

Holiday closings

The 18th District Court will be closed to the public Thursday, Dec. 29, through Monday, Jan. 2.

City of Westland offices, including the Recycling Center, will be closed Friday, Dec. 30, 2011, through Monday, Jan. 2, while the library will be closed Saturday, Dec. 31, through Monday, Jan. 2. The Westland Friendship Center is also closed through Monday, Jan. 2. Trash collection will be unaffected by the holiday.

The next Westland City Council meeting will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 3, at Westland City Hall, 36601 Ford.

Contest winners

Five Wayne-Westland students have been selected as winners of an essay and poster contest depicting the district's mission statement.

Receiving oversized reproductions of their works and two Detroit Pistons tickets were essay winners Karim Gharib, a sixth-grader at Adams Upper Elementary School, and Brittany Gall, an 11th-grader at Wayne Memorial High School, and poster winners Chailyn Wacasse, a fourth-grader at Walker-Winter Elementary School, John Gatton, a sixth-grader at Adams Upper Elementary School, and Drake Carpenter, a ninth-grader at Wayne Memorial High School.

According to Bill Schwartz, the district's director of media services, the essay and posters were the students' "reflection of school in their lives."

The students were honored at the Dec. 12 school board meeting.

Office closings

The offices of the Wayne County Clerk Vitals Statistics Division and the Westland Satellite Office at 3100 Henry Ruff, north of Michigan Avenue, will be closed the first and third Monday of the month due to mandatory furlough days, beginning in January.

Upcoming closing dates are Monday-Tuesday, Jan. 2-3 and Jan. 16-17. The additional days in January are due to the New Year's and Martin Luther King holidays.

Services affected by closings are birth and death certificates, marriage licenses, assumed names, notary publics and concealed weapons.

The Northville Satellite Office at 44405 Six Mile will continue to remain open on both Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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Former employee charged with embezzling church funds

By LeAnne Rogers
Observer Staff Writer

A Canton woman has been charged with embezzling more than \$13,000 from a Westland church where she was a longtime employee.

That amount is only a fraction of the nearly \$143,000 reported missing from St. Theodore Catholic Church and allegedly used by for-



Galoch

mer book-keeper Kathleen Galoch to pay her family's personal bills, with the permission of the parish priest.

Galoch, 63, has been arraigned on a charge of embezzling over \$1,000 from a nonprofit orga-

nization — a 10-year felony. A not-guilty plea was entered on behalf of Galoch, who was freed on a \$10,000 personal bond and scheduled for a Jan. 19 preliminary examination in Westland's 18th District Court.

Employed at the parish from 1986 until earlier this year when she was laid off due to financial problems, Galoch was hired as an administra-

tive assistant, later having the job titles of parish administrator and business manager. Her duties included day-to-day book-keeping, check preparation, bank reconciliation, counting and depositing cash collected, payroll and related duties.

Once Galoch had been laid off March 31, the parish payroll was reviewed and some questionable transactions were iden-

tified. The Archdiocese of Detroit did a complete audit going back to January 1997 and reported nearly \$143,000 missing from Galoch paying herself extra wages, paying personal expenses for herself and family members and using parish funds for what were described as loans/donations to herself and her

Please see CHARGED, A2

'Very impressive'



UAW Local 900 Vice President Mike Smith shows some of the Christmas gifts members have donated for distribution to needy children.

UAW local gives back to community with charitable work

By LeAnne Rogers
Observer Staff Writer

The Goodfellows, the Lions Club, the Salvation Army, Toys for Tots, Relay for Life. The conference room walls at UAW Local 900, representing Ford Wayne Assembly workers, are completely filled with plaques of appreciation for an endless number of charitable donations and fundraisers.

A recent example was the more than \$60,000 Local 900 members raised at a golf outing and bowling event that was donated to the Westland Goodfellows.

"They raised \$18,000 years ago, which was great. Now to triple that, in worse economic times, is really an amazing amount," said John Adams, Westland Goodfellows co-chairman. "I don't have the words to truly express the gratitude for the charity that I chair. They truly made a difference."

Chaired by Bill Johnson, Local 900 members have also contributed about \$25,000 toward the construction of a new veterans memorial in Westland, helped raised money for the Lions and food drives that benefited the Wayne County Family Center and other charities.

"It's unbelievable what Bill and the folks at the local do. They are always there to help and if you need anything extra," Westland Lions Club member Ken Sharp said. "I don't think you can write too many nice things about them."

Sharp's wife Carol, who heads the Warm Hearts charitable group which assists young mothers and infants, agrees.

"I think they're awesome. It's so easy to figure out it's someone else's job. It's not just Warm Hearts — they walk on water in my view," Carol Sharp said. "We

Please see UAW, A2

W-W budget on target for 2011-12

By Sue Mason
Observer Staff Writer

The Wayne-Westland Community Schools will take in more revenue in fiscal 2011-12 and spend more, but the bottom line that was projected when its budget was adopted in June will remain virtually unchanged.

"The bottom line adjustment is about the same," said Gary Martin, deputy superintendent for administrative and business services. "There's a \$137,000 difference from the original budget and that's fairly small."

Six months into the budget year, Martin is projecting that the district will now receive \$109 million in revenue and spend \$112.7 million.

The district will use a portion of its \$12.7 million fund equity to cover the revenue shortfall, leaving it with an \$8.7 million surplus.

Helping the bottom line on the revenue side was a carryover of \$1.4 million in at-risk funding from last year, a better than expected Medicaid reimbursement of \$430,000 and in larger than expected shared time enrollment and state school aid for the William D. Ford Career Technical Center. The district has agreements with several school districts to provide vocational education at the center, which Martin called a "lighthouse type of program." The

Please see BUDGET, A2

Wild: New laws give flexibility in sharing services

By LeAnne Rogers
Observer Staff Writer

A package of bills signed by Gov. Rick Snyder aimed at removing road blocks to local governments sharing services may provide some benefit to Westland and neighboring communities.

In part, the bills eliminate requirements of maintaining prior labor contracts, seniority and benefit packages when communities move to shared services.

"I guess you can say I'm still studying them. Meeting the higher (labor) contracts was an obstacle," Westland Mayor William

Wild said. "That would give us more flexibility."

Public safety — police and fire services — is a large expense for the city and an area where city officials would like to save. But it is also one of the more complicated areas in which to make changes, Wild said.

For several years, Westland has provided dispatching services for Inkster. The city of Wayne and Garden City now have a joint dispatching operation — something Canton and Livonia have been studying. Whether Westland could join into the plan remains to be seen.

"We're having some discussions," Wild said. "We will look at (whatever Canton and Livonia do) after the first of the year."

Earlier this year, Westland and Wayne established a good neighbor program under which residents of each community can utilize recreation programs in each city at resident rates.

"Parks and Recreation is a little easier than police and fire," Wild said.

• Related bills exclude shared service contracts from being subject to a local referendum under a charter or ordinance and set funding guidelines for joint ventures.

• Another bill prohibits bargaining of agreements that limit a public employer's ability to enter into an intergovernmental agreement. The bill doesn't eliminate the ability to collectively bargain on the effect of an intergovernmental agreement that results in consolidated services.

"Local governments willing to share common services are often held back by the very laws intended to help them," Snyder said in a statement. "The reforms I have signed into law offer municipal leaders a clear path to common sense collaborations. By reaching

across historical boundary lines, dynamic communities are built and valuable taxpayer dollars are saved."

Westland, along with Garden City, Wayne, Dearborn Heights and Inkster, will soon have a final report from consultants studying consolidations of the district courts.

"We should have the final report for the court consolidation after the first of the year," Wild said. "We sent the draft report back for more work."

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CORRECTION

An story that appeared in the Thursday, Dec. 22, issue of the *Westland Observer* incorrectly attributed comments regarding U-verse to resident Judy McKinney. The comments should have been attributed to resident Donna DeWitt.

BUDGET

Continued from page A1

increased use by other districts is bringing in an additional \$250,000 this year.

On the expenditure side, the instruction increased from \$63.7 million to \$66.3 million, due in part to changes in its basic program and additional costs related to salary and benefits and final personnel placement. The changes include \$700,000 related to a 4 percent step increase in salaries and salaries related to the negotiated class overload size. The district had projected a zero increase in step increase.

The budget presentation was the last for Martin, who, along with Linda Kempton, the senior executive director of business and operations, is retiring. That did not go unnoticed by school board members who approved the budget amendment 6-1 with Trustee Andrea Clawson voting no.

"Mr. Martin, this is your last go-round, your last time presenting a budget," said board President Carol Middel. "I'm going to miss you, you've always been very patient with me."

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UAW

Continued from page A1

are a small obscure non-profit. This was the first time they helped us."

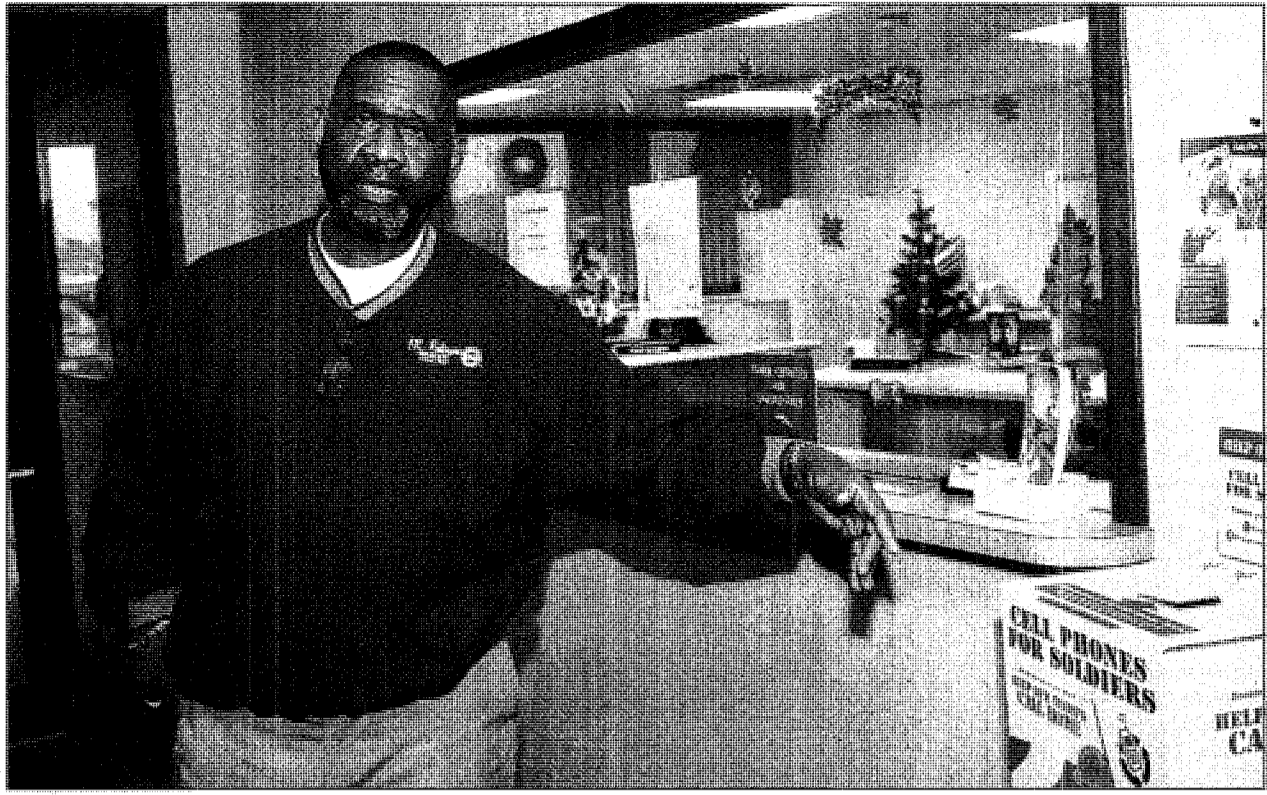
Local businessman Glenn Shaw donated space for Warm Hearts to stage its Christmas donation program. As it happened, Johnson was using space in the same building as his headquarters in a successful bid to be re-elected to the Westland City Council.

In talking with Johnson, he asked what help was needed. Turns out help was needed loading up and delivering the gifts. Johnson and some volunteers returned with trucks to deliver gifts to needy children around the metro area.

