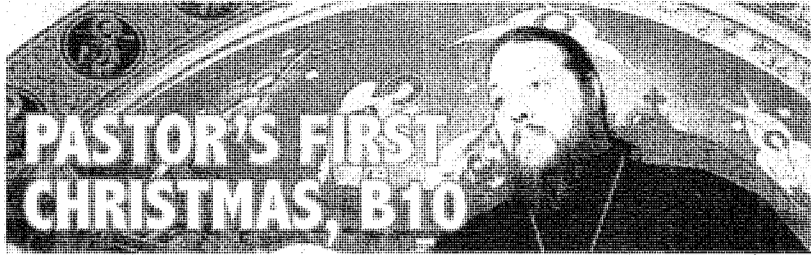


MERRY CHRISTMAS

KLASSICS BY KURTIS
CUSTOM MADE ORNAMENTS
LOCAL NEWS, A16



PASTOR'S FIRST CHRISTMAS, B10



ALL-AREA FOOTBALL
SPORTS, B2



Special editions

The staff at the *Observer* wishes you a very Merry Christmas and happy, peaceful holidays.

At this special time of the year, we like to give ourselves a bit of time to spend with our families, so you'll notice your *Observer* will look a little different over the next three editions. We're combining our content with our local *Observers* in order to accommodate our staffing during the holidays.

We've selected content that's of regional interest and we hope you'll enjoy reading about the people, events and issues from around the *Observer* coverage area.

Thank you for your continued support and we always encourage you to let us know how we're doing. I welcome your e-mail at srosiek@hometownlife.com. We look forward to continuing to be your main source of local news in print and online at hometownlife.com in 2012.

Susan Rosiek
publisher
executive editor
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HOLIDAY EDITION

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PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Licensed practical nurse Marilyn Best will work Christmas Day at Westland Convalescent Center.

Still on the job

For many, Christmas just another work day

Christmas Day is a holiday meant for family, friends, thankfulness, reverence, prayer and food.

But for many people, it's a day like most others.

Just another work day.

For those employed in the medical field, as public safety officials, at hospitals and in other service industries such as restaurants, convenience stores and movie theaters, Christmas Day is no different from your average Tuesday.

In fact, for some, it's worse.

Dahlia Klein, director of Nursing Services at Botsford Hospital in Farmington Hills, not only works Christmas Day, she pulls a double shift and she's in charge of the entire hospital. Klein, who is Jewish, doesn't mind working Christmas — she's been doing it for each of the 21 years she's been at Botsford.

"I enjoy it, and I volunteer for it," she said. "It allows people who celebrate the holiday to be with their families. It's my good deed for the year."

Upbeat note

During her 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. shift, she is the "house manager," which means she's in charge of all departments, in the absence of the



Livonia firefighter/paramedic Mike Furstenu and his wife, Jennifer, a nurse, are both working Christmas Day.

hospital administrative personnel. If there is a problem anywhere in the hospital that day, it's her's to handle.

While she admits there have been some doozies through the years, the day usually goes by on an upbeat note.

The staffers on duty Christmas Day already planned to work, because they do a rotating schedule between Christmas and New Year's Eve and alternate each year.

"So they're resigned to it and they try to make the best of it for themselves, the patients and the families," Klein said. "They try to be within the spirit of Christmas."

Like Klein, Marilyn Best of Canton doesn't have a problem working Christmas Day at Westland Convalescent Center, where she is a licensed practical nurse.

For Best, it seems only fair.

"My kids are all grown. When my kids were younger, I managed to get it off," said Best, a 43-year LPN who has worked at Westland Convalescent Center six years. "The older nurses or those who didn't celebrate Christmas would work."

Best's four children range from 32 to 40 years old now and she has nine grandchildren. "We have Christ-

Please see **CHRISTMAS, A14**

Collection a symbol of Christmas spirit

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

A Canton couple's religious devotion to Christmas can be found among the 135 nativity sets they have collected from around the world since they bought their first piece 40 years ago while on their honeymoon in Toronto.

Dick and Peg Sartor's nativity scenes, mostly small and reverently displayed year-round on shelves in their well-kept home, come from places such as Kenya, Ireland, Russia, Ecuador and Alaska, lovingly hand-made by people whose faith knows no geographic boundaries.

Please see **COLLECTION, A8**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Peg and Dick Sartor hold the first nativity piece that began their collection, purchased on their honeymoon 40 years ago.

Language professor's holidays have an Oriental flavor

By Sue Mason
Observer Staff Writer

Marilyn Nagano Schlieff won't be home for Christmas, thanks to a dispute over a work permit.

Schlieff, a former Garden City special education teacher, is teaching at the University of DaLat in Vietnam as part of a two-year U.S. State Department English Language Fellow Program. The work permit dispute is between the local Vietnam-

Please see **ORIENTAL, A8**



There is no Thanksgiving, Christmas or Easter in Vietnam and due to a problem with her work permit, ESL teacher Marilyn Nagano Schlieff is spending her holidays in Japan.

Last chance

Time is running out to see the 2011 installment of the Wayne County Parks Lightfest.

The annual holiday light display will be open for a final week 7-10 p.m. Monday-Friday, Dec. 26-31. The display includes 45 giant animated displays and more than 1 million lights. Lightfest is the Midwest's largest and longest light show, with a route that stretches more than four miles along Hines Drive from Merriman Hollow in Westland to the Warrendale Picnic Area in Dearborn Heights. Enter Lightfest off Merriman east of Warren Road. There is a \$5 per vehicle fee.

For more information on the Wayne County Lightfest, call (734) 261-1990 or visit the parks website at www.waynecountyparks.org.

INDEX

Community Life..... **B10**
Crossword Puzzle **C2**
Education **A4**
Health **B8**
Homes **C2**
Jobs **C1**
Obituaries **B14**
Services **C2**
Sports **B1**
Wheels **C3**

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BBB has tips for happy holiday returns, refunds and exchanges

'Tis the season for giving, but what happens if the gift you have given or received needs to be returned or exchanged? The Better Business Bureau wants to remind consumers to know their rights regarding returns, refunds and exchanges.

"Inevitably, following the holidays, the BBB receives hundreds of complaints from consumers because they are unable to return a gift," said Patrick Bennett, BBB director of community relations. "Unless the seller has a specific return and exchange policy or the merchandise is defective or misrepresented, all sales are final in Michigan."

When it comes to returning gifts this holiday season, BBB is reminding shoppers to know their rights.

- Know the seller's return policy. Be sure to find out about a store's return poli-

cies. Keep in mind that returning or exchanging items is a privilege, not a right. Generally speaking, state and federal laws do not require that retailers provide returns or exchanges.

A business is not obligated to accept items for refund, exchange, or credit except in cases where the item is defective or misrepresented. In some cases, defective products must be returned to the manufacturer rather than the retailer based upon the product's warranty. So make an effort to understand the terms and conditions of warranties.

- Do not assume the return policy applies to sales or clearance items. Some merchants consider sales items to be final. If you are the gift-recipient, do not assume you have the right to return or exchange an unwanted present. Like the

shopper, you are bound by the merchant's return policy.

- The merchandise was defective. Now what? Regardless of a store's policy, if the goods you have purchased were misrepresented or are defective, you have every reason to expect the store to provide a suitable substitute, refund or make proper repairs. The laws in all states require a store to make good in such cases. Keep in mind that health regulations may forbid returns of such items as hats, bathing suits or intimate apparel.

- Check if there are restocking fees. If you custom order a product, many stores charge a restocking fee for the return of such a product. It is a good idea to keep the packaging an item was wrapped in just in case it is required for return by the store to the manufacturer. Or if you

know you are going to return it, don't open the package at all. Many retailers have restocking fees for high-priced merchandise such as electronics and furniture.

- You want to return an item and get your money back. A customer's money may be returned under a refund policy. Stores that offer refunds as a policy do so voluntarily and, in most cases, are not compelled by state or federal law to do so. These policies usually require that products be returned to a store within a specific period of time and in original purchase condition.

In almost every case, a sales slip or some other evidence that the item was actually purchased at a particular store is also required. If a customer does not have evidence of purchase, he or she may not receive a refund or may not

receive the full amount of the purchase price. In some stores, all sales are final.

- Understand exchanges or credits. In a product exchange, an item may be returned and another item of equal value may be received in its place. This privilege is usually extended when the buyer has made a reasonable mistake; for example, in the size or color of the product purchased.

In other instances, customers may receive a credit slip after returning an item. This store credit allows the consumer to purchase any other item at that store which has the same monetary value as the item he or she has returned.

For more useful tips about holiday shopping and charitable giving, visit the BBB online at www.facebook.com/myBBB or <http://easternmichigan.bbb.org/consumer-tips-holiday/>.

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March 2012
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 3/30/2012 7:30 PM
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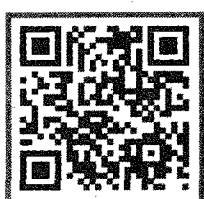
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Don't let your holiday gift giving end today. Make one more gift, a blood donation. It truly is a "gift of life" that can help sick or injured.

One unit of blood that can be separated into individual components that can help save multiple lives: red blood cells for use in trauma or surgical patients, plasma for patients with clotting problems, platelets which are often used in cancer and transplant patients.

A donation can also a high school student like Brooke Femat who is hosting a blood donation drive on Thursday, Dec. 29, to receive an American Red Cross scholarship.

The blood drive will be 1-7 p.m. at the Westland Free Methodist Church, 1421 Venoy, south of Cherry Hill, Westland. Donation appointments can be made every 15 minutes beginning at 1 p.m. People interested in making a donation can call Femat at (734) 469-6053. Walk-ins also are welcome.

"I need at least 31 people to donate blood in order to receive the scholarship," said Femat.

A senior at John Glenn High School in Westland, she plans to attend Grand Valley State University to study Biology-Aquatics Studies. She is the senior



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Mark Lipke, a fifth-grade teacher at Northville's Winchester Elementary School, gave blood earlier this year. Upcoming blood drives around the area give other potential donors a chance to do the same.

class president and varsity cheerleader, SADD/DARE member, a freshman mentor and Homecoming queen 2011 and competes in track and field.

Femat's blood drive is among many being held this week throughout western Wayne County.

Other blood drives during the holiday season are:
 • noon-6 p.m. Monday, Dec. 26, at the Bova VFW Post 9885, 6440 Hix, south of Warren Road, Westland.

• 1-7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 26, at the American Legion Post 396, 6860 Middlebelt, south of Warren Road, Garden City.

• 1-7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 26, at Resurrection Catholic Church, 48755 Warren Road, Canton.

• 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 27, at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile at Levan, Livonia.

• 1-7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 28, at Risen Christ Lutheran Church, 46250

Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth.

• 1-7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 28, at the First United Methodist Church, 45201 North Territorial, Plymouth.

• 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 29, at the William P. Faust Public Library, 6123 Central City Parkway, between Ford and Warren Road, Westland.

• 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 29, at the

Plymouth Library, 223 S. Main St., Plymouth.

• Noon-6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 29 at Salem High School, 46181 Joy, Canton.

• 2-8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 29, at the First Baptist Church of Canton, 44500 Cherry Hill, Canton.

• 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 31, and Sunday, Jan. 1, the WCSX Warm a Heart, Warm a Home at the Livonia Blood Donation Center, 36650 Five

Mile at Levan, Livonia.

• 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 2, at Victory Toyota, 46352 Michigan Ave., Canton.

• 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 2, at Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Dr. Canton.

• 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 2, at the Livonia Family YMCA, 14255 Stark, north of I-96, Livonia.

• 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 2, at Victory Honda of Plymouth, 315 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth.

• 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 3, at the Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile, east of Farmington Road, Livonia.

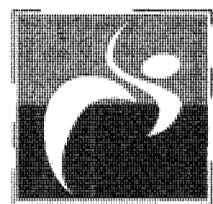
• 1-6:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 5, at Hines Lincoln Park 1pm-6:30pm 40601 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth.

• 8:30 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 8, at St. John Neumann Catholic Church, 44800 Warren Road, Canton.

• 2-7:45 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 14, Tonda Elementary School, 46501 Warren Road, Canton.

You are eligible to donate blood if you are in good health, weigh at least 110 pounds and are 17 years or older. To sign up to donate at one of these blood drives go to www.redcrossblood.org or just stop buy.

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School district bans Swift novel

By Brad Kadrich
Observer Staff Writer

Salem High School English teacher Gretchen Miller has been using Graham Swift's 1983 novel, "Waterland," in the AP class she's been teaching for two years, without ever hearing a complaint.

That's why Miller was surprised when the book was suddenly pulled from the curriculum by Supt. Dr. Jeremy Hughes this week.

Particularly distressing to Miller was the fact the book was yanked after a single complaint was lodged.

"The book is beautiful," Miller said. "It's very scholarly, it fits into our themes of reaction to trauma and post-modernism and new historicism beautifully. I didn't expect one parent's complaint to affect all the students."

Hughes said he asked the book's use to be discontinued after reading a passage that contains a particularly explicit depiction of a sexual act.

He made the decision without following the



Dr. Jeremy Hughes (right) said he banned Graham Swift's novel 'Waterland' because he was "shocked" by certain passages.

district's usual process, and admittedly without knowing there was such a process. He has since learned the process includes the complaining parent filling out a form documenting their objections, which is then reviewed by a committee before a decision is made.

Hughes said he "jumped over that process for a couple of reasons. He thought the material was too graphic for high school students,

and he felt whatever process was in place would take too long and a decision "needed to be made" on the material.

"I read passages from the book and I was personally shocked and offended," Hughes said. "I decided the presentation of the material was so graphically sexual that I just felt it was not something high school students should be reading."

Miller admits the book is "difficult," and knows the content is more

mature than most high school material. But, she points out, the class is listed as an advanced placement class, and the syllabus points out it's a college-level course with material that is "more mature and provocative."

"It should be a course that's selected by people whose kids are ready for that," Miller said. "There aren't a lot of books that teach post-modern narrative structure, and this is great because it's a teacher describing the theory to his students. It's a great teaching tool."

That's what Samantha Oliver of Canton thinks. A 2008 graduate who studied in the AP English program, she said she found the book a "challenging, enriching one that greatly contributed to my education." The sexual passages are "not the main focus" of the book, she said, instead calling them "plot devices to advance broader themes."

She said the material isn't anything juniors and seniors in high school haven't encountered in other venues.

"AP English classes are comprised mostly of juniors and seniors who will soon be leaving the safe halls of PCEP to enter the 'real world,'" Oliver said. "They are young adults who deserve the right to make their own decisions about what they do or do not read. Students have a right to excuse themselves from material they find offensive. Mr. Hughes should not be allowed to deprive other students of educational opportunities based on his and a single parent's opinion."

Hughes said his decision to ban the book was also an attempt to avoid more criticism of Plymouth-Canton Educational Park administrators, who've taken hits recently for allegations of student misbehavior, most notably the "grinding" between male and female students at recent dances.

"I was motivated very strongly by my desire to not add another point of criticism to what we had just gone through at the park," he said. "I was

really concerned if I did nothing and this became a big public issue that it would be another criticism of the park, piled on top of what we've already been through. A lot of those are just allegations, but at the same time, I felt the park didn't need this at this time."

But with social media and other websites blowing up with criticism, mostly of his unilateral decision to ban the book, Hughes admits that idea backfired.

"Most of the criticism has been over the lack of the process as opposed to the content of the book itself," Hughes said.

"There are many people who believe had the process been used, the book would have been exonerated. I'm not sure that it would have."

"I don't know if this could have been avoided if I had used the process, but there are many who think so," Hughes added. "Certainly in the future, I intend to make sure the process is used."

bkadrich@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-8899

Oakland CC sets casting call for March production

Cast auditions for Oakland Community College's March theater production, Tom Stoppard's "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead," have been scheduled in the Smith Theatre on OCC's Orchard Ridge Campus in Farmington Hills.

The auditions are set for 6-9:30 p.m. Jan. 17-18, with callbacks Jan. 19, also from 6-9:30 p.m. Rehearsals begin Jan. 23, and

resume after the college's spring break, Feb. 27 to March 3.

A presentation of the OCC Orchard Ridge Campus Theatre Department, the production is directed by professional actor and OCC theater faculty member Dennis North.

Requirements are for 15-20 actors. Auditions are open to anyone age 17 or older. Cast members need not be OCC stu-

dents to participate; members of the community are welcome. This show is cast without gender requirements.

Aspirants may sign up for a 10-minute time slot by e-mailing the director with a phone number and preferred date/hour at denorth@oaklandcc.edu.

Auditioners are advised to read the entire script beforehand, and should be prepared to

present a monologue or scene of their choice from excerpts posted at www.oaklandcc.edu/theatre. Scripts may be reviewed in the Smith Theatre lobby by contacting Theater Manager Ken Faulk in the box office during regular business hours. Participants are asked to select the character to whom they feel closest. Scripts must remain in the theater lobby.

For more information e-mail Faulk at kpfaulk@oaklandcc.edu, or call him at (248) 522-3666.

"Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead" will be performed in the Smith Theatre March 22-24 and March 29-31.

The Orchard Ridge Campus is located at 27055 Orchard Lake Road just south of I-696. Free parking is available in nearby college lots.



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Phone scams

Livonia police are warning residents to be aware of phone scam artists.

At least two residents were contacted earlier this week, according to Sgt. Patrick Moug of the crime prevention bureau of the Livonia Police Department.

A man phoned a resident on Wednesday and told her that she had won \$900,000 from the MGM Grand in Las Vegas and a new car, but in order for her to receive the car, she

needed to pay taxes on it, Moug said. "The call came from an area code in Jamaica, and he wanted her to wire the money to a guy in Missouri," Moug said.

A Livonia man also received a phone call on Tuesday from a man who said he was from the Social Security Administration and wanted the Livonia resident's Social Security number for a medical claim. "Apparently he was receiving some medical assistance,

and the caller told him that they were going to send him money," Moug said.

Neither resident fell for the scams and reported the calls to police.

"Most residents know what to do, but we'd like to remind seniors or their relatives to look out for who might be susceptible to these cons," Moug said. "When they call unexpectedly, you need to be on guard,

"When people start fishing for information, or

if they have too much information that they shouldn't have, you need to be leery of that."

Residents should do what these residents did — report suspicious phone calls or activities to police, Moug said.

Stolen packages

Thieves got a surprise when they opened several packages taken from the front porch of a home in the 3000 block of Cooley Drive in Westland Dec. 13.

The resident told police she was on her way to a

doctor's appointment at 10:30 a.m. and saw the boxes, two cases of Depend undergarments, on the porch. She left them there and planned to take them inside when she returned. However, when she got back home at about 3:30 p.m. the boxes were gone.

Suspicious woman

Redford Township police are asking residents to be on the lookout for woman who is knocking on doors and asking

for money.

The woman, described as a heavy-set black woman about five feet, two inches tall, has told residents she needs money for a variety of reasons, such as helping a relative who needs cancer treatment.

She has frequented the area north of Seven Mile from Inkster to Beech Daly, police said, driving a stolen black Ford Focus with Ohio license plate EZN2857.

Residents are asked to call police if they see this woman, (313) 387-2553.

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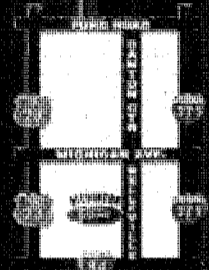
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Jews, Muslims lend a holiday helping hand

By Jill Halpin
Correspondent

This Christmas Day, Christian volunteers across the area will have a chance to take a day off from working with others and spend the holiday celebrating with their friends and families thanks to their neighbors: Their Muslim and Jewish neighbors, that is.

Christmas Day, or Dec. 25, is known as Mitzvah Day to hundreds of Jewish and Muslim community volunteers across the metropolitan Detroit area. It is a day when community volunteers across different religious boundaries step in to help out so that Christian volunteers can celebrate the tradition of Christmas. This is the third year the religious communities have come together in an effort to relieve their Christian neighbors of their duties as volunteers.

"It's a chance for non-Christian brothers and sisters to 'take up the helm' of their Christian friends and neighbors who volunteer and give them the opportunity to celebrate their holiday with their friends and family," said Kassem Allie of Islamic Center of America in Dearborn. "We are stepping in for them so they can have some time off from their great efforts to be with their families."

"It's a tradition that Muslims have had over the centuries that there is collaboration and cooperation between Hebrew and Christian faiths," Allie added. "It is not always highlighted and sometimes it is drowned out by the people who want to point out the friction and focus on the differences."



Rabbi Norm Roman was volunteering at Gleaners Community Food Bank, which was an interfaith site where Jews and Muslims volunteered together.

Three years in

This is the third year that Allie has volunteered with his family: Wife Zinab and children Jasmine, 15; Khalil, 14; Adam, 10 and Kareem, age 8. It is becoming somewhat of a custom for the family and has also provided an opportunity for the family to learn about other religious faiths, even providing some teachable moments as families sort out the overly commercialized messages that surround the Christmas holiday.

"We are bombarded with all the commercial aspects of Christmas as soon as Halloween is over. On Nov. 1, it falls right into place like clockwork. On the television, on the radio and on the internet we are bombarded with buy, buy, buy. It's easy for kids to see this and get wrapped up in what they want," Allie said.

"Taking part in Mitzvah day helps them to see the other side: what it means to give. The generosity and charity that we all have within us that needs to be activated." This year they will be volunteering at a shelter location in delivering gifts to

needy families.

"It is such a wonderful opportunity to provide some cheer and joy to families in need. The payback is tremendous because of the reactions of the children and their families," Allie said.

Oakland origins

Micki Grossman, vice president of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Metropolitan Detroit, said that the Jewish community has been sponsoring a Mitzvah Day Christmas in the Metro Detroit area for approximately 20 years. In fact, she believes that the idea of a community-wide Mitzvah day might well have had its origins right here in Michigan's Oakland County.

"If we didn't start it, we sure were darn close," Grossman said.

She said that idea of Mitzvah refers to Jewish religious obligation to do any good deed.

"Mitzvah is a command from God that you help your neighbor and that you do not turn your back on the needy; it is our religious duty. It is a command that we live with and this is a great chance for the Jewish communi-

ty to do good things and make a visible community effort in and around Detroit," said Grossman.

Farmington Hills resident Grossman started out many years ago as a Mitzvah Day volunteer before becoming a co-chairwoman, serving alongside co-chairs Hy Safran and Janet Berman.

Although the majority of her time is spent coordinating volunteer sites and man (and woman and children) power, her strong desire to volunteer often finds her working alongside other volunteers with her cellphone powered on in case of emergencies.

Where the need is

And emergencies occasionally do happen, Grossman said.

"A couple of years ago we were called to a location where they were delivering meals. Our volunteers showed up on Christmas Day in order to relieve the regular volunteers of their duties; to give them a chance to take a day off and be with their families. The only problem was, they volunteers did not want to be relieved of their duties. They had come to care so much for the people that they delivered meals to that seeing them on this special day was important to them ... it was so touching. So most of these are actually happy 'emergencies,'" she said.

The Volunteering opportunities are wide-ranging and can take workers anywhere from soup kitchens to special needs group homes; from orphanages to animal shelters.

"We go where we are needed. It gives the staff the chance to cut back

and spend time with their families, Grossman said.

She also noted that the Jewish Community Center in Oak Park is open to the entire community and will remain open on Christmas day with volunteers organizing games and activities.

"We expect at least 100 families to attend," Grossman said.

Another one of the charitable organizations receiving services on Mitzvah Day is the Capuchin Soup Kitchen in downtown Detroit, run by the Franciscan brotherhood and serving thousands of homeless through the Detroit area.

"The Jewish and Muslim people coming to volunteer during this very important Christian holiday is a show of wonderful solidarity," said Capuchin Brother Jerry Smith.

"It's a most hopeful expression of brotherhood and sisterhood of human beings and the powerful proclamation that we can live together in peace and harmony respecting each other's beliefs and support each other in the name of the creator," Smith said.

Help aplenty

Although the volunteer opportunities run the gamut and are wide-ranging, they are always filled and volunteers often find themselves scrambling to find an opportunity to help out, said Muzamil Ahmed of Michigan's Council on American Islamic Relations.

There are so many people within both the Muslim and the Jewish communities that want to be a part of this, Ahmed said.

"The Jewish Community Relations Council does a great job of posting volunteer opportunities

online; there are at least a dozen sites with opportunities to deliver toys, package and delivers food and much more. You have to be quick to find a spot," Ahmed said.

"Even though as Muslims, we do not celebrate Christmas ourselves, we want to provide an opportunity for everyone to enjoy Christmas. We thought this was a great way partner with the Jewish community to get to do something useful and also offers a chance to get to know one another; getting to know one another helps us to overcome any misunderstandings," Ahmed said.

Ahmed, the father of four young children, said he and his wife appreciate the chance to help their children learn a little bit more about the important religious traditions of their neighbors.

"Our children are enamored of Christmas. Even though they go to an Islamic school, they still want to know if Santa is going to visit. This gives us an opportunity to teach them about it in a unique way and acknowledge Christmas in a respectful and positive manner," he said.

Ahmed said the family live in a diverse community.

"Everyone around us is celebrating Christmas and for the sake of us as a community, we need to acknowledge and recognize the important of other people's religious traditions and holidays. It encourages good feelings and good will," he said.

Kassem sums it all as humbly as he possible can, saying, "It is as simple as it sounds. People of all faiths, helping out the community."

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COLLECTION

Continued from page A1

"We have nativity sets from about 50 countries," Dick, 84, said, picking up piece after piece to share its history.

"He gets excited," Peg, 76, said, smiling.

Peg counts as one of her favorites a pewter piece framed by wood and placed against a velvet background. It was made in Italy.

"We got this on our honeymoon," she said.

"I think we bought it in Toronto," Dick chimed in.

One nativity set made in Kenya depicts a scene around an African hut.

Another collectible from Alaska shows a holy family gathered in an igloo. Yet another, made in Hawaii, shows Mary and Jesus amid a coconut shell. The newest, nine-piece ceramic set from Ireland was meticulously painted, mostly green.

"I try to get the cultures of each country in the nativity sets," Dick said.

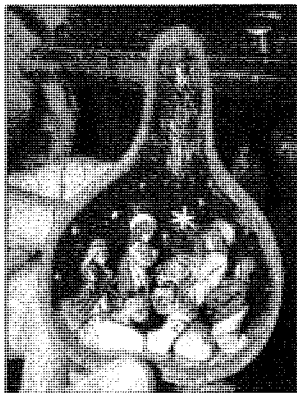
The couple bought many of their nativity sets during their U.S. travels, such as a lace-embroidered scene they found in Ohio's Amish country. Their two daughters and other relatives gave other pieces to them as gifts.

The Sartors, members of St. John Neumann Catholic Church in Canton, ordered numerous sets from a Catholic Relief Services Fair Trade magazine, *Work*



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

This set is from Kenya and depicts a traditional African hut.



This nativity scene was made in Peru — one of 135 sets collected by Dick and Peg Sartor.

of *Human Hands*. Those purchases send money to places such as Africa and South America, where local people in need made them.

"I probably got 30 sets from the magazine," Dick said. "It helps the poor people in these countries."

One of his favorites, made in Vietnam, stands 16 inches tall and shows a mother of pearl nativity scene against a black backdrop. Two other pieces show sheep made of a wool-like material.

"They were made in Nepal. They're known for their sheep," Dick said.

Peg carefully picks up a Kenya-made depiction of Mary and Jesus carved from soapstone.

"I really like this one," she said.

The collection includes a nativity puzzle made in Rome, pieces made in Vietnam of recycled newsprint and doll-like

figures dressed in traditional Ugandan clothing. Yet another from Saudi Arabia depicts a tent and the Three Kings.

The couple's three grandchildren, ages 18 months, 4 years and 7 years, enjoy a cloth nativity scene that opens up and allows them to remove small pieces of baby Jesus and other characters.

"That's the one the grandkids like to play with," Dick said.

Turning serious, he said he likes to collect nativity scenes because of his religious beliefs.

"Christ came into our world," he said, "so that we can go into his world and show love and respect to others — no matter who they are."

ORIENTAL

Continued from page A1

ese Immigration office and the U.S. Embassy.

"The embassy won't allow me to go home for Christmas, so I decided to spend two weeks in Shiga, Japan, with the many friends who have been a second family since we (she and her husband, Don) taught there," she said.

In a country where the big holiday is Tet, the "name of the first morning of the new lunar year," Schlieff has carried on her Christmas traditions.

She loves decorations and has a 2-foot tall artificial tree set up in the with one string of miniature white lights, shiny origami paper cranes and ribbons, a University of Michigan snowman and a Michigan State University pennant set up in the guest house she lives in on the university campus. She also has candy and small gifts under the tree for student visitors.

