox connect, new outfits, CSI kits for China, Malcin CD, cat, xbox Live, crafts, rocket, a new dSI or DS, also sun glasses.

Can you try your best to get me these things please!!! I will be very thankful and happy for some of these things! Thanks

Love, Vanessa

Merry Christmas. If possible, this is my list. I only want 3 things. A mic so I could talk to people on my game. A flat screen Tv so my Tv can be bigger. I want an ipod touch. Those were my three things. That's all! See you on Christmas maybe.

Terrance

How was your vacation? and how are the elfs doing? I hope the reindeer's are ready for Christmas. And how is Mrs. Claus?

Here are some presents I want for Christmas one of them is an xbox360, a Dsi and I want you. I think I should have three things because I'm doing good in school and I always be responsible and I have been really good this past year like for an example I always listen to my mom like last week she said wash dishes take trash out so I think I should get something.

Love, Amir Badgett

I have been really good this year in cheerleading, the church X-mas play, school and at home.

I would like a guitar, a playstation with games to play on it, and most of all a puppy. I think I should get a guitar because I would really like to learn how to play it so that if someday I enter and American Idol contest I can have a guitar with me

If you can give me these things I will take good care of the puppy, try not to break the playstation and always practice my guitar.

Lynnea Perrine

I have been good this year. I've been nice and sweet. I would like a vidogams for my psp and some Jordans allow some tickets to the super bowl.

Santa I know you can't get all of thows thing but I will appreciate it a lot and I hop you like the cookies

Love, Devin Thomas

Santa, you bare my favorite person. I would like an i pod so I can listen to music. You would make me so happy if you gave our family a play ground. We could play on it as a family. I would like a DS 3D so I can play with it.

You seem to like cookies. So what do you eat at home? How do you fly?

Tyler

How are you? Are you ready for the big day. There's just one thing I have to tell you. I've been respectful I'm responsible and I care for my actions. I really want 12 months for xbox 360, DSI games, Wipeout for Kinect, adoption for a puppy.

Listen, I know you don't have enough room on your sleigh but can you try to get some of those Please. I promise I will leave out every kind of cookie me and my family made.

Samantha Campbell

Merry Christmas! I love the holidays. You're probably wondering what I want for Christmas,

What I want for Christmas is all electronics. The electronics I want is an iphone, a Dsi, and a Kindle. The reason I want an iphone is because every body I know has one. The reason I want a Dsi is because again every body I know has one. I want a Kindle because I love to read.

Gianna Anderson

How have you been Santa? Is Rudolph and the other reindeer okay? This year, I've been good as an angel. I'm respectful to mom and dad. I share with other kids and I barely flip cards in school

The thing I really want are the brand new Osiris skateboarding shoes, an X-Box and last of all, a cure for Cancer. I think I deserve these things because like I said, I've been as good as an angel. I work very hard in school also.

Jeshan Knallan

Merry, merry Christmas. St. Nicholas. I love, love Christmas! I want to know if I am on the good list? I want simple stuff this year. I want the Diary of a Wimpy Kid series. I love reading and I love Diary of a Wimpy Kid and a giant coloring book. I love coloring too. (It's my specialty.)

If this is possible, please do all of this, if you can't it's okay.

Karina

I hope you are ready for

Christmas. I can't believe Christmas is here again! I am so excited.

Here are some presnts I would like for Christmas all of the just dance wii, a ds and a computer, a real one. I think I should have these things because i'm getting better grades in school, I'm listening to the teachers, and I do my homework as soon as I get home.

Karley Bratby

Merry Christmas Santa. For Christmas I want a pink doll for me. Also, a Dork Diaries book 3 a DS and a little pony colored pink. Last, three dolls. Santa are you real or not?

Andria Cakri

I hope I get presents for Christmas because I been good I listen to my parents, I been nice to my brothers, and I am doing my work in school.

Just let you know what want for Christmas is a DSI, poke-mon white game with it, and also a charger for my DSI so I can charge it while playing my game on it. I think I deserve those because I play with the kids nice and I do what my parents say.

DaeShawn Warren

Merry Christmas. I want Modern Warfare for a gift. I want a flat screen TV because my TV is old and small. I also want Modern Warfare 2 so I can have all the ones I like.

Owen

I just want to thank you for letting me keep Rudolph last year. I've been super good this year. I helped people with their problems I am very responsible and respectful.

I would really like to have four tickets to the Lions game against the San Diego Chargers, NFL Madden 12 updated and Wipeout for the Xbox Kinect. I deserve these things because I'm very friendly and I listen to my teachers.

Sincerely, love, Clayton Bird

I have been a good girl. I love Christmas. I want you to write me a letter. Am I on the good list? I want you to know I am your biggest fan! Here are some things I want:

- 1 A laptop so I can do homework.
- 2 Some snow globes. I started a collection.
- 3 Planets vs. Zombies figures. I have this game.
- 4 A camera so I can remember the memories.

I want you to know that I love Christmas! Don't forget want a Letter from you.

Kathryn Bigelow

I've been good this year. Because I got good grades on my report card and I did my horse, and how are your rain-deers and your elves?

I will like for Christmas is just dance 3, guitar mikerphone, X box 360. I deserve these things because I got good grades on my report card, and I did my horse.

Love, Kayla

Merry Christmas, I love Christmas. The first thing I want is a Kindle because I love books. The second thing I want is a monster high doll because I love dolls. The third thing I want is a kenex because I have an X-box 360.

Victoria

I been good for 2 months I never flipted a card and in November and December so far. I am responsible and respectful my mom thinks that I should get 3 thing cause I've been nice all in november here some things I want for Christmas.

I really want an ipad, ipod touch and 3DS I think I should get these things cause I never been bad in school my mom think I'm bad sometimes but I think I've been good.

Derrick Seurlock

Merry Christmas! I always wanted an electric scooter, Baseballcards and Blackop's. I want these things to play with at home. My mom and dad want a car to drive. My brothers want lots of baceballcards. My baby

brother wants a chair.

Jerome

How are you, your working elves, and your flying little reindeer? I can't wait till Chrsmas!! I have really been good this year! I have been helping with my brother, and doing what my mom and dad tell me to do.

This year under the Christmas tree I would really like a figit friend, Serafina, monster high dolls and clothes from Justice! I'm really hoping these things will be up in your sleigh on Christmas Eve night.

Love, Natalie Reid

How are the elves? Do you like the cookies we put out? Is Mrs. Claws okay? I think you get around the world by Father Time?

I think I should realy get a new game boy, a ps3 and a DS I think I should get these pres-ents because I play with the trash, I haven't flipped to yellow or red and I've been turning in all of my work.

Love, Luke Coyce

Merry Christmas! I hope you have a great time delivering presents this year.

You are probably wondering what I want for Christmas. A phone so I can stay in touch with my cousin Jordan. We barely get to see each other only on holidays and when they come over to baby sit. I also want a play pal for my dog. He is so lonely during school and vacations when he is at the dog sitters.

Emmarose Elinski

I was hopping I should get something from Christmas because I'm been good this year. I've been doing good at school like getting good grades. I was really thinking you should get me presents.

I would like a playstation 3 with games. Also remote controller car. I wanted a new bike. I was really looking up for you to get me these presents I deserve it is because I've been good and good at school.

Elijah Blair

Thank you for these past years. These are some of the toys I would please like for Christmas but if you need to give the toys to children who don't have toys that's fine with me. I would like a digital camera because I could fun family pictures on these. A new Selena Gomez CD because I like music. The new Taylor Swif CD because I like to rock with my friends. Plus I would really really like Billy the Exterminator Movies.

Emma Carlton

How have you been? All your reindeer ready for another Christmas day? I can't wait! I hope you could bring me a present because I have been really good. I have got lots of good grades and I am caring about others.

For Christmas I hope you can get me one of these things. I would like an ipod/phone a dog or a laptop. I hope you will bring me these things. I will be so happy!

Letisia Kape

I want you to give you some ideas on how to treat naughty kids. If they are naughty than you should give them one present, just one.

I would like to know how you are doing handling everything at your workshop? I would also like to know how Rudolph turns on his nose.

I want to give you some advice if Rudolph doesn't shine his nose on Christmas, you should always carry a spotlight in case it happens.

Erin Krape

I have been so good this year. Everybody is really excited for Christmas to come. I hope all your elves and reindeer and you are having a great time? For Christmas, I would like

ne rollerblades, a snowboard and Just dance 3 for wii. I think I should deserve these things because I have been doing all on my chores. I will be sure to leave out cookies and milk and if you do get me the gifts I wanted I will be so excited and write a letter to you every year.

Emily Fay Sentowski

Merry Christmas! I always wanted a phone, wii, and a computer. It is because if I get a phone I could text and call friends. I want a computer because I can go online and if I have a wii, I could play bowling, tennis and other games.

Can you also give my sister toys and game so she can learn?

Peter Zhao

How are the reindeer? I hope your excited because Christmas isn't far a way. I deserve lots of presents because I have been very good this year. I deserve to be one of the Winx club fairies and have the power of a fairy of the rainbow and have enchantin powers, Barbie hair extensions and Bratz for Christmas. I want a purple electric guitar, Bratz Streak and Styie dolls and back pack filled with crayola items.

Mikela

Merry Christmas. One thing I'm asking for Christmas is an under water camera to keep special memories. Also a scooter to ride around and play on with my friends. Last, chalk to draw with. One more thing I want is a M-p3 player to listen to music. I can't wait to hear from you.

Jillian

Merry Christmas Santa! I wish that I could have a DS because I never played this game called Just Dance. I want a dog named Cookie. It is a dog that barks and walks. I want a diary because I get to write all my secrets in it.

Shonece

Merry Christmas Santa. There are kind of a lot of things I want fro Christmas. I would like a camera so I can make stop motions for YouTube. A laptop so I can post my YouTube videos on my own. I would like a kindle fire so I can read books without buying them. I would like an American Girl named Kit to make videos with her.

Sharja

Merry Christmas Santa, there is so much stuff I want for Christmas. Here are some of them I want a Phone for emergencies only. Also ice skates so I can take ice skating lessons. Roller skates so I can go to the roller rink.

Sarah

Merry Christmas. I like Christmas because it is my favorite holiday. There are a few things I would like this year. The first thing I would like is a phone because I like to play games. The second thing I would like is the race track because I like doing races. The third thing I will like is cars because I like the cars racing on the tracks.

Jalen

Merry Christmas and Happy new Year! I would like a robot because it can get something out of the refridgerator for me. Also, a nerf gun to shoot at a target. My mom would like a computer to look things up.

Love, Raven

For Christmas I want a Hex Bug and a Hex Bug hive. My sister wants a Lo-Lo Lousy doll. My stepdad wants a dog. Merry Christmas.

Alex

I wish you a Merry Christmas. I want a laptop to play games and read books. I would like to go on youtube for my little sister to watch with me.

Your best friend, Blake





## The importance of teams in successful organizations

This is the first of a three-part series on the importance of teams. See Thursdays, Dec. 29 and Jan. 5, for parts two and three.

By Martina Bogdanoska  
 Guest Columnist

In today's business environment, working together doesn't always mean under one roof. It means knowing one another, executing complementary tasks and continually exchanging information to facilitate cooperation between employees. Nowadays, teamwork is very important for normal operations within organizations. Building teams is a good instrument for the creation of environments that allow for collaboration and cohesion among members who will drive the organization forward through joint support and transfer of knowledge and experience.

All teams are groups, but not all groups are teams. From an organizational point of view, groups could be any mix of people that accidentally have something in common. A team is considered always as something more than just a simple grouping.

Cooperation and teamwork among colleagues is a very important element for the successful operation of the organization. It is especially important to understand that every profession has its own competency and that more professions should work together, in a team, on a basis of mutual understanding for the expertise of others.

Good teams focus their energy toward a common goal, toward a common realization of that goal and toward a sense of mutual responsibility. An environment that fosters teamwork via communication among team members in a manner that supports mutual trust and respect are of crucial importance for the efficiency and effectiveness of the team.

### Team leader

Every team needs a leader. That leader is the person who takes responsibility for the team, assigns tasks and communicates progress of team actions. The leader instructs and motivates members and manages the development of a warm working atmosphere. To achieve that working atmosphere, it is necessary to have trust and respect between the members. It is necessary to have rules that will be accepted and respected from all. Working enthusiasm is maintained if the members are guided only with the desire of success and achievements. As a the team grows in maturity, it becomes more effective, works better and achieves better results.

If the team develops a sense of community and collegiality and if all members are guided by "all for one, one for all," the team will function efficiently and effectively.

Therefore, from the very beginning of the team's creation, it is nec-

### TEAM WORK

The practice of companies around the world to implement teamwork in the past 20-30 years reveals two major reasons for team work.

1. Deterioration of organizational effectiveness, especially when it can't be corrected because of the complexity of the goal and assignment.
  2. Pressure from the outside environment, which it cannot be influenced through the individual efforts of employees because of the complexity of the pressure.
- In one successful team, the spirit of the team should be created such that all members will work for the good of the team. To achieve its goal and to realize a given task, the team should encourage every member to develop his or her skills. In that context, we can speak of a team as a group of people that can successfully accept and realize every given task. Successful means qualitative and timely executive of a task with full and economical usage of available resources.

It is necessary to clearly and unambiguously define goals, to communicate those goals to all team members and to get confirmation that everyone understands those goals. In many cases, the failure of a team is a result of misunderstanding of goals from the beginning.

No matter how expert and competent its team members, groups often do not function as a team because they have team members who act in different directions. To become a team, team members must direct all of their individual energies toward one joint goal. In other words, synergy should become operational.

### Efficiency

Existence of this synergistic or joint action is considered a major reason for its use in teams and the knowledge base it promotes leads to a team efficiency that is greater than the collection of individual efficiencies. To become a team, one group needs a lot of time and effort because the members have certain needs, expectations and interests when they form the group.

To be a team member means to show loyalty to the goals and efforts of the team. This might require someone to sacrifice personal achievements in favor of the team.

The team is something more than just a simple grouping. For the team, it is necessary that some entry criteria are established to differentiate between who is and who is not a part of the team.

**Martina Bogdanoska** is pursuing her research doctoral degree in the field of human resource management within health care. She is an inspirational academic interested in transforming health care through innovative thinking. She holds a doctoral degree in dentistry and a master's degree in health management.

Next week: Why people favor working in teams.

## Elves dedicated to children's happiness

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

Howard DeElf: Our business is making children happy, and what business could possibly be better? We do this in concert with Santa, matching toys, games, electronic devices, dolls, and all other manner of enjoyment for children of all ages around the world with his famous "list." We do this only after, of course, he checks it twice for those who've been naughty or nice. (Quite frankly, though, he's pretty lenient).

Observer: How did you first decide to get into the business?

Howard DeElf: Well, my brother Hermey actually got me interested in being one of Santa's elves. He was really dedicated to the craft, until his interest in dentistry was piqued. When he was promoted to Santa's dentist, some of the other elves approached me about following in his footsteps. I've always been good with my hands, and I thought making toys for the good little girls and boys around the world would be a way for me to give something back.

Observer: Why did you choose Santa's Workshop at the North Pole?

Howard DeElf: Well, when you're an elf, and you want to make toys, where else are you gonna go? Toys R Us? Santa's Workshop is the major leagues of the toy-making world. Every elf who starts off whittling wooden dolls in his garage dreams of one day making it to the Big Time.

Observer: What makes your business unique?

Howard DeElf: Well, first of all there aren't all that many businesses where your soul purpose is making children happy. That's unique in itself. But the way it all comes together, from the way all the elves work together to how Mrs. Claus fattens Santa up for the season to the reindeer using their annual reindeer games to train for that one big night, is really impressive, if I do say so myself. Of course, you get the occasional reindeer laughed at and called names, or the stray elf who gets ridiculed for his career choices, but all in all, we're a huge, cohesive team striving to make that one holiday a year the merriest of all.

Observer: How has it changed since it opened?

Howard DeElf: The overall business hasn't changed in generations. It's still all about the kids. It's the kids who've changed. Where a child may have wanted a Chatty Cathy doll or a Matchbox car years ago, now they all want the high-tech stuff. Computers, radios, cameras, video games, "smart" phones ... it seems like if there's an "i" in front of it, the kids want it these days. Steve Jobs really made this work a lot harder.

Observer: How has the recent economy affected your business?

Howard DeElf: The economy hasn't



Santa and his helpers are getting ready for their biggest day of the year.

affected the business from our end; we still get so much work we're never sure how we're going to get it all done, though in the end we do. The economy has changed it for the people we serve, though, making it tougher for their parents to provide for them.

Observer: Do you have an

amusing anecdote to share?

Howard DeElf: Well, there was the time I had an appointment with Hermey, and he gave me too much novocaine. When I went back to the line, my mouth was still numb, and the other elves had trouble understanding me. That was the year we had a whole shift's

### SANTA'S WORKSHOP

**Business Name:** Santa's Workshop  
**Business Address:** The North Pole  
**Your name:** Howard DeElf  
**Number of Employees:** Seasonal  
**Hours of operation:** 24/7 (there's no other way to keep up with demand)  
**Your Business Specialty:** Making millions of toys for girls and boys.

worth of Barbie dolls that ended up with Ken heads.

Observer: Any advice for other business owners?

Howard DeElf: Be true to yourself, be true to your customers, and learn as much about every aspect of the business as you can. And don't let them tell you you're too small, or too slow, or your nose glows too brightly to do the job. And learn how to use social networking. You wouldn't believe how many letters to Santa he gets e-mailed now.

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

Howard DeElf: We will continue to grow, continue to adapt to the changes in the world and continue to make as many children as happy as possible.

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## OUR VIEWS

# Gospel message still the same

Local churches are using the latest technology in new ways to help spread the Gospel message.

NorthRidge Church in Plymouth Township has a virtual campus people can attend online to worship with others around the world. Bell Creek

Community Church in Livonia uses Twitter to remind people to stop what they were doing and pray during the week during a series on prayer. Grace Chapel in Farmington Hills has an e-vite component on its youth ministry Facebook page so kids can easily invite their friends to church events.

While the methods have changed, the message hasn't.

The story of God's love in sending his only son to earth to die on the cross and take the punishment for everyone's sins, as told in the Bible, is one that has withstood the test of time.

The Bible remains the best-selling book of all time.

This Christmas, more than 2,000 years after Jesus was born, believers around the world will still celebrate his birth.

Times have changed, but the story of the birth of a Savior in a stable on a starry night so many centuries ago is one that continues to touch hearts and change lives.

Merry Christmas!

# Give the 'perfect gift' this holiday season

The American Red Cross is encouraging people to give the "perfect gift" this holiday season by donating blood.