"In our culture today, in manufacturing, they like to talk that the unions have destroyed everything," Carol Sharp said. "Who else does this in the community? It's very impressive. They really give back."

No one at Local 900, which has about 3,700 members working in two plants on Michigan Avenue in Wayne, tries to take credit for the charitable efforts, especially Johnson.

"I don't think we've turned down a charity. These guys have bust-



UAW Local 900 President Anderson Robinson Jr.

ed their butts. If there is a charity, at one time another, we've participated," Johnson said. "If it has to do with children, we've got 'sucker' written on our forehead. We don't think twice."

Along with money raised and donated to the Goodfellows, Local 900 also has an Adopt an Angel program.

"We ask churches and other groups if they know of a family that needs help," Local 900 Vice President Mike

Smith said.

There always seems to be some sort of fundraiser or other charitable effort at the local and/or the plant. Along with food drives, there have been clothing drives to benefit veterans and currently used cell phones are being collected to be sold for calling cards for active military members serving overseas.

"We've had a lot of layoffs, but we still do the charities," Smith said.

"People think we're overpaid autoworkers. If they knew half what the plant does, it would knock socks off," said Johnson, who credits the efforts of the local members with the support of UAW officials and plant management. "I believe its the makeup of people in the plant. They know they have it better than a lot of people. And we get great support from businesses in the community."

It's instilled in UAW

members to give back to the community, Smith said. "It's a great feeling. People tell us they got help from the Goodfellows," he added.

The Local 900 members have been fantastic to work with each year, Adams said.

"They are motivated, intelligent guys with a drive to help. They do some fantastic fundraising," he added.

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CHARGED

Continued from page A1

relatives.

An archdiocesan representative presented the audit to Westland police seeking criminal charges against Galoch over the missing \$143,000. The audit showed checks written to pay mobile home rental fees, utilities and other expenses for

Galoch's adult son, James E. Galoch, and wages for her husband, James J. Galoch. Both men had done maintenance-type work at the parish. Personal bills were also paid for Galoch's former daughter-in-law, Shannon.

However, when Sgt. Matt Price interviewed the Rev. Gary Michalik, who had been the St. Theodore parish priest, the case became more complicated.

"The priest had verbally authorized checks to pay the son's utilities and trailer lot rent," said Price, adding other checks and payments were also verbally authorized by Michalik, who is now assigned to St. Colette Catholic Church in Livonia.

The nearly \$14,000 was identified as transactions not authorized by Michalik — loans or donations to Shannon Galoch covering

her mortgage and car payment, personal transactions for Kathleen Galoch including property tax payments, taxes owed on her personal income tax return, a traffic ticket for her son and a personal tax consultation fee.

In a statement to police, Galoch said that she worked very hard for the church, which did not pay overtime and felt she deserved extra compensation. Additional-

ly, Galoch told police she was angry at being laid off and cashed additional checks incorrectly sent to her after she was laid off.

Galoch had improperly filed her income taxes, adding money her husband earned to her income, she told police so that her husband wouldn't lose his Social Security benefits.

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On deadly blast's anniversary, store's future uncertain

By Matt Jachman
Observer Staff Writer

A year after an explosion destroyed William C. Franks Furniture, killing two employees and seriously injuring the owner, the fate of the business is uncertain.

"I'm just not there," Paul Franks said earlier this month about the future of the store, a fixture on Wayne Road since 1963. Franks, who lives in Plymouth Township, said he may soon be ready to make an announcement, but that planning is coming together "very, very slowly."

The Dec. 29, 2010, natural gas explosion, just after Paul Franks and other employees arrived for work, sent debris into Wayne Road and damaged several other buildings. The buildings on either side of the fenced-off Franks site, just north of downtown Wayne, remain closed, with signs of other establishments, such as the Hope Medical Clinic and the Northwest Alano Club, directing visitors to temporary locations.

The blast killed two Westland residents, Leslie Machniak, 54, a secretary, and James Zell, 64, a salesman. The exact cause remains undetermined.

'So desolate'

Business people in the area say that things returned to normal for their businesses within weeks, and they'd welcome Franks' return to the site.

"It's too soon for us to tell how that's going to affect us," said Bob Kaplan, the owner of Northside Hardware, of the prospect of a long-term vacant lot at the Franks site.

Northside, directly across Wayne Road, was damaged in the explosion, and Kaplan said repairs were only recently completed. The hardware store was closed for a day because of the blast, and it took a few weeks for business to return to normal, he said.

He'd like to see the furniture store return. "We think everybody would," he said.

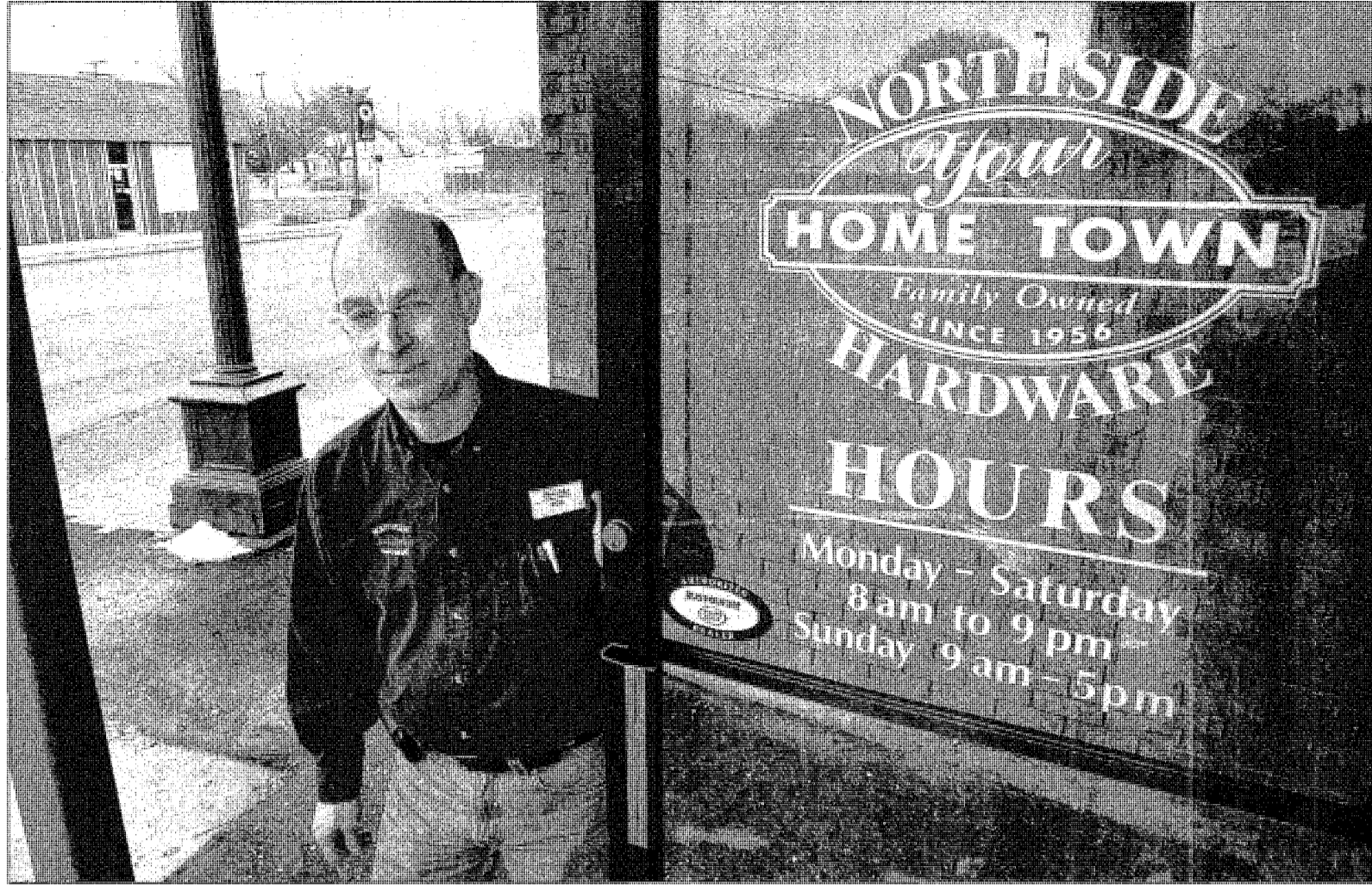
"That is just so desolate. It's like an empty shell over there," said Irene Yaklin, a cashier at the nearby Marathon gas station. "It'd be good to have all those places open again."

Yaklin said the gas station used to get a lot of business from Alano Club members, who would walk over for snacks and beverages. The club is a support and social organization for people recovering from alcohol and drug problems.

"We knew them all because they were like regular customers," Yaklin said.

On the east side of Wayne Road, just north of the Franks site, sits a nearly empty strip mall. Only a Subway sandwich shop and a Dollar Tree remain; closed are Aco Hardware, the Cantonese Village restaurant, Dollar Palace, an Armed Forces Recruiting Center and an H&R Block branch.

Aco closed within the



Bob Kaplan owns Northside True Value Hardware, across the street from the now vacant lot.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

last year, but Yaklin said her understanding is that the closure wasn't related to the explosion at Franks.

'That's their home'

Josh Justice, the day manager at Subway, said customers ask about Paul Franks on a regular basis, and that he'd welcome the store's return.

"Where else would they go? That's their home," he said. The store, launched by Paul Franks' father William, opened in 1963 and had its roots in a furniture refinishing business dating from 1946.

Justice said furniture store customers would sometimes stop in for something to eat, and that Machniak was a regular customer.

Subway sustained damage to the interior lights and ceiling tiles. Justice said things there were back to normal within a couple of weeks.

Paul Franks declined to sit down for an interview for this story, saying that without solid plans for the future of the business, "I don't think I've got enough to make it very interesting."

The store has been operating out of a warehouse on Dearborn Street in Wayne, and although shoppers are welcome, display space is limited and would-be customers are urged to call to discuss their furniture needs with sales personnel. The phone number is (734) 721-1044.

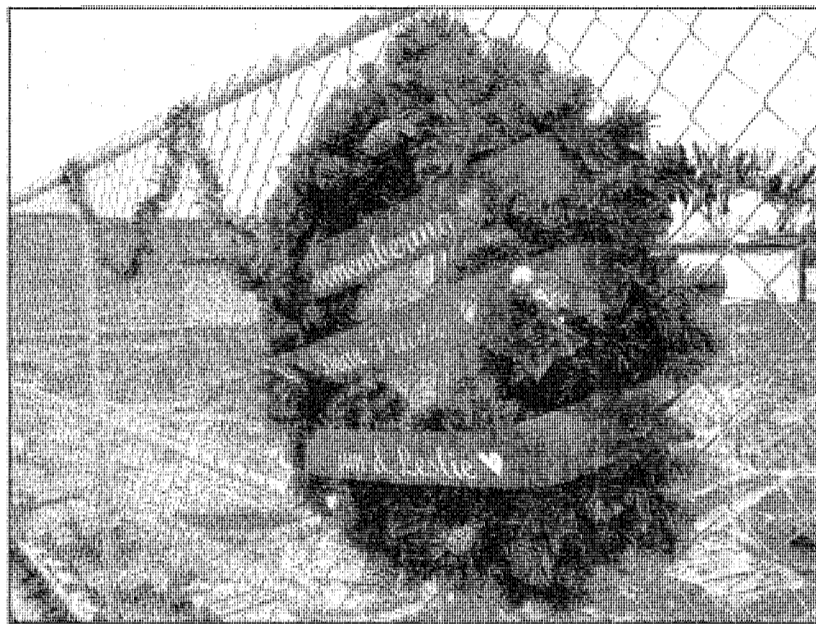
Probe inconclusive

Consumers Energy, which supplies natural gas to the area, on Dec. 20 filed a report with the Michigan Public Service Commission on its investigation of the explosion. The 65-page report listed possible sources of the gas — a gas-main rupture 230 feet from the building, the migration of natural gas through a sewer line, or a leak inside the store — but said there wasn't enough evidence to show exactly what happened.

For example, testing determined the gas main break 230 feet from Franks was the result downward force on the pipe, but the evidence didn't show whether the break occurred before the explosion or as a result of it, according to a fact sheet supplied by Consumers spokesman Dan Bishop.

Consumers in August reached an undisclosed settlement with Paul Franks, who had sued the company, according to Wayne County Circuit Court records.