Fellows Program

This is the second year Schlieff as taught in Vietnam as part of the fellows program which administered by Georgetown University. The program has 190 fellows based in more than 90 countries. Their role is to teach university students or train teachers in ways to teach languages.

Schlieff spent her first year in northern Vietnam about four hours from Hanoi where her students were undergraduates, training to be come English teachers. This year she is in DaLat about 50 minutes northeast of Ho Chi Minh City in the Central Highlands working with primary through university level English teachers who are studying for special teaching certificates or who want to improve their English skills to pass proficiency tests to apply for overseas graduate programs.

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The work is much like what she does stateside as an adjunct professor in the English Language Center at Michigan State University. Most of her MSU students are Chinese or Saudi.

'Totally enjoying'

"I am totally enjoying this," said Schlieff. "Teaching overseas is rewarding. I'm a believer in lifelong learning and I am constantly learning something about other cultures." Schlieff and husband Don, a retired Southfield Public Schools teacher, have always enjoyed traveling, mostly camping around the U.S., or to Spanish-speaking countries because he taught Spanish. They accepted the opportunity to live and teach in Shiga as part of a Michigan Department of Education program in 1987-88. That experience prompted Schlieff to pursue her master's degree in teaching English as a second language with a plan to return to Asia to teach. Twenty years later, she applied for the fellowship that brought her to Vietnam.

Known as the "eternal city" of flowers, fruit and vegetables, DaLat is a tourist town that offers a Vietnamese version of pizza. There's no McDonald's or Starbucks, no Mister Donut. Kentucky Fried Chicken is one of the only western imagines around, besides Coke, Pepsi, Ford and Nestle.

"There is a golf course and a man-made lake across the street from the university," said Schlieff. "Next to the lake is the city market, filled with flowers, fruit, veggies and anything you can find at Meijer's. When I heard dog meat was quite popular, I decided to tell everyone I was vegetarian. It's quite easy here with all the fresh produce year-round, so I have basically become a vegan." Vietnamese are health

and fitness fanatics, according to Schlieff. They're also early risers and it's not uncommon to find 200 hundred people jogging or walking around the lake at 5 a.m. They also work long hours, and most stores are open seven days a week. The only place that's closed on Sundays is the bank.

Her day usually begins between 5 and 6 a.m. She, too takes a walk before heading to the foreign language office where she works until 4:30 p.m. She often has students visit her at her guest room for several hours before dinner. In the evenings, she does e-mails, reports or lesson plans, but on Friday and Saturday nights she likes to go out with other teachers.

Her main project includes developing guidelines for an undergraduate tutoring program; creating topics, rules and standards for a speaking contest, and training primary teachers in pronunciation and stress/intonation exercises. She's also been editing professional articles for a university journal and ghost writing for the dean.

Staying connected

Technology keeps Schlieff connected with her family. Her husband is making his way to Vietnam via Iceland and Europe, they plan to meet up in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, after New Year's Day.

The Schlieffs plan to travel to Singapore before she heads to Bangkok, Thailand, to make an ESL presentation at a conference. She also will accompany two Vietnamese colleagues to Phnom Penh, Cambodia, for another ESL conference in February.

Of course, there also will be Tet which is Jan. 23. The two-week celebration is a time when families paint their homes and clean them to get rid of bad fortune associated with the old year. They get new clothes and new shoes, pay their debts and resolve family differences so they can start the new year in a positive way.

Last fall, she visited Halong Bay along the North China Sea and Sapa in northwest Vietnam near the China border. This year she plans to travel along the eastern coast of Vietnam to Hue, Hoi An, Na Trang, Danang and the Mekong Delta in the south.

Schlieff has had many experiences in Vietnam, but the one that is special for her was visiting the family home of colleague in a tiny village about 45 minutes from Thanh Hoa City near the South China Sea. The visit transported her back to Vietnamese life in 1955 with water buffalo pulling irrigation carts through rice paddies and the farmers wearing the traditional conical hats.

While there, the colleague's grandfather pointed to a photo of a lovely young Vietnamese woman above the fireplace and said that was his first wife. She died during the war when the Americans bombed Thanh Hoa.

"My husband and I weren't sure what to say," said Schlieff. "There we sat, warmly welcomed by this man, who seemed to hold no bitterness."

His feelings may reflect the Buddhist belief that people should "live in the moment," said Schlieff. She has been told it's counterproductive to dwell on the past and a waste of time to dream too much about the future.

"Today's Vietnam is a country that believes higher education and the study of English are keys to economic development and success," she added. "They do not stop at a master's degree, but are promoting doctoral programs, two foreign languages, and overseas study."

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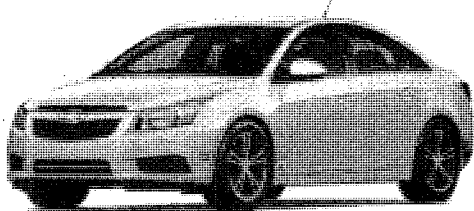
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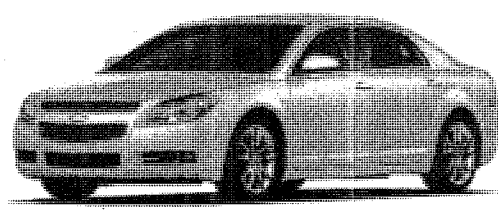
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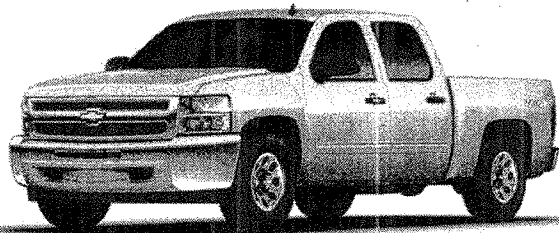
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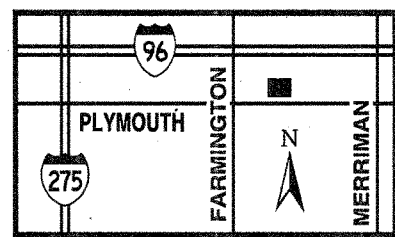
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Sky's the limit for production company

There are no limits to the experiences that more than 4,000 young people have derived from their participation since 2002 in Sky's the Limit Productions.

Founded by Lisa Muscio of Farmington Hills, the children's theatre company was created to offer an opportunity for those 8 to 18 years old learn about theatre and all aspects of performing skills and to build self-esteem, confidence, and team building skills in a fun and supportive way.

"I've been in theatre all my life," Muscio said. "My parents, Janice and Bill Salisbury, owned their own dinner theater, the Comedy Players. They were original members of the Farmington Play-

ers. When the idea first came to me, my daughter, Lauryn, was in third grade. She loved to perform, and I realized there was a need to create positive outlets for her and hundreds of other youngsters in our community."

In November 2002, the fledgling theatrical group joined with the City of Farmington Hills Cultural Arts Department and took to the stage with a production of *Annie, Jr.* at the William Costick Center, a Farmington/Farmington Hills community-oriented, multi-purpose facility.

Now, 21 productions later, STL is entering its 10th season, with Muscio as its Creative Director.

"I have worked with

some of the most talented and dedicated individuals in our community," she said, counting among them are Mel Sheatzley, Jim Kelly, and Rose Randall Warner, all of Farmington Hills.

Randall Warner teaches voice and has a background in musical theatre. Both Sheatzley and Kelly have worked alongside Muscio from the beginning and have worked on every facet of the theatrical process.

"They have a great view of how a production is put together," Muscio said. "We have all dedicated ourselves to a common goal - putting the kids first - and our teamwork has been amazing."

Originally STL perfor-



Sky's the Limit founder Lisa Muscio (with jukebox) enjoys the moment with Mel Sheatzley (lower left) and Rose Randall Warner (lower right). In the top row are Lily Talevski, Jordan Sheatzley and Lauryn Muscio. All are from Farmington Hills.

mances were designed for children in elementary, middle school and

high school only. Then, seven years ago, Muscio added a few adults to the performance of *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*. On stage alongside his young sons, Gary Weinstein recreated Ray Bolger's role of the Scarecrow. The show was a huge success, and Muscio saw how much it meant to the Weinstein family for Gary to have the opportunity to follow the yellow brick road alongside his own munchkins.

Then came the tragic automobile accident in Farmington Hills, when the Weinstein sons and their mother, Judith, were killed. Gary received a huge outpouring of support from Sky's The Limit families. Later he spoke poignantly of how important his memories of their Oz endeavor had been to him, and it was clear to Muscio that parents and other adults would thereafter be invited to audition for one show each season.

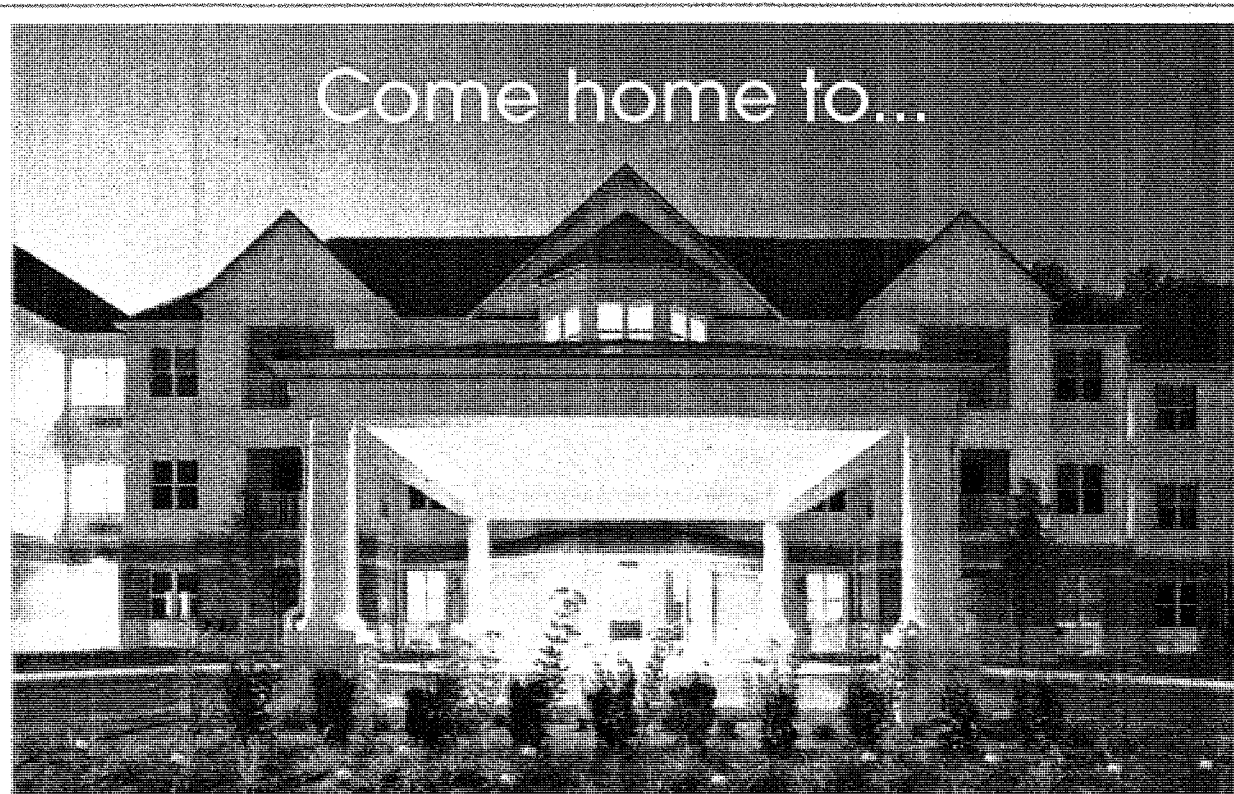
In memory of Alex and Sam and Judith Weinstein, Muscio founded the Weinstein Theater Enrichment Fund, a non-profit group offering scholarships to all age students to pursue their dreams in acting, music or fine arts. Many Sky's

the Limit parents have become avid supporters of the fund and active members of the WTFB Board.

When the Berman Center for the Performing Arts opened last year at the Jewish Community Center in West Bloomfield, Lisa saw an "amazing opportunity" to offer her troupe the chance to perform in a professionally equipped theatre. In addition to their fall and spring shows at the Costick Center this year, STL will present in conjunction with the JCC, winter and late spring productions at The Berman Center.

Opening on Jan. 12, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* will feature a cast of 83 adults and children as young as first grade. Tickets are available for performances Jan. 12 and 19 at 7 p.m., Jan. 14 and 21 at 8 p.m., and Jan. 15 and 23 at 3 p.m. Tickets may be purchased online at theberman.org or by calling (248) 661-1900.

For more information on Sky's The Limit Productions, go online to skysthelimitproductions.org, e-mail skysthelimitproductions.net, or call 1-877-STL-PROD (785-7763).



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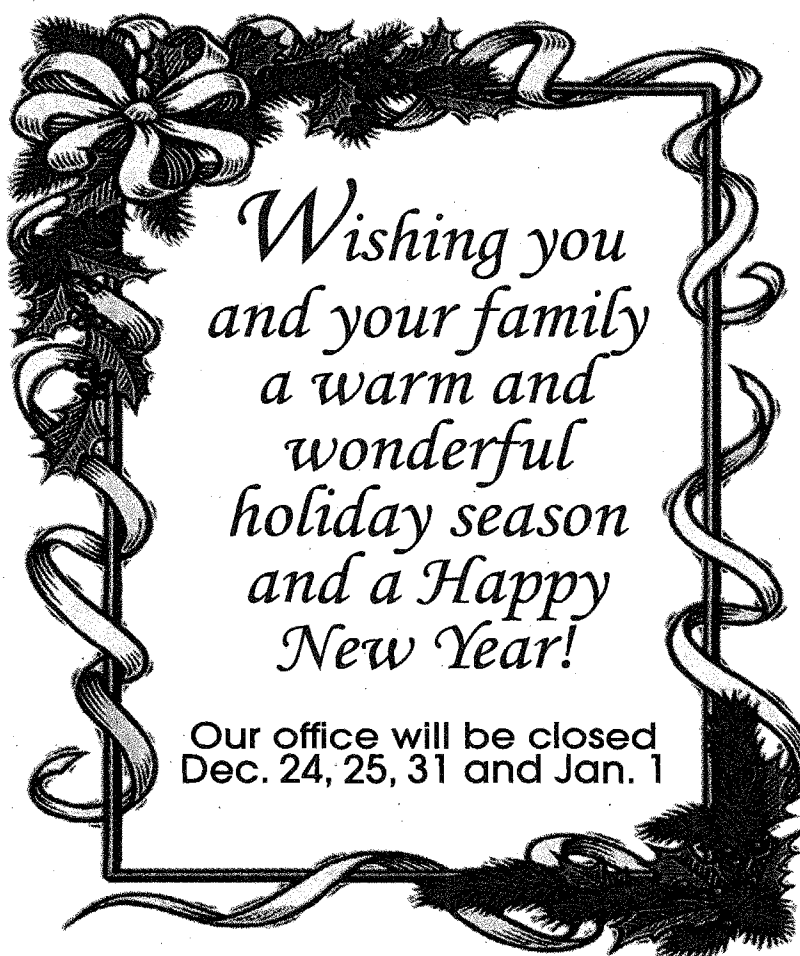
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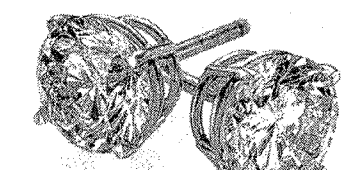
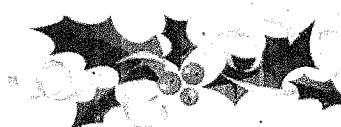
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Ask plenty of questions before purchasing annuity

By Rick Bloom
Guest Columnist

Dear Rick: My \$100,000 CD just matured and I was shocked at the new rates. The teller told me that I can get higher rates of return by going into a fixed annuity. She had me sit down with one of their investment people. After giving me the pitch for the annuity, I was ready to sign the papers until I noticed that this annuity had penalties for 10 years. When I questioned him about it, he told me that was how all annuities are. I knew that was not the case and so I decided to walk away. I've left the money in a money market account. I am 68 years old and this money is part of my IRA. I am a conservative investor and I don't want to be too risky with this money. My questions are as follows: 1) I like the idea of CDs or annuities,



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

but I don't want to lock up for 10 years. Can you get five-year annuities that make sense? 2) As opposed to going into an annuity or a CD, I was thinking about some bond funds. I like Vanguard as a company; could you recommend some Vanguard bond funds? A: Congratulations, you did the right thing by walking away from the bank. The investment person at the bank was either being disingenuous or was out and out lying. There are annuities that you can use that have penalties for only five years. It

wouldn't surprise me that the reason they tried to sell you a 10-year annuity was because it was better for the bank, as opposed to being better for you. Over the past few years, banks have been big sellers of annuities and, unfortunately, they don't necessarily sell the better annuities. Think of the annuity world like you would the mutual fund industry. Within a mutual fund family, there are good funds and there are bad funds. The same thing is true within annuity companies. Within an annuity company, there are good annuities and there are ones that are not so good. My experience has been that too many of the annuities sold by banks are not the investor-friendly annuities.

The annuities that are not investor-friendly will generally have higher fees, lower returns and higher penalties. In other words, they're great for the salespeople; they're just not good for you and me as investors. It would be nice if you could buy an annuity directly from an annuity company, but you cannot. Typically, you would go through a representative of the company to purchase an annuity. In most situations, annuity salespeople represent many different annuity companies. The good salespeople don't worry about their compensation, but rather, they worry about their clients. Unfortunately, there are many of

the other types of annuity salespeople, the ones that don't worry about their clients, but instead only worry about what ends up in their pocket. Therefore, if you are going to buy an annuity, the key is to deal with a good annuity representative. A good annuity rep is one that looks at your needs and uses that information as a guide to assist you in purchasing the right annuity. A good annuity rep also understands his or her products and can explain to you how they work. In my experience, lousy annuity reps don't understand their product, so they have difficulty explaining how different annuities operate. They

also tend not to be very good when it comes to answering questions. The bottom line is, these kind of annuity representatives need to be avoided. One last word about annuities and that is some of these annuity representatives can use very aggressive sales tactics to get you to buy. Don't fall for it. Take your time and ask questions. Only buy the annuity when you understand its terms and feel comfortable with it. 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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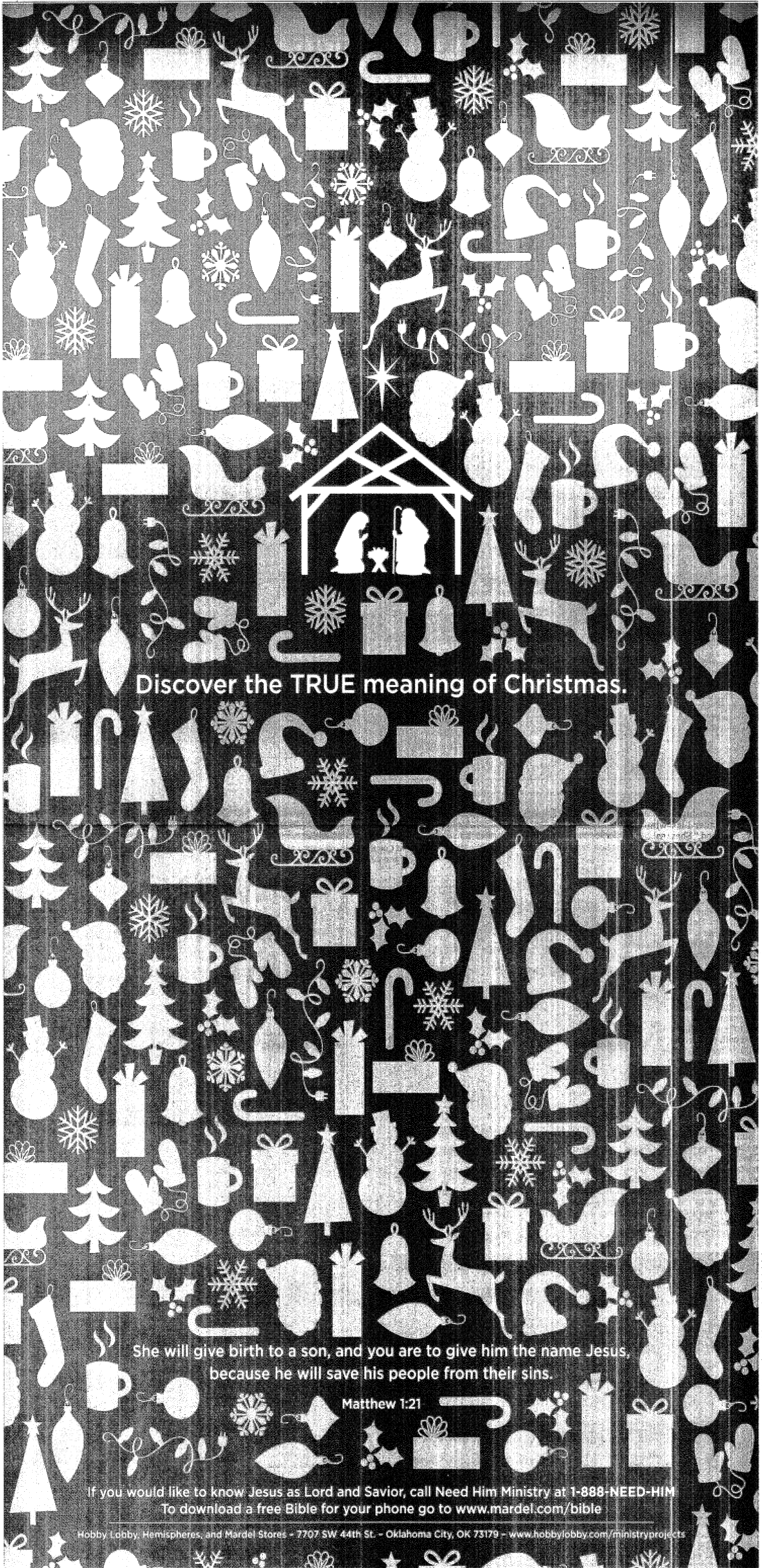
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The John Glenn Singers, under the direction of teacher Scott Cramer, perform for guests.

Foundation gives Salvation Army some holiday cheer

By Sue Mason
Observer Staff Writer

Christmas is a little brighter for hundreds of people served by the Wayne-Westland Salvation Army following a large donation of food, toys and cash raised by the Westland Community Foundation and the Motor City HOG Chapter.

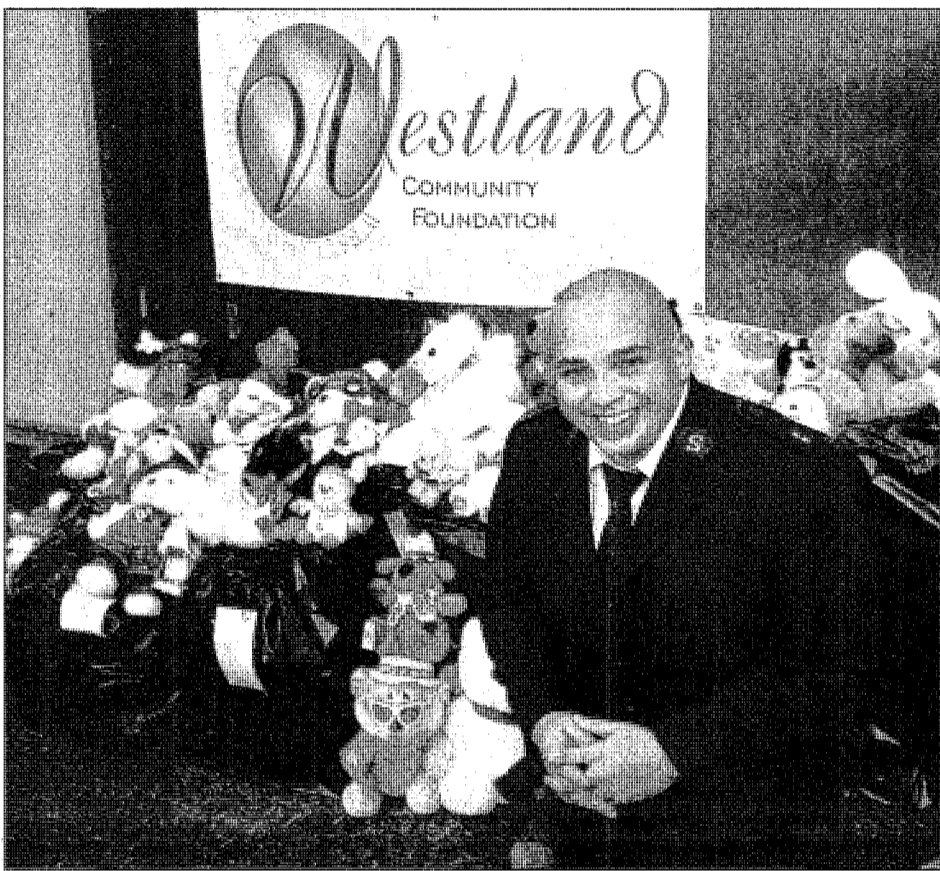
A flatbed trailer was needed to deliver to the Salvation Army the 16,000 pounds of food the foundation was able to purchase with "great discounts" from Palace Foods, according to foundation President Glenn Shaw Jr.

"We provided a couple thousand dollars worth of turkeys and hams for Christmas dinners, 94 winter coats and sponsored about a dozen families and probably supported another 1,000 with toys and food," Shaw said. "If you put a price tag on it, it's got to be in excess of \$30,000 to help the Salvation Army."

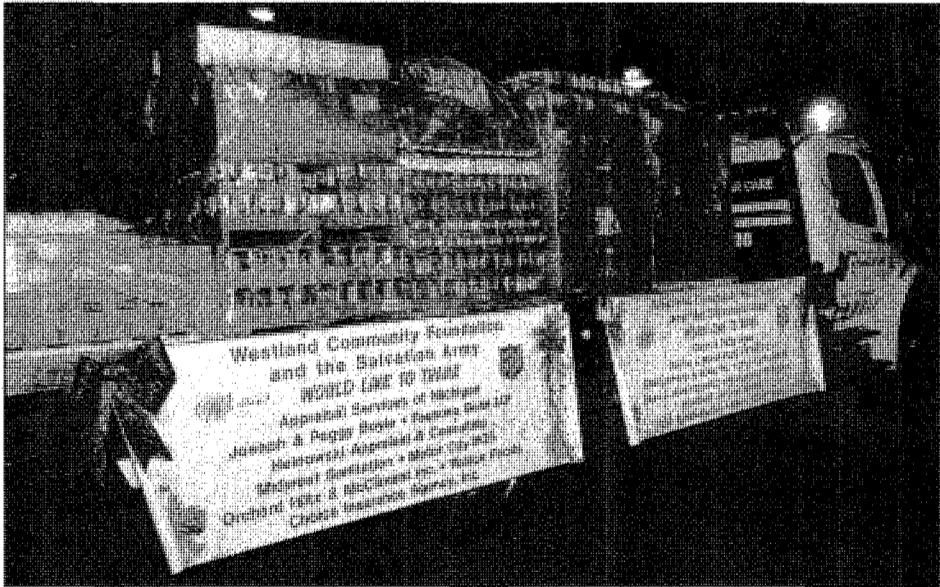
The foundation hosts a Christmas party each year that's open to the community. Held in the media center of John Glenn High School, more than 300 people showed up, the largest crowd ever for the event. Guests paid \$5 and were asked to bring two unwrapped toys. Shaw estimates that they brought in close to 500 toys and, when coupled with toys from Motor City HOGS, the number topped 1,000.

"This has really become the city Christmas party," Shaw said. "The foundation hosts the party for the city to help people in the city."

Shaw offered thanks to the Wayne-Westland Community Schools for use of the media center and for Chef Tony Paquette and his students in the culinary arts program at the William D. Ford Career Technical Center, who



Salvation Army Capt. Derek Rose of the Wayne-Westland Corps shows off some of the toys collected at the Westland Community Foundation's annual Christmas party.



A flatbed truck was needed to haul more than \$16,000 worth of food to the Wayne-Westland Salvation Army's Community Center in Westland.

prepared the food for the party.

Not one to rest on his laurels, Shaw already is kicking around a fundraiser in March to tie in with the Oscars. In the beginning stages of planning, he's would like to

see the party held at Westland's new MJR Theater.

"We'll have to talk to MJR to see if we can work it out," he said, adding that events like the Christmas party "show the great spirit of the peo-

ple of Westland." "It's just such a good feeling," he said.



Mary and George Marvaso of Marvaso's Italian Grille bring in a bike among other gifts for children.



Shirley Blaisdell of Westland samples food prepared by culinary arts students at the William D. Ford Career Technical Center.