One blood donation can give up to three families more time — hours, days, even years — and more memories. Yet it doesn't cost the donor a single penny — just an hour of his or her time.

According to a national survey by the American Red Cross, about one in five (19 percent) respondents plan on giving blood this holiday season.

Blood donations often decrease this time of year as weather woes increase and family schedules turn tumultuous. Yet, the need is constant. Every two seconds,

someone in this country needs blood. On average, 44,000 blood donations are needed each day to help trauma victims, surgical patients, burn victims, patients with blood disorders and many others.

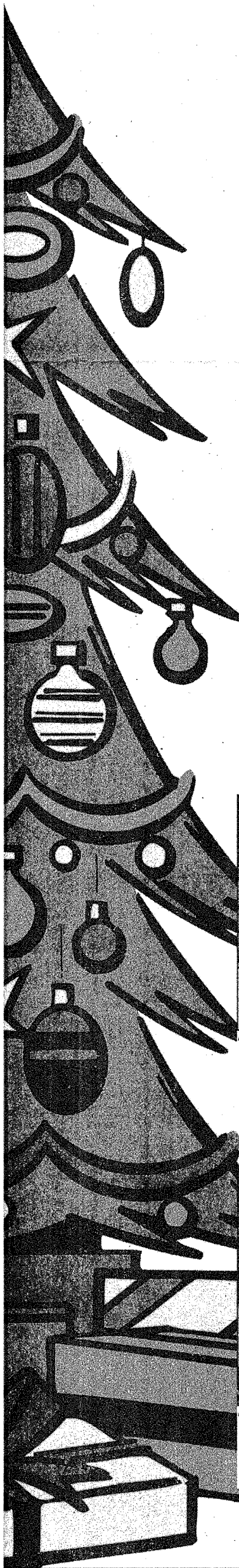
St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile, Livonia is hosting a blood drive 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Tuesday. It's one of many being held this holiday season in the Metro Detroit area. Donors will receive a holiday cookie. Walk-ins are accepted, but appointments are preferred.

To schedule an appointment, call (800) GIVE-LIFE. To find another blood drive near you, visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org).

## COMMUNITY VOICE

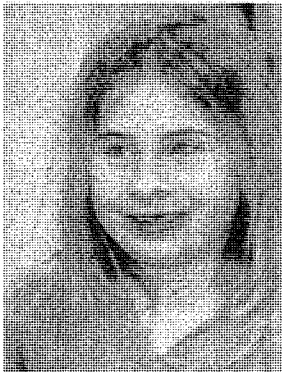
# What do you want for Christmas?



"An iPad, an X-Box and video games."  
**Casey Farren**  
 Livonia



"I want a dog, a shih tzu. I have one, but I want another."  
**Chris Cook**  
 Livonia



"I want a Nintendo DSi because I can take pictures and make designs."  
**Rachel Groen**  
 Garden City



"I want an iPod Touch. You can play games on it."  
**Jacob Kerner**  
 Livonia



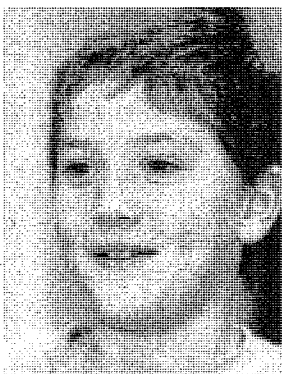
"Lincoln Logs and some magnet tiles!"  
**Nicholas Carlson, 6**  
 Plymouth



"Mobigo and more Legos!"  
**Charlie Carlson, 4 3/4**  
 Plymouth



"I don't even know yet. I really want Lincoln Logs."  
**Will Reed, 5**  
 Plymouth



"An iPod 2 because you can learn new stuff on it..."  
**Colin DeHetre**  
 Garden City



"A Nintendo DS with DS games!"  
**Dasha Hodyas**  
 Canton



"Toys! A gigantic stuffed animal!"  
**Sydney Levy**  
 Canton



"Lego Halo V antoni."  
**Liam Hallman, 8**  
 Beech Elementary



"A (Nintendo) DS. You can play games. I'd also like an iPod."  
**Julia Berger, 6**  
 Farmington



"A (Nintendo) DS, because it has games on it."  
**Brea Osborn, 6**  
 Farmington



"An iPod Touch, an Xbox360 and an MW3 for Xbox."  
**Devon Osborn, 10**  
 Farmington



"A Christmas tree, a plastic one."  
**Swasthika Prajosh, 6**  
 Farmington



"A Monster High Doll."  
**Laila Miller, 9**  
 Beech Elementary



"A TV for my room because all my other friends have one."  
**Alex Salisbury, 9**  
 Westland



"A cure for cancer. I want that because that's how my grandpa died."  
**Delshaon Knolton, 9**  
 Westland



"I want homes for the homeless. I want them to have houses like us and not have to sleep outside."  
**Letisia Kape, 9**  
 Westland



"A new puppy because I like puppies."  
**Cassie Allen, 9**  
 Westland



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**Merry Christmas**

This Christmas poem is from my book, Inspirational Poems from the Heart of a Cop:

Thank God for Christmas Day!  
Thanksgiving passes once again  
We all know what's ahead  
Christmas Eve and Santa Claus  
Rudolph's nose so red

Well it started back in Bethlehem  
One blessed stary night  
With a precious gift for all mankind;  
God's Eternal Light

Wise men humbly showed their thanks  
With gifts of gold and myrrh  
While angels who looked down in awe  
Gave thanks from where they were

So this year after you wake up  
And Santa's gone away  
Remember how this came to be  
Thank God for Christmas Day!

**Bill Heffner**  
formerly of Garden City

**Stop war of words**

I was greatly disappointed by the content and tone of the recent letter from the president of the Garden City Education Association. It took me back to the terrible years of 1972-74 when our students suffered from the militant posturing of some staff and eventually a loss of over 40 days of instruction. It was essentially a lost year for our kids and led to legislation forbidding strikes by public employee groups.

I ran for and was elected to the Garden City Board of Education in 1975, hoping that my background as a teacher and parent would help bridge the gap between educators and the community. That gap was huge and took years to heal.

If I were to advise the leaders of the union, I would tell them to not try to mislead the residents about the collective bargaining process. Most of us understand contracts and negotiations and know that the teachers are still receiving salary and benefits.

I would tell the union leaders that while the residents have always provided financial support to the district, just recently passing a capital improvement

millage in spite of the terrible national economy, the residents do not appreciate the attitude of some teachers.

I would advise them to drive around the community and see the number of homes in foreclosure, and study the demographics of this city of 28,000 and find that the majority of residents are retirees, living on retirement benefits, and have no children or even grandchildren in Garden City Public Schools.

They might notice the reduction in services the City Administration has been forced to make, laying off employees, reducing wages and benefits, and privatizing service delivery in order to submit a balanced budget.

There is fierce competition for education dollars now that districts are reimbursed on a per pupil basis and families have many options, including schools of choice and charter schools.

The public attitude of the GCEA leadership will certainly cause families with school age children to think twice before moving to Garden City or to exercise their options in selecting public schools. The reputation of the district is critical in attracting and retaining students and much of that reputation is determined by the staff and staff attitude.

I found some of the criticisms of the administration and school board strange and misleading. For example the concern about the audit being done in October. Perhaps it's because the state's fiscal year ends in September and the state is the primary funder of public education.

Special meetings of the school board are not illegal and neither are closed sessions for specific purpose. Knowing most of the current board members, I doubt that any of them were "led" into an "illegal" closed session by the superintendent to convince them to approve her contract.

It is time for the GCEA leadership to stop this war of words against the administration and realize that the school board does not represent the administration or the teachers, but the school children who deserve teachers who devote their time and energy to the classroom.

**Mary Jane Schildberg**  
Garden City

**A new facility**

I just returned home from a drive through Garden City Park. I had to see with my own eyes the initiatives that I have been working on for the past several years, coming to fruition.

Now that the day has finally come, I must admit that it saddened me to see the pool that I swam in as a kid, and the Log Cabin that my family rented for birthdays and communion parties being torn down. I am sure that there are many, like me in town, that had a lot of happy memories there and it is always sad to see those special places that we enjoyed eliminated.

Unfortunately, both the cabin and the pool were well beyond their usable lifespan and for the past six-seven years they sat there in our city's greatest park, condemned, boarded up, covered-up, and locked up, bringing only blight and potential liability to the city.

While on Council (2003-2007), when a last ditch effort to save the pool failed, and the need to relocate the museum became evident, we looked for the funding to remove the structures before blight set in, but with economy on the downside, we did not have the extra money in our general fund, and based on our city's average income in the 2000 census, we made too much money to get any federal or state grants to help us fund the project. We were stuck.

The following year (2008), the fine residents of this city, supported my bid for the County Commission, I was determined to find the resources to not only rid the city of the condemned park facilities, but to bring something new to our park for this generation of kids to enjoy.

I worked with the County's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) staff and local leadership to get federal monies for the demolition under the "spot-blight" classification. That allowed the city to use CDBG monies to remove the structures — without spending a dime of general fund dollars. There were many state and federal hurdles to jump, but the project is finally underway.

In 2009, I allocated \$120,000 in Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Park Millage monies to the city to build a NEW facility. I had hoped that we could use the money to build a splash pad in

the park because with the pool gone, the kids here had no means of water recreation, but the city said they could not afford the water bill. By this time, they were already proposing to reduce their support to all local volunteer-run sports organizations, and eliminate all the recreation programs that were not self-supporting.

We needed to find a project that met the CIP requirements of the ballot language, so a laundry list of maintenance items was not acceptable. SO, I took to the parks and streets of Garden City and I spoke with the kids — and that is how the idea of the skate park was conceived. Given the city's budget limitations and the millage language requirements, it was something we could do, without any additional operational costs to the city or the taxpayers. Hennessey Engineering will be managing the project, and we are looking to have it built in the spring.

I cannot begin to tell you, how pleased I am that this initiative is finally becoming a reality, and again I want to thank all the kids and parents that fought for it, the mayor, and members of the council, (especially Mr. Jim Kerwin) that supported it, the Parks Commissioners that defended it, the current City Manager Darwin McClarey and DPS Director Jack Barnes who are working with us, and Mr. Hennessey who is going to make it happen, because without all of them the city would have lost the funding, and our kids would have one less, free and fun, thing to do.

**Diane Webb**  
Wayne County commissioner  
9th District

**Correct decision**

I have been very critical of the Wayne County commission for their lack of nerve in standing up to Bob Ficano. Now we owe them a BIG ATTA BOY/ATTA girl for finally telling Bobby NO. They read the taxpayers correctly when they said we would not stand for our tax dollars paying for the "criminal" defense of Mr. Bob and his cronies.

Now what can we do to stop our tax dollars from defending the Kilpatrick syndicate?

**Skip Wehrle**  
Garden City

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# Classes open doors to Winter Wonderland

By Sue Mason  
Observer Staff Writer

The doorways of classrooms at Marshall Upper Elementary were transformed into Winter Wonderlands as students and their teachers vied for a prize of hot chocolate and doughnuts.

Grinches, music, flashing lights, even sleds made from candy canes were used to decorate the doors that were judged by a group of city and school officials.

"I was very impressed," Westland Deputy Mayor Jade Smith said. "The hard part was the judging because the kids put a lot of work into them. It was tough."

Teacher Shayla Weston brought the idea from Franklin Middle School where she had taught previously. The classes began decorating their doors at the beginning of the month and could do anything that related to the Winter Wonderland theme.

"She's got a lot of spirit for the school, she gets the students involved," parent volunteer Michelle Sample said.

The classes could use lights, decorations and whatever to decorate the doors. Parents also got involved, dropping off decorations.

The doors were judged based on their presentation of the theme, use of color, creativity and entertainment. There were three winners — one for fifth grade, one for sixth grade and one for the five-six classrooms.

The fifth-grade winner was Allison Perry's classroom, dubbed Perry's Winter Wonderland that used empty milk jugs to create the illu-



Teacher Kristen VanDoorne of the 5-6 special needs class explains to judges how her class came up with the theme for their winning Winter Wonderland door.

sion of an entrance to an igloo. There also was a sign showing the way to both the North and South Poles and snowflakes with her students names on them.

Ronecia Anderson's snow-covered sledding hill filled with candy cane sleds won for sixth-grade, while Kristen Van Doorne's door that had her students, who are physically or otherwise health impaired, as the characters won for the five-six classrooms.

"The kids came up with the idea. I asked them what they thought and I wrote it down and then found things they could color," Van Doorne told judges. "They were very excited when they saw it up on the door."

Sitting outside Anderson's door, students Autumn Pierce, Chloe Franklin, Tabatha Duffer and Kaela Kubany



Allison Perry and her students turned plastic milk jugs into blocks of ice to show the way to their Winter Wonderland

pointed out their favorite parts — the snowman and snowflakes — of the decorated door.

"Mostly students did it," Kaela said.

"Pooja Patel made the candy cane sleighs," Tabatha added. "We helped rip the cotton balls and place them on the

hill."

Other doors included Rebecca Kirchoff's door, themed "There's somebody like us," which featured snowflakes made from blue and white crayons and a sleigh filled with all of her students. Weston's door had snowflakes hanging from



Students Autumn Pierce, Chloe Franklin, Tabatha Duffer and Kaela Kubany helped create the sledding hill that decorates the door of Ronecia Anderson's classroom.

branches of a tree that extended out into the hallway and dioramas of winter scenes.

"There was a lot of creativity and a lot of good illustrations of outstanding student work," said Wayne-Westland School Superintendent Greg Baracy, who was one of the judges. "I had my favorite — the Winter Wonderland with the milk cartons. The theme was there, the creativity thing was there."

Also judging were Westland City Clerk

Eileen DeHart Schoof, Westland Economic Development Director Lori Fodale and Parks and Recreation Director Robert Kosowski.

"This was a lot of fun, it built a lot of spirit for the school," Co-Principal Akeya Murphy said. "I hope it'll be an annual event. The people who judged and the staff have indicated they want to come back. We all want it to come back."

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## Rockets almost spoilers

By Brad Emons  
Observer Staff Writer

It was Inkster's night of coronation as the Lady Vikings celebrated their Class A state girls basketball title of a year ago by raising their championship banner.

But Westland John Glenn, after waiting patiently during all the 15-minute pre-game pomp and circumstance, nearly crashed the party before succumbing, 56-53, after building a seven-point fourth-quarter lead.

Glenn was outscored 16-10 in the decisive fourth quarter.

"They're defending state champs for a reason," Glenn first-

year coach Eric

Kovatch said of the Vikings, who improved to 5-1 with the win.

"They're a very, very good basketball team and they played until the end. They deserved to win, but I'm proud of my girls. Couple shots here-and-there, a couple of free throws — it would have been a different outcome. But I'm not going to take anything away from Inkster. They're an excellent, excellent team."

Glenn missed four critical free throws, including front ends of a one-and-one during the final 1:18 and committed three costly turnovers during the final two minutes.

ShaKeya Graves hit a runner in the lane with 33.3 seconds left to put Glenn back up top 53-52, only to have Inkster guard Jamie Madden (16 points, four steals, five assists) hit a free throw and then

Please see **ROCKETS, B3**



Redford Thurston's Xavier Bowen pushes the ball up the court as Ann Arbor Gabriel Richard's Jason Houle (21) hustles back on defense. ED WRIGHT

## Close misses cost Thurston

By Ed Wright  
Observer Staff Writer

Getting to the rim wasn't an issue for Redford Thurston's boys basketball team Tuesday night at Ann Arbor Gabriel Richard.

Filling the rim — well, that was another story.

Plagued by poor marksmanship in the paint, the Eagles spoiled a spirited defensive effort in a 57-50 setback to the host Irish.

Thurston slipped to 2-3 while Gabriel Richard enjoyed its first victory in four games this

season.

"Overall, I thought it was our best game of the season so far," said Thurston head coach Brian Bates. "I thought we played well in the first half, but we missed a lot of easy shots. We were down at the half (32-27), but we very easily could have been up."

"In the second half, I thought we lost our patience. We fell behind and we started taking some bad shots. We need to work the ball around a little better. Defensively, I thought we played well and we rebounded better than we have all season."

The kids played hard."

A two-minute stretch at the end of the first half epitomized the Eagles' night. A missed layup and two missed put-backs on one trip down the court was followed by a misfire on a close-range banker on the next possession.

The Irish took advantage of the Eagles' shooting woes by seizing a 48-37 lead after three quarters. Thurston never got closer than seven down the stretch.

"(Gabriel Richard) is a good,

Please see **THURSTON, B3**

## Falcons hockey team runs winning streak to five

By Dan O'Meara  
Observer Staff Writer

After starting the season with six losses and a tie, Farmington High School's hockey fortunes have taken a turn for the better.

The Falcons have won their last three games — the latest being a 6-1 rout of visiting Rochester Stoney Creek — and improved their record to 3-6-1.

"Our schedule at the beginning was pretty tough, playing top-ranked teams like Brighton, Stevenson, Churchill, South Lyon and Canton," coach Mark Vellucci said. "Those are five really good teams, and they always have good programs."

"We had a new team and knew we probably were going to have a tough beginning. We're learning to compete and play the right way. We're improving every day in practice, and we're taking it to the games now."

Senior Zach Massa scored a three-goal hat trick and earned a fourth point with an assist Saturday night at Farmington Hills Ice Arena.

Sophomore Kris Hamilton and Massa scored even-up goals in the first period, and senior Mike Manzo assisted on both.

The Falcons scored the first three of the second period. Massa and sophomore Nick Heffron capitalized on power plays, and senior Blake Holm-

es netted the fifth goal.

Stoney Creek's Cameron O'Shea added a late tally (1:42), and Massa scored the only goal of the third period on another power play.

Adam Lockner also had two assists for the Falcons (2-1-0 in the OAA Red Division), Nick Kazoro one.

Farmington senior goalie Josh Cliff made 17 saves; Callen Stewart faced 26 shots for the Cougars (1-6-0, 0-5-0).

"A key to our success is we've been outshooting other teams," Vellucci said. "We're getting production from a lot of people and different lines."

"We're playing so much better in every area. Our power

Please see **HOCKEY, B2**



Senior Zach Massa scored a hat trick for Farmington against Alpena. CHRIS FLECK | PHLECK PHOTOS

## Pats grab county invite

By Brad Emons  
Observer Staff Writer

Christmas came seven days early for the Livonia Franklin wrestling team.

The Patriots surprised even their own head coach in capturing the Wayne County Invitational wrestling tournament held Saturday at Westland John Glenn.