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OBSERVER AREA POLICE CALLS

Canton

Robbery try

A man threatened to stab a Walmart security officer about 2:30 p.m. Dec. 21 after he was asked to stop while leaving the store with stolen merchandise, a police report said. No injuries were reported.

Canton police went to the store on Ford Road east of Lotz after receiving reports that a man had just committed a retail fraud. He was last seen running across Ford Road.

A store employee reportedly saw the man put merchandise in a bag and tried to stop him as he left the store. The suspect reportedly dropped the bags, warned the employee that he had a knife and threatened to stab him unless he backed away.

The suspect then reportedly fled and the employee retrieved merchandise totaling \$515 that the man had dropped.

The suspect was described as a black male, possibly in his 40s. He was wearing a camouflage jacket, and he was described as 6 feet tall with a bald spot on the back of his head. He also had a mustache.

Break-in

A woman told Canton police someone broke into her apartment on Crossbow Circle, northeast of Palmer and Haggerty, and stole a 55-inch plasma TV, costume jewelry and an iPod Touch.

The break-in happened between 4 p.m. and 10 p.m. Christmas Day.

Parking revenge

Someone apparently became angry over the way a woman parked her vehicle at the Emagine Theater on Ford Road east of Lotz. The woman said she returned to her vehicle about 1 p.m. and found that someone had keyed the car from front to back along both sides. She found a note that read: "Nice park job ... Merry Christmas."

Farmington Hills

Stolen vehicle

A 28-year-old Redford woman reported her vehicle was stolen Dec. 19 while parked in the lot of Grand Tavern on Halsted near Grand River in Farmington Hills. The Pontiac G6 had Christmas presents, two bowling balls and a cell phone inside. The woman checked with her family members, to make sure they had not borrowed the car, but they had not.

Heroin possession

Two South Lyon men, ages 21 and 41, were arrested for possession of heroin Dec. 19 while driving through Farmington Hills. An officer was behind the suspects' vehicle in the area of Grand River and Rockwell and noticed the vehicle had a broken brake light, police said. The officer, along with K9 unit Argos, discovered several folds of heroin and syringes in the vehicle, police said.

Drunk driving

A resident on the 21000 block of Lundy called police when an unknown motorist drove into his backyard at about 10:30 p.m., Dec. 24 and became stuck in the mud. The driver, a 38-year-old Detroit man, was arrested for drinking and driving, third offense. He reportedly told police he was looking for his friend's house, which was around the block, and was trying to turn around, when his van became stuck in the mud. Police reportedly found an empty liquor bottle and a full liquor bottle in the van. He was taken to Botsford Hospital for a blood draw, because he refused to take a preliminary breath test, police said.

Stolen goods

A security officer at Home Depot on Northwestern Highway in Farmington Hills reported seeing a man take several items from the electrical aisle and conceal them in his jacket before walking out of the store. The 44-year-old man from Burton, Mich., was arrested for retail fraud. He was wanted on warrants for similar offenses in three other cities, police said.

Break-in

A resident on the 23000 block of Tuck Road reported someone broke into her home sometime between Dec. 24-26, while she was out of town for the holidays, and stole a 600-pound safe con-

taining about \$60,000 in jewelry, plus two pairs of designer boots and a TV. The front door to the home was reportedly forced open.

Garden City

Stolen vehicle

A resident in the 500 block of Gilman was loading Christmas presents into her idling vehicle when it was stolen Dec. 25 in Garden City.

The woman told police she ran back into the home for one more trip and, upon her return, the vehicle was gone.

Two days later, an officer on patrol spotted the vehicle at the gas pump at Cherry Hill and Middlebelt. It was occupied by three men. As the officer approached the men, he reportedly saw the driver draw a handgun from his waistband and place it on the floorboard.

The men were taken from the stolen vehicle and a loaded 40 caliber handgun was recovered along with a quantity of narcotics and a black face mask, police said. The three men, two from Inkster ages 29 and 25, and one from Detroit age 37, were taken to GCPD and lodged pending further investigation. The gun had been reported stolen to Grosse Ile police in 2007, police said.

Stolen car

A red 1997 Ford Escort, reported stolen in Livonia on Nov. 7, was recovered Dec. 25 in the lot of Amantea's Restaurant, 32777 Warren Road, by an officer on patrol in Garden City. The officer reported the vehicle had heavy damage to the passenger side and was full of trash.

Break-in

An owner who had been refurbishing a vacant home in the 28800 block of Rush in Garden City told police Dec. 23 that about \$1,500 in building supplies were stolen from the home overnight. The man said he was working in the home the day before and secured the residence at the end of his work day. Upon his return the next day, he discovered the front door was forced open and several items, including tile, paint and a sink, were taken.

Vehicles ransacked

Several vehicle owners in the area of Brandt and Sheridan in Garden City reported that their unlocked vehicles were ransacked and miscellaneous items like change and medication were stolen Dec. 24. The police were able to follow footprints in the fresh snow and it appeared as if the culprit wandered around the neighborhood trying the doors on vehicles and struck when an unlocked door was found, according to police. While investigating, officers recovered several pieces of

jewelry that had been dropped in the area of Sheridan and Henry Ruff.

Speeding motorist

An apparent inattentive driver who didn't realize there was a police car waiting next to him at a red light, accelerated to 55 mph after the light changed Dec. 24 on Ford at Henry Ruff in Garden City, police said.

While the officer paced the vehicle, the 23-year-old Plymouth man reportedly began tailgating another motorist and flashed his lights and honked his horn in an effort to get that driver out of the way. The officer stopped the man and reportedly discovered he was driving on a suspended license and had a license plate that expired in September which bore a bogus renewal sticker.

Livonia

Car wash struck

A 45-year-old Westland man was arrested for drunk driving after he reportedly drove his companion's truck into a stall at a car wash on Plymouth Road on Christmas Eve.

Livonia police were called at about 1:30 p.m. on a report that someone driving a red truck had run into a car wash port at PB Car Wash, 33905 Plymouth. Police arrived and reportedly found two men standing at the rear of the truck, and both men appeared intoxicated with slurred speech and bloodshot eyes.

The truck's owner said he was washing the truck and it "took off," but police reportedly located someone nearby who said that the red truck drove past him and crashed into the stall and identified the owner's companion as the driver. When police questioned him, he reportedly said he drank two beers, then changed his story and said he drank five beers. The officer then asked the man what time it was and he reportedly said "seven or eight," even though it was actually early afternoon. The officer asked him whether it was day or night, and the man reportedly responded that it was night. The suspect was reportedly unstable during his sobriety test, failed one breath test and was arrested. He later blew a .33 on his breath test, more than triple the .08 legal limit, police said.

Gifts stolen

A resident on the 14000 block of Stonehouse reported that Christmas gifts were stolen from her garage Friday afternoon.

Three packages sent by a relative were delivered via FedEx at about 1:30 p.m. Friday. A resident at the home signed for the packages and placed them in the garage. The garage door was left open

and the packages could be seen from the street. When the woman's husband returned home at 2:10 p.m., the packages were inside the garage, but when she went outside an hour later, the packages were missing. The packages contained children's toys, wine rack, clothing and men's shoes, a video game and other items.

Identity stolen

A Livonia man received credit cards in the mail with his name on them, but he never ordered them. There were two other women who were also named on the cards, so he reported it to police.

The man received credit cards for Abercrombie & Fitch, Value City and Pottery Barn with letters stating that his credit applications were approved. The man told police he never applied for the cards, nor did he know the women who were named. The cards were cancelled and no purchases had been made. Police advised the man to notify his bank about the fraudulent activity.

Plymouth Township

Armed robbery

A Dunkin' Donuts in Plymouth Township was robbed by three men early Friday, police said.

Police said the intruders went into the doughnut shop near Ann Arbor Road and I-275 about 1:30 a.m. The men, armed with semi-automatic pistols, announced a robbery and took an undisclosed amount of cash, police said. No one was injured, and the men reportedly fled north on I-275 in a dark colored mid-sized vehicle.

Anyone with information is asked to call the Plymouth Township Police Department at (734) 354-3250.

Westland

Break-in

A set of car stereo speakers and \$200 in state collectible quarters were reported stolen Dec. 25 from a home in the 38000 block of Joy. The owner told police he was gone overnight and returned to find someone had kicked open the door after unsuccessfully trying to pry open the door-wall off his deck.

The coins were stolen from the master bedroom, he said. The speakers, valued at \$100, were removed from the box and the box was left behind.

Break-in

A resident of the Westland Estates Apartments told police Dec. 26 that someone had stolen a three-piece couch set, a laptop computer and a TV valued at \$4,000. The officer found no sign of forced entry and no witnesses who saw couches being removed from the apartment.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

ROOSEVELT ELEMENTARY DEMOLITION AND SITE RESTORATION PROJECT

15100 Aubrey, Redford Township, Michigan, 48239

Redford Union Schools and Charter Township of Redford will receive single prime sealed bids for Roosevelt Elementary Demolition and Site Restoration Project until 2:00 p.m. local time on January 17, 2012 at the Administration Building, 19990 Beech Daly Road, Redford Township, Michigan, 48240, at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. The Board of Education and Board of Trustees will not accept any Bid(s) received after 2:00 p.m. on January 17, 2012.

A voluntary pre-bid walkthrough for interested bidders is schedule for January 5, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. at Roosevelt Elementary property located at 15100 Aubrey Street, Redford, MI 48239. This will be the only opportunity for Contractors to view the interior of the building.

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

This project includes: Complete removal of the Roosevelt Elementary Building (44,075 SF) including structure (footings, foundation walls, floor slab, bearing and non-bearing walls, building and roof structure, and all building contents) and site work associated with restoration efforts.

Michigan ARC (formerly Dunn Blue Reprographic) 1009 West Maple Road, Clawson, MI 48017 (248) 288-5600, facsimile (248) 288-1198, will provide complete sets of the Bidding Documents to prospective bidders and subcontractors. The copies will be available about January 17, 2012. Both a deposit check in the amount of \$70.00 and a non-refundable check in the amount of \$30.00 made out to Redford Union Schools for each set ordered are required. The following information must accompany the deposit: Company name, mailing address, street address, phone and facsimile numbers and type of bidder (i.e. General, Mechanical or Electrical Subcontractor to General, or other). A refund of \$70.00 will be sent to prime contractors who submit a bid to the Owner and subcontractors for each set (including addenda) returned to Dunn Blue Reprographic in good condition within ten (10) calendar days of the award date, subject to the conditions of AIA Document A701. Refunds will not be given if the plans are returned to the Architect's Office.

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

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

This demolition project is partially funded by the United State Department of Housing and Urban Development under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 through the Community Development Block Grant (BDCG) Program. The work must be performed in accordance with the Davis Beacon Act, the Equal Opportunity Act, Executive Order No. 11246, Section 3 Affirmative Action Plan, Section 202, all United States Department of Labor Regulations and Standards, Title 29, 1, 2, 3, and 5, and Title 18 U.C.S., Section 874, known as the Anti-Kickback Act and the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970. The CONTRACTOR shall comply with the updated EED Bid Conditions as outlined in the federal regulations Index. No less than the prevailing salaries and wages noted in the Prevailing Wage Determination must be paid on this project. The CONTRACTOR must also ensure that employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of their, but not limited to, race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.

Bids may not be withdrawn within Sixty (60) days after the scheduled time of opening bids, without the consent of the Owner. The Owner reserves the right to accept any bid or to reject any or all bids, or parts of such bids, and waive informalities or irregularities in bidding. Redford Union Schools and the Charter Township of Redford are equal opportunity, affirmative action employers.