Chairperson Sandy Tawse and chapter director Glennis Murrell of Westland present a check for \$6,225 to the Westland Community Foundation on behalf of the Motor City Chapter HOGS (Harley Ownes Group).

SOCIAL SECURITY

Many people are wrongly rejected when they apply for Social Security Disability benefits. Money was taken out of their paychecks for Social Security taxes to ensure that they would receive disability benefits if they could no longer work full-time. Sadly, the government denies approximately 60% of those who apply for disability benefits.

Attorneys J.B. Bieske and Jennifer Alfonsi have 42 years combined experience representing only Social Security disability clients. And they personally meet with all clients and appear personally at all court hearings. Many large firms assign inexperienced attorneys to your case. And some of these firms are located thousands of miles away and only fly the attorney in the day of the court hearing. Attorneys Bieske and Alfonsi have vast experience before local Michigan judges.



subject and has been interviewed when various television programs. Both attorney Bieske and Alfonsi have also been interviewed on radio programs and have given speeches to many groups.

Attorneys Bieske and Alfonsi can often make a winning difference at the application stage. And, if an appeal is necessary they have won several hundred cases before a court date is even set.

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

In addition to practicing only Social Security disability law attorney Bieske has written a book for attorneys about the

Attorneys Bieske and Alfonsi offer free phone or office consultation. If they represent you, there will be no fee charged until after the case is won. The fee is a percentage of retroactive benefits.

Bieske and Alfonsi represent clients from all over the state of Michigan. Their Livonia office is on Six Mile Road just west of I-275. Their Novi office is located on Haggerty Road just north of 12 Mile Road. Call them at 1-800-331-3530 for a free consultation if you have been denied, or if you are thinking of possibly applying for Social Security benefits.

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CHRISTMAS

Continued from page A1

mas Eve at my house after I get home from work. My daughter has a big Christmas morning brunch that all the family goes to but me," Best said.

Sometimes the holiday can be a quiet time at work, Best said, since many convalescent center residents go out for a visit on the holiday.

"Or it could be loud with 10 people visiting someone. The staff wears Christmas attire," Best said. "I love my residents. It's very festive here on the holiday. We try to make it up for residents who don't have family they can spend Christmas with."

On screen

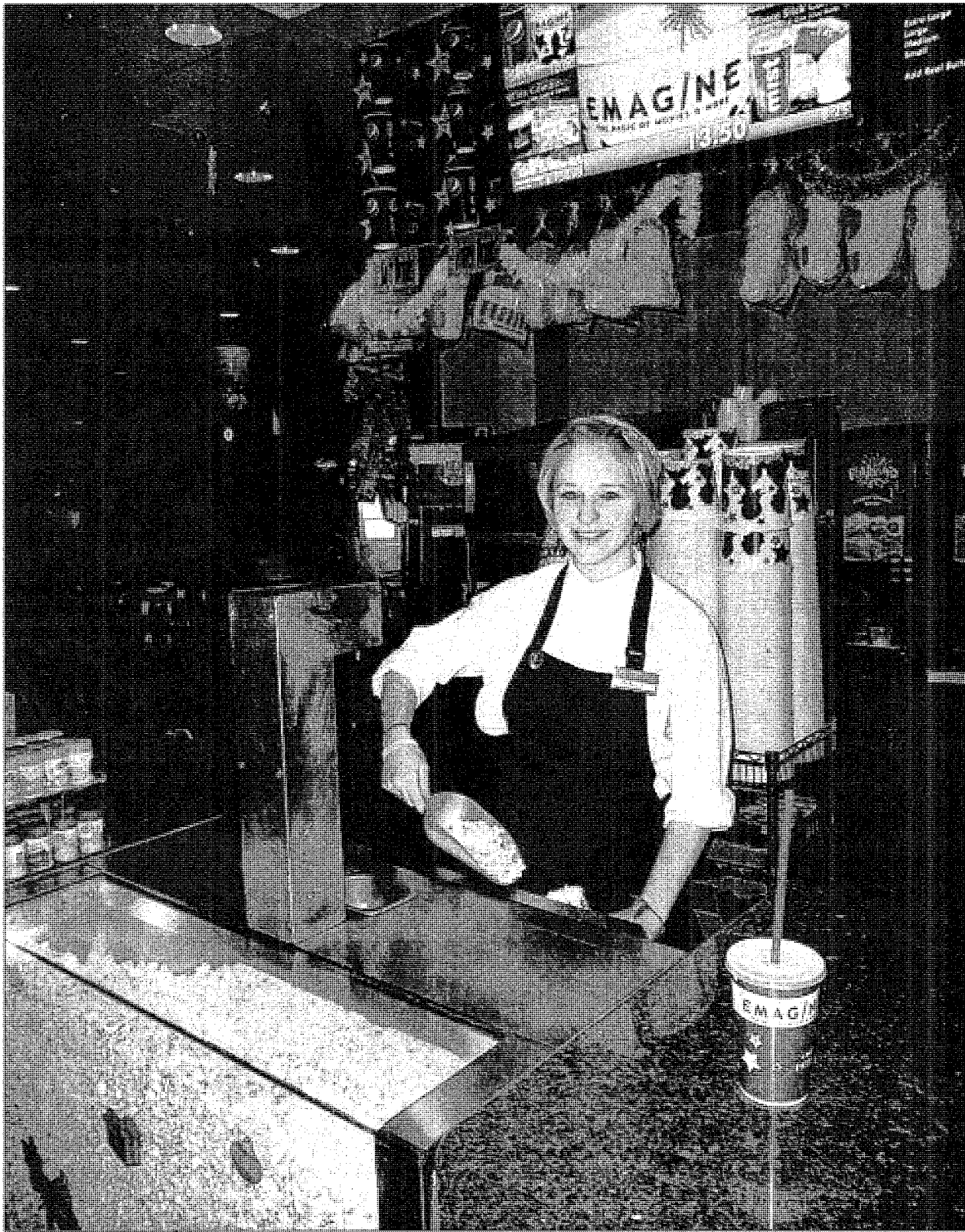
Many service industry businesses — restaurants, movie theaters, etc. — do some of their best business Christmas Day. Marissa Basti of Canton, an usher/concessionist at the Emagine Theater in Canton, is working Christmas Day for the third straight year.

And she doesn't mind, even though it takes her away from her family.

"They understand I have a job," Basti said of her family. "I went in (to the job) knowing I'd have to work. I really don't mind."

She said Christmas is generally a solid day at the box office for the theater. Often, Christmas is a big season for children's movies.

"A lot of people want to do something with their families ... it's like a tradition," she said. "It gets really busy."



Marissa Basti is working her third straight Christmas Day at the Canton Emagine Theater.

Safety first

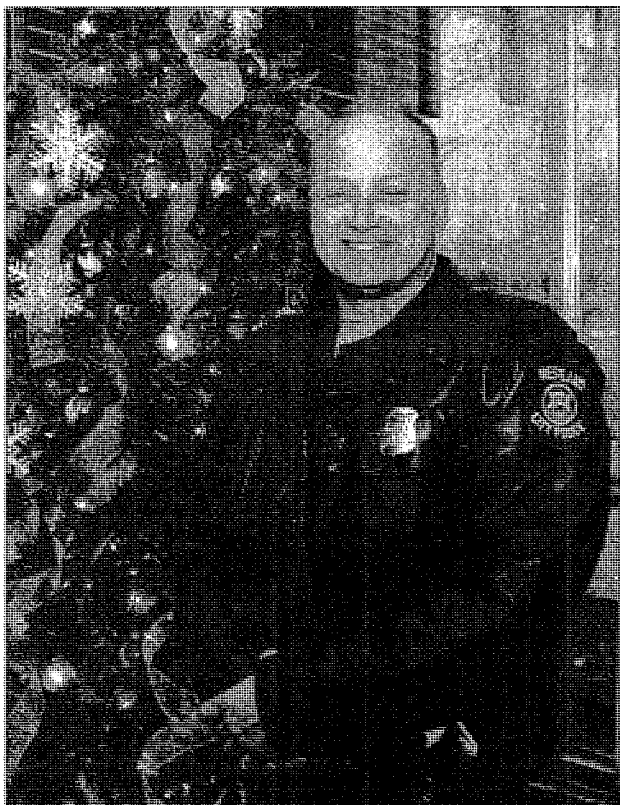
Working Christmas Day is nothing new for Livonia Police Officer James Green.

"It can be a very calm day at times, it can be a very hectic time," Green said. "But for some, they haven't seen each other in a while and by the end of the day, things can erupt between families."

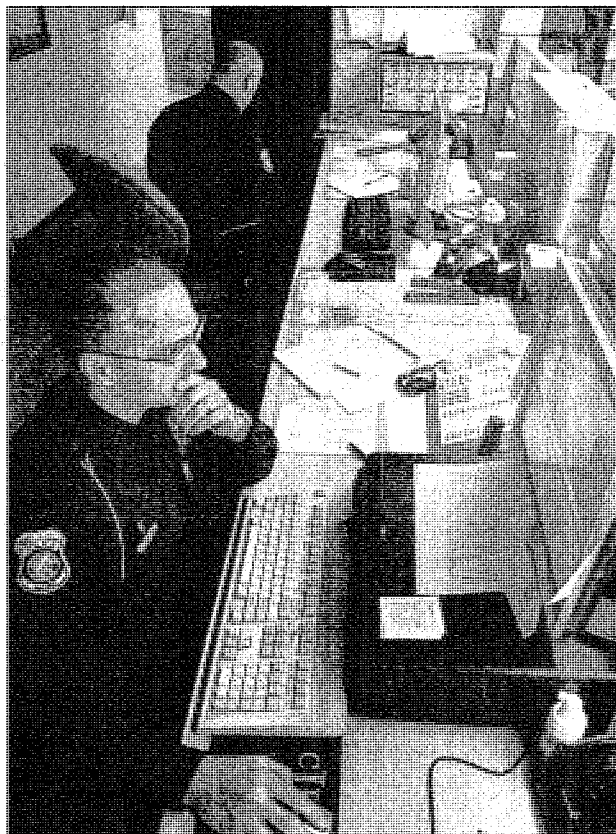
"You can't go into the day and have it outlined for you," he added. "You always have to be prepared and prepare yourself for when something does happen."

Most of the day patrol officers check on businesses, since many are closed. Sometimes officers get calls on domestic disputes involving family members and alcohol.

Sometimes calls require a comforting hand to victims. Years ago, a man was found dead in a hotel room, a suicide, after he and his wife had come



After 21 years working in law enforcement, Westland Police Officer Jeff Kavanaugh knows he'll be making adjustments due to working Christmas Day.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Officer James Green will be working the desk Christmas.

upon tough economic times. "You try to be there for them and help them through a difficult time," said Green, who is married with two children. "We are people and we have families, too. We respond when it's a difficult time for them."

Last year, Green worked as an evidence technician. Police received a call from a resident and told police that he had found that someone had invaded the home of his two deceased parents. While Green worked the crime scene that day, Green's family hosted Christmas for relatives.

"Everything worked out fine," Green said. "I have a household that is very understanding."

It's all part of the job

Working as a police officer, "you can't expect to have every holiday off," he said. "You just try and rotate around it. We work it out."

Like a lot of cops, Westland Police Officer Jeff Kavanaugh, a 21-year veteran, knows working holidays comes with the job.

"I'd say I've worked Christmas three-quarters of the years I've been a police officer. Unfortunately, this year I will be working," said Kavanaugh, who has daughters Isabelle, 6, and Natalie, 3, with wife Deanna.

And as officers work 12-hour shifts, that means

Kavanaugh starts work at 7 a.m., and the family will up at 5 a.m. for a traditional Christmas morning opening of gifts.

"When I get home at 7:30 p.m., it's time for baths and bed, so the 12-hour shifts do make it a little harder with younger kids," he said.

Family celebrations get rescheduled due to his working Christmas Day, Kavanaugh said, with his family gathering a week before the holiday. Festivities with his wife's family are held after Christmas.

"You know coming into this job that you'll get stuck working holidays. You as a police officer, it is just another day for us," Kavanaugh

said. "Everyone is pretty understanding. The whole family makes adjustments."

While Kavanaugh is working the holiday, he said officers appreciate being remembered by citizens and community groups. "Nothing is open. A lot of citizens bring us food — the Rotary, the Jaycees and some churches," he said. "We're fortunate enough that a lot of people in the community remember us."

Where's the fire?

While 38-year-old Livonia firefighter/paramedic Mike Furstenuau has worked Christmas before, this is the first Christmas his wife, Jennifer, a nurse at Henry Ford Hospital, will also be working.

That means Santa Claus will visit their South Lyon home Dec. 23 instead of Dec. 24 to leave presents for their children, Alyson, 8, and Madelyn, 3.

"Santa Claus is going to make a special trip," Furstenuau said.

Furstenuau starts his 24-hour shift at 8 a.m. Christmas; his wife starts her 12-hour shift at 6 p.m. Christmas. Neither will finish work until the day after Christmas.

"My 8-year-old knows what I do," Furstenuau said. "She understand we have to work and that's the way things are."

"It's just harder for me."

Furstenuau said after the children unwrap their presents from Santa Christmas Eve morning, they'll have their family Christmas meal and attend Christmas Eve Mass before he leaves for work. Then they'll spend Christmas Day at their grandparents' home, where they'll have another celebration, until their mother leaves for work.

Furstenuau said firefighters take turns working Christmas. He thinks this will be his fourth Christmas working in Livonia since joining the department in 2002.

He said he knew when he accepted the job that he would have to work holidays. "I'm just thankful to have a job and that my family is provided for," he said.

Public service

While government offices shut down for the holiday, there are still people responsible for doing the work.

In Redford Township, for instance, nobody except firefighters and police will be working on premises. But dozens will be on call.

"The water and sewer department is a 24-hour operation," said John Selmi, director of public services. "I'm on call," he said, "and more than a dozen people can be called at any time."

Any resident with a problem that day, or any other holiday, simply have to call the police after-hours number, (313) 387-2553, Selmi said. And he'll call the people who can address the problem.

"I've been doing this for more than 20 years," Selmi said. "I'm used to it."

In any emergency, Selmi would also call the supervisor, who is also on call.

Staff writers Karen Smith, Ken Abramczyk, Leanne Rogers and Pat Murphy contributed to this report.

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KNEE REPLACEMENT-WHEN?
The old idea in knee replacement was that it was time for the surgery when the knee got bad enough that the patient knocked on the surgeon's door to ask that the operation be done.
The new idea in knee replacement is for the surgeon to intervene when the patient notes that he or she can no longer keep up with the activities, work, society and recreation that was formerly the patient's way of life.
The basis for the new idea is that waiting as long as the old idea promoted meant that the muscles around the knee wasted from lack of use. The effect made rehabilitation after operation long and difficult. Far better is to catch the knee when deterioration has definitely begun, but before the downhill course has caused major loss of leg muscle strength.
In the old idea the doctor waited until the patient declared an end to waiting and accepted the need for operation. The new idea requires a closer relationship between doctor and patient so that both parties recognize that a downward change is beginning, and both come to an agreement as to the timing for surgery.
Clues that the knee needs a replacement include closer timing of knee fluid aspiration. If in the past, the knee needed drainage once or twice a year, but now the frequency is every three months, then both doctor and patient have a sign that the arthritis is progressing. Night pain is another indication as is a reluctance by the patient to do shopping or attend meetings that were common occurrences in the past.
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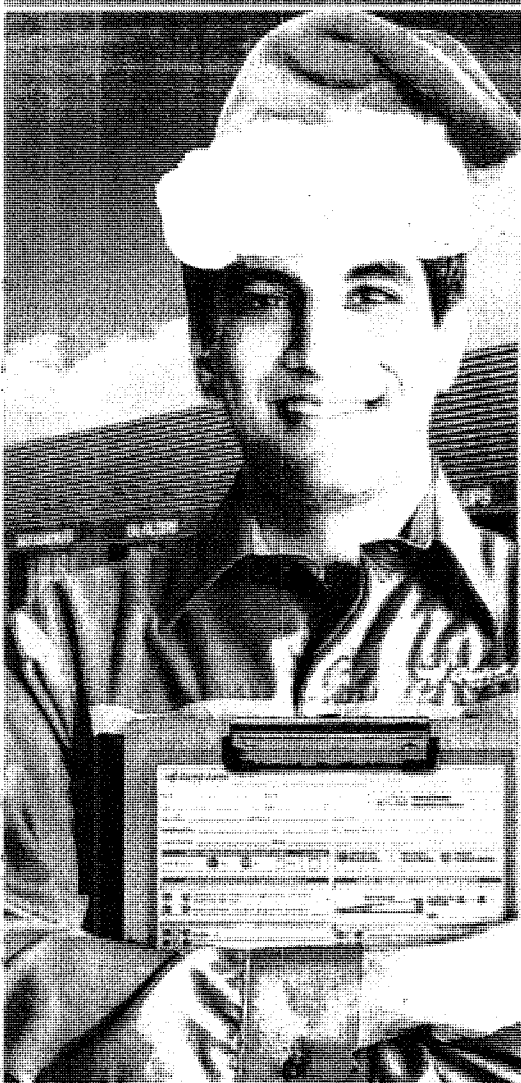
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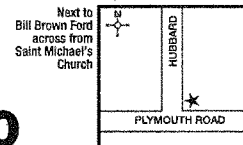
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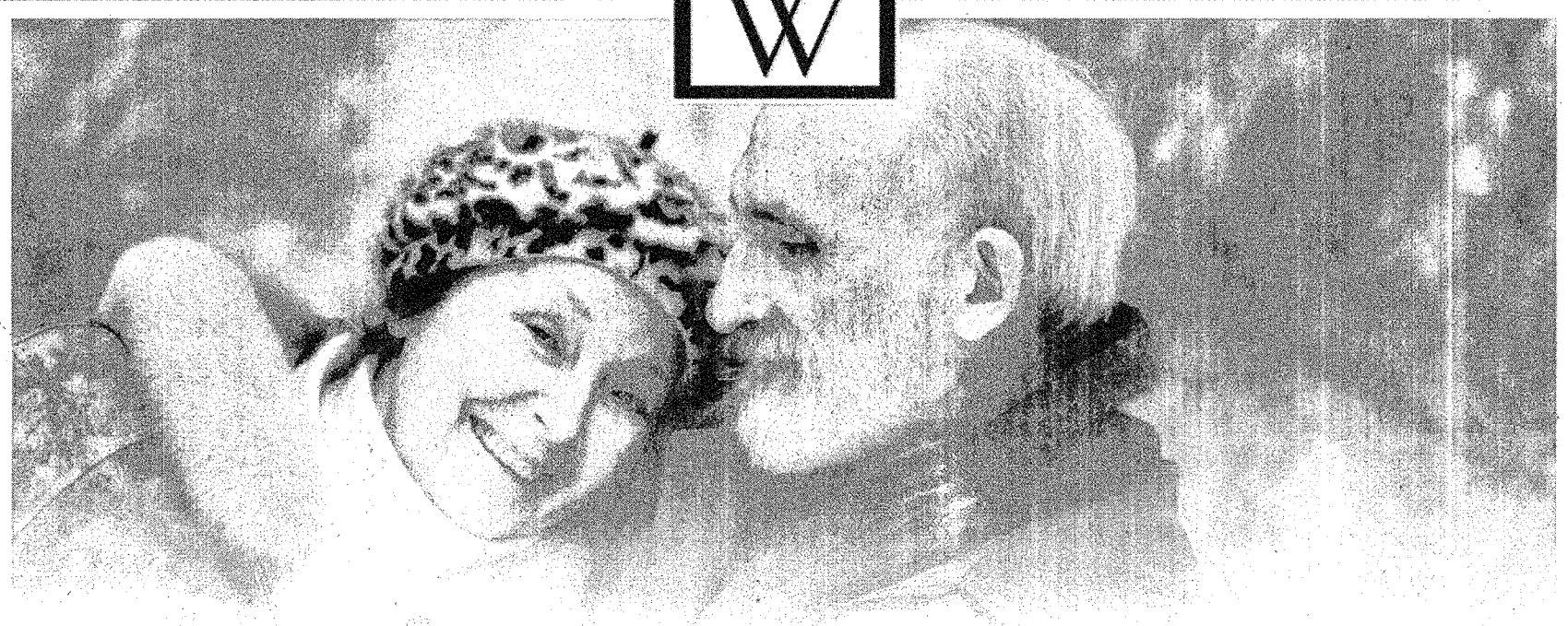
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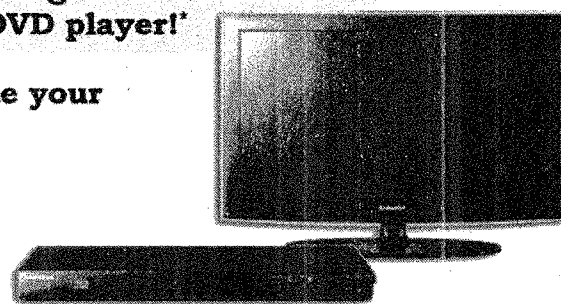
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Custom ornaments are a Christmas delight

By Greg Kowalski
Eccentric Staff Writer

Paper-thin pieces of glass, delicately shaped and brightly colored become amazing works of art with the help of Curtis Posuniak.

For the past 15 years, the Bloomfield Township resident has been creating custom Christmas ornaments. But these are not mere bulbs. They are designed with amazing detail and shaped to meet any client's desire.

Like the one formed into a precisely defined casket.

"That one was for a casket company," Posuniak said. Seems obvious, but still not quite what one would expect to see hanging from a Christmas tree. You might not expect to see Big Boy of the restaurant fame there either. Or the busts of famous composers, like Beethoven and Brahms. But Posuniak has them all, and hundreds more hanging on racks in his home.

It was, in fact, the busts of the composers that got him started in the ornament making business.

"Actually I was director of the Michigan Bach Festival," said Posuniak, who is a professional musician and music director at St. Patrick's Church in Carleton, Mich.

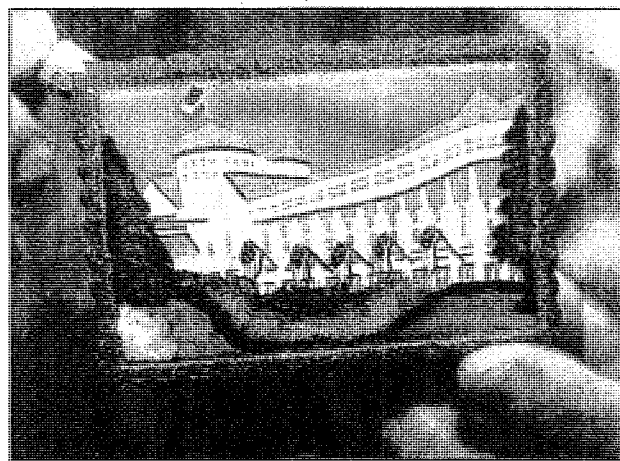
Performing at the festival was a singer who also was a glass designer, and that sparked some friends to suggest that Posuniak form a company to produce glass ornaments of the great composers.

Posuniak traveled to Poland where he knows firms exist that could



PHOTOS BY JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Curtis Posuniak among his Christmas ornament collection.



The Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island fits neatly onto a square ornament.



Curtis Posuniak hold a Big Boy ornament for the holidays. They are on sale at Big Boy restaurants.



The Big Boy ornaments shows the attention given to details.



The busts of great composers were among the first Classics by Kurtis.

produce the ornaments and concluded that it was a feasible business proposition. So his company, Classics by Kurtis was born.

"I do a lot of the designs," he said. While he produces a number of traditional Christmas ornaments — Santas and holy figures — "people started asking me for custom pieces, like logos and buildings."

And caskets.

Long process

Creating a custom ornament isn't easy or cheap. It begins with

Posuniak's design — a drawing or photo of the subject to be produced featuring all angles. That is sent to the factory in Poland where a clay mold is formed. It's rather bland at that state, but it shows all the details of the finished product.

"I send clients pictures of the clay model," he said. That is their one and only chance to make any changes. "I tell them to scrutinize it very, very carefully," Posuniak said.

Once the final design is approved, a res-

in mold is made and the ornaments can be formed in glass. They are then painted and decorated as desired.

The whole process can take months complete, and it costs about \$500 just to produce the clay mold.

"I tell clients not to take less than 300 pieces," Posuniak said. That keeps the production costs down so finished products can sell at a reasonable cost, usually \$30 to \$45 depending on how complicated it is to make.

Building designs, like the incredibly detailed Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island he produced, take a lot of work.

Nautical theme

"Recently I did the Detroit Yacht Club," Posuniak said. He's also done the Detroit Athletic Club and a host of churches. Some companies give them away as gifts, other places sell them for fundraising. He's done an officially licensed Model T to mark the 100th anniversary of the Ford Motor Co., and, of course, an Elvis for Graceland.

His ornaments are on sale at the Irish Rose Flower Shop in Royal Oak, at the Polish Art Center in Hamtramck, the Detroit Shoppe at the Somerset Collection and Bronner's in Frankenmuth.

And check out his website, www.classicsbykurtis.com.

As for his favorite... "The ornaments are like children. I can't isolate one," he said.

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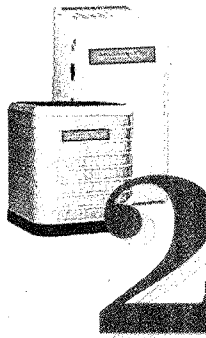
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Livonia seniors enjoy Christmas dinner

By Ken Abramczyk
Observer Staff Writer

Estelle Piersante and Eleanor Hadley smiled and sat at a table, enjoying a lunch of ham, scalloped potatoes and green bean casserole.

"It's just a nice touch," Piersante said of the meal.

They were two of more than 170 luncheon guests at the Livonia Senior Center on Thursday afternoon, a Christmas meal put on by the senior center staff and 18 volunteers.

Many of the guests were seniors who enjoy using the senior center all year long for various activities ranging from Wii bowling to ballroom dancing. The Christmas lunch was a special event for them, featuring a 50-50 raffle with winners receiving poinsettias used as centerpieces and donated gifts, including Wayne County Lightfest tickets, courtesy of Commissioner Joan Gebhardt.

Thursday's lunch was a chance to enjoy the holidays with friends, but the center is used by many all year round.

Piersante said she enjoys eating lunch with Hadley and other friends there. "I'm here on Thursdays for Spanish class," she said.

Hadley participates in an exercise class four



Livonia resident Jan Hicks donned these special antlers to get into the holiday spirit of Christmas on Thursday at a special holiday lunch at the Livonia Senior Center.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Ron Sipperley calls tables to the buffet.



Recreation Supervisor Patti Wachtel pulls out a dish full of scalloped potatoes.

days a week, something she's done for the last 10 years, she said. "I love coming here for the people," Hadley said. "I've made some real friends here. I met Estelle when we both took Spanish here."

John Yonish of Livonia enjoyed the meal as he sat at a table with several others. "We came early today for the lunch," Yonish said. "It's really good and they have a nice set-up here." Yonish comes to center three or four times a week, he said.

Dorita Vissepó moved from Spain four months ago and enjoys the social aspects of the center. "I'm here every Monday,"



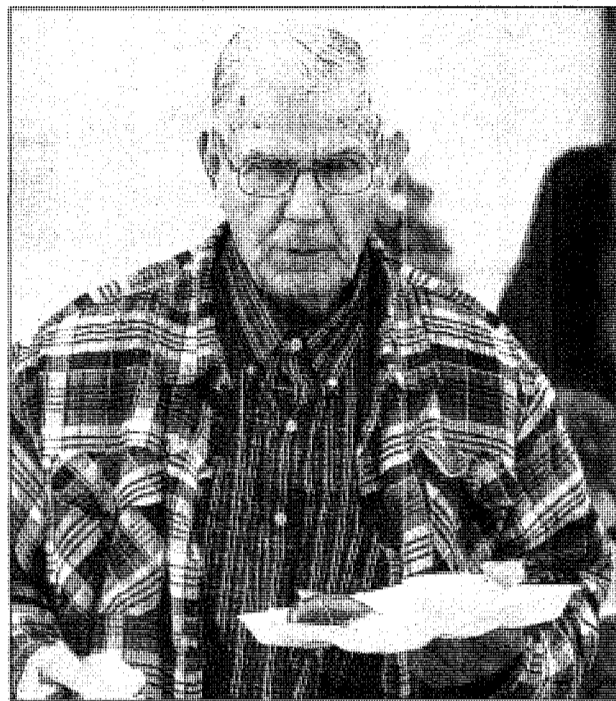
Eleanor Hadley (left) and Estelle Piersante share friendship and enjoy lunch to celebrate the holidays.

she said. "I can talk to people my age here and I make friends here."

Joann Seaman called the meal "fantastic" as she and her twin sister, Jan Hicks, enjoyed the lunch. Hicks won two poinsettias and a certificate after her sister

bought several tickets to the raffle. "We use the computer and play bingo here," Hicks said.