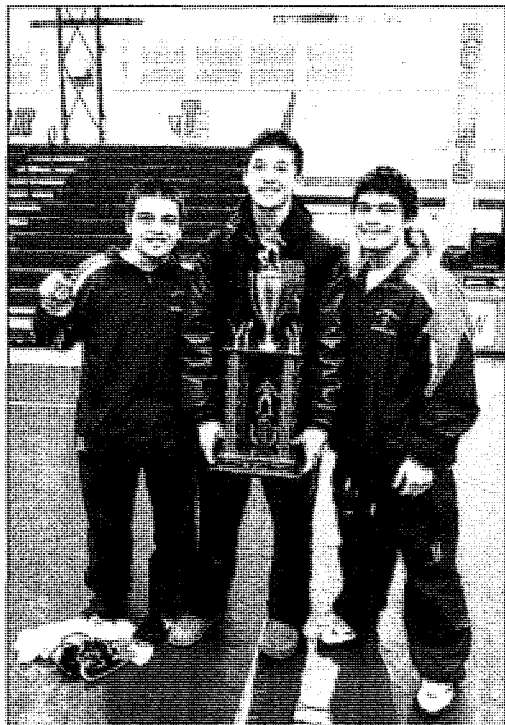
Bolstered by three individual champions and one runner-up, Franklin scored a team-high 163.5 points to overhaul Wayne Memorial's 132.5 for the team title.

Rounding out the top 10 in the 27-school field was Brownstown Woodhaven (126.5), Plymouth (125.5), host John Glenn (108), Northville (100), Dearborn Heights Crestwood (84.5), Highland Park (84), Melvindale (80) and Canton (78).

**Finishing strong**

Franklin got individual titles from brothers Danny and Gabe Martinez at 119 and 125, respectively, along

Please see **WRESTLING, B4**



Franklin's individual winners at the Wayne County Invitational wrestling meet held Saturday at Westland John Glenn included (from left) Danny Martinez (119 pounds), Jordan Atienza (140) and Gabe Martinez (125).

## 'Fun' relays launch boys swim season

By Tim Smith  
Observer Staff Writer

Several Observerland boys swimming and diving teams dipped their collective toes into the early season water at Friday's annual Plymouth Wildcat Relays, hosted by Salem High School.

Monroe won the fifth annual event with 84 points, with Canton's 62 good for second. Fourth-place Plymouth and sixth-place Redford Thurston tallied 46 and 28 points, respectively.

The Wildcat Relays helps bridge the scheduling gulf between the official start of the season (early December) and the beginning of dual meets, which for most teams won't take place until after the holidays.

Another plus of the event is it provides a vehicle for coaches such as Plymouth's Doug Schade to get a better read on how the season might unfold.

Please see **SWIMMING, B2**

## Furgason is All-American

Canton senior defender Connor Furgason, an integral member of the Chiefs' 2011 Division 1 boys soccer championship team, recently was named to the 2011 National Soccer Coaches Association of America Boys High School All-America Team.



Furgason

Furgason is the first boys soccer player from Plymouth-Canton Educational Park to be named All-America honors.

He will be recognized at the annual All-America Luncheon, to be held in the Kansas City Convention Center's Grand Ballroom on Saturday, Jan. 14.

## Balogh, GCHS get accolades

Farmington High School senior Trent Balogh and the Garden City High School football team have received academic all-state honors from the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association.

Balogh is one of 27 players in the state — and the only Observerland player — on the academic all-state first team.

The 27 automatically qualified for the first team by scoring 295 or better on the MHSFCA's 300-point scale. All of them also scored highly on the ACT: two scored 36, two 35, eight 34, five 33, six 32 and four 31. The average GPA is 3.991.

Balogh, an offensive and defensive lineman, was recently accepted into the University of Michigan's College of Engineering.

Garden City senior Jarrett DeHetre is an academic all-state honorable mention.

He helped the Cougars earn one of four all-state team positions in Division 2 with an average GPA of 3.945.

Walled Lake Western, Lowell and Holly are the other teams. Farmington (3.655) was one of 24 teams nominated in Division 2.

## Fishing meeting

The Metro-West Steelheaders monthly meeting will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 3 at the Livonia Senior Center, located at the southeast corner of Farmington and Five Mile roads.

The featured speaker will be Michigan Department of Natural Resources research biologist supervisor Liz Hay-Chemielewski, who give insight into the condition of Lake Erie along with the bag limit for walleye in 2012.

Meetings are free and open to the public. No reservations are needed.

For more information, call Jim Robertson at (734) 383-2790.

## Charity pucks

The Detroit Moose Hockey Club and Detroit Red Wings Alumni will face off 5 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 7, at Arctic Edge Ice Arena on Michigan Avenue in Canton. All proceeds from the game will be directly donated to Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation International. More information is available at detroitmoose.org.



# First-place Whalers enter hiatus on a losing note

With several key players at various preliminary camps for the upcoming World Juniors, the Plymouth Whalers entered the holiday hiatus in first place in their division after splitting a pair of road games last weekend.

Plymouth blanked Oshawa 5-0 on Friday before losing 5-1 the following night at Belleville. Entering the holiday break, the Whalers own a 22-9-2-1 record (47 points), which is tops in the West Division of the OHL's Western Conference.

The team won't return to action until 2 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 28 at Compuware Arena against London.

By then, head coach and general manager Mike Vellucci will know how many of the five potential World Junior players will be back in the fold — if any.

Goaltender Scott

Wedgewood made the Canadian team, while defenseman Austin Levi (Farmington Hills) and forward J.T. Miller are at the preliminary camp for the U.S. squad. The final U.S. roster will be announced Thursday by USA Hockey.

Forward Rickard Rakell and defenseman Dario Trutmann have made the Swedish and Swiss teams, respectively. Both played against Oshawa but missed the Belleville game while traveling to their preliminary camps.

In the win over the Generals, Rakell scored his 17th goal of the season to give the Whalers a 2-0 lead after one period.

Adding two goals was forward Andy Bathgate (12 goals) with forward and Farmington Hills product Alex Aleardi netting his 17th of the season. The fifth goal was tallied by forward Stefan Noesen (11 goals).



Plymouth Whalers rookie forward Danny Vanderwiel, shown from earlier this season, scored his first OHL goal Saturday at Belleville.

Stopping all 30 shots for the shutout was Plymouth netminder Matt Mahalak while forwards Garrett Meurs and Jamie Devane each chipped in with two assists.

Saturday at Belleville, Plymouth rookie forward

Danny Vanderwiel scored the first goal of his OHL career late in the first period to tie the game at 1-1.

But the Bulls cruised from there, scoring twice in each of the final two frames.

## HOCKEY

Continued from page B1

play is starting to come around; we're not giving up short-handed goals, and our 5-on-5 team defense is a lot better."

Farmington will try to extend its winning streak and end the 2011 portion of its schedule with a victory tonight against crosstown rival North Farmington-Harrison.

Game time is 7 p.m. at FHIA. The teams tied, 3-3, after Farmington rallied from a 2-0 deficit on Nov. 23.

"Our tie against them was kinda like a win for us, and I'm sure they're going to want to get revenge on us," Vellucci said. "It's going to be the type of game two archrivals play. It'll be intense and emotional."

"The last time we played it was a good hockey game; hopefully, we're going to give everybody their money's worth again. Every time we play it's usually a good game, and it comes down to the third period."

**YUPPERS TOP FLYERS:** North Farmington-Harrison (5-4-1)

was dealt a pair of defeats during a trip to the Upper Peninsula's Copper Country last week. The Flyers lost to the Houghton Gremlins on Friday, 5-1, and to the Calumet Copper Kings on Saturday, 5-4.

"It was a great weekend of very good hockey and a wonderful experience for all of our players," Flyers coach Ken Anderson said. "Even though we ended up on the short end of the score, we had great competition and great team camaraderie. The trip will benefit us when we come back home and return to league play."

Calumet's Sam Lanctot scored the winning goal and broke a 4-4 tie with nine minutes remaining in the third period. The Cooper Kings had a

4-3 lead after two, but Justin Brereton knotted the score for the Flyers (assisted by Michael Tobar).

It was 2-2 after one period. Eric Stanis and Kyle Wood scored the North-Harrison goals from Eric Miller, Jake Ladouceur and Eamon Devlin, who scored in the second period (from Wood) between a pair of Calumet goals.

On Friday, Houghton led 2-0 after one period and added a third goal on a second-period power play.

The Flyers also scored on a power play later in the second (9:50) on a tipped puck by Devlin from Brereton and Stanis.

The Gremlins answered back with a fourth goal 15 seconds later, and they got their fifth near the end of the third period.

# Chiefs look to keep winning

By Tim Smith  
Observer Staff Writer

Last winter, Canton's Victor Zhang made state-championship waves, sparking the Chiefs to KLAAs South Division and Kensington Conference titles in the process.

Entering his senior year, Zhang and several other point scorers from the 2011 Division 1 state meet will look to keep the Chiefs splashing toward another successful season.

"It will be an exciting season," Chiefs head coach Dave Le said. "We will be competitive within the conference and expect to compete for another division championship."

Canton's 2010-11 team finished 5-1 to win the conference, including a 4-1 mark to take first in the KLAAs South.

Leading the way will be Zhang, state champion in



One of Canton's key returnees is senior Victor Zhang, who won the 100 backstroke at last season's Division 1 state meet.

the 100 backstroke with a personal best of 51.55 seconds.

But he also is outstanding in the 50- and 100-free-style events and 100 breaststroke while being part of the 400 free relay. In the latter, Zhang — along with senior returnees Jay Jin, Adrian Simion and junior returnee Mike Carlson —

scored points by placing 14th at the D1 state meet.

With all four of those talented swimmers back for 2011-12, Canton's 400 free relay should again be reckoned with.

Jin, meanwhile, placed 23rd at the state meet in the 200 IM with a time of 2:03.27 and will be a key performer in that event

along with the 100 backstroke, Le noted.

Handling diving duties will be Ryan Kilgore, who the coach said "should continue where he left off."

Le said depth will play a factor in how well the team performs. Swimmers who he expects to help the cause are juniors Michael Wilyard, Bryan Tolinski, Nathan Benjamin, Ryan Sheeler and Travis Alber along with sophomores Jay Akolkar and Jack Chaney.

"We (also) have several freshmen who are showing a lot of potential early in the season," Le added.

Canton got off to a good start with a second-place finish at last week's Plymouth Wildcat Relays. Next for the team is the Salem-hosted Rock Kilgore Invitational on Jan. 7, with the first KLAAs dual meet Jan. 12 against Plymouth.

## PREP BOWLING RESULTS

### BOYS BOWLING RESULTS WESTLAND JOHN GLENN 20 PLYMOUTH 10

Dec. 20 at Novi Bowl  
Glenn scorers: Jordan Homes, 233-265-498; Mitch Dean, 203-214-417; Steven White, 256-138-394; Daniel Ammons, 214; Mark Kassab, 193; split score, 203. Team totals: 1,088-1,006-2,094 (16 points); Baker games: 212-151-363 (4 points).  
Plymouth scorers: Brandon Congdon, 231-200-431; Eric Thompson, 228-176-404; Rob Korstjens, 188-196-384; Evan Grimme, 206-171-377; Ryan Riva, 211; split score, 145. Team totals: 998-954-1,952 (4 points); Baker games: 189-194-382 (6 points).  
Glenn's dual match record: 6-0 overall, 4-0 KLAAs Central Division.

### GIRLS BOWLING RESULTS WESTLAND JOHN GLENN 22 PLYMOUTH 8

Dec. 20 at Novi Bowl  
Glenn scorers: Caitlin Lenard, 199-213-412; Jessica Pate, 169-193-362; Yvette Ayers, 165-132-292; Montana Graszak, 148; Olivia Cabildo, 147; Bre Riblett, 118; split score, 129. Team totals: 809-804-1,613 (18 points); Baker games: 164-132-296 (4 points).  
Plymouth scorers: Emily Fraser, 170-156-326; Caitlyn Webb, 153-148-301; Tiffani Patterson, 135-137-272; Lauryn Vincent, 138; Megan Blanck, 123; Megan Brewer, 119; split score, 115. Team totals: 719-675-1,394 (2 points); Baker games: 152-156-308 (6 points).

Glenn's dual match record: 5-1 overall, 4-0 KLAAs Central Division.

### WAYNE MEMORIAL 27 LIVONIA CLARENCEVILLE 3

Dec. 14 at Super Bowl  
Wayne scorers: Lorrissa Willet, 196-200-396; Tiffani Markham, 149-157-306; Kira Leach, 137-160-297; Tiffany Ozog, 102-131-233; Sarah Shurge, 93-133-226. Team totals: 677-781-1,458; Baker games: 128-131-259 (10 points).  
Clarenceville scorers: Bridget Moricz, 159-197-346; Nikki Juliano, 126-118-244; Stephanie Quinn, 99-122-221; Caitlyn Kissandi, 90-102-192. Team totals: 560-197-1,215 (3 points); Baker games: 118-110-228 (0 points).  
Wayne's dual match record: 2-3 overall.

### WAYNE MEMORIAL 20 PLYMOUTH 10

Dec. 13 at Novi Bowl  
Wayne scorers: Tiffany Markham, 163-169-332; Lorrissa Willet, 153-143-296; Kira Leach, 100-165-265; Tiffany Ozog, 118-128-246; Sarah Shurge, 94-110-204. Team totals: 628-715-1,343 (10 points); Baker games: 163-145-308 (10 points).  
Plymouth scorers: Megan Blanck, 156-134-290; Caitlyn Webb, 136-150-286; Tiffani Patterson, 141-129-270; Lauryn Vincent, 100-112-212; Serena Oliver, 109. Team totals: 665-640-1,305 (10 points); Baker games: 111-102-213 (0 points).  
Wayne's dual match record: 1-3 overall, 2-1 KLAAs Central Division.

## SPORTS ROUNDUP

### 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.

Arctic Edge is located at 46615 Michigan Ave. (south side) near Canton Center Drive.

### Softball camps

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

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.

For more information, visit [www.MadonnaCrusaders.com](http://www.MadonnaCrusaders.com); or e-mail White at [awhite@madonna.edu](mailto:awhite@madonna.edu).

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

## SWIMMING

Continued from page B1

"It's kind of a fun way to start the season," Schade said. "The boys like it. It was good for us. We've been in the water now for a couple weeks so it was good for us to just see where we're going to start out this season."

All six high schools represented at the event won at least one of the 10 events (all were relays except for the 1-meter diving event).

"It was pretty good competition all night," Schade added. "All six teams won an event, so that was kind of good to see."

Schade said Plymouth's 200-yard butterfly relay team of Adam Liakos, Cameron Earls, Ben Yang and Nick Weber deserved special mention for finishing first with a time of 1:49.09.

Thurston's quartet of Dylan Crompton, Luke Crompton, Julienn Williams and Tajmahal Robinson weren't far behind (third, 1:53.08).

That same group of Eagles did take the top spot in the 200 breaststroke relay, with a mark of 2:06.76.

Canton actually nailed down the most first-place finishes, with three.

In the 400 freestyle relay, Canton's Victor Zhang, Mike Carlson, Adrian Simion and Jay Jin easily took first with a time of 3:21.93, nearly 21 seconds ahead of Monroe's entry.

Winning the 400 medley relay were the Chiefs' tandem of Jin, Kyle Bindas, Simion and Zhang (3:56.08).

### PLYMOUTH WILDCAT RELAYS Dec. 16 at Salem H.S.

TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Monroe, 84 points; 2. Canton, 62; 3. Dearborn Edsel Ford, 56; 4. Plymouth, 46; 5. Tecumseh, 44; 6. Redford Thurston, 28. 400-yard freestyle relay: 1. Canton (Victor Zhang, Mike Carlson, Adrian Simion, Jay Jin), 3:21.93; 3. Plymouth (Adam Liakos, Cameron Earls, Ben Yang, Nick Weber), 3:42.87; 6. Thurston (Simon Hill, Nick Dowden, Marcus Cervantes, Adrian Croft), 4:09.31.

400 medley relay: 1. Edsel Ford, 4:01.44; 4. Canton (Kyle Bindas, Michael Wilyard, Jonathan Marceau, Matt Gran), 4:27.75; 5. Plymouth (Alex Wilson, Todd Maslyk, Alex Johnson, James Gholston), 4:43.20.

200 butterfly relay: 1. Plymouth (Liakos, Earls, Yang, Weber), 1:49.09; 3. Thurston (Dylan Crompton, Luke Crompton, Julienn Williams, Tajmahal Robinson), 1:53.08; 6. Canton (Jay Akolkar, Nathan Albin, Travis Wiggins, Gran), 2:19.88.

1-meter diving: 1. Zach Nofziger (Monroe), 173.90 points; 2. Ryan Kilgore (Canton), 157.05; 3. Connor McManus (Plymouth), 144.05. 400 medley relay: 1. Canton (Jin, Bindas, Simion, V. Zhang), 3:56.08; 3. Plymouth (Liakos,

Earls, Yang, Weber), 4:15.88.

200 breaststroke relay: 1. Thurston (D. Crompton, L. Crompton, Robinson, Williams), 2:06.76; 3. Canton (Alex Bourdreau, Carlson, Jay Krebs, Wilyard), 2:15.65; 5. Plymouth (Maslyk, Johnson, Ryan Heinze, Gunnar Savalox), 2:27.16.

200 backstroke relay: 1. Monroe, 1:54.26; 3. Canton (Simion, Josh Joy, Chris Jenner, Jack Chaney), 2:12.17; 4. Plymouth (Mike Pool, Alex Wilson, Andrew Harris, Gholston), 2:12.97.

500 freestyle relay: 1. Monroe, 4:43.12; 4. Plymouth (Weber, Liakos, Earls, Yang), 4:58.17; 5. Canton (Nick Valli, Travis Alber, Nathan Benjamin, Nathan Albin), 5:44.67; 6. Thurston (Kevin Metushi, Dowden, Hill, Cervantes), 6:00.06.

200 medley relay: 1. Canton (Jin, Wilyard, V. Zhang, Carlson), 1:47.83; 4. Thurston (Robinson, Williams, L. Crompton, D. Crompton), 1:54.11; 5. Plymouth (Wilson, Maslyk, Johnson, Heinze), 2:03.43.

200 freestyle relay: 1. Tecumseh, 1:36.29; 3. Thurston (Dowden, Williams, L. Crompton, D. Crompton), 1:38.39; 5. Plymouth (Heinze, Maslyk, Pool, Wilson), 1:44.66; 6. Canton (Drew Wade, Alber, Jonathan Marceau, Jenner), 1:49.58.