The Owner requires Substantial Completion of the project as follows:

Phase I: Building Demolition Complete	March 30, 2012
Phase II: Site Restoration Complete	May 18, 2012

Board of Education
REDFORD UNION SCHOOLS

Board of Trustees
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF REDFORD

CITY OF WESTLAND SYNOPSIS OF MINUTES MTG. 26 12/19/11

Presiding: President Godbout
Present: Bryant, Hammons, Johnson, Kadi, Kehr, Reeves
216: Intro. Bud. Amend. 2012-03; Manpower Amendment \$38.00.
- Intro. Bud. Amend. 2012-04; General Fund \$586,407.00.
- Intro. Bud. Amend. 2012-05; Library Fund \$123,238.00.
- Intro. Bud. Amend. 2012-06; General Fund \$32,750.00.
- Adopted prep. resolution authorizing acquisition of 1 property from Guy Construction for Life Remodeled renovation.
217: Appr. minutes of regular meeting held 12/5/11.
218: Appr. app of new Class C Liquor License at 124 S. Merriman.
219: Appr. Spec. Land Use for prop. Retail Pharmacy, 8301 N. Wayne Rd.
220: Appr. Spec. Land Use for prop. Dining Room addition to Mangia Pizza & Catering, 38411 Joy Rd.
221: Appr. Prop. Land Division, 2055 N. Berry w/contingencies.
223: Appt. of M. Harris to Nankin Transit Comm. thru 12/13/13.
225: Appt. of D. Reeves to Nankin Transit Comm. thru 12/31/13.
227: App't. R. Graunstadt as Democratic member on Bd. of Canvassers.
228: Appr. checklist: \$ 228,468.08 & Prepaid: \$ 1,747,203.79.
Mtg. adj. at 8:05 p.m.
Minutes available in the Clerk's Office.

James Godbout
Council President

Eileen DeHart
City Clerk, CMC

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All Bordeaux 10% Over Cost

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2006 Clos la Madeleine 750ml... \$32.99ea.

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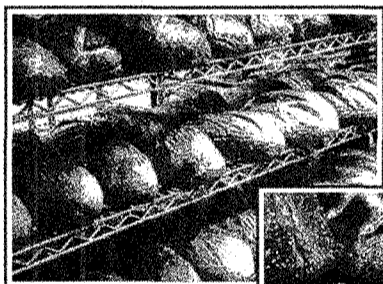
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Entertaining Guide

scratch bakery

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Ciabatta Bread... \$2.99ea. Italian country bread made with olive oil and wild yeast culture. A wonderful sandwich bread, great for soups and dipping oils.

Asiago Cheese Bread... \$3.99ea. Made from our rustic Italian dough and Stella brand Asiago Cheese. Great with pasta!

Pain a Levain... \$3.59ea. One of our sourdough breads, mild soft flavor. Great for sandwiches or with our famous spinach dip.

Italian Semolina... \$2.99ea. Classic Italian bread, great sandwich bread or toasted.

Sesame Semolina... \$3.99ea. Classic Italian bread, great sandwich bread or toasted!

Pumpernickel Bread... \$3.99ea. Try it with your favorite lunch meats as a sandwich or perfect with our famous spinach dip.

Holiday Market Sandwich Rolls... \$3.99 6 ct. Made with our famous Italian baguette dough... great for sandwiches, burgers or sloppy joes.

Holiday Market's Classic French Baguette... \$1.99ea.

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cheeses

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Pecorino Romano... \$13.99lb. (Sheep's Milk) Imported from Italy. Aromatic and pleasantly sharp, which is why it's one of the world's favorite pasta cheeses.

Italian Fontina... \$12.99lb. Comparable to Swiss in taste and texture but with fruity overtones. This favorite Italian classic is alive with flavor that is colorful as springtime in the Asota Valley. Great for fondues, pizza, sandwiches and melted over vegetables.

Brie de France... \$10.99lb. Brie is one of the world's favorite French cheeses' well known for its one of a kind mild taste and creamy, smooth texture. Try with fruity wines such as Bordeaux or burgundy.

seafood

Harvest of the Sea Cooked Shrimp (13 - 15 ct. per lb.) 2 lb. bag \$29.99

Harvest of the Sea Large Cooked Shrimp (41 - 50 ct. per lb.) 2 lb. bag \$15.99

Harvest of the Sea Panko & Dressed Tail-On Shrimp (21 - 25 ct. per lb.) 2 lb. bag \$18.99

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Peanut Butter Pie reo pie crust filled with peanut butter mousse covered in chocolate granache, finished with a vine of chocolate buttercream and peanuts 9" Lg. \$19.99

Pumpkin Pie 9" Lg. \$10.99 5" Sm. \$4.99

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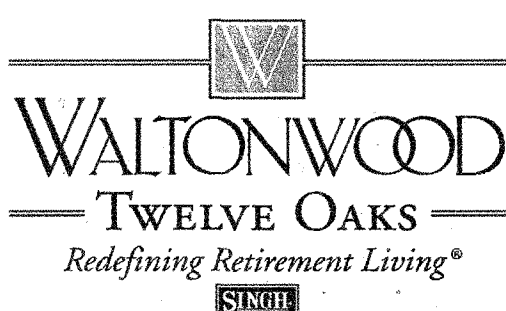
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Days, nights on the beat fast-paced for TV reporter Lange

By Stacy Jenkins
Observer Staff Writer

Life's script couldn't have come together any better for Amy Lange.

The Emmy Award-winning Fox 2 Detroit general assignment and investigative reporter hit the city streets running as a 24-year-old reporter — and hasn't stopped, or regretted it, ever since. Lange, who moved to Farmington nine years ago with her husband, Michael Shore, a Fox 2 Detroit videographer, said it's been quite a ride so far.

"There's not a better news town in the country," said Lange. "You can't make this stuff up."

Lange came to Detroit in 1998 from her first on-air news job at WEYI-TV in Flint, where she reported during the week and did weekend weather.

She knew it was going to be life-changing to come to a large, competitive market like the Detroit area.

"That was quite a challenge to go into such a big place," said Lange, who grew up in Michigan City, Ind.

Renaissance was the talk of Detroit, under then Mayor Dennis Archer.

"He seemed to have a lot of energy, and there was a lot of growth downtown, but the neighborhoods and schools still struggled," she said.

But, then "everything

went on hold" when the texting scandal of succeeding Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick broke. Lange covered the unfolding events closely, often going on "Kwame watches."

"There were many cold days, sitting outside of the mansion," she said. "And, standing outside of city hall, waiting for his vehicle to leave, just to see if we could get a comment."

"Kwame certainly is the most all-encompassing, longest and biggest story that I've had the privilege of covering."

Even after the dust settled, Lange found herself continuing to report on Kilpatrick, although he had already serve jailed time and had moved his family to Texas. His recent book prompted more coverage.

"He's the story that just keeps on going," she said.

Many rewards

But, it's not always the big news making national headlines that make her job rewarding. Sometimes, it's the story of a struggling family or an inspiring story of someone's triumph.

"Just to be able to tell people's stories — there's no news in the newsroom, you've got to get out there and let them speak, let their voices be heard," she said. "It's liberating for people to be able to tell their stories, and it's an honor for me."



Fox 2 Detroit reporter Amy Lange enjoys spending time in downtown Farmington, where she's lived for nine years.

Deeper perspective

In 2008, Lange earned a master's degree in social justice from Marygrove College in Detroit. The program focused on social issues, from a global level.

The program has helped her gain insight into the deep-rooted social problems in race, class and gender that she sees every day on her beat.

"It gives me a broader perspective," she said. "I hope it continues to help me to look a little deeper and to understand. I hope I go in with a more open mind."

As an investigative reporter, she also hopes to make a real difference.

"In many ways, we can make people's lives better," she said.

When she's not reporting, Lange teaches a media and social justice class at Marygrove. And, she's active in the Home-

less Action Network of Detroit.

"It's a challenge," she said. "We definitely have too many people falling through the cracks."

Another cause close to her heart led Lange and her husband to an Emmy Award for their series on an orphanage in Haiti, following last year's devastating earthquake.

She's also been honored for her work by the Society of Professional Journalists, the Michigan Association of Broadcasters and the Associated Press.

Making a comeback

One story hit close to home, and also earned her an Emmy — a 2009 news feature, "Spine Story — A Reporter Breaks Her Neck," her personal story, detailing life-threatening injuries she sustained after falling down the stairs at her home in June 2009.

She fell down the carpeted stairs when her shoe got tangled up in her long dress. Her husband rushed to see if she was OK. She said she was fine and just wanted to go to bed.

The next day, she and Michael drove to the west side of the state, to Saugatuck, to visit her parents for Father's Day. After getting back home, she was still uncomfortable and decided to see a doctor.

"We didn't know for a few days that I had actually broken my neck," she said.

It was fracture at the base of her neck and the vertebrae had also twisted.

"I would never in a million years have fathomed it," she said.

She needed traction and surgery that entailed plates and screws that will always have to remain in her neck.

After just one month, she was back to work.

A couple of years later, Lange found herself learning fast-paced, intricate dancing skills from instructor Fernando Caducio, who was her partner in the Dancing with our Local Stars fundraiser event in September at the San Marino Club in Troy to benefit the American Diabetes Association.

"It was a blast," she said. "We worked hard, getting ready for it — I had no prior experience."

I was a really inexperienced dancer."

They took second place and first place for raising the most donations.

Living in Farmington

Lange and her husband moved to Farmington nine years ago, just after getting married. She became involved in the pavilion committee, when plans were being made to build it in the parking lot of the Downtown Farmington Center. The pavilion and Riley Park — which replaced asphalt — are now gathering places for the community, and host to the popular Farmers & Artisans Market and many other community events.

"It's good to see that the momentum has continued," said Lange.

She said she enjoys living in Farmington, where everyone is encouraged to be involved.

"I think that's really nice," she said.

Farmington could, however, do more to attract young people to the city, she said.

"Young people have great ideas and they have that energy — we need to do more to attract them," she said.

Lange has a stepson, Alex, a freshman at Michigan State University.

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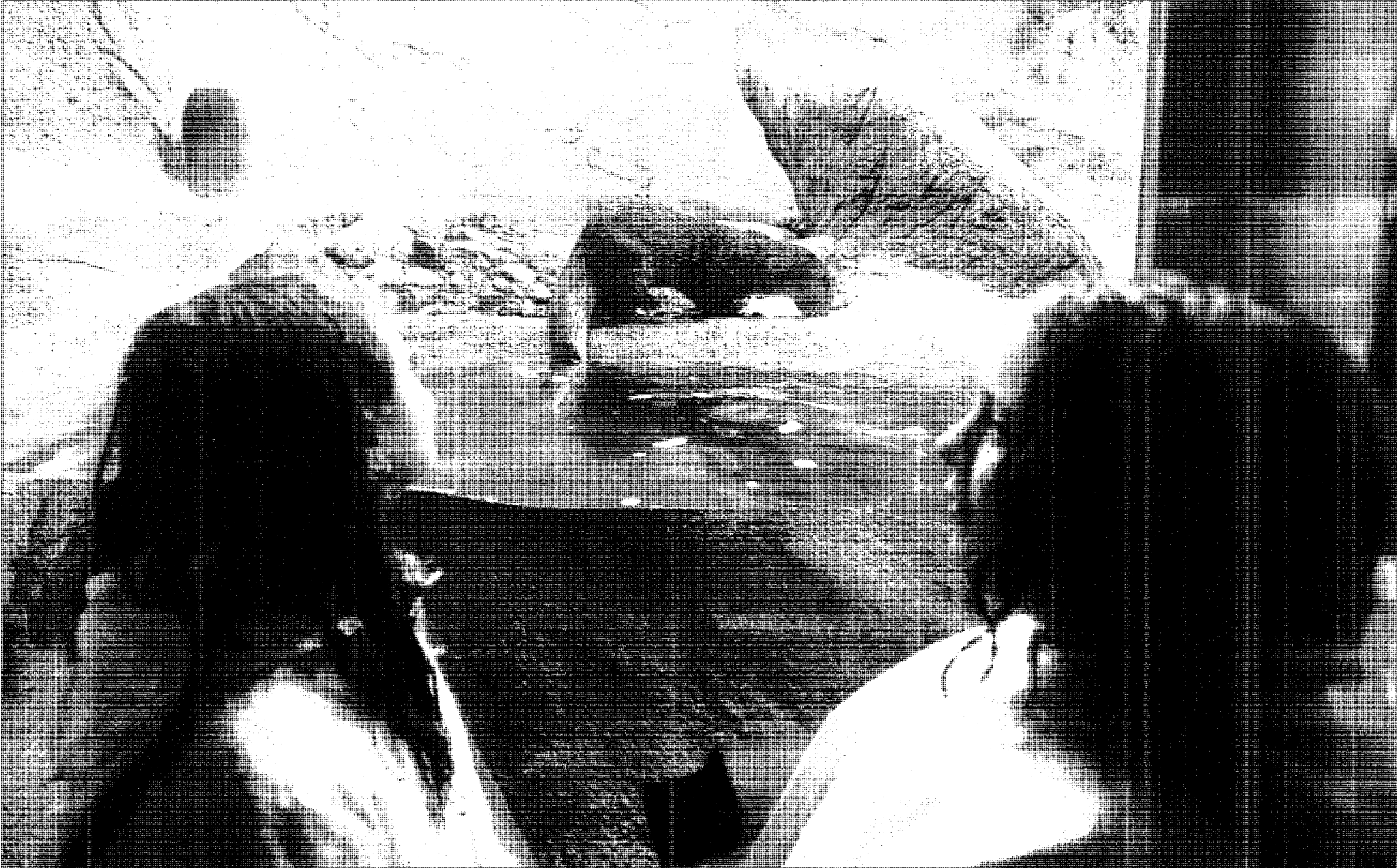
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Visitors to the Detroit Zoo in Royal Oak watched as otters were fed fish treats in special holiday packages.