Josie Smith was one of the 18 volunteers who assisted with the meal. Smith credited Recreation Supervisors Karl Peters and Patti Wachtel.



John Yonish of Livonia gets a helping of ham.

"They bought all the food and did all the cooking and the decorating with the volunteers," Smith said. "They prepared the food on their own. They're terrific, they're energetic, friendly and helpful, and they come up with so many ideas to keep the seniors active."

Peters said the meal is "always fun." "We look forward to it every year, and every year, they look forward to it," Peters said. "It's nice to see the dining room fill up."

"It's nice because they aren't sitting home alone. It's a chance for them to meet with their friends."

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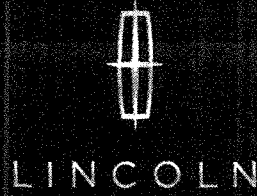
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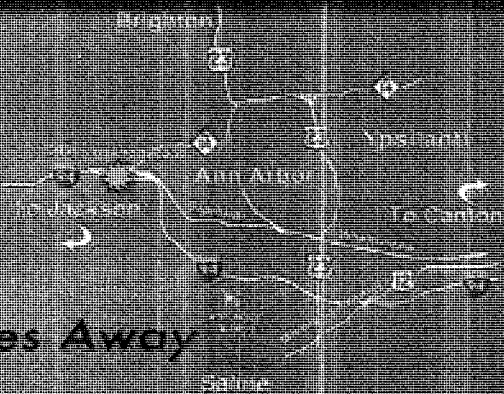
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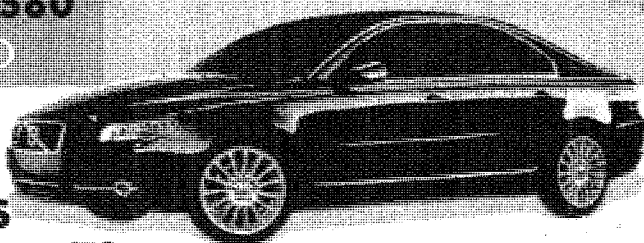
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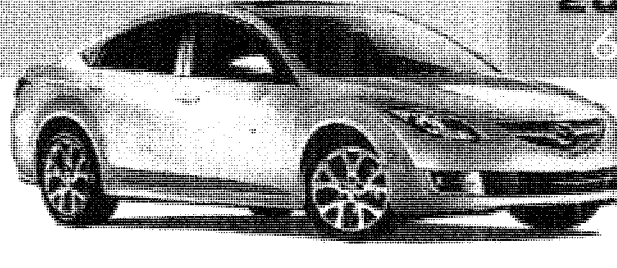
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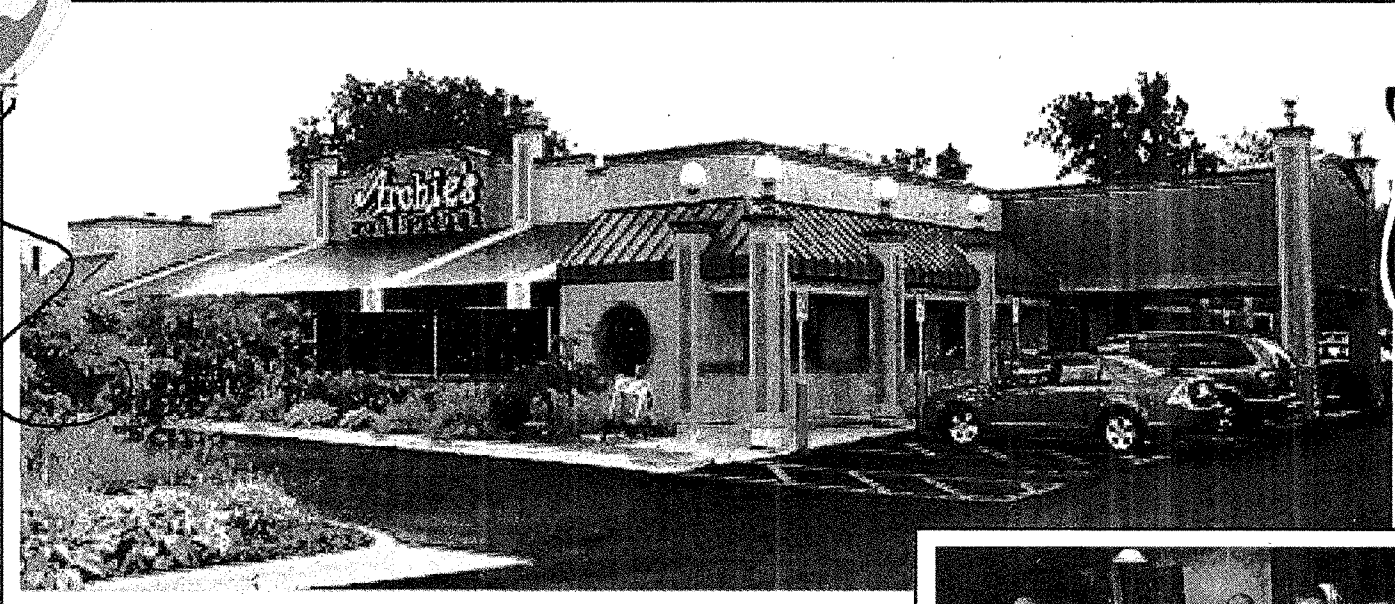
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Glass eaters

Rocks hammer Chiefs on boards

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

From setting up shop in the paint to making sweet string music from long range, Salem's boys basketball team had it working Wednesday night in a 54-38 victory at Canton.

It also didn't hurt the Rocks to own a huge edge in rebounding (32-15). Or to answer a 10-0 Canton run with 16 straight points of their own to close out the first half of the KLAAs crossover up 30-24.

"The kids, I was proud of the way they weathered that storm," Salem coach Bob Brodie said. "We went down big early in enemy territory and they hung on, came back and ended up finishing pretty strong."

Treys by senior guards Tyler Stewart (10 points in his return from illness) and Grant Bettner keyed that game-changing surge.

"He (Stewart) gives us another weapon," Brodie said, adding that "Tyler coming back, mentally and physically, was a help for us tonight."

Salem (3-0) also took over the low post, with 6-7 senior forward Chris Dierker (16 points, 12 rebounds) and 6-6 cen-

ter Josh Peterson (eight points, nine boards) going inside for last-minute buckets.

"Josh was great on the glass, Dierker was great," Brodie said. "All five players blocked out no matter who I put in there. It was pretty good. We won the glass, defensively we did what we had to do."

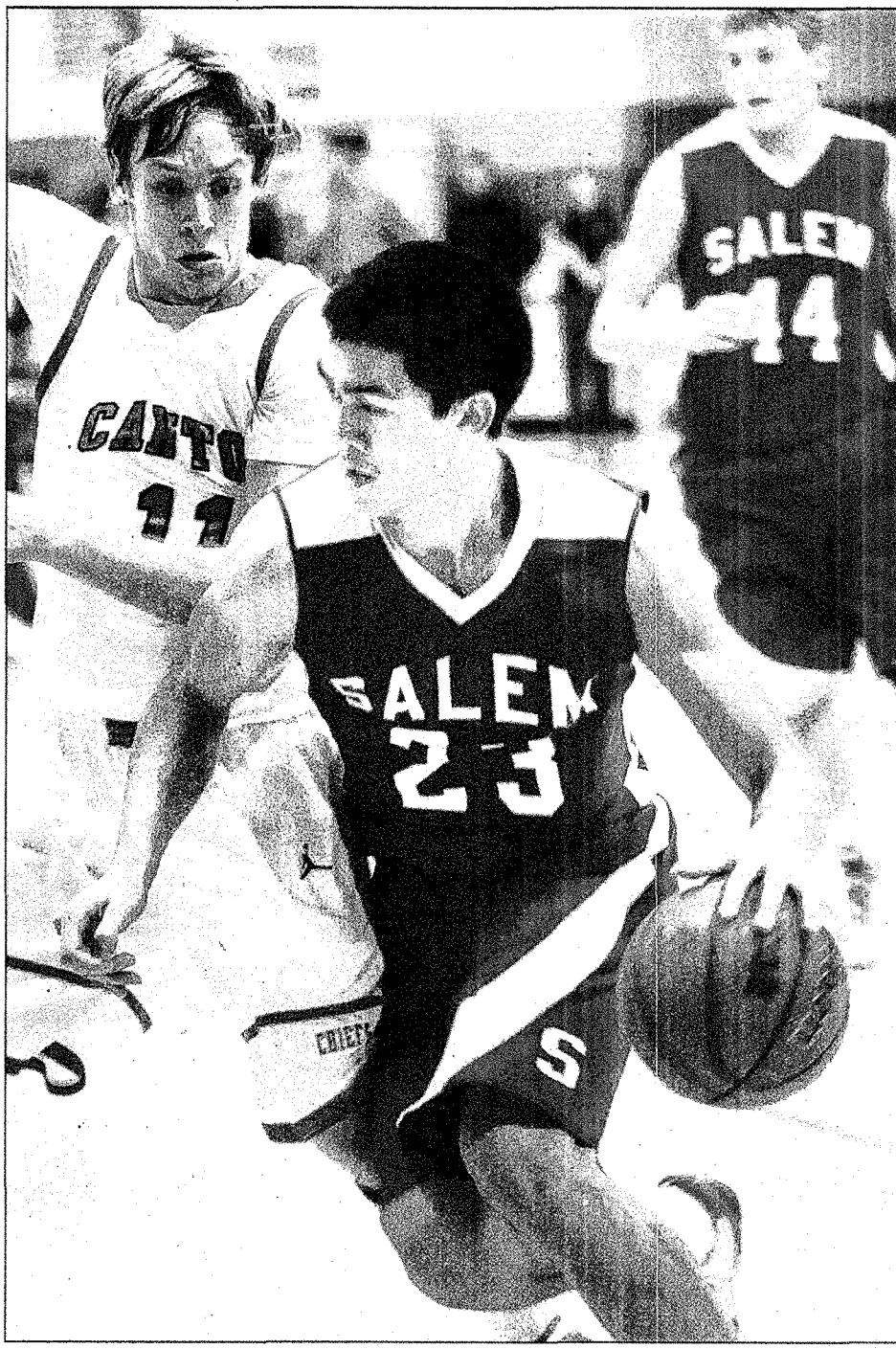
Salem had plenty of offensive contributors, too. Ankit Tiwari scored five points, while Austin Whitted, Nate Sass and Ahmad Khalid each registered four.

After a close third quarter, which ended with Salem leading 39-34, the Rocks put the hammer down in the fourth. A 15-4 fourth enabled Salem to finish off the Chiefs (4-1 entering the holiday break).

"I think we had a really good spurt in the first half," Canton coach Jimmy Reddy said. "That's kind of been how our season has gone. We've been good in spurts, but we got to somehow find a way to be good for 32 minutes."

Paul Baumgart (19 points, four boards, three blocks) was outstanding early on, including a riveting first-quarter jam

Please see HOOPS, B5



Salem's Chris Dierker (No. 23) drives past Canton defender Kyle Adams (No. 11) during Wednesday's game. In the background for the Rocks is Josh Peterson (No. 44).

MU women fall to BGSU

The Madonna University women's basketball team stepped up a few notches Wednesday night against NCAA Division I foe Bowling Green State University and the result was predictable.

Noelle Yoder came off the bench to score 14 points, while starters Danielle Havel and Jessica Slagle each added 17 as the host Falcons rolled to a 91-41 victory over the Crusaders before 1,546 fans.

"I want to thank coach Curt Miller for giving us the opportunity to play against his squad," MU coach Carl Grave said. "To play in front of such a large crowd and in an environment like the Stro Center is something that will not only help get us ready for our trip to Las Vegas next week, but for the rest of the WHAC season starting against Davenport and Concordia after New Year's."

Livonia Stevenson's Kaylee McGrath led MU (5-6) with 16 points to go along with nine rebounds.

The Crusaders, who fell behind 42-13 at halftime, shot only 30 percent from the floor for the game (17-of-57).

Jill Stein also nabbed 11 rebounds for Bowling Green (8-3).



JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Sophomore Stephen Couiter had an assist in the Flyers' 5-3 win.

Flyers' night

Ladouceur's hat trick ices Falcons, 5-3

By Dan O'Meara
Observer Staff Writer

After seeing leads disappear in recent games with its crosstown rival, the frustration and disappointment ended Thursday for the North Farmington-Harrison hockey team.

Led by Jake Ladouceur's natural hat trick, the Flyers rallied from a 1-0 deficit at Farmington Hills Ice Arena with five straight goals and defeated Farmington, 5-3.

The teams played a 3-3 tie when they met Nov. 23. North-Harrison had a 2-0

lead in that game.

"The Falcons made a strong push again at the end, but it was nice to hold on and finally finish one against them," Flyers coach Ken Anderson said.

"It means a lot to our guys, being able to get over the top against the Falcons. They've been a thorn in our side for the past couple years. It's nice to get a big win and, hopefully, it can catapult us through the rest of the season."

T.J. Zak scored the first and fifth goals; Ladouceur got the other three and also assisted

on the last one. The Flyers (6-4-1) were minus one of their top players, Derek Ried, who was on a pre-planned family vacation.

"I challenged both of them to step up, especially Jake," Anderson said. "Derek is our go-to guy; we definitely missed him, but it was nice to see Jake step up when we needed it."

Blake Holmes scored with a second remaining in the first period from Adam Lockner for the Falcons (3-7-1), who had a three-game win-

Please see ICERS, B6

Wings place Conner on IR

The Detroit Red Wings placed forward Chris Conner on its injured reserve list for two weeks after suffering a hand injury in the Wings' 4-1 victory Dec. 13 at Pittsburgh.

The Westland native, who will be re-evaluated by the Red Wings' medical staff, had a goal and two assists in six games after being recalled from Grand Rapids of the American Hockey League.

According to www.redwings.com, Conner's grit and speed served the Wings well on the third forward line and particularly on the penalty kill.

Campbell connects in Spartan triumph

By Ed Wright
Observer Staff Writer

'Twas three nights before Christmas, when all through the gym, Jonathan Campbell kept scoring, attacking the rim.

Campbell, a senior guard for Livonia Stevenson's boys basketball team, sliced and diced Garden City's defense to the tune of 24 points and six assists Thursday night while leading the Spartans to a pre-holiday break 60-43 triumph over the host Cougars.

Moving as fast with the ball as he did without it, Campbell was as dangerous shooting the ball as he was dishing it off to teammates.

"Jon Campbell had a really good game; he's going to have nights like this when he scores in the twenties," said Livonia Stevenson head coach Brandon Sinawi, whose team improved to 4-0. "He made everyone else around him better tonight."

Sinawi also heaped a ton of praise on high-energy reserves Mike McDermott

and Devin Kelly, who tilted the game in the Spartans' favor without rocking the stat sheet.

"The effort those two guys gave tonight was amazing," Sinawi said. "Devin's engine never stops. Even when he's tired, he gives 130 percent. Mike hasn't been playing a lot up to now, but after tonight, I'll tell you what — he deserves more playing time. Both those guys did the little things — deflect pass-

Please see SPARTANS, B5



Livonia Stevenson's Johnathan Campbell zips a pass to a teammate as Garden City's Matt Stark (13) defends in the first quarter Thursday at Garden City.

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2011 ALL-OBSERVER FOOTBALL TEAM FIRST TEAM OFFENSE

Jake Vento, Sr. QB, Harrison: A true 48-minute player, Vento (5-10, 175) was not only the quarterback; he was also the punter, kick and punt returner, safety on defense and holder for placekicks. He made the team as a receiver last year, and he will most likely play that position in college.

Vento completed 60 percent of his passes (68-of-113) for 1,294 yards and 14 touchdowns with four picks. He rushed for 420 yards (7.5 average) and eight TDs; he led the team with 2,061 all-purpose yards and 66 points. On defense, Vento had two interceptions and 32 tackles. He averaged 39.1 yards as a punter.

"He was our most valuable, all-around player," coach John Herrington said. "He did everything for us, and he's a great competitor. He was what I call the fighting spirit. He was the one who would win the team to win many times like he did against Southfield."

Vento has an offer from Northern Michigan. MAC schools and Grand Valley have expressed interest, and he could be a preferred walk-on at either MSU or U-M if he chooses.

Devin Ryles, Sr. QB, Red. Thurston: A first-year starter at quarterback, Ryles was a dual-threat force for the Eagles, shredding opposing defenses to the tune of 564 yards rushing and 1,447 yards passing. Using his 6-foot, 255-pound frame to the utmost, Ryles threw for 23 touchdown passes and ran for eight more while throwing just six interceptions in 114 attempts. Ryles earned all-WWAC first-team honors and received all-Metro West second-team accolades from the Detroit Free Press and Detroit News.

Shaun Austin, Sr. QB, Plymouth: After piloting the Wildcats to the Division 1 state championship game in 2010, he and his teammates picked up where they left off this season.

In the opener of his senior year, Austin led Plymouth to a 47-13 drubbing of Monroe St. Mary Catholic Central and his strong arm and savvy leadership sparked the Wildcats to seven more wins in a row before finally losing a non-conference game to Warren De La Salle in Week 9.

Then in the first round of the Division 1 playoffs, Plymouth fell 24-21 to arch-rival Canton to prevent another long postseason run.

The all-KLAA selection was a big reason Plymouth scored 363 points as the Wildcats sliced through opposing defenses and won their division (5-0 record) and conference.

Austin completed 103 of 185 passes for 1,468 yards. He threw for 14 touchdowns, only getting picked off six times.

"Shaun is an unbelievably smart quarterback," coach Mike Sawchuk said. "He took command of the offense and was cool and calm under pressure."

Donte Fox, Sr. RB, Plymouth: Built like a tank, the senior was as dominant as they come on both sides of the ball.

Fox scored 28 touchdowns (including one on defense) while rushing for 1,518 yards in 168 carries — an exceptional 9-yard average. He also caught 14 passes for 228 yards.

Selected to the all-KLAA team at running back, the 5-10, 215-pounder also was a defensive standout, with 33 tackles, 16 assists and eight quarterback sacks for 62 yards. Fox caused havoc for running backs and receivers, too, with 14 tackles for loss good for 72 yards.

"Donte is a horse," Sawchuk said. "He can do it all, run you over, juke you, catch passes and pass protect."

Fox was named to the Detroit Free Press All-State First Team.

Kevin Miller, Sr. RB, N. Farmington: The senior standout (6-1, 194) averaged 9.1 yards per carry, rushing for 1,001 yards and 17 touchdowns, for the OAA Blue Division co-champs. Miller averaged 111.2 yards per game and scored 114 points.

Miller also doubled as a linebacker and was second in tackles with 63. Another 48-minute player, Miller also punted and played on most special teams.

"Kevin was a versatile player for us," coach Todd Schultz said. "We put him at either fullback or tailback, and he performed quite well at both positions. He had over 1,000 yards rushing, and the majority of his snaps came from fullback. He also was a great blocking back. He was happy to carry the ball or block for somebody else. He just wanted to contribute to the team. Kevin is one of those players who didn't come off the field."

Romello Brown, Jr. RB, Liv. Churchill: The 5-10, 230-pound junior was a two-way standout for the playoff-qualifying Chargers as he rushed for 1,007 yards on 143 carries (7.0 per attempt) with nine TDs en route to all-KLAA honors.

"His stats are huge despite the fact he missed basically three games with injury early in the year," Churchill coach John Filiatraut said. "He also became one of the best linebackers in the area as well. He's big, strong, explosive and very physical."

Bryan Green, Sr. RB, Farmington: Green (5-11, 193) was the leading rusher for the Falcons, who made it to the second round of the D-2 playoffs.

He averaged 7.9 yards per carry, rushing for 1,136 and eight touchdowns on 143 attempts. Green also caught 13 passes for 102 yards and two TDs.

Green had 127 yards on 19 carries, including a 67-yard touchdown run, at Harrison; he returned a kickoff for a TD against Southfield. He has drawn interest from Akron and CMU.

"He was a great weapon and he played better in big games," coach John Bechtel said. "Bryan was just an explosive player. He was a great kick and punt returner. Anytime he touched the ball he could go the distance because he has great speed, and he has good size to go with it. He became a real physical runner in addition to using his speed, which made him a great asset."

Aaron Burbridge, Sr. WR, Harrison: Rated the No. 1 player in the state, Burbridge (6-1, 185) led the Hawks to a second straight OAA championship and 10-1 record.

The Michigan State recruit had 28 catches for 633 yards and five TDs.

He also returned kicks and punts, and he played cornerback on defense. Burbridge had 30 tackles, eight deflections, three caused fumbles, one recovery and two picks (one for a TD).

"He's probably the fastest player we've ever had at Harrison," Herrington said, adding Burbridge ran an electronic time of 4.37. "He's the fourth all-time leading receiver and a great athlete. He was outstanding on all the kick returns and on defense. He's a truly great football player with a great future."

2011 ALL-OBSERVER FOOTBALL TEAM FIRST TEAM DEFENSE

Jake Vento, Sr. QB, F.H. Harrison
Devin Ryles, Sr. QB, Red. Thurston
Shaun Austin, Sr. QB, Plymouth
Donte Fox, Sr. RB, Plymouth
Kevin Miller, Sr. RB, N. Farmington
Romello Brown, Jr. RB, Liv. Churchill
Bryan Green, Sr. RB, Farmington
Aaron Burbridge, Sr. WR, F.H. Harrison
Eric Wilson, Sr. WR, Red. Thurston
Jaylin Freeman, Sr. WR, Liv. Churchill
Devin Funchess, Sr. TE, F.H. Harrison
Cameron Dillard, Jr. OL, Canton
Adam Clay, Sr. OL, Liv. Franklin
Robert Riche, Sr. OL, Plymouth
Kevin D'Arcy, Sr. OL, Liv. Stevenson
Marvin Jefferson, Sr. OL, Farmington

FIRST TEAM DEFENSE
Darrien Lankford, Sr. DL, Garden City
Mario Ojemudia, Sr. DL, F.H. Harrison
Dawson Davenport, Sr. DL, Luth. W'sld.
Alex Ryan, Sr. DL, Westland
Glenn Jake Slobin, Jr. DL, F.H. Harrison
Tyler Goble, Sr. LB, Plymouth
Zac Merillat, Sr. LB, Canton
Josh Abruzzo, Sr. LB, N. Farmington
Connor Dwyer, Sr. LB, Liv. Churchill
Kevin Buford, Sr. DB, Canton
Marquis Johnson, Sr. DB, Red. Thurston
Michael Boes, Sr. DB, Canton

CO-COACHES OF THE YEAR
Todd Schultz, North Farmington
Scott Murray, Garden City

SECOND TEAM OFFENSE
Seth Suida, Jr. QB, Liv. Churchill
Marcus Houston, Sr. RB, Salem
Joe McRobb, Jr. RB, Liv. Franklin
Lorenzo Collins, Sr. RB, F.H. Harrison
Rommel Wright, Sr. RB, Liv. Clarenceville
Jacquis Woods, Sr. RB, N. Farmington
Marquis Farmer, Sr. WR, Garden City
Tony Wilson, Sr. WR, Liv. Stevenson
Nick Tata, Sr. TE, Canton
Sean Preston, Sr. OL, Plymouth
Al Lesperance, Sr. OL, Farmington
Mike Ditzler, Jr. OL, Canton
Dimitrus Renfro, Sr. OL, Wayne
Aaron Johnson, Sr. OL, F.H. Harrison

SECOND TEAM DEFENSE
Mike Hogan, Sr. DL, Liv. Churchill
Davon White, Sr. DL, Plymouth
Ed Huckleby, Jr. DL, F.H. Harrison
DeAnthony Price, Jr. DL, Clarenceville
Michael Hall, Sr. DL, Red. Thurston
Faris Abraham, Sr. LB, Plymouth
Tyler Schultz, Sr. LB, Salem
Charlie Yost, Sr. LB, Liv. Churchill
Scott Kamen, Sr. LB, Garden City
Jake DeMoss, Jr. LB, Westland
Glenn Austin Simmons, Sr. DB, Liv. Franklin
Zach Smilo, Sr. DB, Canton
DJ McMillian, Sr. DB, Plymouth
Jordan Degreffered, Jr. DB, Farm.
Lamar Marshall, Sr. DB, F.H. Harrison

HONORABLE MENTION
Churchill: Derek Jakubowski, Matt Bosas, Robert Foster, Jr., Riley Moynihan; Franklin: Max Shamus, Brian Johnson, JaMarco Williamson; Stevenson: Joe Mims, Devin Kelly; John Glenn: DaMario Jones, Terrance James, Mike Sims, James Williams, Alex Isaevski; Wayne: Devin Korzetki, Dean Caldwell; Clarenceville: Drake Taylor; Lutheran Westland: Eddie Abronovich, Jacob Richter, Bobby Miller; Harrison: Gairus Coleman, Brandon Buckner, Austin Hunter, Ken Russ, Bryan Brunson, Noah Downs; Farmington: Ryan Caprathe, Connor Mohr, Chris Morgan, Aaron Buckley, Josh Curtis, N. Farmington: Jason Ervin, Majd Mokbel, Justin Shelton, Anwar Alqurneh, Chaucey Bridges, Drew Correll, Itoh Buley, Sami Alqurneh, McCoy Napierala; Canton: Kyle Adams, Kenny Scott, Ryan Jones, Evan Rinke, Dan DeRoso, Blake Lelo; Salem: Danny Stropes, Nick Howie, Gu'woin Ingram, Alex Kenrick, Josh Howell, Nick Troher; Plymouth: Nate Eminger, Jamar Eiland, Billy Roberts, Kory Ignagni, Matt Janke, Kyle McMillian, Said Youssef; Thurston: Chris Broxton, Howard Young, Damon Fuller, Adel Cothron, Sha-keer Williams; Redford Union: Collin Rankin; Garden City: Tyler Steele, Tomaz McNeil, Alonte Lyons, Randy Holloway, Matt Rowland, Tommy Vincent, Wyatt Giangrande.

Eric Wilson, Sr. WR, Red. Thurston: Headed to Northwestern with a full-ride football scholarship, Wilson was one of the most dynamic two-way players in the state this season.

Rarely brought down on initial contact or by one tackler, Wilson hauled in 36 passes for 785 yards and 13 touchdowns. On defense, the 6-2, 205-pound hard-hitting speedster racked up 85 tackles, four sacks, three forced fumbles, three fumble recoveries (two he returned for touchdowns) and two interceptions.

On special team, Wilson returned six kick-offs for 174 yards and eight punts for 151 yards. He also blocked an extra point.

Wilson earned Associated Press first-team All-State honors and All-Metro first-team accolades from the Detroit News and Detroit Free Press. Wilson has compiled a sterling 3.4 grade-point average.

Jaylin Freeman, Sr. WR, Liv. Churchill: The 6-2, 175-pound senior wide receiver caught 35 passes for 397 yards and nine TDs, along with 14 kick-off returns for 397 yards (28.3 per attempt) with one TD.

"Jaylin is an explosive offensive weapon with outstanding speed and ball skills," Filiatraut said of the all-KLAA choice. "Jaylin had a knack for coming up with the ball in key situations. He was a huge part of our game plan — making sure he go enough touches from his wide receiver position. He's an excellent leader and a very motivated player. Jaylin played hard on every snap."

Devin Funchess, Sr. TE, Harrison: The big tight end (6-5, 215) is expected to play that position next season at Michigan. Funchess caught 21 passes for 433 yards and six touchdowns. He also rotated at defensive end, recording 31 tackles, four sacks, four QB hurries, four pass deflections and one interception.

"Devin has tremendous potential, and Michigan is very happy to get him," Herrington said. "He can play tight end, split end or defensive end. He has a big wingspan and big hands, and he can make the difficult catches. With his wingspan on defense, he knocked down passes and rushed the passer very well."

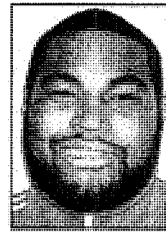
Cameron Dillard, Jr. OL, Canton: KLAA opponents had better not hope the 6-3, 285-pound junior doesn't get any bigger or stronger before next season.

Dillard was a force on the offensive line in his second season as a starter for the Chiefs. His efforts were rewarded with selection to the all-KLAA team along with being a BCS recruit.