# Foster's 39 paces North

Senior Do'rell Foster scored a career-high 39 points Monday night to lead host North Farmington (2-2) past Melvindale Academy for Business & Technology, 71-63, in a non-league boys basketball game.

The 6-foot-6 Foster, who was scoreless in the third quarter, made 21-of-23 free throws and two triple baskets as North evened its record at 2-2 overall.

"He really slowed down and let the game come to him," coach Todd Negoshian said of Foster. "Early in the season, it being his senior year, I think he was forcing some things."

"He played well, got to the glass and defended well. All the way around, he stepped up and played a solid game."

North led at halftime 38-26, but AB&T rallied with a 17-9 advantage in the third quarter. It was 58-all when Foster sank a pair of free throws, and the Raiders never trailed after that.

Caleb Hogans scored 17 points, including three triples and six of eight free throws, for North. Foster also had 11

rebounds and Hogans five assists. Jeron Rogers added six points and seven rebounds. The Raiders were 30-of-40 at the foul line.

Terran Ramsey netted 28 points and Steven Meeks chipped in 14 for the Gators (3-2), who sank 26 of 36 free throws.

"Cameron Darden stepped up and gave us huge minutes off the bench in his first game seeing significant time," Negoshian said of the junior forward. "He really played well and did all the things we need him to do for us to be successful."

**WAYNE 61, RIVERVIEW 55:** Dezman Burleigh scored a game-high 21 points, including five-of-six free throws in the final quarter, propelling Wayne Memorial (3-2) to a non-conference victory Monday over the host Pirates (2-2).

Brian Smith added 18 points for the victorious Zebras, who overcame 11-of-24 free throw shooting. Jordan Lowry also chipped in with eight points. Michael Cooper's three-pointer with 40 seconds remaining helped seal the victory.

Corey Turner and Chris Krach paced Riverview with 12 and 10 points, respectively.

The Pirates made only 3-of-10 foul shots.

**GARDEN CITY 56, WOODHAVEN 48:** On Tuesday, the host Cougars (1-3) notched their first victory of the season

thanks to strong games from seniors Tyler Steele (14 points, five rebounds) and C.J. Hill, who pumped in 12 points against Brownstown Woodhaven (2-2).

Garden City led 29-25 at the half before building a 43-30 cushion after three.

"We ratcheted up our defense a little bit in the third quarter," said Garden City head coach Greg Williamson. "We played with more intensity than in the first half."

Junior point guard Tyler Gonzalez had a stellar night, contributing seven points and four assists.

Williamson also praised the play of Matt Stark (six points, three steals) and Kevin Brown, who recorded three steals in his first game since being promoted from the junior-varsity squad.

**ANNAPOLIS 62, C'VILLE 45:** Zackary Fields scored 17 points, while Colton Mallia and Jacob Butzin each added 13 to lead Dearborn Heights Annapolis (2-2) to a victory Tuesday at Livonia Clarenceville (0-5).

Sam Brown led the Trojans, who made only 6-of-18 free throws on the night, with 17 points. Austin Douglass chipped in with eight.

Clarenceville led 17-8 after one quarter, but fell behind 30-25 at halftime and 49-35 after three quarters.

**SEAHOLM 42, FRANKLIN 39:** Senior center Jake Barham's 17 points and 11 rebounds were not enough Tuesday as host Livonia Franklin (0-3) fell to host Birmingham Seaholm (3-2).

"We had far too many turnovers and missed free throws

(6-of-11) were only part of our downfall tonight," Franklin coach Jeremy Rheault said. "We had the lead most of the game, but did not handle the pressure that came with it. It was a tough loss, a sloppy game."

Franklin, which also got eight points and five steals from Tommy Smith, had a chance with 10 seconds left to take the lead and couldn't convert. Seaholm, led by Brett Houghton's 11 points, hit two free throws with 3.4 seconds left and the Patriots' half-court try at the buzzer didn't go.

**EDSEL FORD 61, RU 55:** On Tuesday, visiting Redford Union (1-4) led 47-40 midway through the fourth quarter before succumbing to a late Dearborn Edsel Ford (4-0) rally.

"We took a few undisciplined shots in the fourth quarter and Edsel Ford capitalized," RU coach Randall Taylor. "We moved the ball pretty well offensively most of the night and our defense played O.K. until the fourth quarter."

The Panthers played without leading rebounder Tre' Goynes, who received a one-game suspension after getting ejected from Friday night's victory over Garden City.

RU received an inspired performance from Javonte Davis, who scored a team-high 23 points — 12 the result of four triples — before fouling out with just over two minutes left in the contest.

Dwight Pooler also had a solid game for the Panthers, chipping in with 10 points.

The Panthers led 18-13 after one quarter and 31-26 at the break.



ED WRIGHT

Redford Thurston's Marquis Johnson (5) applies some in-your-face defense on Ann Arbor Richard's Kamari Davis.

## THURSTON

Continued from page B1

disciplined team, so when they got the lead, especially late in the fourth quarter, I knew they'd be able to hold the ball on us," Bates said. "I thought we'd put together a run in the fourth quarter when we pressed, but you have to score to press and we didn't score enough."

Junior guard Xzavier Bowen led the Eagles' balanced scoring attack with 14 points. Diante McGowan scored 10 on four-of-five shooting while Marquis Johnson and J'Sean Jones both twined nine.

Senior guard Devin Ryles ripped down eight rebounds for Thurston. Rayvlon Croon notched six boards.

Junior guard Kamari Davis was the main man for the Irish, tallying 14 points and 10 rebounds. Sophomore forward

Jason Houle, who hails from Plymouth, and sophomore swingman Evan Fosha also poured in 14 a piece. Fosha added eight rebounds a break-away slam to cap the hosts' big third quarter.

Senior forward Mark Tanski was solid inside for Gabriel Richard, netting four points and six rebounds.

"I thought Diante played his best game of the season," Bates said. "And Marquis had a real good game. He's probably our best defender. He plays hard and he plays with heart."

Both teams nailed 18 of 54 field-goal attempts, however, the Irish were more proficient from beyond the arc and at the free-throw line where they swished 19 of 24 attempts. Thurston hit just half of its 18 freebies.

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## ROCKETS

Continued from page B1

come up with a key steal as she scored off a layup with only 6.2 seconds remaining to put the Lady Vikings ahead to stay, 55-53.

### Oh so close

Glenn, inbounding from underneath its basket, tried a full-court pass that sailed out of bounds. Inkster's Paris McLeod then hit a free throw with 5.8 seconds to go put make it a three-point cushion and Glenn's Brooklyn Holbrook's three-point shot as the buzzer sounded missed the mark dropping the Rockets to 3-1 overall.

"We were trying to drive to the basket, we were trying to draw a foul and get put on the line even though we weren't making our free throws," said Kovatch, whose team went 2-for-8 on the night.

It was 29-all at halftime, but it was the Joslyn Massey show as the 6-foot forward from Glenn, bound for Purdue University, scored all 16 of her points and controlled the glass while outplaying Michigan-bound Kelsey Mitchell, who finished with eight points.

"Joslyn Massey — Oh, my gosh, she's so athletic," Inkster coach Ollie Mitchell said. "Her and Kelsey (Mitchell) are best friends. They just love each other to death. They are very, very competitive."

Massey took only two shot attempts in the second half, both coming in the third quarter.

"We had to find out where she (Massey) was around the court," the Inkster coach said. "As you could see we did the best we could. She got hands on the ball, but we made sure we got bodies

around her. So it was a little tougher for her to get clean rebounds. We made Kelsey hustle up on the other end to get her a little fatigued so Kelsey worked her down on the offensive side."

But other Glenn players stepped up throughout the game including Graves, who finished with 10 points, along with Kierra Jordan (9), Kaira Barnes (8) and Abbey Wright (8 off the bench).

And the Rockets were missing one of their key starters, 5-11 senior guard Erica Covile, a Temple University signee who sat out after re-injuring her surgically repaired knee during last Friday's win at Novi.

Her status for the rest of the season is up in the air.

"Erica Covile is a great basketball player, but also have a team full of really, really good basketball players," Kovatch said. "And I'll go to battle with whoever we got. I'm very, very proud of them. We're not making any excuses."

Each team had 19 turnovers on the night, while Glenn had the edge in field goals (25-22). But Inkster had a decided advantage in free throws (11-of-17) and Glenn connected on only one three pointer.

"Normally we can hit three or four of those, but we were off tonight," Kovatch said. "We have a great bench. We can go nine solid players deep. With Erica Covile we're nine solid players deep that I'm comfortable playing and I have confidence in all those players."

Kovatch, who replaced Mark Anderson, now an Inkster assistant, as the Rockets' coach following last year's 19-4 season, said he made a strategic mistake.

"We tried to go man-

to-man the whole night," Kovatch said of his defense. "We were good. I made a poor adjustment. I switched to a zone. I thought they (Inkster) were going to drive and draw a foul. I went to the 2-3 (zone). That was a mistake in retrospect. I would have stayed with the man the whole time. I think by making that decision we let them back in game."

### Whew

Meanwhile, Mitchell, who replaced Peggy Carr as Inkster's coach following a 25-2 state championship run, felt fortunate to get out of his home gym with a win.

"If we're scoring 65-to-70 points a game, we're happy," he said. "But our problem was we didn't stop some people. It was just a tremendous battle. I believe that whoever comes out of that district (at Romulus), whether it's us or John Glenn, look for one of us to go to the Breslin Center (at Michigan State). That is a tremendous team and they'll get nothing but better. And we're going to do the same."

"We're going to take this win, build on it, and try to get better."

In the waning seconds, Glenn's 5-10 junior transfer from Ann Arbor Skyline, Kierra Jordan, went down with an apparent ankle injury and had to be lifted off the court.

"We were looking for one big body and we're fortunate she came to John Glenn," Kovatch said. "She could be a missing piece for us in a long run. We could be seeing these guys (Inkster) in districts. The way I see it we'll see them in districts and it will be another great high school game."

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# GC finishes off Wayne

An infusion of third-quarter enthusiasm fueled Garden City's 58-46 victory over host Wayne Memorial Tuesday night in a non-conference girls basketball clash.

The victory improved the Cougars' record to 3-2 while the Zebras tumbled to 1-5.

"The girls came out in the second half with great intensity and effort," said Garden City head coach Barry Patterson. "It was back-and-forth all night until late in the third when we strung together eight straight points."

The Cougars' catalyst was senior guard Justice Dean, who went on an 8-0 run of her own during the game's pivotal third-stanza stretch. Dean finished with 18 points, eight rebounds, six assists and four steals.

Sophomore Ashley Bland paced the Zebras with 19 points. Tiara Childers also sparkled for Wayne, scoring 10 points and grabbing nine rebounds.

Garden City led 18-9 after one quarter before the Zebras stormed back to knot the game at 28-all at the half. The Cougars seized control of the contest in the third quarter when they outscored their hosts, 16-7.

In addition to Dean, Minta Whitaker (nine points), Aleiah Smith (nine points, 15 rebounds) and Hillarie Werda (nine points, 10 boards) excelled for the winners.

Garden City connected on all but one of its eight free throws. Wayne was 12 for 23 from the line.

**MERCY 55, GROVES 28:** The visiting Marlins raced to a 20-2 lead after one quarter Tuesday and held the Falcons to single-digit points in every period.

Sarah Benson scored 10 points, Sam Bauer and Candice Leatherwood eight each and Tyler Parlor seven.

Farmington Hills Mercy (5-1) led at halftime, 32-11. Jordan Blackwell had eight points for Birmingham Groves (3-3).

"Recently, we've been getting off to very slow starts, so it was nice to get a good start and a nice lead," Mercy coach Gary Morris said. "That set the tone for the night. The good part was all 13 girls played in each half and 10 scored."

"It was a nice game to finish up before the Christmas break. We're happy to be 5-1, but we need to keep working to get better because the next game we play (Jan. 3) will be a Central Division game."

**STEVENSON 51, CABRINI 38:** Senior guards Jordan York and Molly Knoph scored 17 and 13 points, respectively, leading Livonia Stevenson (3-1) to a non-conference victory Monday at Allen Park Cabrini (2-2).

The Spartans, who jumped out to a 22-5 first-quarter lead, also got 10 points from sophomore center Charlesann Roy. Danielle Lollo and Valerie

Bertani tallied 18 and 10, respectively, for the Monarchs. Stevenson made 6-of-8 free throws, while Cabrini hit 9-of-16.

**FERNDALE 58, C'VILLE 53:** Micaela Ellis poured in 19 points Monday as the visiting Eagles (2-4) turned back Livonia Clarenceville (1-6).

Clarenceville led 13-7 after one quarter, but Ferndale went on a 20-8 second period run to take a 28-20 halftime lead.

Sophomore center Ayanna Buckley scored 13 and junior guard Jodi Ankiel added 12 for Clarenceville, which made only 12-of-29 free throws.

Ferndale connected on just 9-of-30 from the line.

**PLY. CHRISTIAN 67, GENESE 27:** On Friday, visiting Plymouth Christian Academy (3-2) jumped out to a 13-0 first quarter lead and never looked back to beat host Genesee Christian.

PCA, which led 32-11 at halftime, was paced by Karen Windle (19 points, 11 steals), Emily Gerulis (12 points, seven steals), Jenny Malcolm (nine points) and Martha Mullett (nine points, including 7-8 from the free-throw line).

Windle and Gerulis each grabbed five rebounds. **ADAMS 37, HARRISON 29:** On Friday, host Rochester Adams (3-1, 2-0) outscored Farmington Harrison (0-4, 0-2) by a 17-6 margin in the second quarter and stayed in front through the second half to earn the OAA White Division victory.

Tiera Parker scored 14 points and Marissa Cotton eight for the Hawks. The Highlanders got nine points from Taylor Houghtlin and eight from Lexi Lewandowski.

Adams won despite missing 17 of 24 free throws. Harrison was 10-of-18 at the foul line.

# Crusaders' win streak snapped

The longest winning streak by a Madonna University men's basketball team in program history ended at nine on Saturday in the finals of the BLT Sportswear & Apparel Crusader Classic.

Now the trick is to start another one.

Goshen (Ind.) College got 26 pints and eight rebounds from tournament MVP Matthew Martin en route to a 64-51 triumph over host Madonna in a battle of nationally-ranked teams at the MU Activities Center.

The Maple Leafs, ranked No. 11 in the latest NAIA Division II Coaches Poll, improved to 13-1 overall.

Geoffry Gilot, who also made the all-tournament team, added 14 points, while Garner Small came off the bench to add 13.

Sophomore guard Travis Schuba, another all-tourney selection, led the No. 21 Crusaders (9-5) with 21 points, including 6-of-12 from three-point range.

No other Crusader notched double figures as

sophomore point-guard Bobby Naubert (Livonia Stevenson) dished out nine assists, but had nine turnovers of his team's 13 turnovers.

Matt Jenkins grabbed a team-high seven boards.

"It was a great game," said MU coach Noel Emehiser, whose team shot only 32.2 percent from the floor (19-of-59) and 7-of-15 from the foul line (46.7 percent).

MU is off until Friday, Dec. 30 when it travels to Denver, Colo. to face host Johnson & Wales.

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# Salem grapplers show progress

Salem wrestling coach Pete Israel is seeing positive signs from his team early this season, including Saturday's "Dave Melton Memorial Duals" held at Huron High School in New Boston.

The Rocks defeated Ann Arbor Pioneer and Grosse Ile, losing matches against Yale, Huron and always-tough Novi-Detroit Catholic Central.

Spearheading Salem's solid showing was Tyler Gross at 160. He went 5-0 to follow up his win at

the recent Salem Varsity 10 Tournament.

"Tyler is progressing well this season and continues to make improvements," said Israel, adding that Alex Brown (4-1 at 189) "is starting to build some momentum and I am expecting good things to happen."

Capturing three wins each were Matt Lang (145, 152) and Tony Agostini (215) while 112-pounder Alex Arble earned two good wins.

Next up for the Rocks is the tough Plymouth Elks Tournament, set for

Dec. 30 at Salem.

Meanwhile, Israel praised his JV wrestlers for their performances at Saturday's first Wayne County freshman/JV meet, where 23 teams participated.

Top performers included: freshmen Garen Takessian, fifth at 145; Charlie Woody, seventh at 119; Josh Streeter, second at 135; Justin Cook, third at 140; Matt Piotroski, fifth at heavyweight; James Toms, second at 119; Ralph Johnson, fourth at 145 in the JV division.

# Run N' Gun secures first

Unbeaten Run N' Gun still tops the Redford Recreation Basketball League standings following Sunday's games — but just barely.

It took RNG (5-0) two overtimes to dispatch the feisty McBallers (1-4), 72-70, Sunday afternoon in one of four league contests. Brian Woodland spearheaded the winners' effort with 26 points. Drew Bradford (17), Dewey Rambin (11) and Rob Thomas (10) also played well for RNG.

Three players orchestrated the McBallers' upset bid: Anthony Simmons (17 points), Derrick Wilson II (15) and BJ Jones, who tossed in 15.

Dirty Dozen (4-1) remained with in one game of first place when it outran the Arsenal, 93-83. Lionel Sullivan torched the nets for 29 points while Dariun Bynum scored 22 for the winners. Kobe Landry led Arsenal with 20.

RT Runner (4-1) also stayed in the hunt for a

## REDFORD REC BASKETBALL

title thanks to an 89-76 triumph over Chuck's B & G. Marcus Barton led all scorers with 24 points while Gerald Binford had a 21-point night. Dan Kurtanitis led Chuck's with 21 points. Mike Bright added 15.

All Sport (3-2) started Sunday's four-game slate with an exciting 87-81 win over the Heavyweights (0-5). Mike Beatty was on fire for the victors, pouring in 29 points. Cornelius Webb also sparkled with 20 points. Dajuan Will added 16.

George Johnson was almost unstoppable for the Heavyweights, pumping in 33 points. Reginald Hodo and Leroy Blyden scored 16 points each in the losing cause.

Beatty tops the league scoring leaders list with a 28-points-per-game average. Sullivan is averaging 26.8 per contest while Kevin Davis is scoring at a 25.3-points-per-game clip.

## WRESTLING

Continued from page B1

with another at 140 by Jordan Atienza. Heavyweight Omar Haymour also added a second.

"We had a good final round," Franklin 12th-year coach Dave Chiola said. "The nine who were still in it, eight of them won. Five of them were pins, and two of them were majors, which were a lot of points."

"The kids we have that are tough did what they were supposed to do. Matt Horne was unseeded at 189 and took fifth. And some of our guys that lost in early rounds were able to go below and pin people."

Danny Martinez, a junior, decisioned Ali Ayache of Crestwood for the 119 title, 3-1, while Gabe Martinez, a senior, won by major decision, 8-0, over Keshav Patel of Canton at 125. Atienza, a sophomore, won by major decision over Said Youssef of Plymouth at 140.