PHOTOS BY JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



This polar bear yawns after eating his gift.



Hanna Herd (left) and friend, Abby Tyner, both 10 and from Royal Oak, enjoy watching zoo residents play with treats.

'Presents' offer treats, activity at zoo

Just as businesses have office parties at this time of year, the animals at the Detroit Zoo in Royal Oak got down to business last week for some fun, unwrapping holiday-themed "gifts."

The occasion was the zoo's inaugural "That's a Wrap!"

Despite the rain and lack of holiday snow, visitors to the zoo seemed to still enjoy watching the animals enjoy their special treats, which were designed to be environmentally enriching, according to zoo staff.

Naughty or nice, the animals received treat-filled piñatas wrapped like holiday presents. The "gifts" were decorated with the traditional colors of Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa in universal celebration of the giving season.

The festively decorated packages and other enrichment treats were placed in the animals' habitats to stimulate natural behaviors, such as foraging and stalking.

"The wolverines will enjoy their piñata as much as the goodies inside," Animal Welfare Manag-

er Elizabeth Arbaugh said, speaking before the event. "They'll play with the box all day long, like kids on Christmas morning."

The holiday treats are among the many forms of environmental enrichment used daily at the Detroit Zoo to enhance the animals' habitats to make them more dynamic. That enrichment includes the introduction of novel and sometimes unpredictable elements, such as objects, sounds, scents or other stimuli. Those elements give the animals the opportunity to express choice and control in their environments, and to make decisions, express individuality and behave in species-typical ways.

The Detroit Zoo is located at the intersection of 10 Mile Road and Woodward Avenue, just off I-696, in Royal Oak. It is open daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. now through March (closed New Year's Day). Admission is \$12 for adults 15-61, \$10 for senior citizens 62 and older and \$8 for children 2-14 (children under 2 are free).



A wolverine tears apart a sleigh filled with treats.



Yum! This Tiger unwrapped his gift at the Detroit Zoo and promptly ate it.

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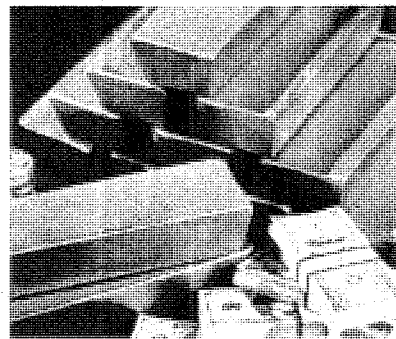
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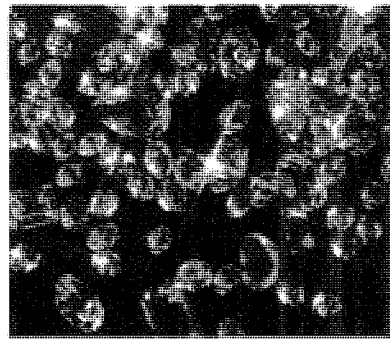
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Joel R. Saper, M.D., *Principal Investigator*

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- Are currently taking an antidepressant

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Alicia R. Prestegaard, M.D., *Principal Investigator*

If you are interested in learning more about either study, please contact a Research Nurse at:

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Some Sears, Kmart stores to close

Sears Holdings Corp. will close about 100 Sears and Kmart stores after holiday sales fell short due to a drop in demand for consumer electronics.

It is not known if any of the 100 to 120 stores slated to close are in Michigan.

Store officials at a Livonia Kmart and a Sears store at Livonia Marketplace would not comment on the report. A Sears store official in Livonia referred all questions to a public relations firm in Hoffman Estates, Ill., where Sears and Kmart is based.

A store official at a Kmart in Livonia who did not want to be identified said that store had not been notified about any closings. "Not a word," the official said. "We haven't heard any information. We've heard what you heard."

The official added that store has had a great holiday season and has a good customer base,

so if that store would close, it would be a surprise.

Likewise, a manager at Kmart in Plymouth Township said they have no information.

The company has about 2,200 Kmart and Sears stores in the U.S. and Canada, with 80 Kmart stores and 67 Sears stores in Michigan. The city of Westland has both a Sears and a Kmart.

The company said Tuesday that the cuts will make the retailers more nimble as it struggles for market share. Same store sales plunged 5.2 percent for the eight-week holiday sales period that ended Dec. 26.

Holiday sales at Kmart and domestic Sears stores fell 4.4 percent and 6 percent, respectively.

"Given our performance and the difficult economic environment, especially for big-ticket items, we intend to implement a series of actions to reduce

ongoing expenses, adjust our asset base and accelerate the transformation of our business model," chief executive Lou D'Ambrosio said in a statement.

The company kept weaker locations open while working to improve their performance but will now devote its resources to stronger stores "with the goal of converting their customer experience into a world-class integrated retail experience."

The move will generate \$140 million to \$170 million in cash as it sells inventory and real estate, the company said. The retailer also expects a noncash charge of about \$1.6 billion to \$1.8 billion due to a valuation allowance and an impairment charge on some goodwill balances for as much as \$600 million.

The stock (SHLD) was down more than 20 percent before 10 a.m. Tuesday.

Two charged in string of bank robberies

Farmington Hills Police Chief Charles Nebus announced the arrest of two suspects believed to be responsible for a string of bank robberies in the metro Detroit area over the past few months.

Arthur Duane Payton, 44, of Detroit and Nancy Marie Barta, 33, of Westland, are charged with four bank robberies and were arraigned Dec. 16 in the United States District Court in Detroit.

They're reportedly believed to be responsible for the following bank robberies:

- Nov. 9 at the Citizens Bank at 31215 14 Mile in Farmington Hills. At 4:58 p.m., Nov. 9, a lone female suspect entered the bank and presented the teller with a note announcing a robbery. The note indicated that the suspect was armed

with a firearm. After taking an undetermined amount of money, the suspect fled the scene on foot.

Three similar bank robberies occurred in the Detroit suburban area:

- Oct. 17 at Charter One Bank in Farmington
- Oct. 20 at a Bank of America in Livonia
- Oct. 28 at Flagstar Bank in Novi

Investigators from the Farmington Hills Police Department, Farmington Department of Public Safety, Livonia Police Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation coordinated their investigative efforts to solve these robberies.

A federal complaint was authorized charging the identified suspects with the four listed bank robberies.

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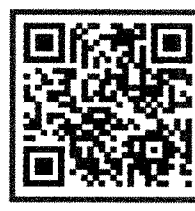

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Crowds thin out at the mall



A Sears employee, Jan Waldron didn't have much time to look for bargains before Christmas. Now the Garden City resident had time for some shopping.

By LeAnne Rogers
Observer Staff Writer

Now that the Christmas rush is over and people have shopped themselves out, the mall walkers have plenty of room again.

By Tuesday morning, Westland Shopping Center had a pretty empty parking lot and a pretty sparse crowd — a lot of them taking their morning constitutional.

Garden City resident Jan Waldron was among the shoppers, however. "I work at Sears so I don't get much of a chance to go into the mall," said Waldron. "So, I'm out getting the deals today. It was pretty busy yesterday (Monday) and not just returns. I started work at 7 a.m. and by 10 a.m. it was quite busy."

Waldron hadn't really started shopping yet — her husband had gotten some coffee — but the couple were heading to Kohl's to spend some Kohl's cash earned during some pre-Christmas shopping.

Bath and Body Works bag in hand, McKenzie Bowers was look-



Daniel Masserang of Plymouth was at Westland Shopping Center to exchange some shirts for the correct size.

ing at makeup at a mall kiosk with her sister and friend, who didn't want to be identified. They didn't go shopping on Boxing Day.

"Everyone is spent out of money," said Bowers, who wasn't surprised that the mall wasn't crowded. "I'm



Adia Ciecierski, 11, of Garden City shows off her new cell phone cover while shopping at Westland Shopping Center with her mother, Margo.

happy with what I got from Bath and Body Works. They were having a sale. We're just looking around — I'm not sure where else we will go." Plymouth resident Daniel Masserang was at the mall to exchange some shirts for the correct

size. "We were here right at 10 a.m. I guess it was a lot more crowded yesterday," he said.

His father, Paul Masserang, commented that it was a bit surprising the mall wasn't more crowded but had made a point of not shopping on

Dec. 26.

Adia Ciecierski, 11, of Garden City came by the mall with mother Margo to pick up a cover for the tablet she received as a Christmas gift. While she was at it, Adia also got a new cover for her cell phone.

"Santa did really good this year. I told her (Adia), we're not shopping," said Ciecierski. "The deals were so great before Christmas, what do you need now?"

irogers@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-5428



Metropolitan Opera Theater soloists, from left, Mark Vondrak, Betsy Bronson, Maria Cimarelli and Karl Schmidt.

MOT soloists to perform at Farmington Players Barn

Imagine, favorite songs from Broadway and the cinema performed by four magnificent soloists from the Michigan Opera Theatre.

This concert will lighten your hearts with a memorable evening of fun and music at the Farmington Players Barn on Saturday, Jan. 14 at 7:30 p.m. Perpetual favorites, MOT concerts at the Players Barn have sold out for many years. The concert is part of the ongoing Cultural Arts Concert Series, which concludes March 9-10 with concerts by the Irish group Blackthorn.

The MOT performance provides an opportunity to hear the soloists "up close and personal" in the intimate setting and wonderful acoustics of the Players Barn. MOT artists Maria Cimarelli, Betsy Bronson, Karl Schmidt, and Mark Vondrak will perform a selection of well-known songs along with drama and hilarious skits.

For over 30 years, the Michigan Opera Theatre has stood for excellence

in opera entertainment and education, achieving national stature as one of the country's 10 largest opera companies.

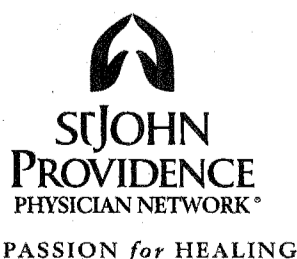
Under the guidance of general director David DiChiera, with community programs led by Karen V. DiChiera, the Michigan Opera Theatre brings varied musical programs to the entire state of Michigan. The Farmington Hills Cultural Arts Division is proud to present this special evening of excellent musical entertainment.

The Farmington Players Barn is located at 32332 W. 12 Mile, between Orchard Lake and Farmington roads in Farmington Hills. Tickets are \$19 for adults, \$17 for seniors and students. Advance tickets may be purchased at the Costick Center, 28600 W. 11 Mile, in Farmington Hills, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tickets may also be purchased at www.rec-reg.fhgov.com. For more information or to charge tickets by phone, call (248) 473-1848.

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Winter break doesn't have to be boring



Instructor Ken Piggott helps Ian Heersink at Riverside Arena in Livonia with his roller skating lessons. For the full schedule of classes for skaters of all ages, visit www.riversidearena.com.

While the holidays are winding down and kids are on winter break from school until Jan. 9 in Wayne County, there are plenty of activities to keep everyone busy at area recreation centers.

Livonia

At the Livonia Community Recreation Center, for example, residents and guests will be able to participate in pick-up basketball and floor hockey games on Saturday and Sunday from 7 a.m. until 2 p.m. They will also be able to swim, walk the track,

For today and Friday, the facility at the south east corner of Hubbard and Five Mile, is open from 5 a.m. until 11 p.m.