With Dillard anchoring the front line, the run-oriented Chiefs averaged 7.6 yards per offensive play, including 6.5 yards per carry. Described by coach Tim Baechler as a "domi-



Jake Vento Harrison



Devin Ryles Thurston



Shaun Austin Plymouth



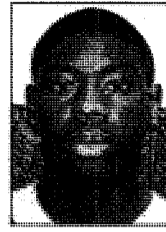
Donte Fox Plymouth



Kevin Miller N. Farmington



Romello Brown Churchill



Bryan Green Farmington



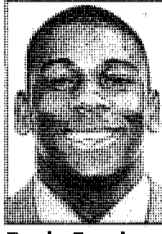
Aaron Burbridge Harrison



Eric Wilson Thurston



Jaylin Freeman Churchill



Devin Funchess Harrison



Cameron Dillard Canton



Adam Clay Franklin



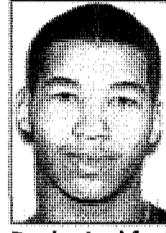
Robert Riche Plymouth



Kevin D'Arcy Stevenson



Marvin Jefferson Farmington



Darrien Lankford Garden City



Mario Ojemudia Harrison



D. Davenport Luth. Westland



Alex Ryan John Glenn



Jake Slobin Canton



Tyler Goble Plymouth



Zac Merillat Canton



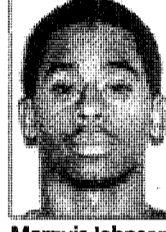
Josh Abruzzo N. Farmington



Connor Dwyer Churchill



Kevin Buford Canton



Marquis Johnson Thurston



Michael Boes Canton



Todd Schultz N. Farm. coach



Scott Murray Garden City

nant run blocker," Dillard was named to the Detroit Free Press All-State Dream Team.

Adam Clay, Sr. OL, Liv. Franklin: The 6-4, 308-pound senior offensive tackle is making his second straight appearance on the first team.

He also earned first-team all-area honors last spring as the area's top shot putter in track and field.

Clay, a first-team Division 1 all-stater and all-KLAA choice, is being recruited by NCAA Division I-AA schools along with the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

"Adam is one of the best offensive linemen we've ever had," Franklin coach Chris Kelbert said. "Ninety-percent of our offense was set up to run behind him."

Robert Riche, Sr. OL, Plymouth: En route to the KLAA South Division and KLAA Kensington Conference championships, the Wildcats were an offensive juggernaut with the 6-6, 275-pound Riche a major reason why.

Riche provided stout protection for Austin, Fox and others as Plymouth tallied 3,575 total yards on offense (an average of 7.8 yards per play). The senior lineman's efforts were rewarded with selection to the all-KLAA team.

He also chipped in on the D-line, registering 13 tackles, 11 assists and 1.5 sacks.

"Robert's a dominant run blocker," Sawchuk said. "He will have a great future in college playing ball."

Riche was named to the Detroit Free Press All-State First Team.

Kevin D'Arcy, Sr. OL, Liv. Stevenson: The 6-4, 285-pound senior offensive and defensive lineman is committed to play at Central Michigan.

"Kevin ended the season starting both ways," Stevenson coach Matt Fielder said of the all-KLAA honoree. "He rarely missed blocks and was our most consistent blocker. Kevin did everything we asked of him this year to help the team. He played both guard and tackle."

Marvin Jefferson, Sr. OL, Farmington: Jefferson (6-1, 236) was a two-year starter at left guard on the offensive line, and he also started at defensive tackle this year. Jefferson, who could play at the Division I or II levels, according to coach Bechtel, had 58 tackles. He also caused two fumbles and blocked a kick.

"He's a fabulous player," Bechtel said. "He had a great motor; he was relentless on defense. He just never gave up on a play. He had great quickness, which helped him offensively, too, because he was our pulling guard. He was able to get out in front of Bryan (Green) and Jordan (Degreffered) who have great speed, and he made the play all that much better."

FIRST TEAM DEFENSE
Darrien Lankford, Sr. DL, Garden City: Underused when it comes to stature, the 5-11, 170-pound tackling machine displayed a lot of heart, amassing 64 solo tackles, 40 assists and eight sacks from his defensive end position. The two-year starter also forced a fumble and blocked a punt. He earned all-Metro West honors from the Detroit Free Press and Detroit News.

"Even though he played with his hand on the ground, he put up linebacker-like numbers," said Garden City coach Scott Murray. "His success was due to his non-stop motor. The kid was relentless and a pleasure to coach."

Mario Ojemudia, Sr. DL, Harrison: Ojemudia (6-3, 225) was the top defensive player on the team ranked No. 1 in the state for 10 weeks. Despite playing a tackle position, he led the Hawks with 104 tackles. Ojemudia also had 14

sacks, 13 QB hurries and two blocked kicks. He will likely be a rush end or outside linebacker at Michigan. He also started for three years at offensive tackle.

"He's the best defensive tackle in all 42 years at Harrison," Herrington said. "He is relentless; he could not be blocked. He'll never quit on a play. The only other defensive player we ever played against who was as good as him was Lamar Woodley (Michigan, Steelers). He's in that category. He's going to be an outstanding player (at U-M). He's just the type of player they want."

Dawson Davenport, Sr. DL, Luth. Westland: The 5-11, 240-pound senior led the Warriors to their first-ever state playoff berth.

He also played center on offense and was the long snapper on special teams.

With the Warriors struggling at 1-3, Davenport moved from middle linebacker to defensive end after the fourth game and became a force with 58 total tackles, including 32 solo and 26 assists. He also caused three fumbles and recovered two fumbles to go along with seven sacks.

"Dawson was the heart-and-soul of our team," Lutheran Westland coach Paul Gusé said of the two-year captain and three-time all-conference performer. "We won five straight after he moved to defensive end. He's like having a coach on the field."

Alex Ryan, Sr. DL, Westland Glenn: The 6-foot, 240-pound senior was a two-year, two-way starter for the Rockets.

Defensively, Ryan finished with a total of 22 solo tackles and 18 assists. He also earned all-KLAA honors.

"Alex was the leader of our offensive line unit and our best offensive lineman, too," Glenn coach Tim Hardin said.

Ryan also excels in the classroom with a 3.2 grade-point average.

Jake Slobin, Jr. DL, Harrison: Slobin (6-0, 230) is a two-year starter at right guard on offense, and he doubled as a defensive tackle this year. He was third in tackles with 61 and was noted for his strong pursuit. Slobin had four sacks and five QB hurries.

"Jake is one of our best underclassmen," Herrington said. "He teamed up with Mario to make the right side of our line a very good blocking line. He has good athletic skills, and he gets off the ball very well. He'll be one of the leaders of our team, and we're counting on him to have a really good senior year."

Tyler Goble, Sr. LB, Plymouth: The Wildcats' offense was pretty potent in 2011, but so was the defense — spearheaded by the 6-1, 225-pound senior linebacker.

Plymouth gave up just 150 points and 2,606 yards, with Goble's hard-hitting play and leadership helping the team reel off back-to-back shutouts in September over Wayne Memorial and Livonia Churchill.

Goble, another all-KLAA selection for the Wildcats, led the team with 74 tackles and 46 assists. He was credited with 12.5 tackles for loss (good for 39 yards) and three sacks, while intercepting two passes and returning them for touchdowns (with a combined 52 return yards).

"Tyler is a defensive coordinator's dream," Sawchuk said. "He's a coach on the field. He loves everything about football."

Goble was named to the Detroit Free Press All-State Dream Team.

ALL-OBSERVER

Continued from page B2

Zac Merillat, Sr. LB, Canton: Merillat stands just 5-9 and weighs 180, but the hard-hitting senior linebacker/running back was a two-way stalwart for the Chiefs.

The all-KLAA selection registered 50 tackles (including 36 of the solo variety) and one quarterback sack, helping Canton to a 7-2 regular season.

Then in the postseason, Merillat was the team's leading rusher on offense with 71 yards against Plymouth (in a 24-21 first-round win) and 131 in a second-round loss to Novi-Detroit Catholic Central.

Merillat, named to the Detroit News All-Metro West second team, carried the football 68 times for 508 yards, for an average of 7.5 yards.

"He's all hustle, he never takes a play off," Baechler said.

Josh Abruzzo, Sr. LB, N. Farmington: Abruzzo was the leading tackler for the OAA Blue Division co-champs, making 85 stops as the middle linebacker, including 10 tackles for loss. He also had two pass break-ups and an interception. As an offensive guard, Abruzzo (5-9, 203) was a leader on a line that spearheaded a potent ground attack.

"From a leadership standpoint, he was just terrific," Schultz said. "Josh was the quarterback of the front seven. He got our guys in the right positions and played great team defense."

"As an offensive lineman, he knew what we were trying to get done, and he worked well with the other guys up there. As a team leader, he's just a great young man; he plays with all heart. He and Kevin Miller are the kind of guys you want to represent your team."

Connor Dwyer, Sr. LB, Liv. Churchill: The 6-foot, 180-pound senior linebacker finished the season with 51 solo tackles, along with 18 assists with 12 tackles for loss and four sacks.

The all-KLAA pick also had two fumble recoveries with one TD and added one forced fumble and a blocked kick.

"Connor moved from outside to middle linebacker for the Canton game in Week Five and really exploded statistically," Filiatraut said. "Connor is fast, smart and very athletic. He played two ways for us and was very productive on both sides. He's a tremendous blocker and also had the knack for making the big catch — like the game-winner versus Pinckney."

Kevin Buford, Sr. DB, Canton: The 5-10, 175-pound senior captain did it all for the Chiefs throughout his high school career.

And the cornerback/running back had a pretty special 2011 season, too. Buford tallied more than 1,100 all-purpose yards, including 552 rushing, 339 receiving (in just 18 catches) and a combined 246 in punt/kick returns.

The team MVP and all-KLAA choice scored 10 touchdowns (six rushing), highlighted by an 89-yard punt return for a TD against Grand Blanc and a 20-yard interception return — both in an early season game against Grand Blanc. On defense, besides providing air-tight coverage in the secondary, he contributed 27 tackles (21 solo).

Buford's outstanding career will continue in

college as a cornerback with the University of Iowa. He decided to become a Hawkeye instead of going to Toledo, where he had previously made a verbal commitment.

"Kevin is so fast and he covers a lot of ground," said Baechler, in a recent article on the Scout.com football recruiting Web site. "He has great technique and he's an excellent tackler in the open field."

Buford also earned accolades as part of the Detroit News All-State second team.

Marquis Johnson, Sr. DB, Red. Thurston: Opposing quarterbacks threw in the 5-9, 165-pound cornerback's direction at their own risk. The two-year starter has speed to burn, and he used it, picking off five passes while racking up 48 tackles.

He also made significant contributions on offense (16 carries, 155 yards, three touchdowns) and special teams (five kick-off returns for 131 yards and a touchdown).

Michael Boes, Sr. DB, Canton: The 5-10, 175-pound senior safety teamed up with Buford and others to regularly stymie the throwing game of KLAA opponents.

Boes was Canton's leading tackler with 70, augmenting that impressive number with three interceptions and two fumble recoveries.

"Boes was our leading tackler this year at free safety," Baechler said. "Smart player that had a nose for the ball."

He was named to the all-KLAA squad and was honorable mention on the Detroit News All-Metro West team to cap off his strong year.

CO-COACHES OF THE YEAR

Todd Schultz, North Farmington: The Raiders were picked to finish last in the OAA Blue Division and started 0-2. They rallied at that point and won seven games in a row to earn a share of the division championship and their first playoff berth since 2005. It also earned a Co-Coach of the Year honor for Schultz.

"More than anything, it's a reflection of our team and our coaching staff," he said. "The head coach gets the recognition, but it's really the hard work of your whole coaching staff and the players coming together."

"At 0-2, you could easily hang your head and say 'What's going on?' These guys came together and played a close game against Groves (in Week 2). We had it won until the last two minutes. We gave up a score and they won, but that ignited a fire under our kids. 'Hey, we are a good team; let's go out and compete.' For seven weeks in a row, they found a way to win, working together."

Scott Murray, Garden City: A lieutenant for the Westland Police Department, Murray commanded a remarkable gridiron renaissance for the Cougars, leading them to a 6-4 mark and a post-season berth for the first time since 2000, just two years removed from an 0-0 season.

The Cougars' trademark was a scrappy, sideline-to-sideline style of play that resulted in success. Garden City went 2-7 in Murray's first season at the helm in 2010.

"The keys to our success were that the kids bought into and believed in what we were teaching, and I surrounded myself with outstanding coaches," said Murray. "The kids also worked extremely hard in the off-season to get faster and stronger, and it was reflected by what they did on the field."

Chargers plug back in with 9-1 victory

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

Livonia Churchill showed no ill effects from a 13-day layoff as the Chargers skated to a 9-1 KLAA South Division boys hockey victory Wednesday over Livonia Franklin at Edgar Arena.

The state-ranked Chargers, who improved to 5-1 overall 3-1 in the division, led 2-0 after one period and 4-0 after two before exploding for five third-period goals.

"It's been two weeks since the Canton game (a 5-3 loss) and I thought we had pretty good legs," said Churchill coach Pete Mazzoni, whose team outshot the Patriots, 57-13. "We worked a lot on moving the puck, especially in the neutral zone. I thought we responded well after a long layoff."

Franklin goaltender Matt Slinder made 47 stops on the night, including a penalty shot in the second period.

Churchill got its first goal 57 seconds into the game on Brad Milks' power play effort from Mike Gambino and Ben Proben.

Devin Smythe followed at 6:24 from Jim Lelekatch and Jake Otto.

In the second period, Smythe notched his second from Chris Mireles and Tommy Carey at 2:10 followed by Milks' second at 11:05 from Matt Sinclair on a nifty give-and-go play.

The Chargers upped their lead to 6-0 after goals from Kevin Louwers (from Lelekatch and Gambino) and Blake

Burnette (from Ben Proben) at 27 seconds and 3:08 of the third.

Franklin's C.J. Cromie spoiled Dave Turel's shutout big with a goal at 3:28 from Brian Roulier and Richard Wiczorek.

Churchill then tallied the next three to end the game on an eight-goal mercy — Louwers' second (from Gambino and Riley Brown); Carey (from Smythe and Jake Otto); and Charlie Yost (from Smythe and Sinclair) with 5:11 remaining.

The loss drops the Patriots to 1-5-1 overall and 0-5 in the KLAA South.

STEVENSON 4, SOUTH LYON 1: Mario Tomei notched a pair of goals Wednesday as Livonia Stevenson (8-2, 4-2) held off the host Lions (6-5-1, 2-4) in a KLAA Central Division clash at the Kensington Valley Ice House.

Stevenson built a 3-0 first-period lead thanks to a pair of power play goals as Travis Harvey scored from Nate Sink and Thomas Ross, while Dominic Lutz added another from Cam Tetrault. Tomei also scored unassisted during the period.

In the second period, Jake Taiariol scored the first of his goal goals to cut the deficit to 3-1, but Tomei answered for the Spartans from Ross and Sink to make it a three-goal cushion heading into the third period.

Corey Haas then scored to make it 4-2 and Taiariol scored again with only 1:01 remaining, but Stevenson held on.

Stevenson netminder Connor Humitz stopped 24-of-27 shots, while South Lyon goalies Louis Carnevale (first and second period) and Aaron Tallon (final period) combined on 23 saves.

"We knew they (South Lyon) wouldn't quit and they battled to the end," Stevenson coach David Mitchell said. "We're happy to get away with the win."

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Miller in, Levi out

USA Hockey on Thursday announced the final roster for the U.S. World Junior Tournament, and one of two Plymouth Whalers at the preliminary camp made the cut.

Forward J.T. Miller earned a spot on the roster and will compete at the tournament, which runs from Dec. 26 through Jan. 5.

But defenseman Austin Levi of Farmington Hills was among the final cuts, which will enable him to return to the Whalers this week.

GC alumni hoops

The annual Garden City alumni basketball double-header is set for Monday, Dec. 26, in the high school gymnasium.

At 6 p.m., players from the 1960s, '70s and '80s will take on the Cougars' current junior varsity squad.

At 7 p.m., all of current coach Greg Williamson's former players (dating back to 1991) are invited to take on this year's varsity squad.

Williamson said former players can show up and play.

The public is invited to watch the entertaining matchups.

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RU's Pooler stalls out Tractors in overtime, 42-41

By Ed Wright
Observer Staff Writer

Thursday night's Dearborn Fordson-Redford Union boys basketball game was begging for a hero, so RU senior guard Dwight Pooler obliged.

With his team trailing 41-40 and the final seconds of overtime melting off the clock, Pooler filled the net with a soft tear-

drop floater to hand the Panthers' an exhilarating 42-41 triumph.

RU is now 2-4 heading into the holiday break.

"With Dwight being a three-year senior starter, I thought he'd give us the best chance to win if we put the ball in his hands," said first-year RU coach Randall Taylor. "He made a clutch play."

Both teams' defenses

ruled most of the night as RU led just 16-15 at the half.

RU's JaVonte Davis drained a couple of key triples in the fourth quarter to help send the game in the extra session.

Senior forward Tre' Goynes led the Panthers with 13 points before fouling out in the fourth. Davis added 12 before fouling out in overtime.

Pooler only had two points prior to his game-winner.

Taylor praised the defensive and rebounding efforts of David Haynes.

"We played a lot better defense tonight and our shot selection was better than it was the other night (in a loss to Dearborn Edsel Ford)," Taylor said.

N. FARMINGTON 73, EDISON 26: Senior Do'rrell Foster followed his 39-point performance Tuesday with a game-high 22 points Thursday as the host Raiders (3-2) had an easy win over Detroit Edison Academy (5-1). North also had 12 points from Sterling Sharp and nine apiece from Cameron Darden and Caleb Hogans. Foster and Darden had nine rebounds each, Hogans six assists and four steals. "I thought our kids came out of the gate with a lot of en-

ergy and played well," coach Todd Negoshian said. "Today being the last day before break, you worry about how your kids are going to be, but the seniors made sure we were ready to go."

"Our bench really played well, and those kids were supported by the others, who were really in their corner, especially for Justin Lopez." The bench contribution included six points by Chauncey Bridges, four from Jeron Rogers and a layup by Lopez. Kalan Barnes scored 12 and Kevon Moore nine for Edison.

SYNOPSIS OF THE MINUTES OF THE 1,694th REGULAR MEETING LIVONIA CITY COUNCIL - NOVEMBER 30, 2011

Meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m. Present: John Pastor, Brian Meakin, Joe Laura, Laura Toy, Maureen Miller Brosnan, Conrad Schwartz and James McCann. Absent: None.

#385-11 Resolution by Schwartz and Pastor, approving the minutes of the 1,693rd Regular Meeting of the Council held November 16, 2011.

A roll call vote was taken on the foregoing resolution:

AYES: Pastor, Meakin, Laura, Toy, Schwartz, and McCann.
NAYS: None.
PRESENT: Brosnan.

AUDIENCE COMMUNICATION: None.

The following resolutions were offered by Pastor and Meakin:

#386-11 Approving a request, submitted by Rene Eid, 17675 N. Laurel Park, Livonia, MI 48152, for a Massage Apprentice Permit in accordance with Chapter 5.49 of the Livonia Code of Ordinances, as amended.

#387-11 Approving a request, submitted by Kayla Phill, 38127 Summers, Livonia, MI 48154, for a Massage Therapist Permit in accordance with Chapter 5.49 of the Livonia Code of Ordinances, as amended.

#388-11 Accepting a proposal submitted by BS&A Software, 14965 Abbey Lane, Bath, MI 48808, for annual service and support fees in connection with the Equalizer Internet Tax/Assessment System for the period November 1, 2011 through October 31, 2012 in the amount of \$18,020.00 per year.

#389-11 Approving a three year extension of the existing contract with Brendel's Septic Tank Service, LLC, 9481 Highland Road, White Lake, MI 48386, for providing portable toilet service at their 2007 bid prices, with a \$5.00 per unit reduction for monthly handicap units, for the City's 2012 through 2014 season. (CRS 348-10 and 165-07)

#390-11 Appropriating and authorizing an additional expenditure in an amount not to exceed \$107,872.19, for additional items required in connection with the Fire Station #1 and Livonia Police Department Parking Lot improvements; FURTHER, authorizing an additional expenditure in the amount of \$80,742.02 to be paid to Nagle Paving Company, 36780 Amrhein, Livonia, MI 48150, for this purpose; FURTHER, authorizing an additional expenditure in the amount of \$27,130.17 to Spalding DeDecker, Inc. 905 South Blvd. East, Rochester Hills, MI 48307, for professional services. (CR #204-11)

#391-11 Appropriating and authorizing an additional expenditure in an amount not to exceed \$9,319.17, for additional construction engineering costs and additional sprinkler and landscaping charges in connection with the Five Mile Resurfacing from Farmington Road to Merriman Road. (CR #271-06)

#392-11 Authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk, for and on behalf of the City of Livonia, to execute a QBS Contract Amendment between the City of Livonia and Orchard, Hiltz and McCliment, 34000 Plymouth Rd, Livonia, MI 48150, to provide Design Services and Construction Engineering Services for the Rennolds' Ravine Streambank Stabilization Project (RXB-14) in an amount not to exceed \$40,500.00 with the opportunity to have 50% of the costs paid for as part of a grant by Wayne County; FURTHER, the City Engineer is hereby authorized to approve minor adjustments in the work, as it becomes necessary. (CRS 323-11, 292-11 and 209-11)

#393-11 Approving the site plan submitted by West Bay Exploration Company, to drill an oil and gas exploration well on the Schoolcraft College campus, located at 18600 Haggerty Road, subject to conditions. (Petition 2011-10-08-11)

#394-11 Implementing Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 54 for FY ending November 30, 2011, and providing that revenues received by the Cable Television Special Revenue Fund except those restricted for PEG use, would be committed solely for use of providing cable access television.

#395-11 Approving the policy for spending prioritization of Community Recreation Fund Balances.

A roll call vote was taken on the foregoing resolutions:

AYES: Pastor, Meakin, Laura, Toy, Brosnan, Schwartz, and McCann.
NAYS: None.

Toy gave **FIRST READING** to the following Ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 020 AND 030 OF TITLE 15, CHAPTER 16 (FIRE PREVENTION CODE) OF THE LIVONIA CODE OF ORDINANCES, AS AMENDED.

Pastor gave **FIRST READING** to the following Ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 30 OF THE ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF LIVONIA AND AMENDING ARTICLE III OF ORDINANCE NO. 543, AS AMENDED, KNOWN AND CITED AS "THE CITY OF LIVONIA ZONING ORDINANCE" BY ADDING SECTION 3. THERETO. (Petition 2011-07-01-04 and CR 381-11)

#396-11 Resolution by Meakin and Pastor, granting a rent modification for George Murphy's wherein the monthly rent would be reduced from December, 2011 to March, 2012 and would be increased for the months of April, 2012 to July, 2012.

A roll call vote was taken on the foregoing resolution:

AYES: Pastor, Meakin, Toy, Brosnan, Schwartz, and McCann.
NAYS: Laura.

#397-11 Resolution by Schwartz and Brosnan, approving rental adjustments for City-owned scattered site properties, effective March 1, 2012.

A roll call vote was taken on the foregoing resolution:

AYES: Pastor, Meakin, Toy, Brosnan, Schwartz, and McCann.
NAYS: Laura.

#398-11 Resolution by Schwartz and Brosnan, approving rental adjustments for Newburgh Village, effective June 1, 2012.

A roll call vote was taken on the foregoing resolution:

AYES: Pastor, Meakin, Brosnan, Schwartz, and McCann.
NAYS: Laura and Toy.

#399-11 Resolution by Schwartz and Pastor, approving rental adjustments for Silver Village, effective June 1, 2012.

A roll call vote was taken on the foregoing resolution:

AYES: Pastor, Meakin, Brosnan, Schwartz, and McCann.
NAYS: Laura and Toy.

#400-11 Resolution by Meakin and Pastor, unanimously adopted, approving Petition 2011-10-08-10 submitted by Manoogian Manor, to construct additions and remodel the exterior of the facility located at 15775 Middlebelt Rd., subject to conditions.

#401-11 Resolution by Schwartz and Pastor, unanimously adopted, accepting a cash donation in the amount of \$500.00 from Livonia Moose Lodge for the purposes as designated by the donor.

AUDIENCE COMMUNICATION: None.

By Schwartz and Meakin, unanimously adopted, adjourning this 1,694th Regular Meeting of the Council of the City of Livonia at 8:35 p.m. on November 30, 2011.

TERRY A. MARECKI
CITY CLERK

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

NO. 2877

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 6 OF THE ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF LIVONIA AND AMENDING ARTICLE III OF ORDINANCE NO. 543, AS AMENDED, KNOWN AND CITED AS "THE CITY OF LIVONIA ZONING ORDINANCE" BY ADDING SECTION 3.3798 THERETO.

THE CITY OF LIVONIA ORDAINS:

Section 1. The report of the City Planning Commission, dated October 26, 2011, setting forth its resolution 10-59-2011 recommending approval of Petition 2011-10-01-07, having been considered by the Council, and the Council having conducted a public hearing on November 9, 2011, on said petition, and having concurred in the recommendation of the City Planning Commission, the Council hereby adopts said Petition 2011-10-01-07, to amend the Zoning Ordinance and Zoning Map of the City of Livonia and all proceedings heretofore conducted on said petition are hereby approved.

Section 2. Article III of the City of Livonia Zoning Ordinance, Ordinance No. 543, as amended, is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

Section 3.3798 Petition 2011-10-01-07, submitted by Northern Equities Group, is hereby granted, and the zoning classification of the premises hereinafter described is hereby changed from PO III to OS:

Part of Unit 2, Victor Park Place, a condominium according to the Master Deed thereof recorded in Liber 46590, page 1351, Wayne County Records, and designated as Wayne County Condominium Subdivision Plan No. 956 and any amendments thereto, together with an undivided interest in the common elements of said condominium as set forth in said Master Deed, and any amendments thereto, as described in Act 59 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 1978, as amended.

Being more particularly described as land in part of the Southeast 1/4 of Section 6, Township 1 South, Range 9 East, Wayne County Michigan;

Commencing at the South 1/4 corner of said Section 6, thence along the south line of said Section 6, N88°03'03" E. 791.00 feet; thence N 01°56'57" W. 100.00 feet to the east right-of-way line of I-275 and the north right-of-way line of Seven Mile Road; thence along the east right-of-way line of I-275 the following four (4) courses:

N 48°56'57" W. 176.78 feet;
N 01°56'57" W. 182.04 feet;
N 28°18'53" W. 214.18 feet;
N 54°41'00" W. 454.09 feet to the southwest corner of the

forementioned Unit 2;

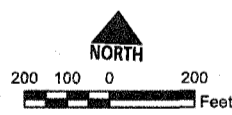
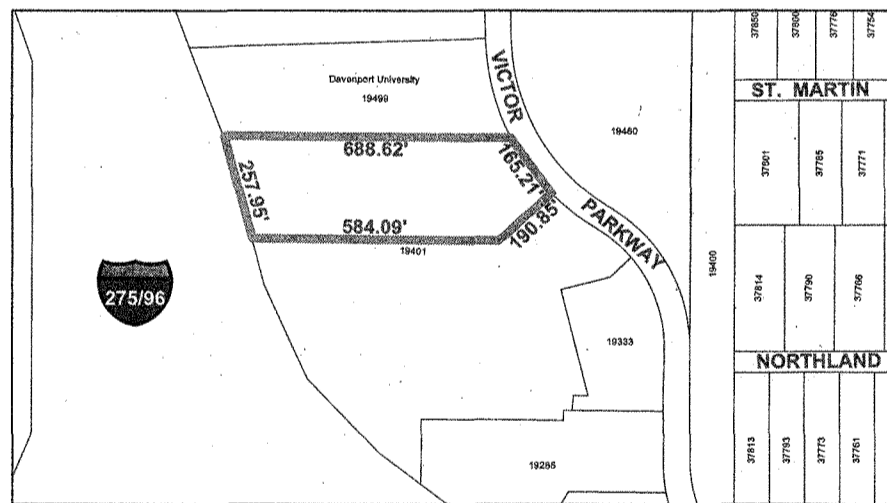
thence continuing along the east right-of-way line of I-275, also being the westerly line of said Unit 2, the following four (4) courses:

N 54°41'00" W. 67.11 feet;
N 45°10'07" W. 245.79 feet;
N 26°08'28" W. 245.79 feet;
N 16°35'10" W. 71.27 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING;

thence continuing along said westerly line N 16°35'10" W. 257.95 feet to the northwest corner of said unit 2; thence N 87°31'43" E. 688.62 feet along the north line of said Unit 2 to a point on the westerly right-of-way line of Victor Parkway (60 feet wide); thence 165.21 feet along the arc of a non-tangent curve to the left, having a radius of 550.00 feet, a central angle of 17°12'37", and a chord which bears S. 41°50'00" E., 164.59 feet; thence S. 47°26'13" W. 190.85 feet; thence S. 87°31'43" W., 584.09 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING; containing 4.00 acres of land, more or less.