"I thought we'd get four into finals and get

three champs," Chiola said. "Those guys did what they were supposed to do and they did just enough. We didn't wrestle every match well, but pinned some people and that put us over the top. Everybody had kids out of the lineup. We actually have a pretty good tournament team, but in duals we'll struggle. We have some top kids, but also some inexperienced kids. But we'll see, some of the guys are getting better and some surprised me."

Wayne Memorial, nicknamed the Wolfpack, came away with titles at 189 (Devin Korzetki) and 215 (Dimitrus Renfro).

"All the credit goes to my wrestlers," Wayne coach Steve Vasiloff said. "We've been tough on them this season, constantly telling them about all the potential this team has and pushing them to reach it. At first, there was some resistance, and then they started to believe."

Korzetki earned upper weights MVP honors.

"He came into the tournament as the fifth seed and knocked off all the

top guys to win the tournament," Vasiloff said. "Yet, we took second as a team because everyone wrestled well. I've always said I'd rather have a good team from top-to-bottom than a team with one or two phenomenal wrestlers. And I'm glad to see we are getting there as a team."

### 'Cats freshman shines

Meanwhile, Plymouth captured crowns at 103 (Brandon Harris) and 112 (Trey Berry).

Harris, a freshman, decisioned Melvindale's Mohammed Yousef in the finals, 14-11.

"Brandon had a good day at 103," Plymouth coach Quinn Guernsey said. "Even though he's a freshman, he's not a rookie to the sport. But with that being said, he's still a freshman. The kid he beat in the finals was either a junior or a senior, so that's still asking a lot to beat a junior or senior in your first invitational meet. So he handled himself well and we're proud of him."

"Trey just kept doing what Trey's done all year. He's undefeated on the year and has had some pretty dominant wins. He's been working since all last season to become one of the more elite wrestlers in the area, and also the state where he showed that kind of potential on Saturday in the finals against a pretty good kid, a state placer from Allen Park (Jake Polenciewicz)."

"We're pretty proud of how our team did. We only had 10 guys that competed, but we had a lot of guys perform to their level, which we weren't sure about. I wasn't sure how good they were, but they actually proved it out on the mat. It was a good feeling to have those juniors and sophomores step up and show the success they're capable of having."

Canton, missing three key wrestlers out with various injuries, was led by 135-pound champ Alec Pantaleo, who recorded the quickest pin in the finals against Quentin Santiago of Wyandotte Roosevelt in 1:36.

## THE WEEK AHEAD

### BOYS BASKETBALL

Thursday, Dec. 22  
Steve. at Garden City, 7 p.m.  
Edison at North Farm, 7 p.m.  
Franklin Rd. at PCA, 7 p.m.

### FORDSON AT RU, 7 p.m.

### GIRLS BASKETBALL

Thursday, Dec. 22  
Edsel Ford at Franklin, 7 p.m.  
GC at Stevenson, 7 p.m.  
John Glenn at Belleville, 7 p.m.  
RU at Fordson, 7 p.m.

### BOYS HOCKEY

Thursday, Dec. 22  
North-Harrison vs. Farmington  
7 p.m. at F.H. Ice Arena  
**PREP WRESTLING**  
Thursday, Dec. 22  
John Glenn Quad, 5:30 p.m.  
RU at Romulus, 6 p.m.  
**BOYS SWIMMING**  
Crestwood at RU, 4 p.m.  
Thurston at Dearborn, 6 p.m.  
Garden City at Belleville, 7 p.m.

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Dec. 22-31

**CHRISTMAS SERVICES**

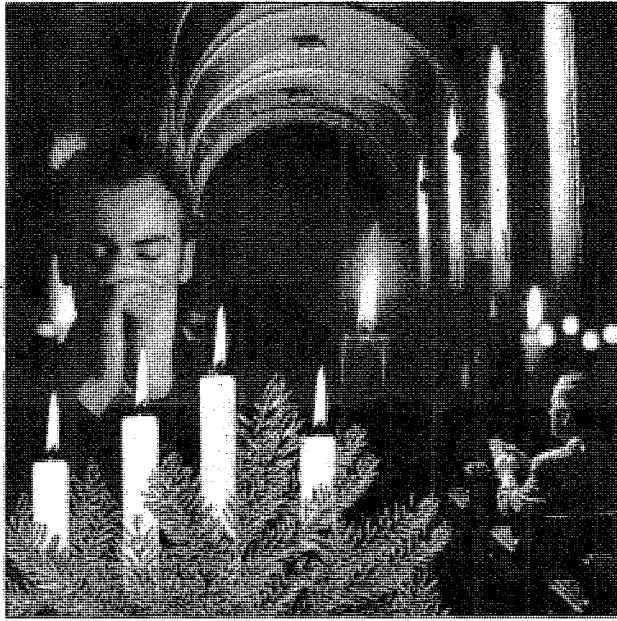
**Time/Date:** 5 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Dec. 24; 10 a.m. Dec. 25  
**Location:** Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 28000 New Market Road, Farmington Hills  
**Details:** Family service at 5 p.m.; candlelight service at 7:30 p.m.  
**Contact:** (248) 553-3380

**HOLIDAY SERVICES**

**Time/Date:** 7 p.m. Dec. 24 and 9:30 a.m. Dec. 25; 7 p.m. Dec. 31 and 9:30 a.m. Jan. 1, 2012  
**Location:** Lola Park Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford  
**Details:** The theme of the Christmas Eve service is "Once Again My Heart Rejoices." It will be a word and song service featuring favorite Christmas carols. All children will receive a special free gift. The Rev. Gregory Gibbons' sermon on Dec. 25 will be "Dreaming of a White Christmas? It's here!"  
**Contact:** (734) 968-3523 or (313) 532-8655

**Jan. 1-11, 2012**  
**CATHOLIC PROGRAM**  
**Time/Date:** 7 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 11-Feb. 15  
**Location:** St. Michael the Archangel Church, 11441 Hubbard, Livonia  
**Details:** "Catholics Returning Home," is a six-week series of meetings designed to answer questions and provide a forum for non-practicing Catholics who might be interested in discussing a possible return to the church. Each session will be facilitated by former lapsed Catholics in a very casual, non-threatening environment, with plenty of opportunities for practical and open questions, answers, conversation, and discussion  
**Contact:** (734) 261-1455, Ext. 207

**GRIEF RECOVERY**  
**Time/Date:** 1:30 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 8  
**Location:** Our Lady of Loretto, 17116 Olympia, near Six Mile and Beech Daly, in



**Redford**  
**Details:** The six-week support program, Living with the Loss of a Spouse," offered by Widowed Friends, will cover issues related to the grief process, including loneliness. A trained peer member will facilitate. Cost is \$20. Widowed Friends is a peer group in the Archdiocese of Detroit  
**Contact:** Register by calling Joan at (248) 478-1084

**NEW SERVICE**

**Time/Date:** 10:10 a.m. Sunday, beginning Jan. 8, 2012  
**Location:** Plymouth First United Methodist Church, 45201 North Territorial Road in Plymouth  
**Details:** A new 55-minute contemporary worship service called Impact will feature a praise band, lots of upbeat music and a powerful message in a relaxed atmosphere. Child care will be offered  
**Contact:** (734) 453-5280

**THESIS**

**Time/Date:** 7 p.m. Jan. 2, 2012  
**Location:** Gesu Catholic Church, 17180 Oak Drive, Detroit  
**Details:** Helen Marie Berg, senior at Catholic University, will present her thesis: "In Unity, There is Hope: A Story of a Detroit Parish." She will tell the story of how Gesu Catholic Church and School has changed as Detroit has changed.  
**Contact:** (313) 862-4400 or visit <http://gesudetroit.org>

Jan. 12-31, 2012

**WIDOWED FRIENDS**  
**Time/Date:** 2:30 p.m., Jan. 22, 2012; check-in starts at

2 p.m.  
**Location:** St. Kenneth Church, 14951 Haggerty, Plymouth  
**Details:** Mass followed by refreshments, social time. Widowed Friends is a peer group within the Archdiocese of Detroit that offers activities for widowed men and women in a safe and friendly setting  
**Contact:** Pat at (734) 895-6246

**ONGOING CLASSES/STUDY Emmanuel Lutheran Church**

**Time/Date:** 7-8 p.m., second Monday of the month  
**Location:** 34567 Seven Mile, between Farmington and Newburgh roads, Livonia  
**Details:** Open Arms Bible class for adults with developmental disabilities and special needs. Includes songs, Bible lessons, crafts and activities, prayer, snacks and fun.  
**Contact:** Pastor Scott Sessler at (734) 673-2485 or e-mail to [pastorscott@emmanuel-livonia.org](mailto:pastorscott@emmanuel-livonia.org)

**Faith Bible Church**

**Time/Date:** 9:45-10:45 a.m. Sundays through May 8  
**Location:** 34541 Five Mile, Livonia  
**Details:** "Four Views of the End Times" adult study  
**Also ongoing:** "Life's Healing Choices" Study Group, 6 p.m., fourth Sunday through September, is for men and women who want freedom from hurts, hangups and habits of the past.  
**Contact:** (734) 464-7990

**Men's Bible study**  
**Time/Date:** Breakfast at 7 a.m. and study at 8 a.m.  
**Location:** Kirby's Coney Island, 21200 Haggerty,

Northville Township  
**Contact:** John Shulenberger at (734) 464-9491  
**New Life Community Church**  
**Time/Date:** Jobs seminar, 8-9 a.m. Fridays; reading program for students in grades K-12 and martial arts instruction, both at 10 a.m. Sundays.

**Location:** 42200 Tyler, Belleville  
**Contact:** (734) 846-4615  
**Nicole's Revival**  
**Time/Date:** 10:30 a.m., Monday-Friday  
**Location:** YWCA Northwest Branch, 25940 Grand River, west of Beech Daly, Redford Township

**Details:** KJV Scripture Reading, Communion and Prayer  
**Contact:** (313) 531-1234  
**Our Lady of Loretto**  
**Time/Date:** 6:30-7:30 p.m. Monday  
**Location:** Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford  
**Details:** Scripture study  
**Contact:** (313) 534-9000

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**CHASON, SARA JANE DALGLEISH**

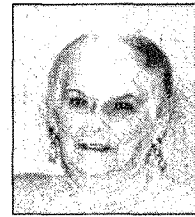
Age 56, of Dallas, Texas, passed away Wednesday, December 7, 2011, surrounded by her loving family. Sara was a professional vocalist. She was both a performer and a patron of the Arts. Born in Michigan and grew up in Bloomfield Hills where she met her husband David in the 7th grade Advanced Math Class. Sara and David were married for 33 years and had two children, Benjamin and Rebecca. Sara attended Brown University, obtaining an A.B. in Psychology, The University of Michigan School of Music, obtaining Bachelors in Music Voice Performance, as well as Wayne State University, obtaining a R.M.T. in Music Therapy. She was a member of the Society of Pi Kappa Lambda, Chi Chapter, National Association of Teachers of Singing "NATS", American Music Therapy Association, Musical Arts Club, Pro Musical, Lyric Stage, Fort Worth Opera, Junior League of Dallas "JLD", NSCDA in TX and National Institute of American Doll Artists "NIADA". Sara taught private voice lessons at Highland Park High School, as well as in her private voice studio. In lieu of flowers the family request donations be made in Sara's name to: Lyric Stage, [www.lyricstage.org/donations.shtml](http://www.lyricstage.org/donations.shtml). Sara is survived by her loving husband of 33 years, Dr. David P. Chason, M.D. of the home, son; Benjamin G. Chason of Dallas, TX, daughter; Rebecca D. Chason of Dallas, TX, parents; Mary Jane and Charles Dalglish Jr., of Bloomfield Hills, MI, brother; Charles K. (Anne) Dalglish of Vienna, VA and sister; Elizabeth Dalglish (John) O'Brien of Bloomfield Hills, MI. Memorial Service was held December 14, 2011 at Oaklawn United Methodist Church in Dallas, TX. Mrs. Interment was held at Restland Memorial Cemetery December 12, 2011.

**In memory of**  
**IN LOVING MEMORY OF ROGER F. BARTLETT & SHIRLEY**

Shirley, his wife passed away after a long illness this year; Roger a short time after. His neighbors on Kinloch and Woodworth at Cambridge will miss him. He will long be remembered.

**KAUMP, ROBERT O. Jr.**

December 15, 2011, age 50, of Canton. Bob was a loving husband of 30 years to Kathleen. Beloved father of Adam (Cindy), Andrew, Aaron, Alexander, Austin, and AimeeGrace. Dear son of Robert (Jeanne) Kaump and Sharon (Fred) Behnke. Dear brother of Karen (Greg) Marcum and Lynn (Tom) Taphorn. Also survived by several cousins, nieces, and nephews. A celebration of his life will be planned at a later date. To leave condolences, please see: <http://vermeulenfuneralhome.com/a/obituaries.htm>

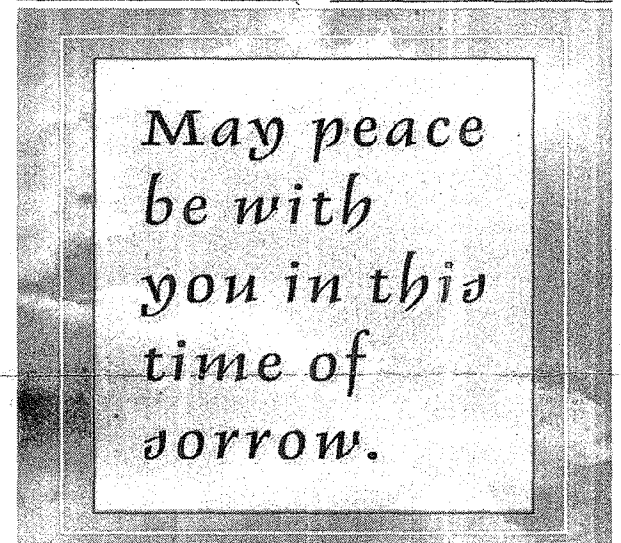


**NYQUIST, EILEEN G.**

December 18, 2011 Age 93 Long time resident of Westland. Beloved wife of the late Clarence. Dear mother of Nancy (Ken) Norris, Daniel (Nancy), and Kenneth (Sue). Sister of Kay Coburn and Cissy (Tony) Krzstofik. Grandmother of six and great grandmother of twelve. Secretary with the Wayne-Westland School Board and the city of Westland. Memorial service at Uht Funeral Home, 35400 Glenwood Rd., Westland, Thursday 6pm. Family will receive visitors from 1-6pm. Cremation rights were accorded. Please view memorial and send tributes at [www.uhtfh.com](http://www.uhtfh.com).

**WEBB, RALPH R.**

December 18, 2011, age 80. Beloved husband of Mattie. Dear Father of Ralph R. (Michelle) Webb Jr. and Gillie W. (Denise) Webb. Grandfather of Jason, Kevin and Harrison Webb and Morgan (Adam) Rogers. Services were held on Wednesday. Share your special thoughts and memories at: [www.schrader-howell.com](http://www.schrader-howell.com)



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<p><b>ASSEMBLIES OF GOD</b></p> <p><b>OPEN ARMS CHURCH</b>                  Worship: Sunday 10:30 am                  Children's Programs Available                  Kid's Stop Preschool Now Enrolling 248.474.0001                  Meet our New Pastor Grady Jensen &amp; Assoc. Pastor Abe Fazzini                  33015 W. 7 Mile Rd. • Livonia 48152                  Between Farmington &amp; Merriman                  Across from Joe's Produce                  248.471.5282</p>	<p><b>For Information regarding this Directory, please call Donna Hart at 248-437-2011, Ext. 247 or e-mail: <a href="mailto:dhart@dnps.com">dhart@dnps.com</a></b></p>			<p><b>CONGREGATIONAL</b></p> <p><b>North Congregational Church</b>                  36520 12 Mile Rd. Farmington Hills (bet. Drake &amp; Halsted) (248) 848-1750                  10:30 a.m. Worship &amp; Church School                  Faith - Freedom - Fellowship                  Rev. Mary E. Biedron Senior Minister</p>



## Celebrate the holidays with Irish music, dance

By Sharon Dargay  
 O&E Staff Writer

The fiddles, pipes and dancing shoes will come out for the 15th annual Crossroads Celi, two nights of Irish-style holiday celebration, next week at The Ark in Ann Arbor.

"This production at the Ark has been my doing for the last 15 years," said Mick Gavin, who teaches Irish fiddling from his home in Redford. "It's an annual event between Christmas and New Years. Years ago in rural Ireland and sometimes even these days in remote parts of Ireland, people met at the crossroads. They met in villages for fairs, to sell chickens, eggs ... but they met at crossroads and put up a platform and usually had pipers and dancers. "They still have that in parts of Ireland as a tradition."

In keeping with that tradition, Gavin has recruited both local musicians and dancers and an international touring band, Bua, to heat up the stage with step dancing and Irish tunes.

The doors open at 7 p.m. and the shows will start at 7:30 p.m. Thursday-Friday, Dec. 29-30 at the Ark, located at 316 S. Main in downtown Ann Arbor. Tickets are \$15 general admission, available from The Ark ticket and information hotline at (734) 763-8587, and at [www.theark.org](http://www.theark.org).

Special guests this year are Bua and Nic Gareiss.

Bua, a quartet from Chicago, Ill., that includes Gavin's son, Sean, on flute, uilleann pipes, and whistle, plays Irish traditional music and tours extensively. The band released its third CD in October.

Gareiss, of Mt. Pleasant, has performed as a featured soloist with such bands as The Chieftains, Solas, and Dervish.

"He has incorporated many styles of dancing in the Celtic world ... old-style, Appalachian clogging, French Canadian step dancing and Scottish dancing from Cape Breton," Gavin said.

Bridget, Ella, Duggan and Dermot of the Dollowy family of Plymouth also will be on hand to dance, and play fiddle and banjo.

Other performers will include Kelsey Lutz on fiddle, Michael and Colleen Gavin — Mick Gavin's son and daughter-in-law — on fiddle, banjo, flute, and tin whistle, Terence and Siobhan McKinney on uilleann pipes and harp, and Lance Wagner on fiddle and piano.

"In keeping with tradition, we'll have lots of songs and some comedy songs," Gavin said. "We'll have some songs that go back to the famine days and some songs in the Irish language."

Look for a few Christmas carols performed in the Irish tradition, too.