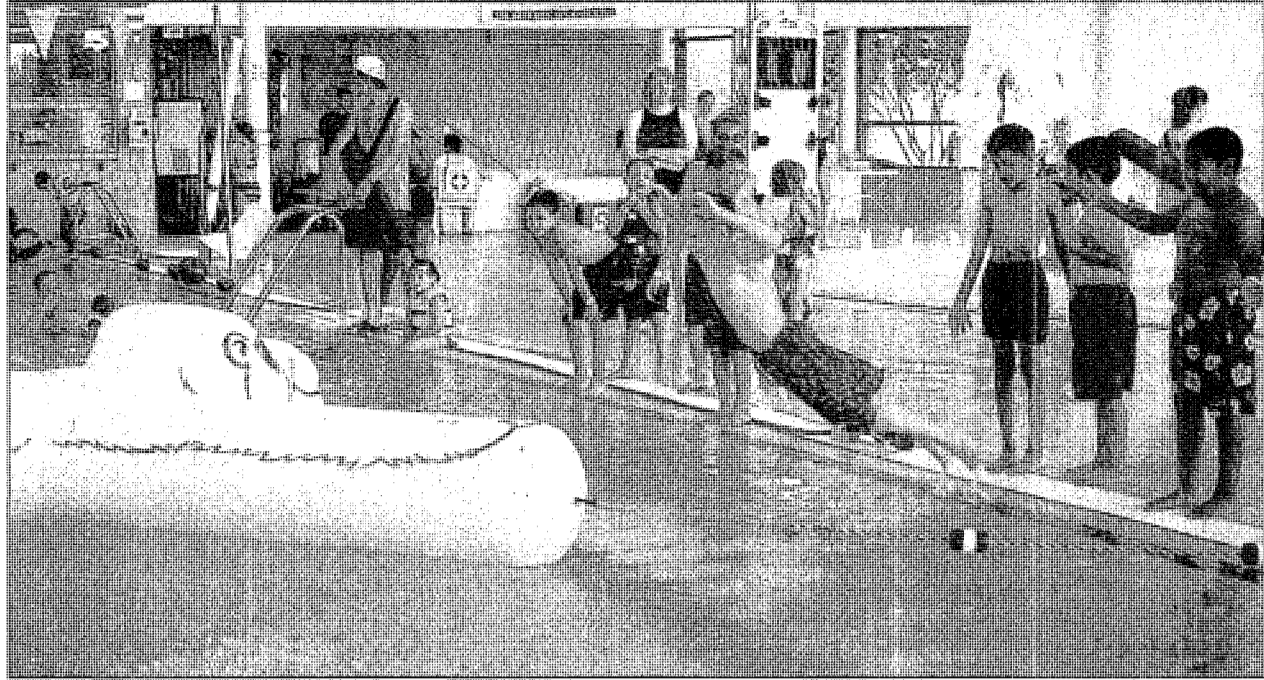
The fee for residents is \$7 for an adult, \$5.50 for teenagers and \$4 for youngsters between the

ages of 4 and 12. Fees double for non-residents.

The Livonia YMCA, at 14255 Stark Road, will be open from 8 a.m. until noon on New Year's day and from 7 a.m. until 3 p.m. on Saturday. On Thursday, the facility is open from 5:30 a.m. until 10 p.m., and on Friday it's open from 5:30 a.m. until 9 p.m.

Movie theaters in Livonia include AMC Livonia 20, 19500 Haggerty (888) 262-4386; and Phoenix Theatres, 17310 Laurel Park Drive North, at Laurel Park Place, located on northwest corner of Newburgh and Six Mile roads (734) 464-7027.

Roller skating is always a fun time at Riverside Arena, 36635 Plymouth Rd., (734) 421-3540. Website states that special family matinee hours



Facilities like Canton's Summit on the Park aquatic area are busy during winter break.

are scheduled at 1-3:30 p.m. Dec. 29-30 and Jan. 2-6 (\$4 per person), and a family and teen party scheduled for \$7 per person from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Dec. 31.

Open skating is offered at Devonaire Ice Arena, 9510 Sunset (east of Merriman and north of West Chicago) and Eddie Edgar Ice Arena, 33841 Lyndon (at Farmington). Visit www.livoniahockey.org or call (734) 422-5172 for open skating hours.

Get Your Game On @ The Library: Family Edition (a.k.a. Family Game Day) Bring relatives, friends or neighbors for free board and video games plus snacks,

Wednesday, Jan. 4, 1-4 p.m. Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile; (734) 466-2900. No registration is required. This event is open to all ages.

Canton

In Canton Township, the Summit On the Park Recreation Center, 46000 Summit Parkway, will have normal hours today and Friday. It opens at 5:30 a.m. and closes at 10 p.m. The facility offers swimming, racquet ball, and indoor track and weight room.

On Saturday and Sunday, the facility will be open from 7 a.m. until 1 p.m.

The Village Theater,

50400 Cherry Hill, offers a New Year's Eve performance with a band called the Time Machine. Festivities start at 9 p.m. with a strolling buffet, dessert, party favorites, cash bar and a champagne toast at midnight. Tickets are \$45.

Special skate events are offered at Skatin' Station II, 8611 Ronda Drive, Canton. Call (734) 459-6400. There, the Winter Break Skates continues until Wednesday, Jan. 4.

Westland

In Westland, the community center, also known as the Bailey Recreation Center, at

36651 Ford Road, is open today and Friday from 9 a.m. until 10 p.m. It will be open from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. Saturday, but will be closed on New Year's day.

Rates vary, depending on residency and the amenities used.

Redford

The Redford Township Ice Area, behind the Department of Public Works Department at 12400 Beech Daly, will offer free skating for residents from 11 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. Saturday. Admission is \$4 for non-residents.

The facility is closed on New Year's Day.

From skating to movies, there's lots to do on winter break

By Susan Steinmueller
Observer Staff Writer

Bonaventure Family Skating Center in Farmington Hills offers a fun way to roll into the New Year without keeping the kids up late.

"Midnight at 3 p.m. Open Skate" is from 1-7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 31. It's a fun-filled event that includes a 3 p.m. prize-filled balloon drop and New Year's party favors.

"We do a count down, we give away party favors, we do a balloon drop with free passes," said Christie Catterall, manager. "It's for all ages. It's a lot of fun."

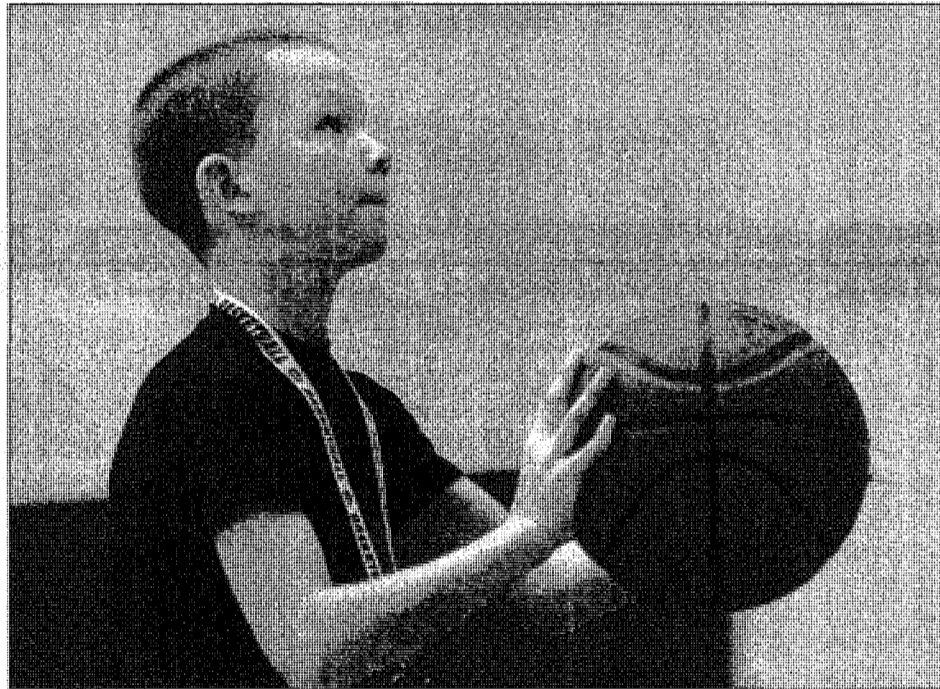
Admission is \$7.

"Winter Break Skates" is also offered by the center, with 1-4 p.m. open skating. Remaining dates are 1-4 p.m. Dec. 29 and 30 and Monday, Jan. 2. Admission is \$6.

Skate rental is extra at both events but is offered at a special rate: Skate rental is \$2, Rollerblade rental, \$4.

During winter break, many new families come out, said Catterall.

"We don't have any teaching during this time," she said. "We see



Basketball is always a favorite activity at area recreation centers.

a lot of new skaters. The break is always popular. People are looking for things to do.

"We give out free passes to a lot of the schools, that kind of helps, too," she said.

Bonaventure is located at 24505 Halsted, between Grand River and 11 Mile Road in Farmington Hills. Call (248) 476-2200 for more information.

Following are more special family friendly activities in the Farmington area during school winter break, which ends in Farmington and Farmington Hills on Jan. 3.

• At The Farmington Civic Theater, a penny at the concession stand will buy a free medium popcorn with a \$3.50 ticket purchase for movies that begin before noon. The last day for the special is Monday, Jan. 2.

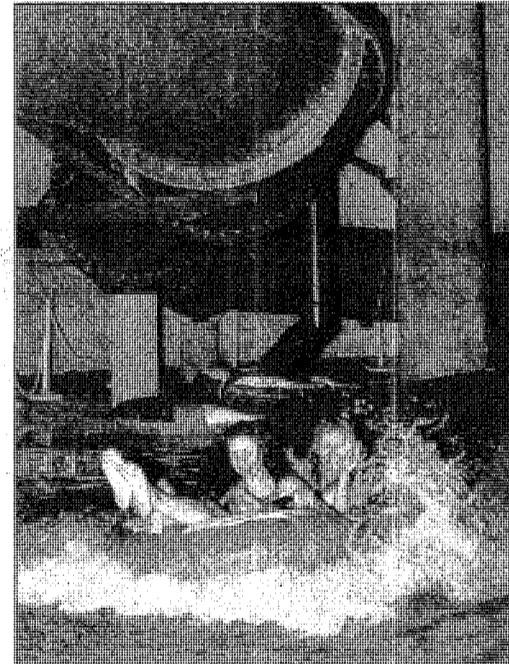
Eligible movies are *Courageous* (PG-13) and *Puss in Boots* (PG); and beginning Friday, *Moneyball* (PG-13).

All showtimes are available at www.theFCT.com. The historic city owned theater, 33332 Grand Riv-

er Ave., is in downtown Farmington, near Farmington Road.

• Drakehire Lanes hosts a Family New Years Eve Party from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 31. The party features two hours of unlimited bowling, shoes, pizza, pop, party favors and prizes. Up to five people per lane. The cost is \$12 per person. A \$20 deposit is required per family by Dec. 30. The website is www.drakeshirelanes.com; phone number is (248) 478-2230.

• Let It Snow Holiday Break Camp for kindergarten through eighth grade continues Thursday and Friday, Dec. 29 and 30, and Monday, Jan.



The Livonia Rec Center's water slide is a popular feature.

2 at the Farmington Family YMCA, 28100 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills. Non-members may attend for \$65 a day. The camp is 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. with before- and after-care included.

Camp activities include swimming, arts and crafts, games, field trips, character development, songs and more. On Y Days, hot lunch will be available for \$5. All participants must bring a sack lunch, swim suit, towel and weather appropriate clothing. For more information, call Trina at (248) 553-4020 ext. 107. Registration forms are available at the front desk of the Farmington Family YMCA.

• The two Farmington Community Library branches will be open on Thursday and Friday, Dec. 29 and 30, and Monday, Jan. 2.

They'll be closed over the weekend for New Year's Eve and New Year's

Day, Dec. 31 and Jan. 1. While no special programs are offered Friday and Monday, the library has something for everyone.

"We have lots of great books, puzzles and puppets for drop-in family fun," said Lori Scott, main branch children's department head. "It's a good time to discover the library and find out what we have to offer and just have a little outing here."

Regular library hours are: 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 1-5 p.m. Sunday.

The Farmington Hills main library branch is located at 32737 W. 12 Mile Rd. Farmington Hills.