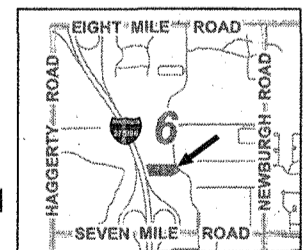
and the Southeast 1/4 of Section 6 of the Zoning Map is hereby amended to conform to the change made in this section.

BOUNDARY OF DISTRICT AS AMENDED FROM PO III, HIGH RISE PROFESSIONAL OFFICE - MAX. 12 STORIES TO OS, OFFICE SERVICES



PETITION NO. 2011-10-01-07
A PART OF THE S 1/2 OF SECTION 6

AMENDMENT NO. 933 TO THE ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF LIVONIA, MICHIGAN ORDINANCE NO. 2877
Adopted by the City Council on 11/16/11



MAYOR
CLERK

Section 3. The attached map designated "Amendment No. 933 to the Zoning Map of the City of Livonia" showing all of the amendments and changes made in the foregoing Section 6 of this ordinance is hereby approved, established and made a part hereof.

Section 4. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed only to the extent necessary to give this ordinance full force and effect.

Section 5. Should any portion of this ordinance be held invalid for any reason, such holding shall not be construed as affecting the validity of any of the remaining portions of this ordinance.

Section 6. This ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency ordinance necessary for the protection of the public health, safety and welfare and shall take effect immediately upon publication.

The above ordinance was passed at the regular meeting of the Council of the City of Livonia held Wednesday, November 16, 2011, at 8:00 p.m.

The foregoing ordinance was authenticated by me on this 17 day of November 2011.

Terry Marecki, City Clerk
Jack E. Kirksey, Mayor

Approved as to form:
Donald L. Knapp, Jr., City Attorney
Dated: November 17, 2011
Publish: December 25, 2011

HOOPS

Continued from page B1

from the side of the rim. He finished the first quarter with consecutive to-the-rack field goals and kept it rolling to start the second with four points in the opening minute. That gave him 12 of Canton's first 16 points. But Baumgart and senior forward Terrell Sewell (four points, five boards) were stymied the rest of the way. Canton's second-leading scorer was senior guard Miles Felton, with six points. Adding insult to injury, Salem's collective low-post 'D' limited the Chiefs to just three offensive rebounds for the entire game.

"The reason why Paul was easy to guard later was our ball reversal wasn't very good, we didn't move it from side-to-side," Reddy said. "They (Rocks) have good pressure defense and they got good offensive transition." Reddy lamented "silly mistakes" which hurt the chance for a rally in the nightcap of the Salem-Canton boys-girls basketball doubleheader. It was 37-34 Salem with the Chiefs at the line to shoot two in the final seconds of the third. "We miss them both and we give up a layup at the other end," Reddy said. "That's not good ball." Salem's Peterson said the Rocks came out fired up, eager to take their game up a notch from a

Dec. 16 win against Plymouth. "We knew coming into Canton (that) if we wanted to win we had to play focused and energized,"

Peterson said. "That all starts with hitting the boards. Personally, I only had four (rebounds) against Plymouth and I knew I had to step it up

as a senior to help us win this game. "I knew I'd be going up against Sewell, who is one of their top rebounders. Our goal was to put

a body on him all game and make him get frustrated." tsmith@hometownlife.com (734) 469-4128

SPARTANS

Continued from page A1

es, block shots — that win games." To compensate for their shortage of height, the Cougars need to rely on their perimeter shooting and full-court press. When the shots aren't falling like Thursday night, they can't press, which is a double-whammy. "We have to shoot the ball better than we did tonight, that's the bottom line," Garden City coach Greg Williamson said. "You're not going to beat Stevenson scoring 40-some points. Hitting our open looks should be our trademark, but the ball wasn't going in tonight. They were better than us tonight, but it wasn't due to a lack of effort on our part." Garden City (1-4) was led by senior forward Tyler Steele, who registered 12 points and half of the Cougars' six treys. Tyler Gonzales added eight, Matt Stark had seven and Tomaz McNeil scored six. "I really liked the way Matt played defense on (Campbell)," Williamson said. Carey Cobb contribut-

ed eight points and seven rebounds to the Spartans' cause. Joe Mims and Kelly chipped in with six points each. "We did a nice job getting offensive rebounds and getting to the free-throw line," Sinawi added. "We were determined to get the ball inside to take advantage of our size and we did that for the most part." Stevenson seized the lead for good late in the second quarter with a 10-0 spurt that was ignited by a strong move inside by Cobb and capped by a long Campbell triple. The Spartans stretched their lead to 33-19 early in the third before the Cougars mounted a triple-laced rally to get to within 36-30. Steele, Stark and CJ Hill all buried 'threes' during the run. However, Stevenson closed the quarter with a 10-2 run and was never threatened during the final eight minutes. Stevenson drained 12-of-20 free throws, while the Cougars were just 5-for-15 from the stripe. Garden City committed 21 turnovers. The Spartans had just 11 miscues.

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THE WEEK AHEAD

- BOYS BASKETBALL**
Monday, Dec. 26
Farmington vs. Melv. AB&T at Country Day M.S., 3 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 27
N. Farm. vs. Madison Mem. at Country Day H.S., 7:20 p.m. (Metro Tourney at Ypsilanti)
John Glenn at Ypsilanti, 1 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 28
Plym. at Kennedy, 7:15 p.m. (Northville Tourney)
Farmington vs. Milford, 3 p.m. (Franklin Holiday Tourney)
S. Lyon vs. Lakeland, 5:30 p.m.
Franklin vs. Crestwood, 7 p.m. (Chelsea Classic Tourney)
Salem vs. Brighton, 5:30 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 29
N. Farm. vs. Det. Renaissance at Country Day H.S., 12:40 p.m.
Northville Tourney, 3 or 7 p.m.
Franklin Tourney, 5:30 & 7 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 30
(Metro Tourney at Ypsilanti)
Glenn vs. G.P. South, 1 p.m. (Chelsea Classic Tourney)
Salem vs. Pinckney, 5:30 p.m.
GIRLS BASKETBALL
Wednesday, Dec. 28
(Northville Tourney)
Harrison vs. Milford, 3 p.m. (Det. Country Day Tourney)
Glenn vs. DCD, 3:40 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 29
Harrison at Northville, TBA. (Det. Country Day Tourney)
Lady. vs. Pershing, 4:40 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 30
N. Farmington vs. Chandler at Country Day M.S., TBA.
PREP HOCKEY
Tuesday-Friday, Dec. 27-29
Salem at Traverse City, TBA
Wednesday, Dec. 28
Franklin vs. W.L. Central at Edgar Arena, 6 p.m.
PREP WRESTLING
Thursday, Dec. 29
Canton Varsity Tourney, 9 a.m.
Friday, Dec. 30
Salem Varsity Tourney, 9 a.m.
MEN'S COLLEGE HOOPS
Thursday, Dec. 29
MU vs. Johnson & Wales in Denver, Colo., 8 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 30
Madonna vs. Bethany (Kan.) in Denver, Colo., 3 p.m. (CST)
Saturday, Dec. 31
S'craft at Glen Oaks, 3 p.m.
WOMEN'S COLLEGE HOOPS
Wednesday, Dec. 28
Madonna vs. Montana-Western at Las Vegas Shootout, 3 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 29
Madonna vs. Lewis & Clark (Ill.) at Las Vegas Shootout, 7 p.m.
ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE
Wednesday, Dec. 28
Whalers vs. London Knights at Compuware Arena, 2 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 30
Whalers vs. Saginaw Spirit at Compuware Arena, 7 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 31
Whalers at Windsor, 2 p.m.
TBA — time to be announced.

SYNOPSIS OF THE MINUTES OF THE 1,693rd REGULAR MEETING LIVONIA CITY COUNCIL NOVEMBER 16, 2011

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

#368-11 Resolution by Pastor and Toy, unanimously adopted, approving the minutes of the 1,692nd Regular Meeting of the Council held November 2, 2011.

President McCann announced there will be a Public Hearing for the following item to be held in the Auditorium of the Livonia City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, MI:

Monday, December 5, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

Petition 2011-10-06-01 submitted by the City Planning Commission, pursuant to Section 23.01(a) of the Livonia Zoning Ordinance No. 543, as amended, proposing to amend Subsection (a) of Section 26.04 (Permitted Uses) of Article XXVI of the Zoning Ordinance to waive the minimum three (3) story building height requirement in PO, High Rise Professional Office Districts.

President McCann announced there are several Agenda Items with new data and the Chair will receive and file them at the appropriate time.

AUDIENCE COMMUNICATION:

Marguerite Gwizdala was present on behalf of Clara Adams, 9938 Stark Road, she distributed a handout to Council on the topic of Smart Meters.

Mayor Kirksey responded by stating there are no active Smart Meters in Livonia.

Pauline HOLETON, 2392 Barclay, Shelby Township, expressed her concerns regarding Smart Meters and her wish to not have them in Livonia. She distributed a CD to Council on the subject and asked Council to adopt a resolution prohibiting Smart Meters in Livonia.

John HOLETON, 2392 Barclay, Shelby Township, read and distributed a formal legal notice of liability to Council regarding Smart Meters in Livonia.

The following items were received and filed:

Communication from the Department of Finance, dated October 20, 2011, re: forwarding various financial statements of the City of Livonia for the month ending September 30, 2011.

Communication from the Department of Law, dated November 4, 2011, re: Petition 2011-08-01-05 to rezone properties located at 19700 and 19860 Haggerty Road.

Communication from the Department of Law, dated November 10, 2011, re: Petition 2011-10-01-07 to rezone property located at 19401 Victor Parkway.

Communication from the Department of Law, dated November 14, 2011, re: the latest time a movie shall start at the AMC Theater. (Petition 2011-08-02-12)

Communication from Rich Gabbel, dated November 13, 2011, re: Petition 2011-08-02-12 for waiver use approval to utilize a Class C liquor license at 19500 Haggerty Road.

Communication from the Planning Commission, dated November 3, 2011, re: Petition 2011-07-01-03 to rezone property located at 14341 Henry Ruff.

Petition for Senior Housing at 37630 Plymouth Road received in the office of City Clerk on November 9, 2011, re: Petition 2011-07-01-04.

Communication from Patricia and Gary Seleski, dated November 9, 2011, re: Petition 2011-07-01-04.

Letter of opposition from various individuals, dated October 16, 2011, re: Petition 2011-07-01-04.

Communication from the Planning Commission, dated November 10, 2011, re: indicating that a valid protest exists. (Petition 20-11-07-01-04)

Communication from Jorgo Stojanov, dated November 12, 2011, re: Petition 2011-07-01-04.

Communication from Patricia and Gary Seleski, dated November 16, 2011, re: Petition 2011-07-01-04.

Communication from Jason McMahan, dated November 14, 2011, re: Petition 2011-07-01-04.

The following resolutions were offered by Meakin and Pastor:

#369-11 Authorizing the City Treasurer to petition the Circuit Court for the County of Wayne to cancel delinquent personal property taxes that the City has deemed as being unable to collect after five years; in accordance with provisions of State Statute.

#370-11 Authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk for and on behalf of the City of Livonia, to execute the Fiscal Year 2012 Municipal Credit Contract between SMART and the City of Livonia for the period July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012, with all Credits to be used for the Livonia Community Transit Program.

#371-11 Authorizing the purchase of 300 buckets of Pulsar Briquettes from B & B Pools and Spas, 29440 Six Mile Road, Livonia, MI 48152, for a price of \$105.00 per bucket for a total price of \$31,500.00 through November 30, 2012, for use at the Community Recreation Center, Botsford, Clements Circle and Sheldon Pools; FURTHER, authorizing an expenditure of \$31,500.00. (CR 316-10)

#372-11 Accepting the unit price bids meeting all specifications of Allgraphics Corporation, 28960 E. King William Dr., Farmington Hills, MI 48331, for 11 items of clothing; and Kelgraphics, 110 W. River St., Cadillac, MI 49601, for 8 items of clothing; and Active Embroidery & Silkscreen, 19643 Prince Dr., Macomb, MI 48044, for 1 item of clothing; and World of Promotions, 1310 Louis Ave., Elk Grove Village, IL 60007, for 1 item of clothing, to supply Parks and Recreation Department for the 2012 Fiscal Year; FURTHER, authorizing the purchases from budgeted funds.

#373-11 Approving an increase in Greens Fees for Fox Creek, Idyl Wyld and Whispering Willows Golf Courses, effective December 1, 2011.

#374-11 Approving an increase in Outdoor Swim Lesson Fees, effective December 1, 2011.

#375-11 Referring the subject of Title 15, Chapter 51 (Vacant and Abandoned Structures) of the Livonia Code of Ordinances to the Committee of the Whole for its report and recommendation.

A roll call vote was taken on the foregoing resolutions:
AYES: Schwartz, Pastor, Meakin, Laura, Toy, and McCann.
NAYS: None.

Toy gave **SECOND READING** to the following Ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE VACATING PORTIONS OF STREET, ALLEY AND PUBLIC GROUND. (CRS 289-11, 337-11 and Petition 2011-08-03-02)

A roll call vote was taken on the foregoing Ordinance:
AYES: Schwartz, Pastor, Meakin, Laura, Toy, and McCann.
NAYS: None.

Meakin gave **FIRST READING** to the following Ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 6 OF THE ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF LIVONIA AND AMENDING ARTICLE III OF ORDINANCE NO. 543, AS AMENDED, KNOWN AND CITED AS "THE CITY OF LIVONIA ZONING ORDINANCE" BY ADDING SECTION 3. THERETO. (Petition 2011-08-01-05)

Pastor gave **FIRST READING** to the following Ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 6 OF THE ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF LIVONIA AND AMENDING ARTICLE III OF ORDINANCE NO. 543, AS AMENDED, KNOWN AND CITED AS "THE CITY OF LIVONIA ZONING ORDINANCE" BY ADDING SECTION 3. THERETO. (Petition 2011-10-01-07)

Pastor invoked the **EMERGENCY CLAUSE** and gave **SECOND READING** to the foregoing Ordinance, and a roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Schwartz, Pastor, Meakin, Laura, Toy, and McCann.
NAYS: None.

#376-11 Resolution by Meakin and Schwartz, unanimously adopted, approving plans submitted by Northern Equities Group on behalf of Infineon Technologies in connection with Petition 2011-10-08-09, to construct an office building at 19401 Victor Parkway, subject to conditions.

#377-11 Resolution by Pastor and Toy, approving an increase in membership fees for the Livonia Community Recreation Center effective December 1, 2011.

A roll call vote was taken on the foregoing resolution:
AYES: Pastor, Meakin, Laura, Toy, and McCann.
NAYS: Schwartz.

#378-11 Resolution by Pastor and Meakin, unanimously adopted, referring the subject of Livonia Community Recreation Center membership fee increases to the Public Safety, Education and Recreation Committee for its report and recommendation.

#379-11 Resolution by Meakin and Schwartz, approving Petition 2011-08-02-12, waiving the 1,000 foot separation requirement to utilize a Class C liquor license in connection with a multi-screen movie theatre (AMC Livonia 20), located at 19500 Haggerty Road, subject to conditions.

A roll call vote was taken on the foregoing resolution:
AYES: Schwartz, Pastor, Meakin, Laura, and McCann.
NAYS: Toy.

#380-11 Resolution by Schwartz and Meakin, unanimously adopted, approving Petition 2011-07-01-03, submitted by Kucyk, Soave and Fernandes, P.L.L.C., for a change of zoning of property located at 14341 Henry Ruff.

#381-11 Resolution by Pastor and Meakin, approving a change of zoning of property located on the SE of Sec. 30, from RUF to R-9, in connection with Petition 2011-07-01-04; FURTHER, instructing the City Planner to cause the necessary map for publication to be prepared indicating the zoning change and provide same to the Department of Law for their preparation of an ordinance amending Ordinance 543.

A roll call vote was taken on the foregoing resolution:
AYES: Pastor, Meakin, Toy and McCann.
NAYS: Schwartz and Laura.

#382-11 Resolution by Pastor and Toy, unanimously adopted, referring Petition 2011-07-01-04 to the Committee of the Whole for its report and recommendation.

#383-11 Resolution by Pastor and Toy, directing that a closed Committee of the Whole meeting be held for the purposes of discussing pending litigation matters and attorney/client privileged communications with respect to 20255 and 20555 Development Assoc., LLC v City of Livonia.

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

#384-11 Resolution by Pastor and Schwartz, directing that a closed Committee of the Whole meeting be held for the purposes of discussing pending litigation matters and attorney/client privileged communications with respect to Wertman v City of Livonia.

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

AUDIENCE COMMUNICATION:

Pauline HOLETON, 2392 Barclay, Shelby Twp., said people should be allowed their time to speak and Ms. Adams letter should have been read into the record.

Jeff Lytle, 11891 Newburgh Road, asked where he could obtain occupancy statistics for the Livonia Senior Housing. President McCann told Lytle to contact the Council Office.

John HOLETON, 2392 Barclay, Shelby Twp., expressed his concern regarding time constraints for audience members to address Council. He feels Smart Meters should be addressed in more depth and at length.

President McCann stated he has been more than fair allowing members of the audience to have their time to speak.

By Meakin and Schwartz, unanimously adopted, adjourning this 1,693rd Regular Meeting of the Council of the City of Livonia at 9:20 p.m. on November 16, 2011.

TERRY A. MARECKI
CITY CLERK

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

Publish: December 25, 2011

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CITY OF LIVONIA PUBLIC NOTICE

AGENDA Zoning Board of Appeals

January 10, 2012 - 7:00 p.m.
Livonia City Hall - Gallery (5th Floor)
33000 Civic Center Drive
Livonia, MI
(734) 466-2259

APPEAL CASE NO. 2011-12-56 (Tabled on December 13, 2011): Dennis Twichell, east side of Berwick (11036) between Elmira and Orangelawn, seeking to erect a privacy fence adjacent to a chain-link fence, which double fencing is not allowed, and also not obtaining approval from the adjacent property owners, which is a requirement.

Public Comments may be sent to the Zoning Board of Appeals Office at 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, MI 48154 - all comments must include name, address and signature.

Publish: December 25, 2011

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Hawks rally for 1st victory to lead sweep at Shootout

Farmington Harrison made a stirring second-half comeback to earn its first girls basketball victory of the season Wednesday defeating Walled Lake Central, 41-34, in the Walled Lake Northern Shootout.

The Hawks (1-4) were held to two second-quarter points and 10 in the first half. They turned it around in the second, limiting Central to no more than seven points in a quarter while outscoring the Vikings, 31-12.

"There are three things we talk about in practice every day — rebound, take care of the basketball and defend," Harrison coach Tim Micklash said. "In the second half, we did a better job of that than we have all year, and a lot of good things happened because of it."

"We went back to basics, running our motion offense and our press. The girls executed things much better in the second half. They kept competing and battling; there was no quit in anybody."

Freshman center Kyla Roland scored all 12 of her points in the third quarter to spark the comeback. She also had eight rebounds and six steals.

"She really took a lot of steps forward," Micklash said. "She had a fantastic third quarter that helped us get back in the game and take the lead. For a freshman, she really grew up a lot tonight."

Tiera Parker led the Hawks with 14 points; Joslyn Wilcox and Marissa Cotton added four apiece. Parker also had five steals, Wilcox and Cotton five rebounds and four steals each.

Kara Birrell netted 15 points for the Vikings (1-4). Harrison won despite

making only 9-of-23 free throws; Central was 7-of-10 at the foul line.

GLENN 64, BELLEVILLE 51: Junior guard ShaKeya Graves pumped in 20 points and sophomore Kaira Barnes added 19 Thursday as Westland John Glenn (4-1) turned back the Tigers (3-1) in a non-conference encounter.

"It was nice to get a victory after an emotional loss Tuesday (56-53 versus Inkster) and I thought our players responded well," Glenn coach Eric Kovatch said.

Purdue University-bound Joslyn Massey also added 12 points for the Rockets, who led 19-6 after one period and 29-20 at halftime.

Jalisa Harris paced Belleville with 11 points.

Glenn made 12-of-15 free throws on the night, while Belleville was 6-for-9.

STEVENSON 41, GARDEN CITY 19: Senior guard Molly Knoph's 14 points carried Livonia Stevenson (4-1) to a non-conference win Thursday over the visiting Cougars (3-3).

Rachel Wilkinson chipped in with 10 points for the Spartans, who led 13-2 after one quarter and 23-7 at halftime.

Justice Dean and Abby Joseph scored 10 and six, respectively, for Garden City.

"Our shots weren't dropping tonight," said GC head coach Barry Patterson. "On Tuesday night when we played probably our best game of the season, we made four threes in the first quarter. After we fell behind (23-7 at the half), our defensive effort started lagging a little bit. Hopefully we can get untracked over the break."

EDSEL FORD 48, FRANKLIN 30: On Thursday, Dearborn Edsel Ford (7-1) jumped out to a 17-5 first-quarter advantage en route to a non-league victory over host Livonia Franklin (1-4).

Marie Gaedke and Rachel Waligorski paced the Thunderbirds with 16 and 12 points, respectively.

Julie Magdowski paced the Patriots, who shot only 6-of-20 from the foul line, with 12 points.

"Edsel Ford played very well and they're very well-schooled," Franklin coach Bob Ostrowski said. "We had a lot of turnovers in the first half and dug ourselves a hole."

After trailing 40-17 after three quarters, the Patriots

outscored Edsel 13-8 during the final period.

N. FARMINGTON 53, W.L. WESTERN 31: The Raiders (4-1) established a 32-13 lead at halftime and coasted home in the second half Wednesday to beat Walled Lake Western in the Walled Lake Northern Shootout.

North had balanced scoring from Megan Keller (10 points), Jasmine Harris (nine), Jessica Carruthers (eight), Megan Carter (seven) and Kaitlyn Kendall (six).

Harris also had 15 rebounds, Kendall six; Keller had six steals, Carter three. The Raiders were 11-of-19 at the foul line.

"The end of the first and the whole second quarter were the key, when we were able to get some steals and easy buckets," North coach Tim Carruthers said. "The kids played a very solid game defensively and rebounded very well."

"It was a nice win in a great idea of a shootout that we, hopefully, will continue to do with our Walled Lake neighbors. We used to play all the time in the old days, so it was good to play them again."

FARMINGTON 48, W.L. NORTHERN 35: The Falcons (3-6) made it a three-game sweep for the Farmington schools in the Walled Lake Northern Shootout with a win Wednesday over the host Knights (1-4). North Farmington also defeated Western.

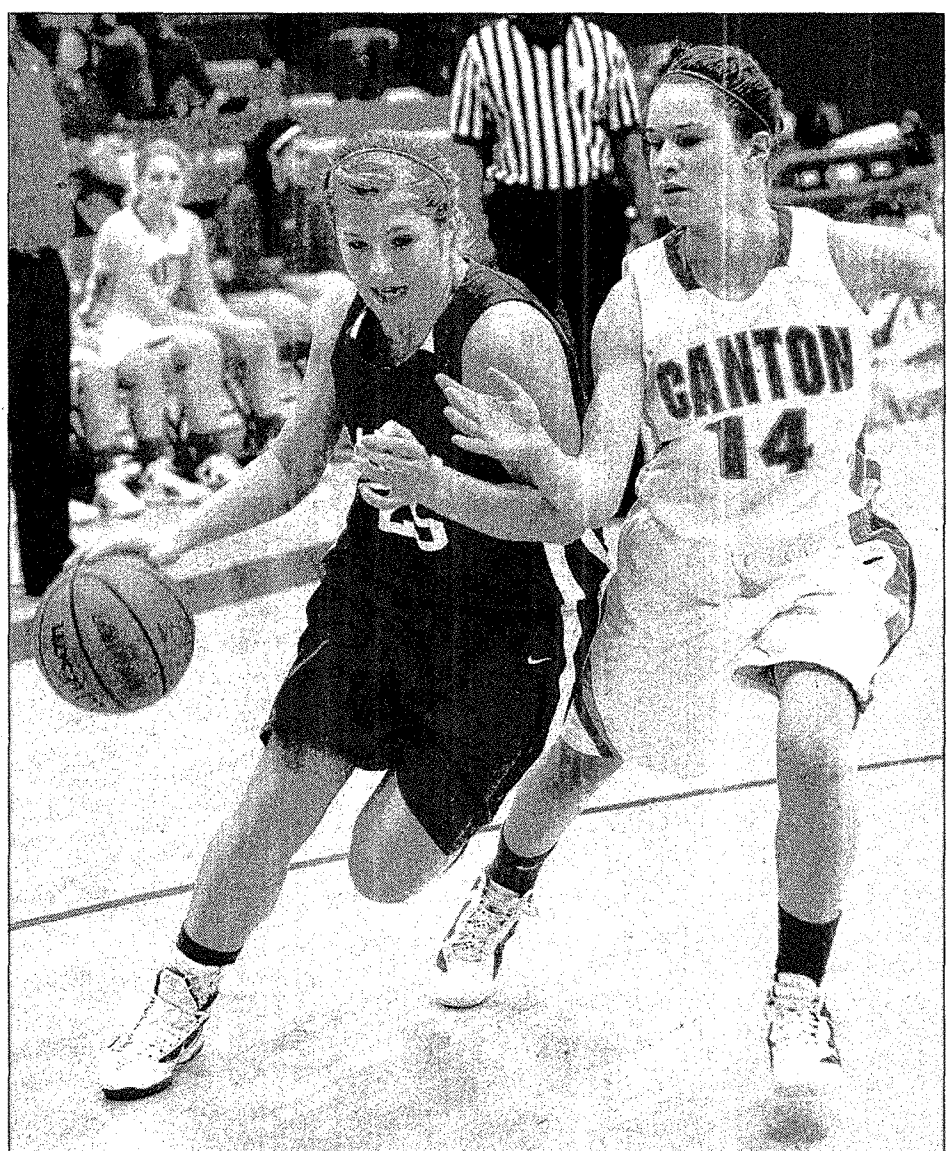
Farmington was down at halftime, 24-19, but it dominated the second half and outscored host Northern, 29-11.

"Their point guard got in foul trouble (in the second half); she runs the show for them," Falcons coach Dave Browne said. "That helped us, but we started playing better fundamental defense."

"We did a lot of spectating on defense in the first half. In the second half, we started locking it down a lot better on defense."

Farmington was led by Aaron Howell's double-double of 20 points and 16 rebounds (11 in the second half). Cherrish Willis scored 11 points and Raven Williams 10. The Falcons sank 17 of 25 free throws.

Caitlin Crowley and Maria Ropak had 12 points apiece for the Knights (1-4), who were 11-of-17 at the foul line.



Salem's Kelly Whalen (No. 25) moves toward the basket despite defensive pressure from Canton's Paige Aresco (No. 14).

Mack sparks Canton to victory

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

The "Mack Attack" helped Canton cut down Salem 46-22 in a Wednesday night girls basketball matchup.

Salem trailed just 11-7 after the first quarter of the KLAA crossover, the opener of a Chiefs-Rocks basketball twinbill at Canton High School.

But Canton senior point guard Robyn Mack opened the second quarter hitting a trey from the right corner.

Then, after Salem's Ashley Baker responded with a triple, Mack came right down the floor to connect on another 3-ball — from the left corner this time — to help the Chiefs open up a 19-10 spread.

Canton (5-0) clicked on all cylinders after that, with a 21-5 edge in the second opening up a commanding 32-12 lead. Mack scored 12 of her 19 points in that frame, which all but settled the score for the contest.

"Mack really got going and I thought she sort of keyed us and we got running from there," Canton head coach Brian Samulski said. "I thought it was

a good team effort, good balance.

"I'm really proud of the way this group is defending, and all the credit Veteran Salem coach Fred Thomann, whose young team dropped to 0-5, called the game part of the learning process.

"We got a lot of young kids, when you play a lot of young kids that's what happens," Thomann said. "You're going to have some ups and downs."

"When you're playing against a good team like this, you find out real quick how hard you have to play and how smart you have to play and all those good things."

Thomann credited the Chiefs for playing solid team defense and making their open shots.

Conversely, he lamented that the Rocks were not able to score when they had chances to.

Salem's leading scorer was guard Katelynn Krause, with seven points. Forward Breanne Beaver tallied three points and four rebounds while Kelly Whalen scored four.

In addition to Mack, Canton's balanced offense featured eight points from guard Rachel

Winters (who also had four steals). Chipping in with four each were Paige Aresco and Kelsey McDougall.

Seamless

Samulski said his players "should feel good about themselves" for finishing the pre-Christmas portion of the schedule undefeated. Canton lost a handful of standout players from last year's Class A state semifinalist. But the transition has been smooth so far.

"As long as we come in, work hard, defend and rebound, I think good things are going to happen," he added.

But Samulski said a big test awaits the team when it returns to action in two weeks. On Tuesday, Jan. 3, the Chiefs visit Inkster and follow up with a home game on Friday, Jan. 6 against Westland John Glenn.