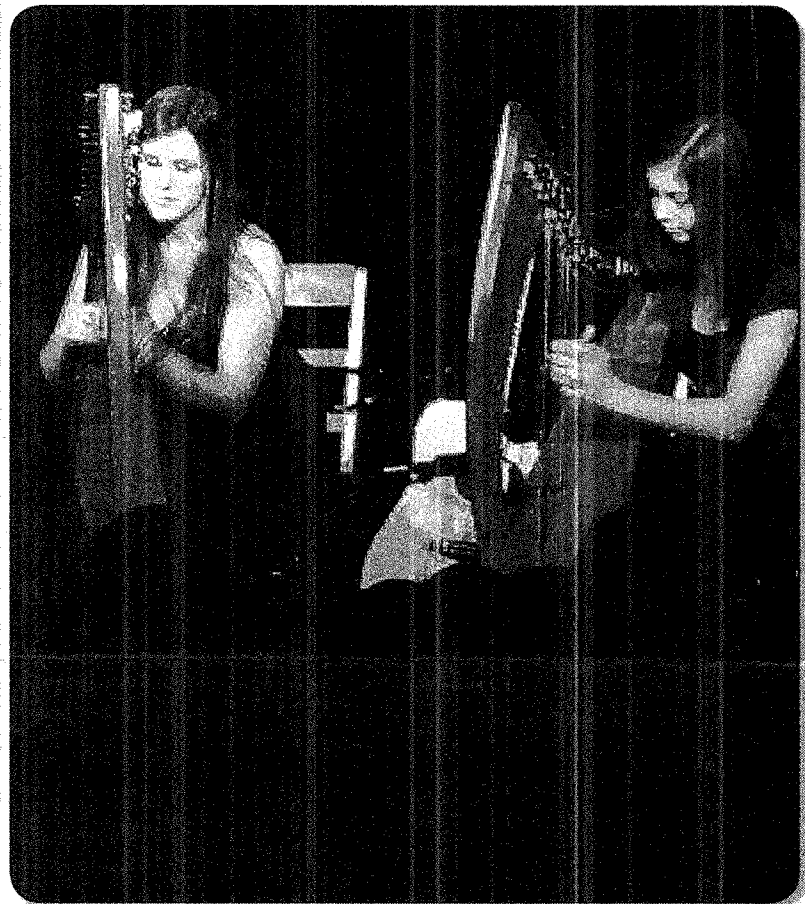


Bua will perform with local musicians at the annual Crossroads Celi Dec. 29-30 at the Ark in Ann Arbor.



ARCHIVE PHOTO

Mick Gavin (right) presents Crossroads Celi at the Ark in Ann Arbor. Among the musicians who will perform at the event are his sons, Michael Gavin (left) and Sean Gavin on pipes. Sean is a member of the band, Bua.



Siobhan McKinney and Jaimie Lutz perform on harp at a previous Crossroads Celi.

For more information visit [www.theark.com](http://www.theark.com) or [crossroadsceili.weebly.com](http://crossroadsceili.weebly.com)

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All of Us At Infinity Gymnastics Academy wish you and your family a very happy holiday!



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

**Contact:** (313) 833-7900, www.dia.org

**NORTHVILLE ART HOUSE**

**Time/Date:** Through Jan. 13, 2012

**Location:** 215 W. Cady, Northville

**Details:** Call for entries to the 6th annual Member Exhibition that runs Feb. 3-18, 2012

**Coming up:** "Etch, Sketch and Stiletto," an exhibit of the work of Topher Crowder, runs Jan. 6-28, 2012. The artist is inspired by animated Saturday morning cartoons, vintage postcards, and 1960s/1970s comic books

**Contact:** (248) 344-0497

**PLYMOUTH COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL**

**Time/Date:** Through Dec. 22

**Location:** 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth

**Details:** 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.

**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 session show for improvisers is 10 p.m. Wednesdays

**Contact:** (248) 327-0575; gocomey.net

JD'S HOUSE OF COMEDY

**Time/Date:** Various show times Wednesday-Saturday evenings

**Location:** 25333 W. 12 Mile, Inside Star Theatre



**Topher Crowder's "Yves Saint Laurent Patent Leather Tribute Peep Toe Platform" will be on exhibit along with his other works, beginning Jan. 6, 2012 at Northville Art House.**

**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:** Joey's Comedy All Stars, Dec. 22; John Roy, Dec. 28-31; Charlie Wiener, Jan. 4-7, 2012; Dave Waite, Jan. 11-14, 2012; Norm Stultz, Jan. 18-21

**Contact:** (734) 261-0555, www.kickerscomplex.com

**MARK RIDLEY'S COMEDY CASTLE**

**Time/Date:** David Dyer, Dec. 22-23; Joe Devito, Dec. 29-31

**Location:** 269 E. Fourth, Royal Oak

**Contact:** (248) 542-9900, www.comedycastle.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; upcoming special dances include a New Year's party. Call for details

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

Film

PENN THEATRE

**Time/Date:** 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 22 and 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 23

**Location:** 760 Penniman Ave., Plymouth

**Details:** "Elf," \$3

**Coming up:** "The Big Year," 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 29 and Jan. 5, 2012, 7 p.m. and 9 p.m., Friday, Dec. 30; and 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 31; "Puss In Boots," 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. Friday, Jan. 6, 2012; 4:45 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Jan. 7-8, 2012; and 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 12, 2012; all seats \$3

**Contact:** (734) 453-0870;

Museums

REDFORD THEATRE

**Time/Date:** 8 p.m. Jan. 6, 2012 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Jan. 7, 2012

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

**Details:** "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers," tickets \$4

**Contact:** (313) 537-2560

CHARLES H. WRIGHT

**Time/Date:** 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and 1-5 p.m. Sunday

**Location:** 315 E. Warren Road, Detroit

**Details:** Dance Theatre of Harlem, through Dec. 31; the play, "There Goes the Neighborhood," runs Jan. 7-8. Regular museum admission is \$8 for adults, 13-61; and \$5 for youth, 3-12, and seniors, 62 and over. Members and children 2 and under are admitted free

**Contact:** (313) 494-5800

CRANBROOK

**Time/Date:** 2 p.m., Thursday-Sunday

**Location:** 39221 Woodward, Bloomfield Hills

**Details:** Docent-guided public tours of Saarinen House, a rare integration of art, architecture, design and nature, depart from Cranbrook Institute of Science front desk. The tours are about 90 minutes long and take place rain or shine.

**Contact:** (248) 645-3200 for house tours; http://science.cranbrook.edu

PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL MUSEUM

**Time/Date:** 1-4 p.m. Wednesday and Friday-Sunday through Dec. 31

**Location:** 155 S. Main, Plymouth

**Details:** "A Red Ryder Christmas Story" features vignettes of scenes from the film, "A Christmas Story," information about the history of Red Ryder BB guns, which were sold by Daisy Manufacturing Company of Plymouth, and artifacts of the 1940s. Santa visits the museum every Saturday in December. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$2 for students, 6-17

**Contact:** (734) 455-8940

Music

THE ARK

**Time/Date:** Dec. 18; Crossroads Ceili, Bua and Nic Gareiss, Dec. 29-30; The Fred Eaglesmith Traveling Show, Dec. 31; Black Jake and the Carnies, Jan. 6, 2012; Jill Jack Birthday Bash, Jan. 7, 2012; Deep Fried Pickle Project, Jan. 8, 2012; Bitch & Ferron, Jan. 8, 2012; Paul Cebal Tomorrow Sound, Jan. 11, 2012; An Dro, Jan. 12, 2012; Mountain Heart, Jan. 13, 2012; Theo Katzman: Songwriting Workshop, Jan. 14, 2012; The Yellow Room Gang, Jan. 14, 2012; Bearfoot, Jan. 15, 2012

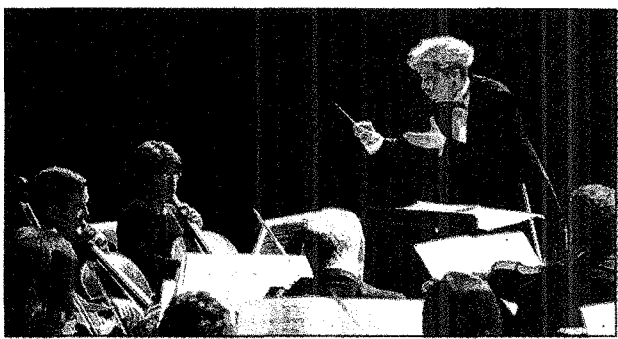
**Location:** 316 South Main, Ann Arbor

**Contact:** (734) 763-8587; www.theark.org

BASELINE FOLK SOCIETY

**Time/Date:** 7-9:30 p.m. the third Saturday of the month

**Location:** JWH Center for the Arts, Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N.



The Michigan Philharmonic's next concert features its chamber orchestra and a new work by composer Andre Myers on Jan. 15, 2012.

**Sheldon, Plymouth**

**Details:** The show includes open mic performances and Circle of Friends, this month's featured performer. Admission is \$5. Annual memberships are \$25 for individuals and \$50 for families and offer free admission to monthly concerts

**Contact:** Mike Mullen at (248) 719-3464

FARMINGTON HILLS YOUTH CHOIR

**Time/Date:** 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 22

**Location:** Farmington Players Barn Theatre, 32332 W. 12 Mile, Farmington Hills

**Details:** Selections will range from "Believe" from "Polar Express" to "Carol of the Bells" and Avril Lavigne's "Keep Holding On." Admission is \$5; children 3 and under are free

**Contact:** (248) 473-1859

MICHIGAN PHILHARMONIC

**Time/Date:** 2 p.m. Jan. 15, 2012

**Location:** St. John's Seminary Chapel, Plymouth

**Details:** "Miniature Masterpieces" features music, such as Debussy's "Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun," and Mahler's "Songs of a Wayfarer," performed by the chamber orchestra. A new work, "Changes," by Michigan-born composer, Andre Myers, also will debut. Tickets are \$22 general, \$18 senior and \$10, student

**Contact:** (734) 451-2112; www.michiganphil.org

JAZZ AT THE ELKS

**Time/Date:** Fourth Tuesday; next show is 7-10 p.m. Dec. 27

**Location:** Plymouth Elks Lodge #1780, 41700 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth

**Details:** \$5 donation at the door. Ron Kischuk and Friends perform. The group includes Ron Kischuk on trombone, Marion Hayden on bass, Gary Schunk on keyboard and Judie Cochill on vocals

**Contact:** (734) 453-1780

MOTOWN BEAT

**Time/Date:** Jan. 14, 2012

**Location:** Farmington Players Barn Theatre, 32332 12 Mile, Farmington Hills

**Details:** "From Broadway to Hollywood with the MOT,"

**Coming up:** Blackthorn, March 9-10, 2012

**Contact:** https://recreg.fh.gov.com or (248) 473-1848

PLYMOUTH ORATORIO SOCIETY

**Time/Date:** Rehearsal starts at 7:30 p.m., Monday, Jan. 9, 2012; come early to register and pay for scores

**Location:** First United Methodist Church, 45201 Territorial Road, Plymouth

**Details:** The Society kicks off its rehearsal schedule. New experienced sing-

Elks jazz program changes dates

Jazz@The Elks, the popular monthly jazz program at the Elks Lodge in Plymouth, will feature local jazz artists the last Tuesday of the month beginning in January 2012.

Shows previously had been scheduled the fourth Tuesday of the month.

The next performance features Ron Kischuk and Friends from 7-10 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 27, at the Lodge, 41700 Ann Arbor Road. The group includes Kischuk on trombone, Marion Hayden on bass, Gary Schunk on keyboard and Judie Cochill on vocals.

Admission is \$5 at the door. For more information call (734) 453-1780 or go to www.plymouthelks1780.com.

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## Add richer flavor to your holiday dishes with avocados

Family, friends, food and parties — entertaining during the holiday season can be a lot of work, but your party meals don't have to be complicated. Sometimes all you need is one ingredient that adds a little luxury and a lot of flavor, like avocados.

Thanks to the climate and rich, volcanic soil, Mexico produces an especially velvety avocado. Available year round, the Mexican avocado season peaks during the winter months. Take advantage of their creaminess this holiday season and top off a myriad of hors d'oeuvres and dishes for an instant splash of color and flavor. Here are some dishes to get you started:

- Upgrade a simple bruschetta with small chunks of avocado for a richer flavor.
- Slice an avocado and serve on a cheese and cracker plate for easy snacking.

- Bake an English muffin with melted cheese and sundried tomatoes then top with chunky avocado for sophisticated pizza bites.

- Add diced avocado to a side of grains for a varied texture.

Avocados not only add color and flavor to your meals, they are nutrient-dense and provide a good source of fiber, as well. Their good unsaturated fats lower cholesterol and satisfy hunger truly making them the crowning touch to any dish.

### Crab Cakes with Avocado Aioli

Recipe courtesy of Pati Jinich of PBS's *Pati's Mexican Table*  
Yield: 8 crab cakes, 4 servings

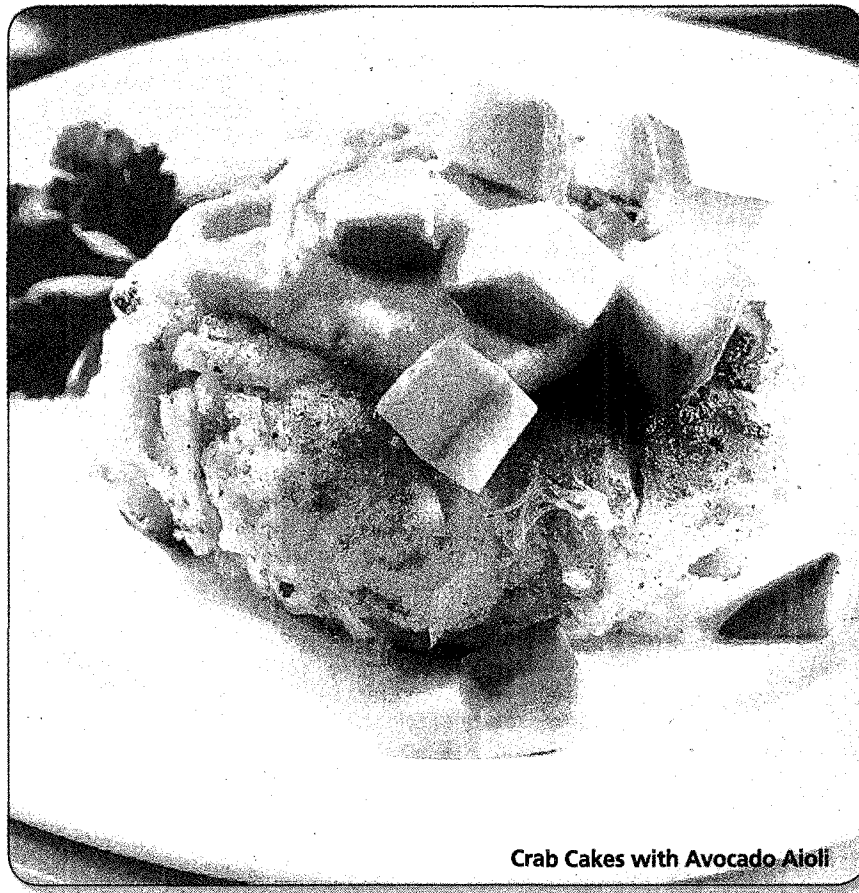
2 avocados, fully ripened, halved, pitted, peeled  
½ cup mayonnaise, divided  
2 serrano chiles or jalapeños, finely chopped, divided  
1 garlic clove, sliced  
¼ cup fresh lime juice  
Salt and ground black pepper  
1 egg, lightly beaten  
½ cup breadcrumbs  
2 tablespoons white onion, finely chopped  
1 teaspoon Dijon mustard  
1 pound jumbo lump crab meat, cartilage and shell removed  
1 tablespoon butter  
1 teaspoon olive oil

In medium bowl, mix egg, bread crumbs, remaining ½ cup mayonnaise, 2 tablespoons lime juice, 1 chile, onion, mustard and ½ teaspoon each salt and pepper.

Fold in crabmeat until combined. Shape about ½ cup crab mixture into a 1-inch thick cake; place in non-reactive baking dish and refrigerate at least 4 hours or up to 1 day.

To cook, pat crab cakes dry with paper towels. In large skillet, heat butter and oil over medium-high heat. Add crab cakes; cook until crisp and golden brown, about 5 minutes per side.

Slice remaining avocado; serve crab cakes garnished with avocado slices and Avocado Serrano Aioli.



Crab Cakes with Avocado Aioli

### Avocado Serrano Aioli

Coarsely chop 1 avocado.

In blender, combine avocado, ¼ cup mayonnaise, 1 chile, garlic and 2 tablespoons lime juice; puree until smooth.

Add salt and pepper to taste; cover and refrigerate until ready to serve, up to 12 hours.

### The "New" Deviled Egg

Serves: 16 halves

8 hard-cooked eggs  
2 fully ripened avocados from Mexico, halved pitted, peeled and diced  
2 tablespoons lemon juice  
1 tablespoon grated horseradish, drained  
½ teaspoon salt  
½ teaspoon ground or cracked black pepper  
½ teaspoon ground red pepper (cayenne)

Peel eggs; cut in half lengthwise. Remove yolks to medium bowl; arrange whites on serving platter. To bowl of yolks, add avocados and lemon juice; mash until smooth, mixing well. Stir in horseradish, salt and peppers.

Fill egg white halves with heaping tablespoon of mixture, piling high; sprinkle with herbs, if desired.

### Mexican Shrimp Cocktail with Avocado

Serves: 4

½ pound medium size shrimp, cooked, shells and tails off  
2 firm ripe avocados from Mexico, halved, pitted, peeled and cubed  
Chipotle Cocktail Sauce, (recipe follows)  
2 plum tomatoes, diced  
¼ cup finely diced onion  
1 serrano chile, finely diced  
¼ cup finely chopped cilantro  
1 cup finely shredded lettuce  
1 lime, cut into wedges  
4 chilled martini glasses

Divide shredded lettuce in the martini glasses and add a lime wedge to the rim. Add shrimp, avocado, tomatoes, onion, Serrano chile and cilantro to the sauce; stir to coat well. Pile cocktail mixture on top of the shredded lettuce in each martini glass.

### Chipotle Cocktail Sauce

1 cup ketchup  
¼ cup fresh lime juice  
¼ teaspoon kosher salt  
1-2 whole chipotle chiles in adobo, seeded and deveined  
1 small garlic clove  
1 teaspoon cayenne pepper sauce  
½ teaspoon ground black pepper

Chop chipotle chiles with garlic and salt until there is a smooth paste. Place ketchup, lime juice, cayenne pepper sauce and black pepper in a small mixing bowl. Add chipotle paste and stir with a whisk to blend well. Refrigerate at least 30 minutes to let flavors develop before using.