The downtown Farmington branch is located at 23500 Liberty Street, Farmington. Phone is (248) 553-0300.

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From time to time our agreements with cable channels and television stations come up for renewal. While we do not anticipate any loss or disruption of service, regulations require us to notify you of the possibility of losing programming. Please be advised, therefore, that our agreements with BBC America, Channel One Russia, Country Music Television, E!, Encore, Encore Action, Encore Drama, Encore Family, Encore Family West, Encore Love, Encore Suspense, Encore West, Encore Westerns, The Filipino Channel, FUSE, GOLF Channel, IndiePlex, NHL Network, NHL Center Ice, Ovation, RetroPlex, Sprout, Starz, Starz Cinema, Starz Cinema West, Starz Comedy, Starz Edge, Starz in Black, Starz Kids & Family, Starz West, Style, TruTV, TV Japan, Youtoo and Zee TV remain in effect on a month to month basis, but we may have to cease carriage in all formats if our authority to continue is withheld. As well, our agreements with WMYD, Cooking Channel, DIY, IFC, Music Choice (Channels 902 through 947), NESN National and WE expire on December 31, 2011, and we may have to cease carriage in all formats if our authority to continue is withheld. We are working diligently at this time to come to acceptable and fair terms with all of these channels.

Effective January 30, 2012, Music Choice will change its name to MC.

Bright House Networks utilizes a new digital video delivery technology known as Switched Digital Video (SDV). SDV is a robust bandwidth management system that makes it possible to offer more digital video programming services than before including new HD channels. To be able to offer more new video services, Bright House Networks will be moving some existing programming services to the new SDV system as well as adding new services on the SDV system.

On or after January 29, 2012, the following services will be delivered on the SDV system:

EWTN	Digital Basic Channel 181
EWTN HD	Digital Basic Channel 381

Channel 181 is now available for previewing.

These services will not be available on uni-directional retail devices as of the date(s) noted above. If you want to subscribe to these services, you will need a digital set-top box or tuning adapter from Bright House Networks. Customers may continue to use their uni-directional retail device and CableCARD to receive video programming other than the programming delivered on the SDV system. Customers who also utilize a digital set-top box or tuning adapter will also be able to receive video programming delivered on the SDV system.

Customers will be notified in advance of any other programming changes.

For more information on Bright House Networks programming, please call 1-877-885-8318 or visit our website at brighthouse.com

bright house
NETWORKS



CITY OF GARDEN CITY NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, January 12, 2012, at 8:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers, at the Civic Center, 6000 Middlebelt Road, Garden City, Michigan. At the hearing, all interested persons shall have an opportunity to be heard.

The purpose of the Public Hearing is to solicit public comments on the following:

- 11-017, Special Land Use. 7153 Middlebelt Road is proposing to construct a gas station. The property is zoned C-3, General Business. Gas stations are a special land use in the C-3 zoning district.

Written comments may be submitted prior to the public hearing and should be addressed to: The Office of Community Development, City of Garden City, 6000 Middlebelt Rd., Garden City, MI 48135.

Publish: December 29, 2011

CE096497-2x3.5

CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS 31555 ELEVEN MILE ROAD FARMINGTON HILLS, MI 48336-1165 (248) 871-2430 ADVERTISEMENT

The City of Farmington Hills Purchasing Division will solicit sealed bids during the next ninety (90) days for the following products and/or services:

- Landscape Maintenance Program
- Analog Vehicular Repeaters

Specifications may be obtained at www.mitn.info. All bids must be submitted in accordance with the bid specifications. The City of Farmington Hills reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, either in part or in whole, to waive any formalities and to accept the bid which it believes to be in the best interest of the City.

Publish: December 29, 2011

Pamela B. Smith, City Clerk

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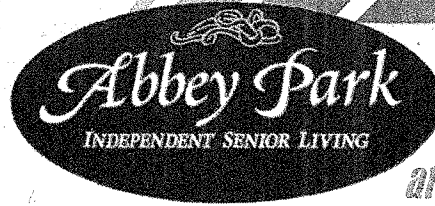
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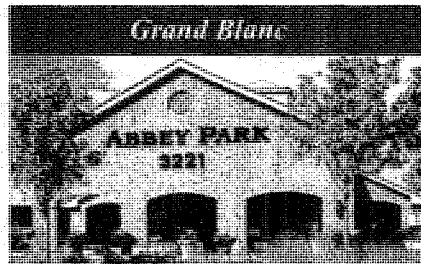
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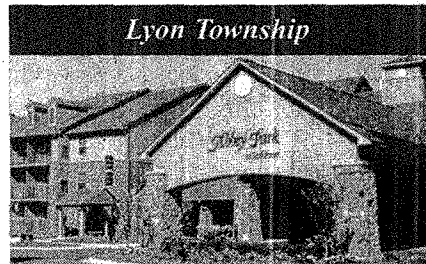
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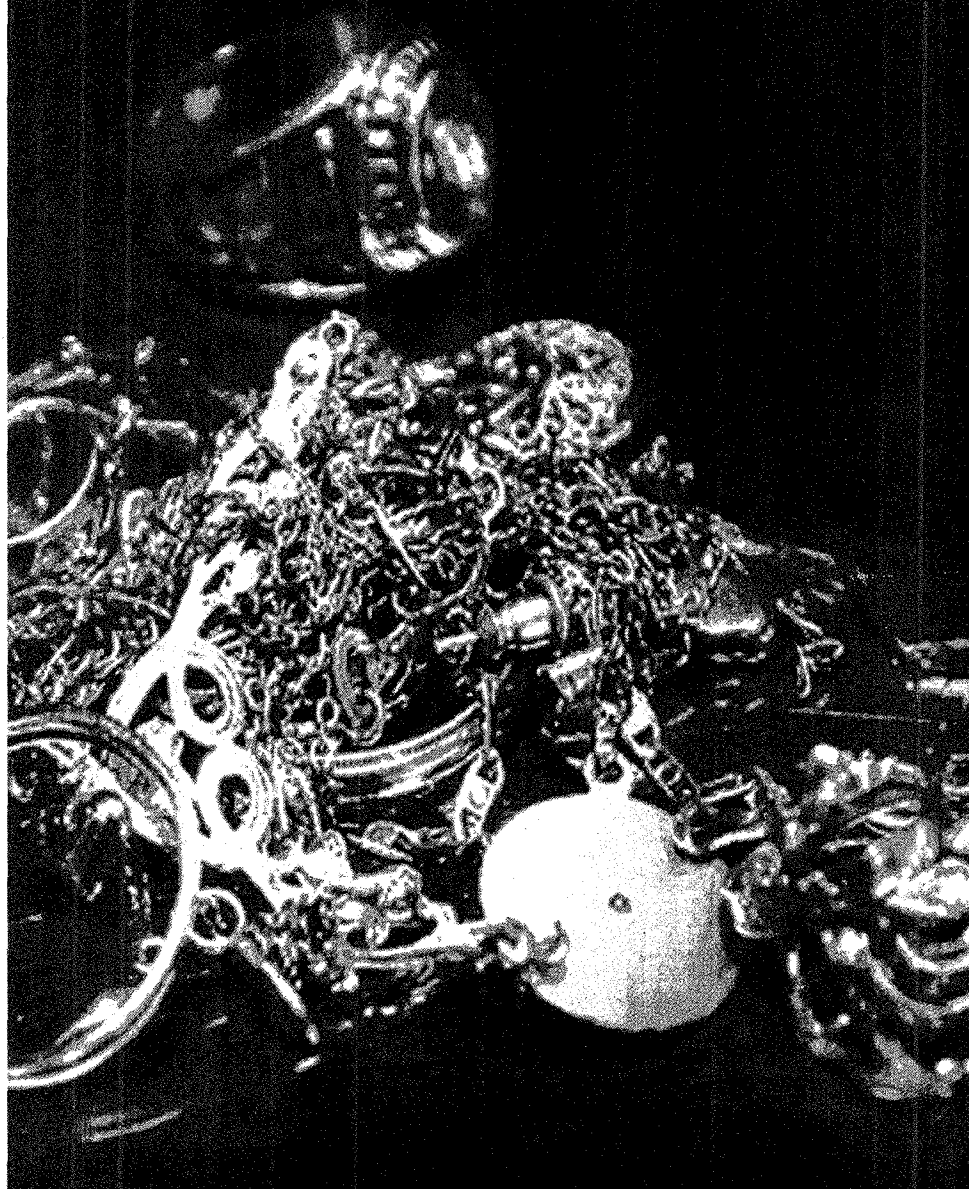


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All Saints collects food for charity

All Saints Catholic School in Canton is making a personal connection to All Saints Parish in Detroit. Led by the school's student council, a recent food drive to benefit the church yielded 495 pounds of donated food items.

"It's nice to know you helped someone in your own community," said Valentine Vena, an eighth-grader and president of the ASCS student council. "It was great that kids of all ages participated. Even preschoolers were a part of the effort and made a difference for those in need."

Although the issue of hunger is a serious one,

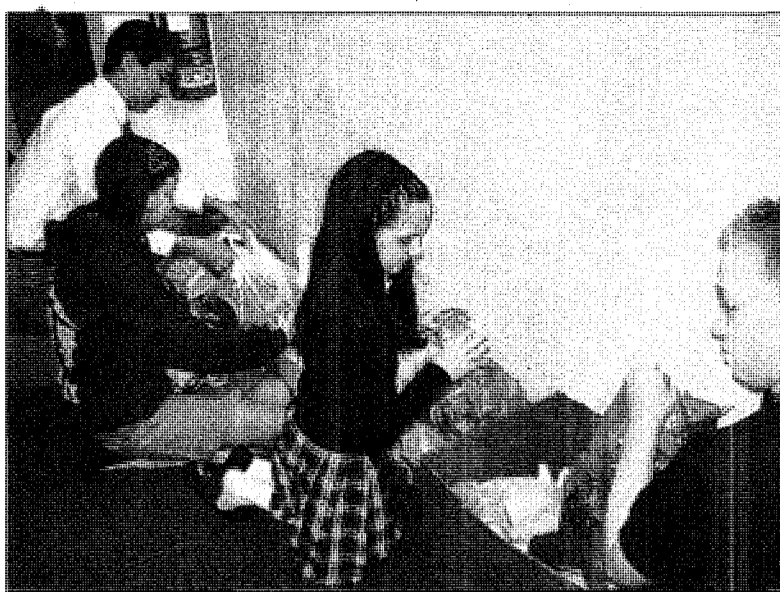
the students brought some friendly competition into the picture to raise awareness about the collection campaign and spur donations. The school has two main hallways, with preschool through third grade in one, and fourth through eighth grade in the other.

The hallways "competed" against each other to see which one could donate the greatest quantity of food. The older kids won, but the true winners will be the people served by All Saints Parish.

The first hall collected 120 pounds of food, and the second hall collected 375 pounds of

food. The total weight of all the food collected for All Saints Food Bank was 495 pounds. All Saints Parish picked up the donations on Dec. 19. The food will be used to serve prepared meals, as well as sent home with people to serve their families.

"I enjoyed seeing the creativity of the kids become apparent," said Emily Wagg, a sixth-grade teacher at All Saints and a student council adviser. "We had kids designing boxes to collect the food. We didn't have a lot of time to plan. It was nice to see everyone just jump in, get together and make it happen."



Valentine Vena (from left), Hannah Cohen, Hannah Watts and Jonathan Hyman prepare the food for pickup.

Wagg added that it was good to make the connection from one All Saints to another, and that students will be looking for future opportunities to help All Saints Parish.

All Saints Catholic School's efforts were not limited to the food drive, however. Two other major initiatives — a sock drive and a coin drive — were launched during the Advent season to support local community members at St. Aloysius Parish.

"The students learn to focus on the needs of others and learn ways to help express their Christian duty to reach out to those in need," said Deacon Donald Leach, the pastoral associate at St. Aloysius in Detroit. Leach explained how the students' efforts will help about 100 people.

"These donations are aimed at our seniors," he said. "They pay for transportation to doctor and dentist appointments, help to pay copays at these visits, help with drug purchase copays, and also to allow us to purchase small

items like pots, pans and dishes for the apartment-dwelling seniors."

Coin drive

For the past few weeks — and continuing into January — the students are encouraged to drop their extra change into collection canisters in their classrooms. The money will be collected on Jan. 20, and donated to St. Aloysius. The need is great, since other sources of funding have been lost, according to Carolyn Forrest, a seventh- and eighth-grade religion teacher at All Saints.