"They're the two best teams on our schedule," he said. "We got to continue to get better, continue to work and keep pounding it out."

Salem's next game is set for Jan. 6 at Northville.

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ICERS

Continued from page B1

ning streak snapped.

North-Harrison dominated the second period. Zak (13:50) and Ladouceur (13:25) put the Flyers on top, and Ladouceur's second goal (7:57) made it 3-1 at the break. Ladouceur scored again at 13:25 of the third period and Zak at 7:57.

"I told the guys, 'We have to work hard-

er and show more grit,' and that's what we did," Anderson said. "We went out there in the second period with a purpose and got it done."

Farmington pulled goalie Josh Cliff in the third and, with the sixth attacker, got two goals by Mike Manzo (2:42) and Zach Massa (1:14). Mark Prokes assisted on the first, Cooper McLean and Mike McLeod on the second. The sides were even for every goal except Zak's second, which

resulted from a five-on-three power play.

Ben Colenso, Stephen Coulter, Shane Moran, Eamon Devlin and Nicholas Goguen had one assist apiece for the Flyers, who are 2-1 in the OAA Red Division.

North-Harrison goalie Keith Ladouceur faced 28 shots, Cliff 34 for Farmington (2-2 in the OAA Red), which had two goals disallowed in the third period. The referee ruled the puck went in after the whistle.

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Help Wanted-General

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to clean hallways in apartment complexes. Day work. Located in Livonia. Starting pay \$8.48/hr. Call Mon-Thurs. 8:30-2:30pm. 734-427-4343

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Help Wanted-General

ACCOUNTANT I (Part Time)
The City of Wayne is accepting applications to establish an Accountant I (Part Time) eligibility list. Salary Range: \$22-\$25/hour Approx. 20-30 hrs/week.

RESPONSIBILITIES: General ledger accounting activity, preparation of basic journal entries, maintenance of financial records and reports.

QUALIFICATIONS: Requirements include a Bachelor's degree in Accounting or an Associate degree in Accounting with a minimum of two years of government accounting experience and one year experience with computer applications incl. spreadsheets and word processing applications.

Applications may be picked up in the: City of Wayne City Hall 355 S. Wayne Rd. Wayne, MI 48184. An application form is also available on our website: www.ci.wayne.mi.us/personnel.html. Applications must be completed in its entirety and on file in the Personnel Dept. by 4:30p.m. on January 12, 2012. No faxed or e-mailed applications will be accepted. No resumes will be accepted without written application form.

The City of Wayne 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

CLEANERS, Full-Time for area homes. \$10/hr. start. No nights/weekends. Car req. Plymouth. 734-812-5663

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 on BlackBerry devices. Utilize MATLAB prog skills to develop leading edge algorithms which improve speech communications in noisy environments. Write a simulation model of each algorithm subcomponents using MATLAB language. Assist in the development of embedded s/ware solutions form MATLAB algorithms. Utilize audio hiware lab equipment using wireless techs. Perform var acoustical objective & subjective speech quality tests. Reqs: MS deg in Elect Engng. Mail resume specifying job title & Req #M61015 to Research in Motion Corporation (US), PO Box 141394, Irving, TX, 75014-1394

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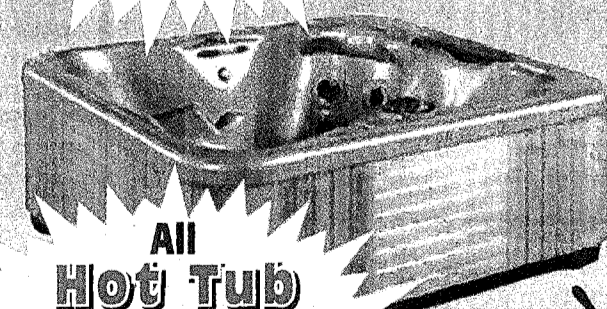


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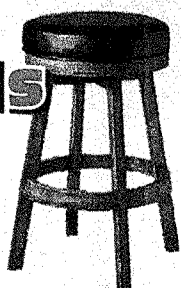
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Less-invasive surgery treats esophageal cancer

'Tis the season for turkey, gravy, pie and heartburn.

Overindulging during the holidays may trigger more acid reflux, but prolonged reflux can lead to Barrett's disease and a form of esophageal cancer called adenocarcinoma. The incidence of esophageal adenocarcinoma has increased by 350 percent over the last decade, making it the most rapidly increasing malignancy among white males.

"People who have ongoing gastro-esophageal reflux, which is backwash of acid from the stomach into the esophagus, for years and years, expose the lining of the esophagus to this bombardment of acid," said Dr. Mark Orringer, professor of surgery in the Section of Thoracic Surgery at the University of Michigan Health System.

"The esophagus was never meant to hold up to acid, and with unremitting acid reflux over the years, that lining gets burned, and can have significant implications."

Patients with Barrett's or esophageal cancer may require an esophagectomy — the removal of the esophagus. The University of Michigan performs a less-invasive esophagectomy called transhiatal esophagectomy (THE). Originally, an esophagectomy was performed through a chest incision.

Today the minimally invasive procedure has a high patient survival rate. U of M performed



its 3,000th procedure this month.

How it works

"It has long been known that esophagectomy is an operation that has a tremendous physical impact on the patient," Orringer said. "Many years ago the esophagectomy operation, the traditional operation done through the chest, carried upward of a 20 percent mortality rate; 1 out of 5 patients would die as we attempted to try to provide them comfortable swallowing and allow them to eat for the remaining time that they had left."

"With the advent and the refinement of the transhiatal esophagectomy, the death rate from the procedure, is under 1 percent at the U-M."

U of M developed and refined transhiatal esophagectomy, which involves removing the diseased

esophagus and rebuilding it. The procedure is performed through an incision in the neck and the abdomen and eliminates the need to open the chest — an approach still used at some health centers.

Hospitals that perform six to 10 esophagectomies a year are considered high volume. U-M Health System performs 120 to 140 such surgeries each year.

Reflux and obesity

Orringer said reflux is at epidemic levels in the United States and is related to obesity.

"Some widely available potent acid-reducing drugs such as H2 blockers and proton pump inhibitors can absolutely turn off acid production by the stomach — and virtually eliminate heartburn. Unfortunately, patients often feel that when the heart-

burn's gone, the problem is gone," Orringer said.

Patients who have had their esophagus burned repeatedly by stomach acid for years and years have an increased incidence of developing cancer, and the Barrett's lining is the first sign of serious complications.

Barrett's is diagnosed by placing a lighted scope in the esophagus, called an esophagoscopy, and performing a biopsy of the lining of the esophagus which is an 11-inch long tube that runs from the throat to the stomach. The esophagus carries swallowed food to the stomach for digestion.

"Barrett's is not predictable and has to be followed to see if it's developing any of the signs of malignancy or a change to cancer, and that's not related to whether you have heartburn or not," he said.

If heartburn becomes worse than normal, or patients begin having difficulty swallowing, a condition called dysplasia, it can indicate that something more serious is going on in the esophagus than heart burn from overeating rich foods and holiday treats.

"A little bit of heartburn between Christmas and New Year's isn't going to kill us from cancer, but prolonged heartburn because we overeat, we eat late at night, we sit in front of the television and have a snack before we lay down at night with a full stomach, or are overweight, is an issue to be aware of," he said.

Play it safe with holiday lights, trees

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), there are more home structure fires in the cooler months than any other time of year. As pine needles begin to drop on living room carpets, NFPA is offering suggestions for safe storage and removal of holiday decorations.

"It's not uncommon to see residents keeping lights and Christmas trees up past December," stated Lorraine Carli, vice president of communications for NFPA. "The reality is, continued use of seasonal lighting and dried-out Christmas trees can pose significant fire hazards in and outside the home."

Although Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur, they have a higher chance of being deadly. NFPA recommends getting rid of the tree when it's dry. Dried trees should not be kept in the home, garage, or placed outside against the home.

In 2005-2009, holiday lights and other decorative lighting were involved in an annual average of 150 home fires, eight deaths, 14 related injuries, and \$8.5 million in direct property damage. To reduce the risk of holiday light fires and keep equipment in good condition for next year, fol-

low these storage suggestions:

- To unplug electric decorations, use the gripping area provided on the plugs. Never pull the cord to unplug a device from electrical outlets. That can harm the cord's wire and insulation and even lead to an electrical shock or fire.

- As you're putting away electrical light strings, take time to inspect each for damage. Throw out light sets if they have loose connections, broken sockets or cracked or bare wires.

- Don't place a damaged set of lights bagged into the storage box for next year's use.

- Wrap each set of lights and put them in individual plastic bags, or wrap the lights around a piece of cardboard.

- Store electrical decorations in a dry place where they won't be damaged by water or dampness. Also, keep them away from children and pets.

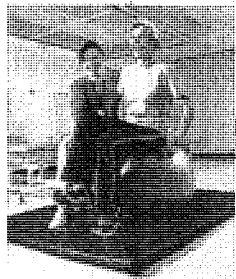
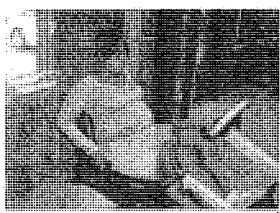
NFPA and the U.S. Fire Administration are working together to remind everyone that home fires are more prevalent in winter than in any other season. Learn more about the organizations' joint safety campaign, "Put a Freeze on Winter Fires" at www.nfpa.org.

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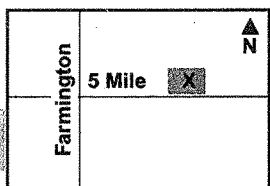


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Thursday, January 19, 7 p.m.
Call 734-655-8950 to register or for more information.
Location: Bailey Center in Westland
- **Center for Joint Replacement Seminar**
Guest speaker David Mendelson, MD
Thursday, January 26, 6 p.m.
Call 734-655-2345 to register or for more information.
- **Michigan Bariatric Institute Seminar**
Guest speaker Tallal Zeni, MD
Thursday, February 2, 6 p.m.
Call 877-WHY-WEIGHT to register or for more information.
- **"Stay Awake" Series:
Insomnia and Sleep Hygiene**
Guest speaker Punitha Vijayakumar, MD
Neurologist and Board Certified Sleep Specialist
Thursday, February 9, 7 p.m.
Call 734-655-4640 to register or for more information.
- **Let's Talk: Heart Health**
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Wednesday, February 15, 6 p.m.
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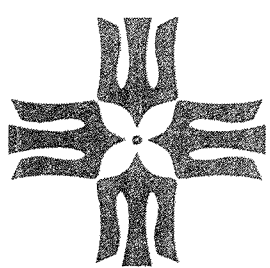
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From Baptist to Orthodoxy Priest celebrates first Christmas as pastor of Livonia church

By Sharon Dargay
O&E Staff Writer

Spiritually speaking, the Rev. John Wehling has spent most of his 43 years searching for a home.

He found it eight years ago in the Orthodox priesthood, a calling that brought the married, father of three and his family to Livonia in July.

Wehling will celebrate his first Christmas as pastor of Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church this Sunday, Dec. 25, amid incense and icons, in a markedly different way than he did as a Methodist minister just 12 years ago.

The Orthodox liturgy won't look or sound like anything he experienced as an evangelical teenager, growing up in a Southern Baptist home.

"In some ways, the liturgy is very traditional. Some people call it formal, but I don't like that word because it sounds stodgy," Wehling said. "You feel very much at home in the liturgy. But there's a real sense of reverence and holiness, so that you're not too comfortable. We do believe the Eucharist is the body and blood of Christ. You feel the presence of God. You really are conscious of the presence of God."

Byzantine-style icons painted in eye-popping colors on the walls, ceiling and around the altar, visually maintain that presence and remind parishioners of their communion with the saints. Christ is



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
The Rev. John Wehling will celebrate his first Christmas service at Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church this weekend. He transferred from a small church in Green Bay, Wisc. to the Livonia church in July.

everywhere in the Biblical scenes that adorn the church. Church fathers and mothers, prophets and apostles, line the nave walls.

"There's a very strong sense in the Orthodox church, that the church on earth is united with the church in heaven. When an Orthodox Christian stands in church and you're surrounded by icons, you have a real visual sense that you are praying to the Lord with all those who have gone before you. In Hebrews, it talks about how we have to run the race and cross the finish line to the kingdom of God. We're in the stadium sur-



Detail on the walls of Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church in Livonia, depict saints and Bible stories. This one is Jesus Christ and the children.

rounded by the witnesses who are cheering us on."

Long journey
When Wehling started

running his own spiritual marathon, friends rather than saints, witnessed his faith transformation. "I grew up in a small

town called Towanda, just 20 miles outside of Wichita. I was raised Southern Baptist and I started going to the Methodist church while I was in high school. We didn't have a lot of kids in the Baptist church I was attending and most of my friends went to the Methodist church."

As a teenager he got involved in the charismatic movement and learned about missionaries who smuggled Bibles into Russia. It was the kind of life he envisioned for himself, but his pastor counseled him to pursue college first.

He entered Central College, a small Christian school, where he met Anne

Marie Edwards, an evangelical Christian and a Royal Oak native who grew up in Holly. They married during their sophomore year in 1989, had their first child a year and a half later and then moved to Kentucky where Wehling entered the seminary. After seminary he returned to Kansas to pastor a Free Methodist Church. He stayed in the job for four years.

"It was at that time I began to read about the ancient church. I was frustrated and there were a lot of reasons. But I was disaffected by certain things. In the evangelical church as a whole, there was an emphasis on church growth almost like marketing the church. Worship services were becoming more like rock concerts. I was put off by these sorts of things and at the same time I was reading the writings of the church fathers. The more I explored, I had to choose. I was really drawn to the Orthodox tradition.

"I was smitten by the Orthodox church and I couldn't very well become Orthodox and be a Protestant pastor."

A new faith

Wehling said his wife also was moving toward Orthodoxy, but at a much slower pace. She questioned his plan to quit his job, leave his faith and move the family to Spring Arbor where they would

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Cost of service is a pricey subject

Many years ago when I began working as a fraud investigator with the attorney general's office and with Detroit Consumer Affairs, the service industries charged homeowners a service call and a certain labor rate while on the job.

In order to rip off consumers, they very often exaggerated the cost of parts used to unbelievable amounts and that is where I might have entered the picture. It was tough for them to steal using deceit with their labor because they usually told homeowners how much they charged per hour and people knew how much time they spent doing the work.

I remember the days when I used to charge \$29.95 for a trip to your home and \$10 for every 15 minutes in your home or \$40 per hour. I thought it was the fairest way to do it, but I must confess I wasn't getting rich, although I was making a lot of friends.

Then the auto industry adopted the precious rate book which dictated a cost factor to be charged to auto owners for every conceivable job done in auto repair.

This was proving to be very profitable for the auto industry and so other industries grabbed a hold of the concept to increase their bottom lines. This includes electricians, heating and air conditioning companies, plumbers, home improvement personnel and many others including many appliance repair companies. I never agreed with the price book method and after the industry lost some 10,000 service companies across the country, many others with my old-fashioned ideas changed their minds and went to the price book. I still don't agree with how they do it now but I have never been a good business man-

ager right from the start.

These companies are making money today and who can argue with the almighty dollar? Just about every part replacement for your appliances has a set dollar figure beside it. Under the Appliance Repair Act of Michigan the service company is required to give you an estimate of what the cost will be for repairs. A control replacement is so much, a door gasket, water pump, etc., are all set at a certain rate and I think the only thing positive out of all this is that everyone is now charging pretty much the same prices.

Where this system falters is when a consumer feels gouged and it happens quite often. The service technician replaces a part which the homeowner has purchased themselves and presents a bill for \$402. Now, the consumer is not stupid. They come to realize that this guy charges a lot of money for his labor but the guy didn't do anything wrong. He just went by the price book. If I was this guy who apparently did the job in much less time than is normal, I'd go hide in the basement and make pounding noise or offer to check out other appliances as a courtesy to the homeowner. I certainly couldn't hold my head up high after I collected payment.

These companies spend a lot of money in many different forms of advertising to garner new customers. They often shoot themselves in the foot by alienating a customer with their price book, but who am I to argue? They continue to grow, to employ the workforce and be successful and go with the flow. It might just be that the compassionate service technician is a thing of the past. You are the customer of today and I don't want to excuse the high price of service. I just thought you deserved an explanation. Stay tuned.

Joe Gagnon can be heard at 8 a.m., Saturdays on WAAM 1600. You can e-mail your problems and questions on appliances to appldr@twmri.rr.com



Appliance Doctor

Joe Gagnon

Learn about dementia at monthly series

Botsford Commons Senior Community will offer a monthly series beginning in January 2012 about dementia.

The program, Developing Meaningful Connections with People Experiencing Dementia, is part of the Botsford University Education Program for Families. It will start at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2012. The session will be repeated on Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2012. The remaining sessions for the year will be held on the second Tuesday of each month, starting Feb. 14, 2012.

Planned topics include normal aging memory changes vs. causes of dementia, differences between Alzheimer's disease and dementia, understanding brain

changes, person-centered care, building a rapport with people with dementia, understanding and preventing challenging behaviors, and visiting people with dementia. Guest speakers will present periodically throughout the series.

After the informational part of the evening, guests may attend the Botsford Commons' Alzheimer's Support Group.

The sessions are free of charge and will be held in the chapel on the Botsford Commons campus at 21440 Archwood Circle, located between Middlebelt and Orchard Lake Road, north of Eight Mile, south of M-5 and Grand River Ave., in Farmington Hills. For more information, call (248) 426-6902.

Ray Bradbury book talk set in Livonia, Garden City

Pageturners, a book discussion group that meets at Schoolcraft College, will focus on *Fahrenheit 451*, by Ray Bradbury, next month.

The group meets at 4 p.m. Monday, Jan. 23, 2012, and again at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 24 in the Bradner Library on the college's main campus on Haggerty, between Six Mile and Seven Mile, in Livonia. It meets at 4 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 26, 2012 at the Radcliff Center, 1751 Radcliff Street, Garden City.

Fahrenheit 451 is set in a bleak, dystopian future.

Guy Montag is a fireman. In his world, where television rules and literature is on the brink of distinction, firemen start fires rather than put them out. His job is to destroy the most illegal of commodities, the printed book, along with the houses in which they are hidden. One day Montag meets a young girl who demonstrates to him the beauty of books, of knowledge, of conceiving and sharing ideas; she wakes him up, changing his life forever. Written in 1951, *Fahrenheit 451* was made into a movie in 1966 starring Oskar

Werner and Julie Christie.

The movie will be shown and discussed at 10 a.m. Thursday, January 26, 2012, in the McDowell Center on the main campus in Livonia. *Fahrenheit 451* is available from the Schoolcraft College Bookstore at a discount.

The book discussions, and movie screening and discussion are free and open to the public. For more information about Pageturners' future book selections and discussions, visit <http://sites.google.com/site/scpageturners>.

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OWNER: Alan Kaufman, KHA Associates

B. ZBA CASE: 1-12-5436
LOCATION: 21120 Halsted
PARCEL I.D.: 23-32-301-034 ZONE: RA-1
REQUEST: A variance from the requirement that nursery schools, day nurseries, and day care centers, are subject to the following condition: 1. At least one side lot line of the zoning lot abuts an RC, SP, MH, OS, B, ES, IRO, LI-1, or P-1 district or a site occupied by a use other than one-family residential in an RA or RP district.
CODE SECTION: 34-53(a) (4)
APPLICANT: Jillian Hukill
OWNER: Gerald F. Keating Trust

Approval of Minutes

DOORS OPEN AT 7:00 PM
A site visit may be held on Sunday, January 8, 2012, 9 a.m.
Meet in City Hall Lobby
No action is taken on site visits

NOTE: Anyone planning to attend the meeting who has need of special assistance under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is asked to contact the City Clerk's Office at 248-871-2410 at least two (2) business days prior to the meeting, wherein necessary arrangements/accommodations will be made. Thank you.

Publish: December 25, 2011 0206763062 3x17.5

**CITY OF FARMINGTON
OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN
RESOLUTION NO. 12-11-212
AMENDED RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A CORRIDOR
IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY (CIA) FOR GRAND RIVER AVENUE**

At a meeting of the City Council of the City of Farmington, Oakland County, Michigan, held on the 19th day of December, 2011, at the City Hall, 23600 Liberty Street, Farmington, Michigan 48335.

The following resolution was offered by Councilmember Kuiken and seconded by Councilmember McShane:

WHEREAS, the City of Farmington has determined that it is in the best interest of the public to redevelop its commercial corridors to promote economic growth, mixed uses, well-designed and environmentally-responsible development, historic preservation, attractive streetscapes and landscapes and new opportunities for pedestrian access, consistent with the City Master Plan;

WHEREAS, the City of Farmington recommends the implementation of a strategy that includes the creation of a Corridor Improvement Authority, which would support community goals, encourage consistent investment in public infrastructure across jurisdictions, attract private investment, and make available a number of additional financing tools;

WHEREAS, the City of Farmington Hills has declared and adopted a formal resolution of intent to establish a Corridor Improvement Authority;

WHEREAS, the City of Farmington declares its intent to work with the City of Farmington Hills to develop and adoption an agreement to jointly operate the Corridor Improvement Authorities to be established by each separately, as enabled by and pursuant to the Act;

WHEREAS, the City of Farmington has facilitated, with the City of Farmington Hills, a series of meetings and discussions about the establishment of a Corridor Improvement Authority with business owners, key stakeholders and interested citizens along the corridor and throughout both communities;

WHEREAS, the City of Farmington portion of the proposed development area includes primarily commercial uses on either side of Grand River Avenue, from Mayfield Street to Cora Avenue, as shown on the attached map;

WHEREAS, the City of Farmington staff has determined that the proposed development area as identified on the attached map meets the following criteria in Section 5 of the Act for the establishment of development areas:

1. It is adjacent to or is within 500 feet of a road classified as an arterial or collector according to the Federal Highway Administration Manual, "Highway Functional Classification - Concepts, Criteria and Procedures".
2. It contains at least 10 contiguous parcels or at least 5 contiguous acres.
3. More than 50% of the existing ground floor square footage in the development area is classified as commercial real property under section 34c of the general property tax act, 1893 PA 206, MCL 211.34c.
4. Residential use, commercial use, or industrial use has been allowed and conducted under the zoning ordinance or conducted in the entire development area, for the immediately preceding 30 years.
5. Is presently served by municipal water and sewer.
6. It is zoned in a manner that allows for potential mixed-use development, including high-density multiple-family residential use, pursuant to the City's planned Unit Development (PUD) ordinance.
7. The City agrees to all of the following:
 - a. To expedite the local permitting and inspection process in the development area
 - b. To modify its master plan to provide for walkable non-motorized interconnections, including sidewalks and streetscapes throughout the development area.

WHEREAS, the Act requires that before creation of the Authority, City Council hold a public hearing in order to provide an opportunity for those living in and around the boundaries of the Authority, the City Assessor, representatives of the affected taxing units, the residents, and other taxpayers of the City's general public appear and be heard regarding the creation of the authority;

WHEREAS, all notice requirements of the public hearing were met and such public hearing was held May 16, 2011;

Whereas, consideration of this resolution occurred not less than 60 days after the May 16, 2011 public hearing;

NOW, THEREFORE, RESOLVED, as follows:

1. The Farmington Grand River Corridor Improvement Authority (referred to in this Resolution as the "Authority") is hereby created and established pursuant to the provisions of Act No. 280 of the Public Acts of 2005, as amended (referred to in this Resolution as the "Act").
2. The Authority shall be under the supervision and control of a board (referred to in this Resolution as the "Authority Board") consisting of the Mayor of the City or his or her assignee and six (6) other members appointed by the Mayor in accordance with the Act, and subject to the approval of the City Council. Not less than one member of the Authority Board shall be a resident of the Grand River Corridor Development Area or an area within one-half mile of any part of said area, and not less than a majority of the members shall be persons having an ownership or business interest in property located within the Farmington Grand River Corridor Development Area. The members of the Authority Board shall hold office and the Authority Board shall conduct itself in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Act. Before assuming the duties of office, a member shall qualify by taking and subscribing to the constitutional oath of office. The Authority Board shall elect a chairperson from its members.
3. The City Council hereby designates the boundaries of the Corridor Improvement Authority development area (referred to in this Resolution as the "Farmington Grand River Corridor Development Area") as designated on the attached Development Area Description Exhibit, which is hereby incorporated as part of this Resolution by reference. The boundaries of the development area are subject to alteration or amendment as the City Council may deem appropriate in the future, subject to limitations provided by law.
4. The Authority shall adopt bylaws governing its procedures and rules regarding the holding of its meetings, all in accordance with Section 8(3) of the Act, and other applicable provisions in the Act and any other applicable statute. The Authority shall immediately forward a copy of its proposed bylaws and rules to the City Council in care of the City Clerk. Such bylaws and rules, and amendments thereof, shall be subject to the approval of the City Council.
5. The Authority shall have the powers and duties as provided by and in accordance with the Act. The Authority shall not have power to: (a) Borrow money and issue bonds or notes without the approval of the City Council; or (b) Condemn private property.
6. The City of Farmington hereby declares its intent to work with the City of Farmington Hills to develop and adopt an inter-local agreement to jointly operate the corridor improvement authorities, as enabled by and pursuant to the Act.
7. The Clerk of the City is hereby directed to file a certified copy of this Resolution with the Secretary of State promptly after its adoption and to publish this Resolution in a newspaper of general circulation in the City.

AYES: Kuiken, McShane, Buck, Cowley, Galvin.
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: None.
ABSTENTIONS: None.

The resolution was adopted.

Susan K. Halberstadt, City Clerk

Publish: December 25, 2011 0206763062 3x17.5



**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF REDFORD
NOTICE OF PROPOSED STATEMENT OF
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES AND
PROJECTED USE OF FUNDS**

The Charter Township of Redford expects to receive approximately \$785,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds during the 2012 federal fiscal year. It is anticipated that the Township will also receive approximately \$114,552 in Program Income funds.

The Township has a projected budget of \$900,000 during the Fiscal Year 2012-2013. Said recommendations will be submitted to the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The Advisory Committee published a Public Notice and Initial Proposed Statement of Community Development Objectives and Projected Use of Funds in the Redford Observer on November 20, 2011. The statement gave notice of a public hearing on November 29, 2011 requesting written views and proposals from interested citizens unable to attend said public hearing. The public hearing was set in order to receive comments on the proposed recommendations for the Year XXXVIII Submission of the Action Plan for FY 2012-2013.

The Township is making available to the general public the draft of the Action Plan 2012-2013. A copy is available for examination and comment for a 30 day period. Copies of the document will be available for review at the following locations:

- Community Development Department, 12121 Hemingway, Redford, MI 48239
- Redford Township Clerk's Office, 15145 Beech Daly, Redford, MI 48239
- Redford Township District Library, 25320 W. Six Mile Road, 48240
- Redford Township Website, www.redfordtwp.com

Comments from the public are welcome and may be submitted to the Community Development Department, 12121 Hemingway, Redford, MI 48239, throughout the thirty day public comment period, December 25, 2011 through January 23, 2012, until 4:30 P.M.

After due consideration, the Community Development Block Grant Citizen's Advisory Committee is recommending to the Township Board of Trustees on proposed spending of Block Grant funds as indicated below.

These recommendations take into consideration the following objectives and general range of activities which have been previously incorporated into the Redford Township 10-Year Neighborhood Strategy Areas (NSA) Plan, based on eligible community development needs of Redford Township. The Plan is available for review at the Community Development Department, 12121 Hemingway, Redford, Michigan, Monday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES

1. A place where property values are protected and enhanced.
2. A place where government provides outstanding services – efficiently and effectively.
3. A diverse community that celebrates its population – a mixture of income levels, race, religions, ethnicity and special needs populations.