Serve with crisp tortilla chips or saltine crackers.

For more tasty ways to top off your meals with avocados, visit [www.avocadosfrommexico.com](http://www.avocadosfrommexico.com).

— Family Features

## A taste adventure for the holidays

Globe-trotting may not be on your holiday agenda, but you can get inspired and bring a variety of flavors to your holiday table. With these ideas, you can take party guests on a taste adventure around the world — without ever leaving home.

### Dips and Spreads

Set out a selection of veggies to dip, and broaden your food horizon with a selection of breads such as naan, toasted grain breads and pita wedges.

- Flavored hummus — Update the classic favorite with a delicious roasted pine nut hummus, or please the classic crowd with spinach and artichoke flavor.

- Greek yogurt-based dips — Greek yogurt is thick, creamy and delicious, and makes an excellent base for dips. It can be mixed with sundried tomatoes, roasted garlic, spinach and artichoke — the flavor possibilities are endless, and it's a healthy alternative to traditional sour cream based dips.

- Salsa — Salsa is always a favorite. Freshen things up with home-made or store-bought refrigerated salsas. Offer a selection from sweet to spicy.

### Small Plates

Help your guests discover a variety of fresh and delicious dishes by setting out an array of small plates. Allow people to taste many different

options and find new favorites.

- Dolmas — Grape leaves stuffed with rice, onions, currants, pine nuts, mint and spices. They can often be found in the deli section of the grocery store.

- Empanadas — Spicy, meat-filled little pastries that can be dipped in your favorite salsa.

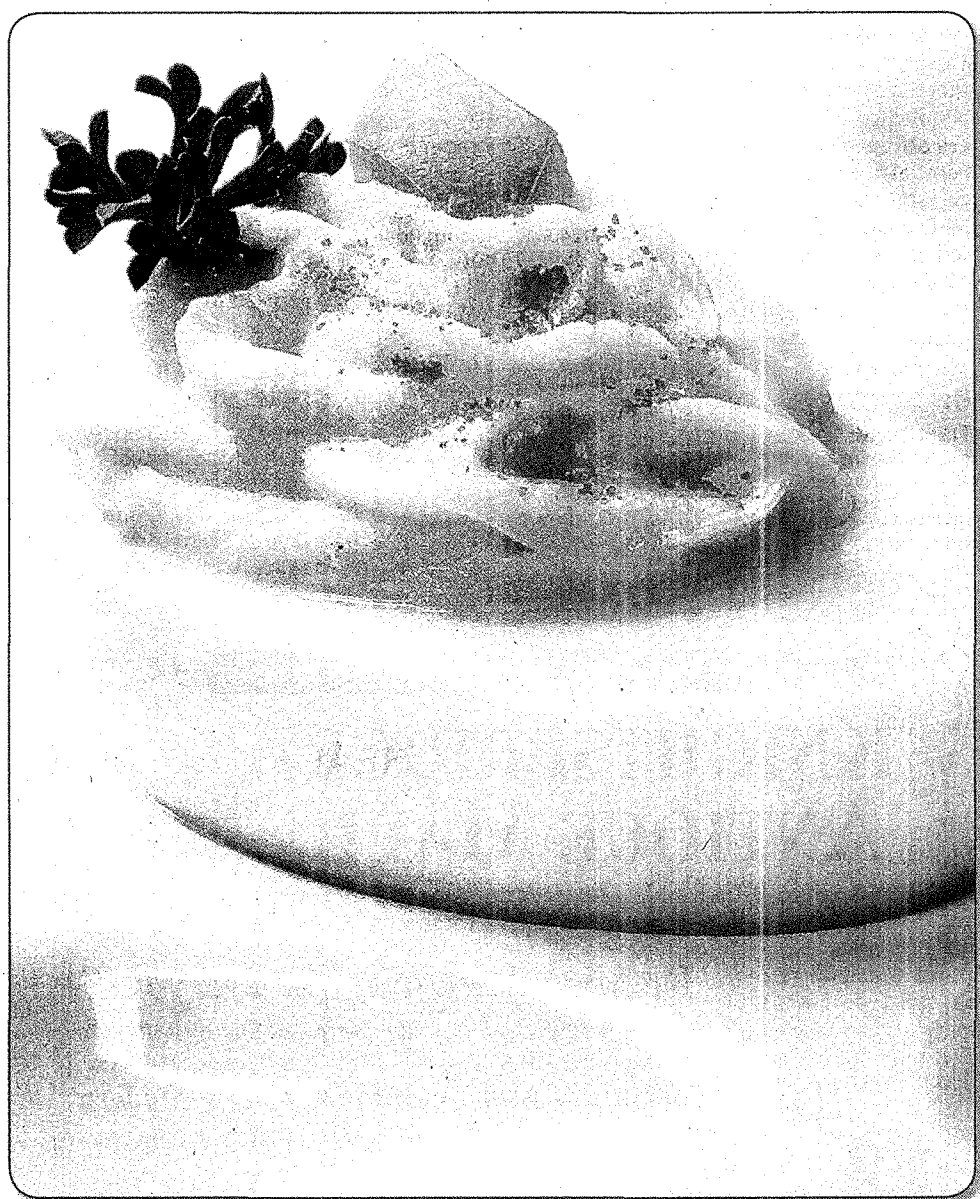
- Spiced Nuts — Roast some almonds or walnuts and toss with olive oil, a little salt, a flavorful herb and spice mixture. Try bold flavors like rosemary, cayenne or Aleppo pepper.

- Mini vegetable pizzas — Top grilled pita bread with hummus and a variety of grilled vegetables with crumbled feta or drizzled olive oil. Slice into quarters so guests can enjoy different versions.

- Bruschetta — The delicious tomato and basil flavors of Bruschetta on top of toasted French baguette slices is a crowd favorite. Prepared Bruschetta can be made ahead of time and stored in the refrigerator to make prep quick and easy.

Try this simple Hummus Deviled Eggs recipe, too. You can let guests serve themselves, or set out individual servings in shot glasses or tasting spoons.

To get more adventurous recipes for your holiday party, visit [www.sabra.com](http://www.sabra.com).



### Hummus Deviled Eggs

6 eggs  
½ cup, plus 1 tablespoon hummus  
2 tablespoons olive oil  
¼ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper  
¼ teaspoon salt  
3 teaspoons relish  
Paprika for garnish

Place eggs in pot and cover with cold water. Bring to boil over high heat. Turn off heat; let sit for 14 minutes. Remove with slotted spoon; run cold water over eggs. Cool eggs 10 minutes.

Remove shells when cool. Cut in half; scoop out yolks and reserve in bowl of food processor.

Add humus, olive oil, pepper and salt to yolks; puree in food processor. Add relish; pulse 3 to 5 times to incorporate.

Put yolks and mixture in piping bag. (Use tall glass and fold edges of piping bag over glass to make it easier to transfer mixture.) Pipe about 1 teaspoon of mixture into each egg white half; sprinkle with paprika.

Courtesy of Family Features





Realtors Gary Reggish (left) and Tony Schippa visit at the holiday party in Livonia.



Party goers have a great time at the Greater Metropolitan Association of Realtors holiday party in Livonia. Left to right are MaryAnn Palise, Meriem Kadi, Sharon McCann, Lisa Reggish, Pam King and Ilene Patterson.

## South side of Chicago: pluses

By Robert Meisner  
Guest Columnist

**Q:** I understand that Chicago now has a Riverwalk on the south side of the river which then leads into the Lakefront. Are there any business opportunities that you are aware of in that area?

**A:** Indeed, Chicago does have a Riverfront area along the south side and in some areas along the north side of the river leading into the mouth of Lake Michigan. There are a number of restaurants present along with the



Robert Meisner

rental of bikes and kayaks as well as some street vendors, but it is also possible to consider opening

up some sort of business in that area should the opportunities avail themselves for walk-in traffic on a seasonable basis. Of course, you will need the proper permits from the city and you will have to do a cost business plan analysis in order to determine whether or not it is a feasible opportunity. There are a number of residences going up around this area which formerly was a railroad yard and now finds itself inundated with high rise condos and apartment buildings.

**Q:** I am renting a condominium from someone who bought a home and cannot sell his condominium, plus I needed a place near my daughter's house. I have been there for almost two years and pay my rent. One of the owners had a plumbing problem and the dues went up \$25 a month for all owners to cover the thousands that it cost to do repairs. Am I required to pay the increase in dues?

**A:** Not necessarily unless your lease arrangement provides that you have to pay any increase in dues (assessments) to the association. That is, if your rent is based on a flat fee per month, irrespective of the dues (assessments), you have no obligation to pay additional sums. If the landlord tells you otherwise, you ought to consult with an experienced real estate attorney.

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](mailto:bmeisner@meisner-associates.com). This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.

## Yule party a festive time for Realtors, their industry friends

A good time was waiting Thursday, Dec. 1, at the American Legion Post 32 on Newburgh in Livonia.

The Farmington-based Greater Metropolitan Association of Realtors held its annual holiday party.

There was also a party Wednesday, Dec. 7, for east-siders at Club Venetian in Madison Heights.

At the Livonia evening party, collections were taken for Arc of Northwest Wayne County and Warm Hearts,

two charitable projects of the association, said Pauline Olszewski, administrator.

The Livonia party had 189 people, Realtors and affiliate members such as inspectors and appraisers.

"They had a great time,"

Olszewski said. "It's basically just networking for the members." The parties also serve as a thank you to the members from the association, she added.

### HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-WAYNE

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Sept. 12-16, 2011, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

CANTON	
7745 Admiralty Dr	\$113,000
7950 Charrington Dr	\$157,000
41455 Copper Creek Dr	\$90,000
4116 Coronet Ave	\$125,000
6315 Courtland Dr	\$206,000
1625 Crestview Dr	\$217,000
46856 Eastbourne Rd	\$340,000
47193 Eastbourne Rd	\$326,000
6667 Edgewood Rd	\$185,000
45914 Fountain View Dr	\$279,000
49499 Great Falls Rd	\$135,000
49068 Hawkburry Rd	\$118,000
1804 Hendrie	\$325,000
4145 Kimberly Dr	\$187,000
6856 New Providence Way	\$43,000
1240 Old Colony Ln	\$207,000
4733 Pond Run	\$191,000
49164 Poppleton Ct	\$335,000
2865 River Meadow Cir	\$181,000
776 S Haggerty Rd	\$147,000
45576 S Stonewood Rd	\$176,000

1855 Tradition Dr	\$425,000
GARDEN CITY	
31624 Brown St	\$56,000
32951 Kathryn St	\$50,000
6326 Lathers St	\$40,000
33221 Rosslyn Ave	\$73,000
LIVONIA	
38176 Ann Arbor Trl	\$25,000
32817 Barkley St	\$158,000
37317 Bennett St	\$138,000
14124 Berwick St	\$110,000
38240 Bloomfield Dr	\$155,000
11326 Brookfield St	\$90,000
16294 Country Club Dr	\$165,000
15947 Deering St	\$57,000
20569 Ellen Ct	\$294,000
14474 Ellen Dr	\$136,000
16118 Fairway St	\$240,000
18413 Floral St	\$50,000
39096 Grennada St	\$123,000
29975 Hathaway St	\$129,000
14151 Ingram St	\$135,000
27549 Lyndon St	\$60,000
38235 Mallory Dr	\$210,000
17960 Mayfield St	\$196,000
31508 Merrimood Park Dr	\$85,000
35600 Minton St	\$100,000
18748 Nola St	\$115,000
31710 Norfolk St	\$165,000
775 S Oporto St	\$55,000
20205 Parkville St	\$99,000

29003 Rayburn St	\$90,000
17254 Rougeway St	\$55,000
14541 Stonehouse Ave	\$100,000
38471 Summers St	\$123,000
17493 Westbrook Dr	\$206,000
28947 Westfield St	\$63,000
31341 Westfield St	\$110,000
20335 Whitby Dr	\$210,000
NORTHVILLE	
16124 Brook Trout Ln	\$128,000
16392 Brook Trout Ln	\$130,000
16132 Crystal Downs E	\$425,000
39580 Dun Rovin Dr	\$245,000
39639 Dun Rovin Dr	\$188,000
48780 Freestone Dr	\$98,000
48941 Freestone Dr	\$103,000
16425 Mulberry Way	\$255,000
17226 Stonebrook Dr	\$500,000
46670 Stratford Ct	\$420,000
19197 Surrey Ln	\$50,000
16995 Sycamore Ct	\$321,000
PLYMOUTH	
42126 Brentwood Dr	\$104,000
11816 Brownell Ave	\$187,000
735 Burroughs St	\$196,000
13659 Fairview Ln	\$1,225,000
1097 Hartsough St	\$105,000
1799 Lexington St	\$200,000
9420 Mapletree Dr	\$339,000
49840 Pointe Xing	\$100,000
45633 Primrose Ct	\$260,000

47648 W Ann Arbor Trl	\$410,000
REDFORD	
12150 Centralia	\$25,000
9535 Hemingway	\$60,000
26720 Joy Rd	\$13,000
17720 Lennane	\$47,000
15573 Leona Dr	\$50,000
19985 Seminole	\$34,000
26716 Student	\$47,000
26310 W Seven Mile Rd	\$25,000
WESTLAND	
6948 Bison St	\$89,000
35695 Castlewood Ct	\$53,000
7412 Central St	\$15,000
36568 Deer Run Ct N	\$85,000
35451 Dove Trl	\$65,000
31652 Fairchild St	\$80,000
434 Filbert St	\$61,000
7719 Gary Ave	\$50,000
35830 Hazelwood St	\$52,000
30831 Lonnie Blvd	\$86,000
2256 N Hix Rd	\$30,000
6916 N Wildwood Dr	\$90,000
741 Patricia Place Dr	\$160,000
1455 Portland St	\$63,000
6223 Twin Oaks	\$83,000
1643 Westchester St	\$80,000
1253 Woodbourne St	\$24,000

### HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-OAKLAND

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Sept. 6-9, 2011, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

BEVERLY HILLS	
17880 Beverly Rd	\$104,000
17928 Dunblaine Ave	\$330,000
30557 Georgetown Dr	\$260,000
18451 Hillcrest St	\$319,000
15780 Kirkshire Ave	\$135,000
15855 Kirkshire Ave.	\$115,000
31173 Pickwick Ln	\$213,000
31330 Pickwick Ln	\$214,000
BIRMINGHAM	
355 Baldwin Rd	\$428,000
499 Bennaville Ave	\$600,000
909 Bennaville Ave	\$525,000
482 Cambridge St	\$360,000
1030 Lakeside Dr	\$585,000
1878 Maryland Blvd	\$370,000

1888 Pembroke Rd	\$599,000
BLOOMFIELD HILLS	
1986 Dell Rose Dr	\$310,000
1427 Kirkway Rd	\$1,150,000
2406 Rutherford Rd	\$60,000
1281 Water Cliff Dr	\$830,000
3709 Darlington Rd S	\$304,000
440 S Cranbrook Rd	\$138,000
1825 S Woodward Ave # 100	\$264,000
434 Thetford Ln	\$525,000
BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP	
2412 Bradway Blvd	\$593,000
3835 Carriage Ln	\$270,000
2220 Devonshire Rd	\$98,000
6185 E Surrey Rd	\$260,000
412 N Glengarry Rd	\$425,000
4049 W Maple Rd	\$25,000
5707 Woodwind Dr	\$305,000
5726 Woodwind Dr	\$315,000
873 N Cranbrook Rd	\$400,000
COMMERCER TOWNSHIP	
2221 Applebrook Dr	\$345,000
5409 Plantation Dr	\$283,000
3148 Royal Blvd	\$35,000
FARMINGTON	

35810 Smithfield Rd	\$219,000
36228 Smithfield Rd	\$157,000
Farmington Hills	
35745 Castlemeadow Dr	\$195,000
37566 Cherry Hl	\$385,000
38938 Country Cir	\$50,000
37530 Emerald Forest Dr	\$226,000
28716 Eton Gln	\$225,000
37565 Glengrove Dr	\$270,000
32560 Hearthstone Rd	\$132,000
26811 La Muera St	\$215,000
29645 Mayfair Dr	\$228,000
28401 New Castle Rd	\$130,000
28519 Newport St	\$175,000
29244 Oak Point Dr	\$160,000
28788 Piedmont Dr	\$300,000
25409 Ranchwood Dr	\$270,000
36226 Trenton Ct	\$180,000
FRANKLIN	
29855 Forest Dr	\$830,000
MILFORD	
825 Abbey Ln	\$146,000
541 Cumberland Trl	\$325,000
1785 Melody Ln	\$243,000
NOVI	

42945 Brookstone Dr	\$243,000
22427 Cranbrooke Dr	\$90,000
50297 Drakes Bay Dr	\$592,000
313 Elm Ct	\$13,000
24599 Enchanted Dr	\$170,000
24251 Lynwood Dr	\$280,000
195 Pleasant Cove Dr	\$209,000
41821 Quince Dr	\$88,000
1155 South Lake Dr	\$33,000
30193 Viewcrest Ct	\$247,000
SOUTH LYON	
1190 Fountain View Cir	\$68,000
27530 Milford Rd	\$139,000
59378 Pacers Path	\$225,000
Southfield	
19751 Filmore St	\$75,000
28540 Glasgow St	\$26,000
17337 Westover Rd	\$86,000
WHITE LAKE	
1934 Margie Dr	\$196,000
8956 Sandy Ridge Dr	\$230,000
9185 Sandy Ridge Dr	\$234,000

### REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

#### 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 professionals are welcome. Seating is limited so call (248) 547-3006, or sign up at [www.metro-mi.com](http://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 residen-

tial 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@addvaluer Realty.com](mailto:Georgia@addvaluer Realty.com) or visit [FreeForeclosureTour.com](http://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



JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

a chance for the public to ASKRE-MAX and get clear, expert answers in real time.

Visit [www.facebook.com/ASKRE-MAX](http://www.facebook.com/ASKRE-MAX).

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[hometownlife.com](http://hometownlife.com)



# Challenging fun for ALL ages

# Thursday

## PUZZLE CORNER

### CROSSWORD PUZZLER

**ACROSS**

- 1 Family man
- 4 Well-aware of
- 8 Tear to pieces
- 12 — only as directed
- 13 Job application
- 14 Two-piece cookie
- 15 Like some gas (hyph.)
- 17 Ess molding
- 18 Jet routes
- 19 Captivates
- 21 Place to surf
- 23 Lab course
- 24 Discumbobulate
- 28 Coach
- 32 Geological period
- 33 Twitch
- 35 Mr. Hammarkjold
- 36 Pine source
- 39 Rich
- 42 Mil. branch
- 44 Bigger than med.

- 45 Longed for
- 49 Sponsorship
- 53 Clublike weapon
- 54 Disadvantage
- 56 Strays
- 57 Eager, plus
- 58 Plunging neckline
- 59 Graph lines
- 60 Singer Horne
- 61 Mouse alert

**DOWN**

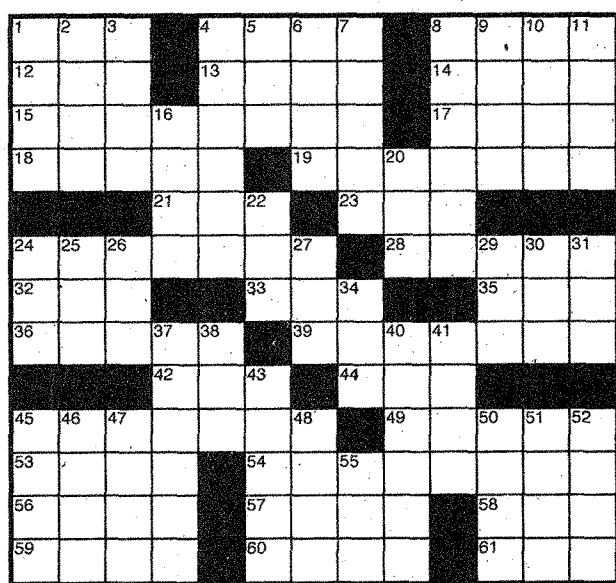
- 1 Overcast
- 2 Crossing the ocean
- 3 Senior member
- 4 Cancel out
- 5 Swed. neighbor
- 6 Coat rack
- 7 Shaman's findings
- 8 Dorm sharer
- 9 Proof word
- 10 Not e'en once
- 11 Female rabbits

**Answer to Previous Puzzle**



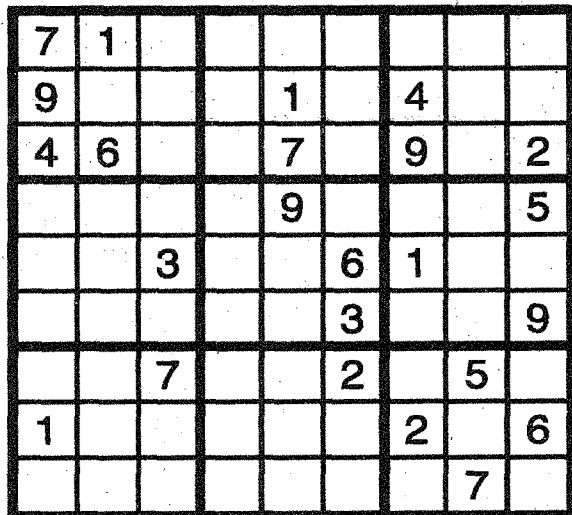
7-4 © 2011 UFS, Dist. by Univ. Uelick for UFS

- 16 Morning moistures
- 20 Fake it
- 22 Venture money at Vegas
- 24 Not very many
- 25 Old card game
- 26 Famous numero
- 27 Sugarloaf locale
- 29 Fruity drink
- 30 Be able to
- 31 Alt.
- 34 An NCO
- 37 Coercion
- 38 W-2 info
- 40 Entebbe's land
- 41 Cask sediment
- 43 Award for bravery
- 45 Nonprofit org.
- 46 — de vie (brandies)
- 47 Ranch segment
- 48 Took the plunge
- 50 Confer upon
- 51 — fixe
- 52 Look for
- 55 Prevail



Want more puzzles? Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books at QuillDriverBooks.com

## SUDOKU



**Fun By The Numbers**

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Level: Intermediate

**Here's How It Works:**

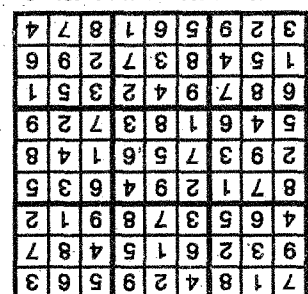
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

### Word Search

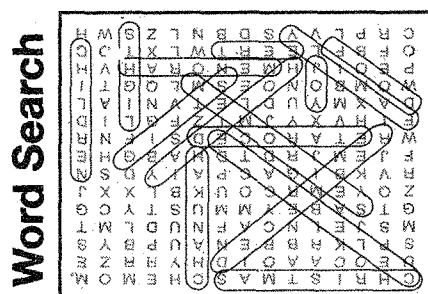


- celebrate
- chanukah
- children
- christmas
- december
- decorate
- family
- food
- gifts
- holiday
- joy
- lights
- memorie
- menorat
- tree

**CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE**



**CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE**



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WESTLAND Hickory Woods Apts. \$224 MOVE IN! 1 Month Rent Free (for qualified applicants) 1 Bdrm-\$550 2 Bdrms-\$650 FREE GAS & WATER (734) 729-6520 \*Short term leases available.

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CANTON: Luxury condo, 2 bdrms, bsmt, 2 car garage, fireplace, pool/workout room. \$1250/mo. 734-216-1933

Homes For Rent  
CANTON: 1800 sq.ft. Colonial. New kitchen, freshly painted. Gar. bsmt. 6 mos to 1 yr. lease. \$1500/mo. 734-946-8590  
CANTON: 44750 Leslie 3 bdrm, 1.5 bath, 1900 sq. ft. 2 car garage, newly decorated. \$1500/mo. Call: 248-330-9262

Apartment  
CANTON: Lg. 1 bdrm. apt. on 5 acres, \$525. incl. cable, internet & all utilities. 734-658-8823

Mobile Home Rentals  
END OF YEAR BLOW OUT! 3 Br./2 Bath starting at \$868. Up to \$100 saving per month. Must apply by 12/31/11. Call CELEBRATION HOMES for Details. 248-437-3443

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		30 Yr.	Pts.	15 Yr.	Pts.	Other
1st Choice Mortgage Lending	(734) 458-0782	3.625	0	3.125	0	J/A
Accurate Mortgage Solutions	(800) 593-1912	3.625	0	3.125	0	J/A
AFI Financial	(877) 234-0600	3.625	0	3.125	0	J/A/F
Ameriplus Mortgage Corp.	(248) 740-2323	3.875	0	3.125	0	J/A
BRINKS Financial Group	(800) 785-4755	3.5	0.5	3	0.5	J/A/V/F
Client Services by Golden Rule	(800) 991-9922	3.625	0.75	3.25	0	J/A/V/F
Co-op Services Credit Union	(734) 466-6113	4.125	0.25	3.375	0	J
Dearborn Federal Savings Bank	(313) 565-3100	4.25	0	3.5	0	A
Fifth Third Bank	(800) 792-8830	4	0	3.975	0	J/A/V/F
First State Bank	(800) 372-2205	4.125	0	3.625	0	J/V/F
Golden Rule Mortgage	(800) 991-9922	3.75	0	3.25	0	J/A/V/F
Group One Mortgage	(248) 282-1602	4.125	0	3.5	0	J/A/V/F
Mortgages by Golden Rule	(800) 991-9922	3.625	0.875	3.25	0	J/A/V/F
Signature Mortgage Michigan	(810) 588-4424	3.875	0	3.25	0	J/A/V/F
Talmer Bank & Trust	(800) 462-2786	4	0	3.25	0	J/A/V/F

Above information available as of 12/16/11 and subject to change at anytime. Rates are based on a \$200,000 loan with 20% down & credit score of 740 or above. Jumbo rates, specific payment calculation & most current rates available Fridays after 2:00 P.M. at [www.rmcreport.com](http://www.rmcreport.com). Key to "Other" column - J= Jumbo, A= Arm, V= VA, F= FHA & NR = Not Reported.  
All Lenders are Equal Opportunity Lenders. Lenders to participate call (734) 922-3032  
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**Help Wanted-General**

**LAB RETRIEVER PUPS, AKC-** Ready family dog. Available for Christmas. Call: 248-636-5133

**MINI DACHSHUND:** Ready Christmas, reds, chocolates, creams. Shots. Health Guaranteed. 734-812-2630

**YORKIE:** female, 3 mos. Ready for Christmas. \$400. 248-437-0018

**Help Wanted-General**

**DELIVERY**  
Valid Driver's License Req. Co. Vehicle Provided.  
\$600-\$800/Week  
Call: 481-1000 (248) 471-9444

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**Help Wanted-General**

**DIRECT CARE WORKER**  
PT positions avail. Positive attitudes a must. Must have clean driving record. Starting \$7.61/hr. (734) 341-1629

**DAVENPORT SCREW MACHINE OPERATOR**  
Exp'd only. Day shift, benefits. Call 313-255-0420

**Help Wanted-General**

**DRIVER/STOCK PERSON**  
Part-Time  
Needed for auto paint store. Will train.  
Apply in person to: Painters Supply & Equip. 1054 W. Ann Arbor Rd. Plymouth.

**DRIVERS: TOW TRUCK**  
Exp'd only. Various shifts. Contact Karen or Walter: 734-455-1130

**ENGINEER-**  
DSP Audio Software Developer, Research in Motion Corporation (US), Canton, MI. Develop speech enhancement tech for wireless handsets, & cell phone audio subsystems. Implement the algorithm on the Digital Signal Processor (DSP) used in BlackBerry devices. Utilize MATLAB prog skills to develop leading edge algorithms which improve speech communications in noisy environments. Write a simulation model of each audio subcomponents using MATLAB language. Assist in the development of embedded software solutions form MATLAB algorithms. Utilize audio hardware lab equipment using wireless techs. Perform var acoustical objective & subjective speech quality tests. Req: MS deg in Elec/Engg. Mail resume specifying job prog skills to: Research in Motion Corporation (US), PO Box 141394, Irving, TX, 75014-1394

**Help Wanted-General**

**FINANCE DIRECTOR/TREASURER**  
The City of Wayne is currently accepting applications for Finance Director/Treasurer  
Salary range \$75,000 - \$85,000 DDD  
Minimum qualifications include a Bachelor Degree in Finance and/or Accounting with a minimum of 5 yrs. experience in municipal finance administration, including investment and electronic data processing responsibilities.  
Applications are available in the Personnel Dept., 3355 S. Wayne Road, Wayne, MI 48184 or at our website: www.ci.wayne.mi.us/personnel.html  
Completed applications must be received in the Personnel Department by 4:30 p.m. on January 5, 2012. Resumes without completed applications will not be accepted. Faxed or emailed applications will not be accepted.

The City of Wayne is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.

**Help Wanted-General**

**SALES/MARKETING MANAGER**  
We are seeking a self-driven, experienced, organized Sales/Marketing Manager for the Midwest region, to be based in Southeast Michigan. A minimum of 5 years exp. required participating in food shows, marketing and sales promotional planning, branding. Experience managing and developing distribution networks strongly preferred. A degree in marketing, and experience with product selling and a working knowledge of organic foods is strongly preferred. Good computer skills a must. Travel up to 100 days per year with some weekend commitments. Competitive benefit package offered and compensation will be commensurate with experience and flexibility. Qualified individuals send cover letter and resume to: karbour@gncpa.com

**Help Wanted-Dental**

**OFFICE MANAGER**  
Well established, attractive dental practice with strong patient flow in Novi looking for an accomplished Office Manager. Strong compensation & benefits package offered.  
Fax resume to: 248.686.0119

**Help Wanted-Medical**

**RN**  
Mature, experienced nurse needed for oncology clinic. Part time. Fax resume to 313-769-6298

**RN/LPN**  
Midnight Shift  
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Must Apply in person!

**SOCIAL WORKER**  
Full time social work position in a sub-acute/long term care facility. BSW required. Responsibilities will include daily contact with residents and families, resident care planning, discharge planning and assessments. A wonderful opportunity for the right individual to join a progressive, interdisciplinary team.  
Please apply online at: www.westlandmi.com  
Attention: Stephanie Myers  
Email resume to: smyers@olympiagroup.com or Fax: 734-728-9459

**VETERINARY TECHNICIAN**  
Experienced, full/part-time. Fax resume: 734-326-3234 healthpawvet@gmail.com

**Chimney Cleaning/Building & Repair**

**BEST CHIMNEY & ROOFING CO.** - New & repairs Sr. Citizen Discount. Lic & Ins. 248-557-5595, 313-292-7722

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Plaster Repair. All jobs welcomed! Lic/Ins. Free Est. 29 yrs. exp. Mark: 313-363-6738

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**Clothing**

**FUR COAT-** Norwegian Silver Mist Fox fur coat. Cost \$850, make offer. 734-420-2640

**Household Goods**

**COUCH:** Formal decorator couch, muted, woven sheen, paisley print, oriental look w/teal blue, deep green, rust/gold. \$175/best offer. 248-254-3575

**ENTERTAINMENT CENTER:** Solid oak claw feet, comes with 27" TV, will hold 32" flat screen, sold together for \$100 or will separate. 248-714-5377

**FIREPLACE - ELECTRIC \$80:** 3 odd dressers, \$25 ea. Entertainment center, lights up, new, \$95. Love seat, recliner, burgundy, new - \$125/best. Wing chair, burgundy, \$45; 2 odd chairs - \$25; antique chair, 100 years old, \$95. Call: (734) 367-0556

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Deliver newspapers twice a week on Thursday and Saturday evening/Sunday morning in Plymouth/Canton area. Must have reliable transportation, car insurance and drivers license. Experience delivering newspapers helpful.  
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**CNC Lathe**  
**CNC Mill**  
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Belleville MI 48111  
Or fax resume to: 734-710-3223  
or email to: sthomon@die-namic.com

EOE - M/F/D/V

**MAINTENANCE TECH**  
Needed for large Northville community. Must have 3 yrs. Multi-family experience in electrical, plumbing, carpentry, HVAC, and snow plowing. E.O.E. Send resume & wage request to: JobOpen308@aol.com

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Wallpaper Removal -Int -Ext -Plaster/Drywall Repair -Staining, 25 yrs exp. Free est. 248-349-7499, 734-464-8147

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**CI PAT MACHINE:** In mint cond, 2 yrs old, top of the line. \$175. 734-449-7226

**Lawn, Garden & Snow Equipment**

**SNOWBLOWER - ARIENS ST 724:** 7 horse B & S, 24 inch, portable cab, \$250. Call: (248) 891-8276

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**CHRISTMAS TREE**  
Artificial Spruce, pre-lit, 10', \$200. 248-348-7718

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**KITTENS & CATS:** For adoption. Various colors & ages; all have shots & are fixed. \$60 to \$125. 734-397-8187

**KITTENS** For Christmas, 12 weeks old, adorable, need loving homes. 313-537-0885

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Champion sire, fantastic personalities! Great Christmas gift! \$2000. 517-548-1616

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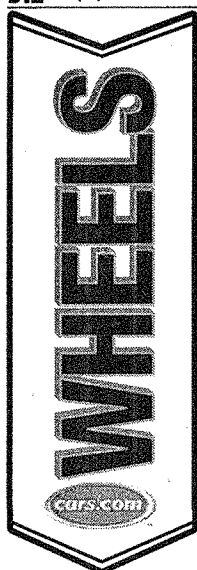
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SRF, 34, 5'10", 125lb, average build, retired chef, smoker, likes action sports, seeks honest BM, 35-45, smoker, for friendship, possible LTR. 2239714

**FLAN JANE**  
SRF, 42, 5'7", average build, NS, like gardening, dinner together, quiet times, biking, seeks WA, 35-45, NS, for friendship, possible LTR. 2239171

**PRETTY ENTREPRENEUR**  
SRF, 44, loving, giving, fun to be with, looking for the someone. Age only, career WA, 40-45, who's ambitious, successful, spiritual and fun. Please reply if line moves, plays, concerts, build, looking, energetic, loving, life! 22





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**GMC SIERRA 2007 4x4** Single Cab, 34K, red. \$18,795

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**Sports Utility**  
**BUICK RAINIER 2004** Burgundy, AWD, only \$9,995

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**CHEVY EQUINOX LT 2010** 37K, brown. Must see \$23,700.

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**ENCLAVE CXL 2008** Silver-Blue 67K, \$25,495

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

**BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC (734) 453-2500**

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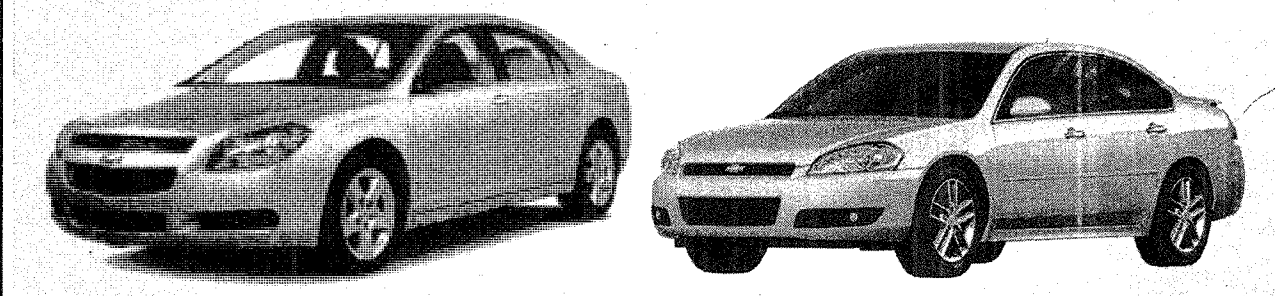
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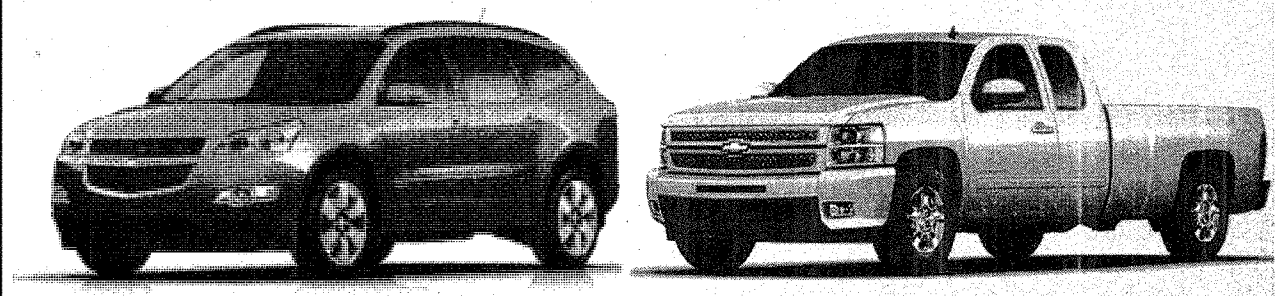
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