PROJECTED USE OF FUNDS

PROJECT ACTIVITY	PROPOSED BUDGET
NSA-1 (THE AREA BETWEEN SEVEN MILE & EIGHT MILE AND INKSTER AND FIVE POINTS)	
Code Enforcement.....	\$ 75,000
Enforcement of the Township Building and Ordinance Codes in order to eliminate negative blighting influence which result from the lack of implementing said codes.	
Neighborhood Watch.....	\$ 500
Neighborhood block groups working together with the police department to aid the police department to aid the reduction of crime.	
Sidewalk Improvements.....	\$ 65,000
Improvements to sidewalks, including handicap access and assistance to income eligible families.	
NSA-2 (GENERALLY, THE AREA BETWEEN PURITAN & GRAHAM AND NORBORNE TO TELEGRAPH)	
Code Enforcement.....	\$ 75,000
See NSA-1 description.	
Neighborhood Watch.....	\$ 500
See NSA-1 description.	
Street Paving – Puritan Street.....	\$ 50,000
Funds to repair and/or the replacement of damaged pavement along Puritan Street between Delaware Street and Fox Street.	
NSA-3 (GENERALLY, THE AREA BETWEEN PLYMOUTH & THE C&O RAILROAD AND INKSTER & TELEGRAPH)	
Code Enforcement.....	\$ 20,000
See NSA-1 description.	
Redford Senior Center Improvements.....	\$ 10,000
Building improvements to the senior citizen center.	
TOWNSHIP-WIDE	
Dial A Ride.....	\$ 50,000
Provides free transportation to Redford seniors and disabled populations enabling them to live independent lives.	
Housing Rehabilitation.....	\$ 140,000
Revolving Loan Fund/Deferred Payment Loan for eligible low/moderate income homeowners to rehabilitate single family homes. Applications are taken on a first come/first serve basis. Waiting list involved.	
Neighborhood Economic Revitalization.....	\$ 10,000
Loans for facade improvement and code items for businesses in eligible target areas.	
Redford Inter-Faith.....	\$ 10,000
Subsidize the operation of a food pantry and emergency assistance program for low and moderate income families within the community.	
Senior Citizen Programming.....	\$ 2,000
Fund activities and programming at senior center and staffing for Meals on Wheels Program.	
Site Clearance.....	\$ 100,000
Demolition and site clearance of structures that pose a threat to the health and welfare of the public.	
Street Paving – Section 108 Loan.....	\$ 50,000
Payment of Section 108 Loan to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the paving of gravel roads in eligible CDBG areas.	
Tree Planting Program.....	\$ 1,000
Removal and replacement of trees in eligible areas, in conjunction with County government.	
Youth Services.....	\$ 66,000
Substance abuse prevention and juvenile diversion program.	
General Administration/Planning.....	\$ 180,000
Oversight, management, monitoring and coordination of the CDBG Program.	
TOTAL.....	\$ 900,000

Note: Additional dollars generated from Program Income will be used to fund Housing Rehabilitation, Sidewalk Improvements, Site Clearance and Community Center Improvements.

FINAL STATEMENT AMENDMENT POLICY

- I. Substantial changes requiring amendments to Program Year Final Statements include the following:
 1. The funding of new eligible activities not previously described in the published Final Statement including published Alternate budget activities.
 2. Substantial change in the targeted beneficiaries, purpose, scope and location of an activity. For example, if an activity is mainly targeted to benefit Senior Citizen Housing, a Final Statement Published Amendment would be required before those funds could be utilized for a non Senior Housing group. If certain streets and sidewalks are targeted for paving in the Published Final Statement, adding or deleting said streets would be considered a substantial change.
 3. Not considered a substantial change would be line item program year budget changes from one previously published activity to another previously published budget activity, provided the aggregate amount of line item transfers would not exceed twenty-five percent (25%) of the annual entitlement of the program year involved plus amounts budgeted for contingencies.
 4. Any other changes required by Federal Law and Regulations.
 - II. Prior to action by the Charter Township of Redford Board of Trustees to amend a Final Program Year Statement, a minimum of seven (7) days notice of such proposed action shall be published in the Official Township newspaper for the purpose of providing citizens an opportunity to comment on such proposed changes in its use of funds.
- Amended Final Statements with the proposed changes would then be published in the Official Township newspaper and then submitted to D-HUD in a manner consistent with Federal Law and Regulations.

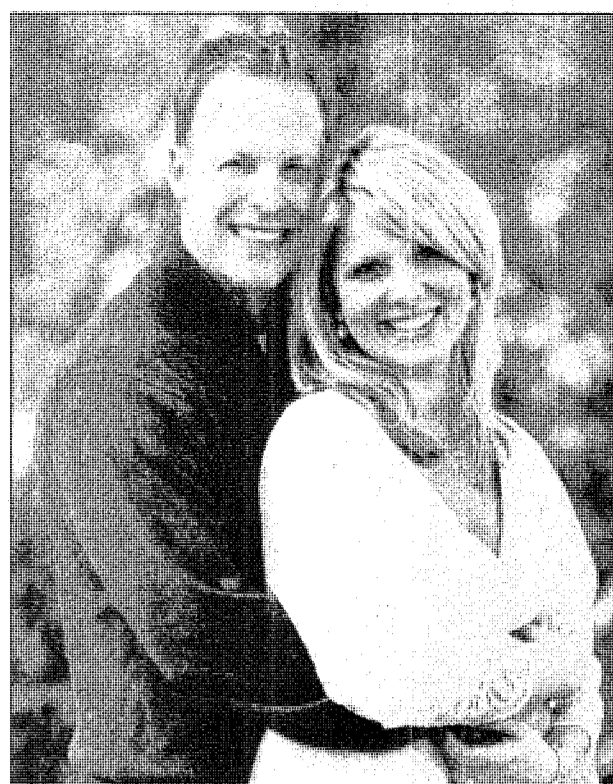
The Charter Township of Redford does not intend to voluntarily displace any persons as a direct or indirect result of the above-proposed CDBG funded activities. Notwithstanding the aforementioned statement, the Township has been required by Public Law 98-181 to prepare a Plan for minimizing the displacement of persons as a result of CDBG funded activities and for assisting persons involuntarily displaced as a result of said activities. A copy of this plan is on file and available for review at the Community Development Department, 12121 Hemingway, Monday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

It is anticipated the Redford Township Board of Trustees will take action on the Proposed Statement and Projected Use of Funds at the regular meeting scheduled for January 24, 2012 at 7:00 P.M. at Township Hall, 15145 Beech Daly, Redford, Michigan 48239.

Information concerning Community Development Block Grant expenditures is on file at the Community Development Department, 12121 Hemingway, Redford, Michigan 48239 and can be reviewed Monday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

GARTH CHRISTIE, Clerk
Charter Township of Redford

Milestones



Servinsky-Ketelhut

Mr. and Mrs. Garry Servinsky, of Northville, are delighted to announce the engagement of their daughter, Marissa Lyn Servinsky, to Bryan James Ketelhut of Bloomfield Township. The bride-to-be is a graduate of North Farmington High School and a graduate of Western

Michigan University. The groom-elect is a graduate of West Bloomfield High School and a graduate of Pennsylvania State University. An autumn 2012 wedding is scheduled for the couple that met by chance in Dallas, Texas two years ago.



Matthew and Joyce Schack of Farmington Hills on their wedding day in 1961.

50th wedding anniversary

Matthew and Joyce (Schmeeckle) Schack of Farmington Hills will mark their 50th wedding anniversary on Dec. 30. They were married in 1961 in Elwood, Neb. Their children are Alan Schack of Sturgis; Victoria Schack-Child of Chevy Chase, Md.; Jennifer Schack-Simmons of Kawaheha, Hawaii; Pamela Schack-Vlahakis of Birmingham; and Jonathan Schack of Northville. They also have five grandchildren. Matthew is employed by IBM and Joyce works for the Henry Ford Estate. The couple enjoys singing in the church choir at Christ Our Savior Church in Livonia. They plan to renew their vows and celebrate with family and friends.

STATE OF MICHIGAN,
PROBATE COURT,
COUNTY OF WAYNE,
File No. 2011-772213-DE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
Estate of JEFFREY W. BALOGH, Deceased,
Date of Birth: May 6, 1962.
NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
The decedent Jeffrey W. Balogh, who lived at 26372 Margareta, Redford, Michigan died October 29, 2011. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Lynn M. Linderman, named personal representative or proposed personal representative, or to both the probate court at 1305 Caymc, Detroit, MI 48226 and the named/ personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
Date: December 19, 2011
Personal Representative:
Lynn M. Linderman,
7242 Oak Tree Court,
Canton, MI 48187.
Telephone No.: (734) 377-7342
Publish: December 25, 2011

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Livonia priest recognized for Santa role

The Rev. Joseph Marquis (AKA "Bernie"), pastor of Sacred Heart Byzantine Church in Livonia, was inducted Thursday into the Santa Claus Hall of Fame in Santa Claus, Ind.

Marquis is known for his many appearances as Santa Claus in the nationally broadcast Thanksgiving Day Parade in the 1970s and 80s in downtown Detroit.

Noted for his authentic, and historically-informed portrayals of the famous Christmas fig-

ure, Marquis has portrayed Santa Claus and St. Nicholas in this region for the past 40 years. He still works as Santa and is regularly seen each year at Bronners in Frankenmuth, at private events, and in churches, malls and shopping centers throughout Michigan.

His professional career has garnered him numerous accolades including two Emmy Awards — an individual Emmy for his performance in the 1985 production

of *Music in Motion* on WXYZ-TV, in Detroit, and a second Emmy for the production of *Santa Goes Back in Time*, a holiday musical television special.

Marquis, the founder and executive director of the St. Nicholas Institute, was the star of the EWTN broadcast of *How St. Nicholas Became Santa Claus*.

He also has worked extensively with physically disabled children, in hospitals, and in homes for the aged.



The Rev. Joseph Marquis has portrayed Santa Claus for more than 40 years.

SANTA FABIO



Santa, played by the Rev. Joseph Marquis of Livonia, arrives at Hudson's in downtown Detroit in 1978.



ANDY GREENWELL

The Rev. Joseph Marquis of Livonia portrays Santa Claus at Bronners in Frankenmuth, at local events, in churches and malls.

REUNIONS

DETROIT MACKENZIE

CLASS OF 1962

Planning class reunion in 2012. Seeking classmates and contact information. E-mail the committee at mackenzie1962@gmail.com.

FARMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 1967

Organizers of the 45th reunion on July 21, 2012 are looking for classmates. Send your e-mail address to Susan (Himmelspach) Whittaker at

S_whittaker@comcast.net or Fred Gregg at fredge1@comcast.net to receive a reunion packet.

NORTHVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 1971-75

The classes are joining together to celebrate with a reunion on Aug. 4, 2012. Reunion organizers are searching for classmates from those years. Send your name, address, phone and e-mail to nhs40yearreunion@gmail.com. Spread the word to other class-

mates, too. The organizers will send more details after receiving your information.

WAYNE MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 1962

Looking for classmates for 50th class reunion on May 19, 2012. E-mail to Judy (Ramsey) Oleson at joleson@sbc-global.net or call her at (586) 268-1663 or e-mail to Kathy (Quinn) Hayes at bustchr@aol.com.

GARDEN & NATURE

Send garden and nature announcements to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com

Livonia Garden Club

Ron Worth, a professional from English Gardens, will demonstrate how to select a container and combine different plants and flowers to create a one-of-a-kind look at the group's next meeting, 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 3, in the Livonia Senior Center, located at Five Mile and Farmington Road. The Livonia Garden Club welcomes visitors.

English Gardens

- Learn to decorate your home with plants and flowers, 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 7, 2012. The free presentation includes information on selecting and caring for indoor plants.

- Garden experts will talk about starting flowers, vegetables and herbs from seed, 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 14, 2012. Learn which varieties work best and what's required to get the best results at this free presentation.

- Get advice on arranging flow-

ers at a free presentation, 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 21, 2012.

- Find out which plants will attract birds to your garden at a free presentation, 1 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 28, 2012.

Area stores are at 155 N. Maple, Ann Arbor, (734) 332-7900; 22650 Ford Road in Dearborn Heights, (313) 278-4433; 4901 Coolidge Highway, Royal Oak, (248) 280-9500; and 6370 Orchard Lake Road, in West Bloomfield; (248) 851-7506. For information, log onto www.English-Gardens.com.

Presentation focuses on woman's suffrage

Emily Fijol, assistant director of the Michigan Women's Historical Center and Hall of Fame in Lansing, will present *Petticoat Patriots: Stories from the Frontline of Michigan's Fight for Women's Suffrage*, 11:30 a.m., Friday, Jan. 20, 2012, at the Schoolcraft College Transition Center.

Tickets are \$20 per person and include lunch. Reservations must be made in advance by Friday, January 13, 2013.


Michigan was only the second state ever to put women's suffrage on the ballot. The Michigan Women's Historical Center and Hall of Fame in Lansing, Michigan created the exhibit *Petticoat Patriots: How Michigan Women Won the Vote* in celebration of the 90th anniversary of women's suffrage. Fijol's presen-

tation will provide guests with an opportunity to get the know some of the extraordinary Michigan women that fought for the vote, find out their stories, and discover some of the dramatic events that occurred during the almost 75-year struggle for women's suffrage.

For more information or to reserve a seat call (734) 462-4443 or visit <http://www.schoolcraft.edu/transition/documents/luncheon-petticoat.pdf>.

Proceeds from the Transition Center Luncheon Series are used to provide scholarships for Schoolcraft College students and fund the many services provided by the Transition Center.

The college is located on Haggerty between Seven Mile and Six Mile, in Livonia.



CITY OF PLYMOUTH

NOTICE TO ALL RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS IN THE CITY OF PLYMOUTH

THIS WILL SERVE AS A REMINDER of your responsibility to keep all sidewalks and driveways clear of snow and ice throughout the coming season. Snow covered walkways are not just a nuisance; even a minimal snowfall is hazardous and creates serious public safety issues. As a property owner and/or tenant your neglect exposes you to potentially dangerous and costly liability concerns.

Property Maintenance Code Section 62-89 requires every property owner and/or occupant to remove or have removed **ANY SNOW AND ICE WHICH MAY HAVE FALLEN OR ACCUMULATED WITHIN 24 HOURS OF THE OCCURRENCE**. In the case of neglect or refusal, the city may order the removal of same at the expense of the property owner, for not less than \$125.00.

Linda Langmesser, CMC
City Clerk

Publish: December 25, 2011 0E087E3977 - 3x3

PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE
CITY OF PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN
CITY HALL, 201 S. MAIN
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2012
7:00 PM
(734) 453-1234

A regular meeting of the Planning Commission will be held on Wednesday, January 11, 2012 at 7:00 PM, in the Commission Chambers of the City Hall to consider the following:

PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED REZONING OF:

RZ 11-01 909 N. Sheldon Road
Current Zoning: I-1, Light Industrial
Proposed Zoning: B-3, General Business
Applicant: Grand Sakwa

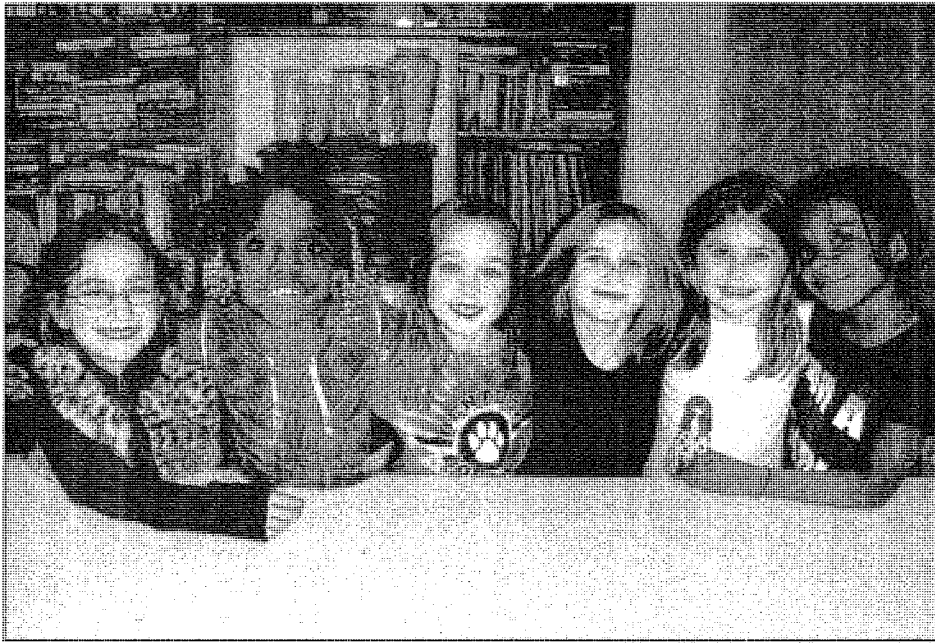
All interested persons are invited to attend.

In accordance with the Americans with disabilities Act, the City of Plymouth will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audiotapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting/hearing, to individuals with disabilities. Requests for auxiliary aids or services may be made by writing or calling the following:
Maureen Brodie, ADA Coordinator
201 S. Main Street
Plymouth, MI 48170
(734) 453-1234, Ext. 206

Publish: December 25, 2011 0E087E4003 - 3x4.5

hometownlife  com

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Girl Scout Brownie Troop #40379 from Bentley Elementary School, Canton, visit Hope Nursing Center, in Westland. They are Ava Spiteri, (left) Brooke Bowen, Isabella Ria, Sydney Hibbert, Morgan Vann and Kennedy Bowen.

Girl Scouts sell new lemon cookie, old favorites

Members of Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan, which includes troops in Canton and Plymouth, began taking orders for cookies this week.

They'll deliver pre-ordered cookies beginning February 17, 2012 and will offer cookies at booths from Feb. 17-March 18, 2012. They'll take orders through Jan. 20, 2012.

Girl Scout Brownies in Troop #40379, third graders at Bentley Elementary School in Canton, are setting high sales goals and looking into ways to use their cookie proceeds to help others.

"Our girls are excited about selling cookies at booths for the first time, and about their first camping trip next spring," stated Keisha Bowen, troop leader. "They are also considering funding a 'no more chemo' party for a child at St. Jude Children's Hospital and a math marathon at school." The troop previously helped out with bingo games and made Christmas ornaments for the residents at Hope Nursing Center in Westland.

"The girls themselves have initiated all of these projects," Bowen stated. "They are realizing that the world is bigger than their group and that they can do something to make an impact in

the world."

A new lemon cookie, Savannah Smiles, will be introduced this year to commemorate the Girl Scouting centennial in 2012. Cookies cost \$3.50 a box, and include Thin Mint, Samoa, Tagalong, Trefoil, Do-Si-Do, Dulce de Leche and Thank U Berry Munch.

Customers also may donate the price of cookies and have them sent to local food banks or to U.S. service members and their families through "Gift of Caring."

The Girl Scout cookie program, the largest business literacy program for girls in the United States, teaches Scouts five key skills — goal setting, decision making, money management, relating to others and ethical business practices. Girls also learn how to work in groups as they decide together on community service projects and troop activities to support with sale proceeds.

Girl Scout cookie proceeds support programs for girls through Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan, which serves 22,000 girls through six regional centers in 34 counties in southwest, central and northeast Lower Michigan. For more information, visit www.gshom.org or call (800) 49-SCOUT.

Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

12/25/11 B14



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Deadlines: Friday 4:15 p.m. for Sunday • Wednesday 9:45 a.m. for Thursday

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.



BRUCE, MARION E.

Age 88, December 22, 2011. Beloved wife of the late Robert for 28 years. Loving mother of Robert (Marie), David (Tracey), and Richard (Lorrie) Bruce. Cherished grandmother of nine. Dear sister of Alice St. Pierre, and Patricia (Jack) O'Malley. Funeral Wednesday 11 AM at Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, 33603 Grand River Ave., DOWNTOWN Farmington (1 blk. W. of Farmington Rd.). Visitation Tuesday 2-8 PM. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association. www.thayer-rock.com



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. 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 Dalgleish Jr., of Bloomfield Hills, MI, brother; Charles K. (Anne) Dalgleish of Vienna, VA and sister; Elisabeth Dalgleish (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.

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>



MEYER, JAMES FREDERICK

Age 77, December 14, 2011, of Livonia. Beloved husband of Meredith. Loving father of Michael, John, Daniel, Sharon Droste, David, Timothy, Andrew and Christian. Dear brother of George, Virginia and Donna Jean. Grandfather of 22. A Funeral Service was held at Ward Presbyterian Church in Northville, on Saturday, December 17, 2011. Jim was a Sgt in the US Marine Corp. serving in the Korean Conflict. He was a member of Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church since 1973. His family suggests donations to either the Marine Corp. League or Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church. Share a memory at: www.rgggharris.com

NYQUIST, EILEEN G.

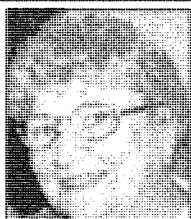
December 18, 2011 Age 93 Long time resident of Westland. Beloved wife of the late Clarence. Dear mother of Nancy (Ken) Norris, Daniel (Nancy), and Kenneth (Sue). Sister of Kay Coburn and Cissy (Tony) Krzstofik. Grandmother of six and great grandmother of twelve. Secretary with the Wayne-Westland School 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.

STEVENS, MARJORIE F.

Age 90, of Westland, formerly of Coldwater and Harlowton, Montana. Loving wife of the late James Stevens. Dear mother of Shanna (Tom) Yanity & Cheri (the late Chuck) Avigne. Also survived by four grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren & four great-great-grandchildren. Memorial services Monday, 4 pm at the Uht Funeral Home, 35400 Glenwood Rd., Westland. Family will receive friends Monday, 2-4 pm. In lieu of flowers, donations to the American Heart or Lung Associations would be appreciated. Please visit and send condolences at: 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



WESTWOOD-REOTT-SMITH, PATRICIA MARY MARGARET

Born April, 29th, 1930, passed away in Florida on Sunday, December 18th, 2011. Mother of: Dennis, Susan, Janet, Sandra, Terry, Donna, Brenda, Roger, Barbara, Joseph and their loves. Stepmother of: MaryLynn, Mardi, Timothy, William, Herbert, Mark, Jeanine and their loves. Sister to: Donald, Regis, Cornelius, Leroy, Jean, Virginia, Elaine, Richard and their loves. Also, loved by: many nieces, nephews, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and friends. Memorial Service to celebrate Patricia will be announced.

May peace be with you in this time of sorrow.

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Moxxie is a 6 year-old female who is loving and friendly. She loves car rides, going for walks, exploring new places, cuddling and playing with her foster brother. To learn more about Moxxie or other adoptable Greyhounds, call GRACE — Greyhound Retirement Adoption Care and Education — at (734) 558-4218 or e-mail to gracegreyhounds@yahoo.com. GRACE will hold a "meet and greet" for its adoptable dogs, noon-3 p.m. Jan. 15, 2012, at Petco, in Canton. It also will be on hand at the Novi Home Improvement Show, Jan. 27-28 at the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi.

RELIGION CALENDAR

Send items for the religion calendar to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com. If including a photo, it must be in jpg format, attached to the e-mail.

Dec. 25-31

CHRISTMAS SERVICES
Time/Date: 10 a.m. Dec. 25
Location: Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 28000 New Market Road, Farmington Hills
Contact: (248) 553-3380

HOLIDAY SERVICES
Time/Date: 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 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 pastorsscott@emmanuel-livonia.org

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JOURNEY

Continued from page A10

attend an Orthodox church and he would look for a job.

"If you're an evangelical and you come into this church and they are swinging a censer and lighting candles and the priest is making the sign of the cross and they are singing everything they say, it's strange. But once she began to explore it, she was sold. You know, if I went home today and said, I decided to do something else, she'd say 'Have fun. I'm Orthodox and I'm not leaving.'"

A year after the family settled in Michigan, an Orthodox bishop suggested Wehling enter Orthodox seminary. He completed his studies in Pennsylvania and was ordained in 2003. He pastored a small church in Green Bay, Wisc., for eight years, before transferring to Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church after its longtime pastor, the Rev. Michael Matsko retired in June.

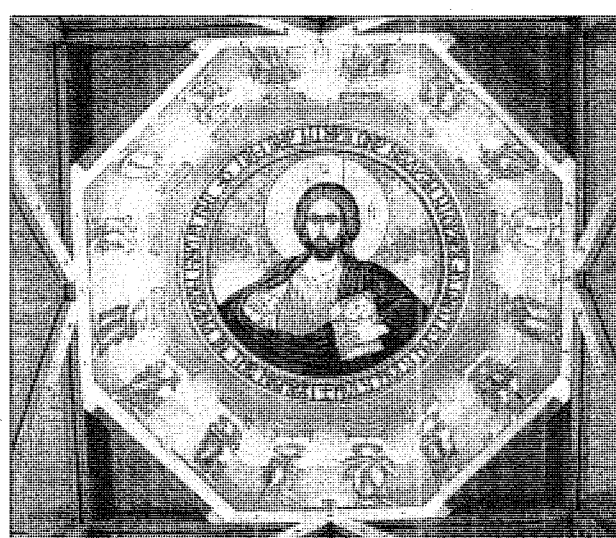
Since his arrival he has officiated at two weddings, two baptisms, a funeral and recently welcomed new converts to the faith. His homilies are delivered with preparation but without notes or talking points.

"Everything is new. Everything is a first for me right now, these feasts and fasting seasons," Wehling said. "And it's new for these folks. The priest before me, Fr. Michael, has really done all the work. I'm just stepping in."

Christmas Eve Vigil is 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 24. Christmas Day liturgy is at 9 a.m., Dec. 25. The church is located at 36075 Seven Mile.



Father John Wehling explains one of the many icons at Holy Transfiguration

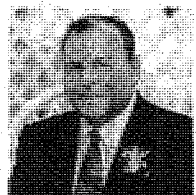


The rotunda of Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church, looking straight up from the floor below.



A detail of this ikon shows Christ on the throne, with Mary, the Mother of God and John The Baptist interceding.

In Loving Memory
..... at the Holidays



In Loving Memory Of Charles J. McPhee

October 3, 1940~October 3, 2010

Dearest Chuck,

With the second Christmas Holiday without you approaching, the feeling of your loss is still heavy within my heart. I miss your bright, warm smile and your gentle and loving nature. Your profound wisdom and guiding light will be with me forever. You were truly one in a zillion.

Love always,
Mary

OE0076284

David Harry Lynch

March 31, 1960 - October 2, 2011



My sweetheart, every day you have been gone seems like an eternity. You were the most loving husband I could have ever imagined.

You were kind and generous to everyone in your life, but I was the luckiest of all to have so many years with you by my side. You taught me the true meaning of love and friendship.

The Christmas lights will remind me of you: a bright star in my life. I know you are now in a beautiful place, and I can't wait to see you again.

I miss you and love you so much.
Your sweetheart, Angelyn

OE0076284

Deb Borst,

I miss you so very much. The hurt and pain of missing you is still so real. You are the best thing that ever happened to me. I could not have asked for more. My love for you will be everlasting. Your husband, best friend and soul mate.

Roger

OE0076343

Fran Condon

March 6, 2011



Forever in our hearts!
We love you!

Carol, John, Marcia and Marty

OE0076343

Kelly Moscarello

Aug 4th, 1978 - Dec 26th, 2010



One year ago last Christmas Eve; I prayed along the bedside of a very special, amazing friend who was fighting for her life. I held her hand in my hand as the tears rolled down my face and sadly wondered why God would take her away to heaven, a beautiful but far unreachable place. As I held her hand, I kissed her cheek; and told her it's okay, "I whispered, Kelly don't be scared, an angel will show you the way". I tried so hard to stay strong, but couldn't help but cry. I knew she earned her angel wings, and soon she'd be able to fly. Kelly an amazing friend whose smile was as bright as the moon, was taken away from all that knew and loved her, unfairly way too soon, but as angry as we all want to be, we must accept God's plans. He needed a very special angel, and placed Kelly in the palm of his hands. I will never forget our special times through the passing years. We sure enjoyed our morning coffees, shared lunches, long talks on the phone, long walks, hang outs, lots of hugs, smiles and laughter and many unforgettable tears and how you'd hand me your brush at work and say, "Sheree, will you brush my hair"? I am so proud of you Kelly, your strength, your dignity and pride. You amazed all of us with your unforgettable, courageous fight to survive! You will live forever in my heart, YOU inspire me. I will never let you go, I love you, and I miss you, My Dear Friend, Kelly Moscarello!

(Written by Sheree Hockenberg)

OE0076387

Brian Hinzman,

We think of and miss you single & esr



Ben R. Davis

One year ago today you left us.

It's hard to believe you are no longer here, We think of you, you feel so near, In some small way, every single day, Memories of you come our way.

With love,
Your family

OE0076104

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WINTER TIPS FOR SENIORS

Even if a senior is in good health, accidents happen. Falls account for the majority of emergency room visits for this age group. The resulting injuries frequently cause hospitalization that leads to deterioration of functioning and the need for physical rehabilitation.

"Treat outdoor steps to prevent black ice. Make sure walks are shoveled. Clear the porch of objects that could cause a fall," says Lyden. "Rugs also trip up the elderly, particularly when walking with walkers; use night lights after dark," said Lyden. "Families need to take an active role. Give them independence, but check on loved ones often to make sure the heat is on and they're safe and well stocked."

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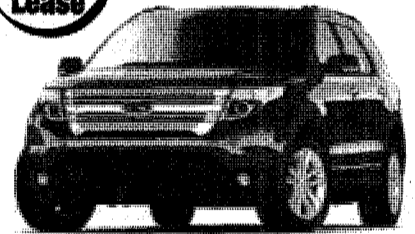
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