"I think this is important to the students because they learn more about the people in our own community who need help," Forrest said. "We know there is poverty worldwide, but the kids also discover they can help those in need who are close to them by doing small things."

Sock drive

Also in conjunction with St. Aloysius, All Saints students have supported a sock drive. During the week of Dec. 5-9, students brought in

new pairs of socks.

"We chose to do a sock drive because we thought it correlated well with our school theme for this year, which is 'Following in the Footsteps of Jesus,'" said Jessica Kotlarek, a second-grade teacher and a leader on the Catholic Identity Committee at the school. "We also held the drive during the week of St. Nicholas' feast day, to make the connection with the tradition of leaving a shoe for him to fill."

The students collected "two very large boxes," Kotlarek said. "I was overwhelmed, especially because we did little promotion or advertising at school, and hosted the drive rather quickly. Deacon Don Leach will pick up the socks, which will be placed into backpacks and distributed."

Leach is grateful to the ASCS students. "Thank you for all your efforts," he said. "I hope we will be able to develop other ways for you to integrate yourselves into the lives of the poor in the inner city over the years to come."

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The Michigan Economic Development Corporation is a public-private partnership serving as the state's marketing arm and lead agency for business, talent and jobs, tourism, film and digital incentives, arts and cultural grants and overall economic growth.

MEDC ramps up to 'grow' Michigan

Observer: Tell us about the MEDC and what its mission is?

The Michigan Economic Development Corporation is a public-private partnership serving as the state's marketing arm and lead agency for business, talent and jobs, tourism, film and digital incentives, arts and cultural grants, and overall economic growth.

MEDC offers a number of business assistance services and capital programs for business attraction and acceleration, economic gardening, entrepreneurship, strategic partnerships, talent enhancement and urban and community development. MEDC, founded in 1999, also developed and manages the state's popular Pure Michigan brand.

Our mission: To market Michigan and provide the tools and environment to drive job creation and investment.

Observer: The goal is to diversify Michigan's economy. With the state's long association with the auto industry, how are you accomplishing that diversification?

We must diversify our economy to capture

MEDC

Business Name: Michigan Economic Development Corp.



Finney

Your name and position: Michael A. Finney, President and CEO

Your Hometown: MEDC headquarters in Lansing, Office in Detroit, and satellite offices in every region of the state

Business Number of Employees: 500+

Opened: 1999 (formerly the Michigan Jobs Commission and the Michigan Dept. of Commerce)

Hours of operation: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Your Business Specialty: Economic development

Phone and website: (888) 522-0103, www.michigan-nadventure.org; www.michigan.org

more knowledge-based jobs in areas such as health care, information, and yes, advanced manufacturing.

Our diversification strategy centers on "economic gardening," working with existing companies to find new markets for their products so they can create good-paying jobs.

Observer: What is Michigan Advantage and Pure Michigan?

Pure Michigan is the nationally known brand of the State of Michigan, administered by the state's marketing arm, the Michigan Economic Development Corporation. Since

2006, Pure Michigan advertising has described the wonders of Michigan, but in 2011 MEDC began bringing all of its activities under the popular brand, voted one of the 10 best destination brands ever by *Forbes Magazine*. MEDC has two websites: www.MichiganAdvantage.org for business and www.michigan.org for travel and tourism.

Observer: How hard has it been to attract new business to Michigan? What is helping or hindering your efforts?

We've been very successful at bringing new businesses to Michigan, including Magna Electronics, HP,

Gordon Food Service, Health Summit and Patriot Solar just to name a few. We've dramatically lowered business taxes and developed new tools to help companies locate and grow here.

Observer: What's your goal for diversifying Michigan's economy in 2012? How do you plan to achieve that?

The goal for 2012 and beyond is to make Michigan a top 10 state in employment, GDP growth, per capita income, and young adult population growth. We will continue to work in what Governor Snyder describes as "dog years." This means ramping up all the things we've put into place in terms of our economic gardening toolkit, talent initiatives and other economic development programs.

Observer: What has been your biggest success in 2011?

Laying the foundation necessary to reinvent Michigan: creating one of the most competitive tax climates in the country, putting an emphasis on talent enhancement, shifting our focus to economic gardening and increasing the flow of capital to help start and grow new ventures.

BUSINESS NEWSMAKERS

Elected vice chair

The International Truck Parts Association has announced the election of Jake Rea of Michigan Truck Parts in Westland to serve as vice chairman of its Board of Directors. His involvement and expertise in the industry will be a valuable asset for the association's management team.

The International Truck Parts Association was organized with 46 charter member companies in September 1974, as a not-for-profit association to promote, foster, and improve relationships among sellers and buyers of trucks and truck surplus products and other parties. A major purpose of ITPA is to exchange information and to improve and advance the truck parts aftermarket.

Michigan Truck Parts is at 38658 Ford Road, west of Newburgh, Westland.

Food Drive

TLC Holistic Wellness at 31580 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia, is holding a food drive to benefit Gleaners Community Food Bank. The goal is to collect 500 items.

Dry, canned and non-perishable food items — along with personal care items — can be dropped off at TLC through Thursday, Jan. 6.

Financial Boot Camp

DFCU is offering its repeating "Money Rocks at DFCU Financial" for kids 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 28, at its Livonia branch, 37373 Seven Mile, Livonia.

Kids will learn why saving money is important, the three things to do with your money and the cost of starting a new small business. In addition to important information on handling money, the Boot Camp includes prizes, snacks and a pizza lunch.

The boot camp also will be offered at Fairlane Branch, 400 Town Center Dr., Dearborn, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 29.

For a reservation, call (313) 322-8225.

MEGA assist

The Michigan Economic Development Authority (MEGA) Board has approved a tax credit amendment for the U.S. Farathane Corporation to expand at its Westland and Shelby Township Facilities and build a new facility in another location.

USF designs and manufactures highly engineered plastic fabricated components. USF provides its customers with a wide range of full service support in product design, material selection and manufacturing capabilities primarily serving the automotive, consumer goods, electronics and heavy truck industries.

The company continues to diversify itself into new markets and products through utilizing its existing capabilities and taking them to other industries.

USF received a tax credit in 2009 for its new headquarters. This year's tax credit is an amendment to the 2009 credit so that it can expand in Westland and other locations. This new expansion is expected to create 391 new jobs. The company currently has 1,033 employees in Michigan.

The importance of teams in successful organizations

This is the second of a three-part series on the importance of teams. See Thursday, Jan. 5, for part three. The first installment was published Dec. 22.

By Martina Bogdanoska
Guest Columnist

In organizations, people very often reveal that it is much better to work in teams because teamwork improves execution of activities and mutual goals can be achieved faster.

It is so because no single person can have all relevant knowledge, skills and capabilities that are mutually complementary. Only in this way can a complementary team be built where its members will learn from individual differences and attain greater achievements because of them.

The team offers three major benefits:

1. It develops human potential at maximum level
2. It causes synergetic effects
3. It enables continuous improvement

Every team must address the following criteria:

- Personal identify of the team
- Membership involvement
- Influence, control, mutual trust
- Understanding, mutual loyalty

Every team goes through four phases of development: chaos, formality, maturity and team development. To achieve goals of successful work, relationship toward clients, innovation and motivation of the employees, managers should form different teams.

The teams should be formed by managers and should realize the goals of the organization. These teams include:

- Management (executive director, vice president and department heads)
- Research and Development

(members who have expertise in developing new products)

- Working groups (employees that report to one supervisor)
- Self-governing groups (employees who observe their own activities and the quality of produce and services they are providing)

The number of members in a team may be an important determinant of motivation for members and their commitment to the work of the group. There are several advantages to maintaining a relatively small group — between two and 10 members.

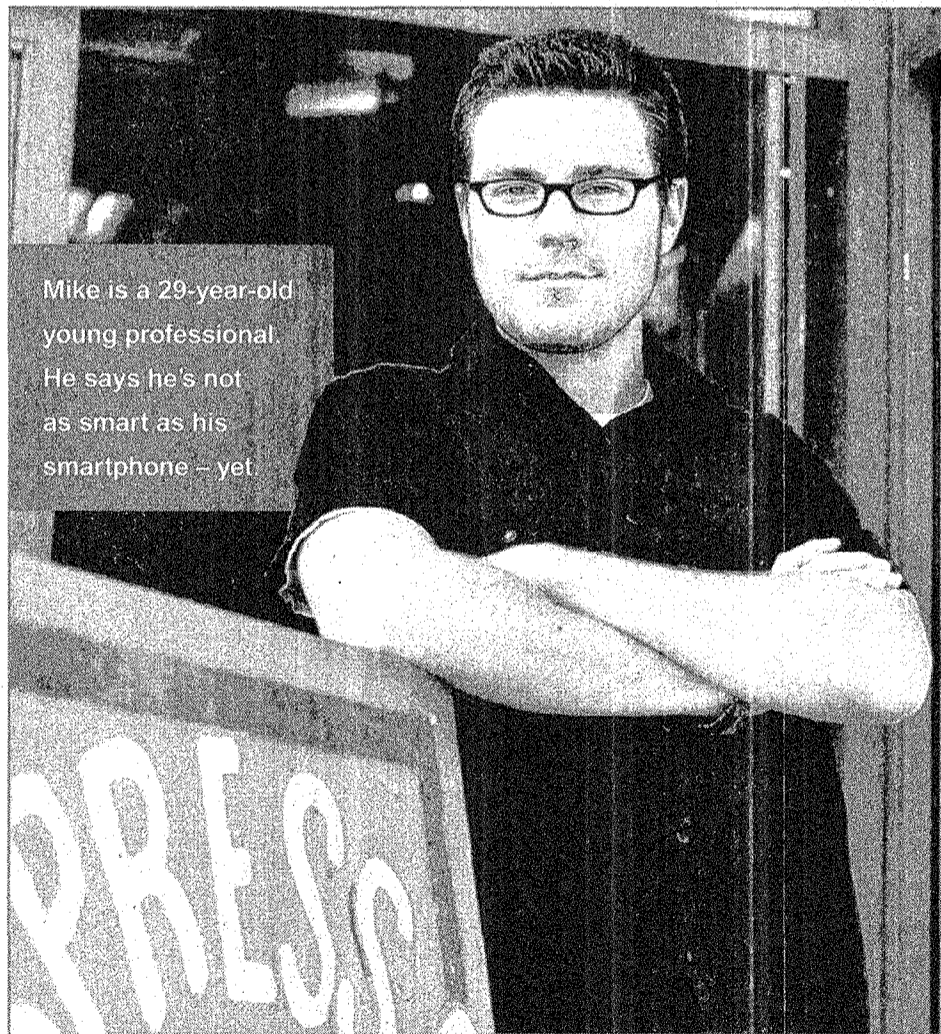
Compared with members of large groups, members of small groups tend to communicate more easily with each other and they can coordinate their efforts to be more motivated, satisfied and engaged. In these groups, it is easy to share information and to perceive the significance of personal contributions to the success of the group.

Recognizing these advantages, Muhvold Nathan, senior vice president for advanced technology at Microsoft Corp., found that eight is the ideal number of members for teams in research and development.

In choosing the appropriate size of the group, managers try to get the benefit of small groups while also forming groups with sufficient resources to achieve goals and have a well-developed division of labor. As a general rule, the groups should have more members than necessary to achieve the division of labor and resources necessary to meet the objectives of the group.

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

Next week: Every team needs a leader



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OUR VIEWS

Look to us for the local news that matters

With 2011 just about in the rearview mirror, it's time to start looking forward to the new year. And 2012 certainly promises to be a big one for Southeast Michigan and the nation as a whole.

The staff here at the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers* is certainly anticipating a great 2012 — and looking forward to bringing all the news that matters to our readers. As always, our goal is to provide our readers with the most up to date look at the news stories that impact our local communities. Not only in our award-winning print editions, but also on our website, www.hometownlife.com, which is

updated daily with breaking news stories.

For years, the so-called experts have been predicting the demise of the newspaper industry. And for sure, we've experienced some tough times in recent years — just like many other industries. But our commitment to our readers has never waned, even in the face of a faltering economy that has forced us to make some difficult changes. But we are still standing, and we thank all of our readers for standing with us. We are looking forward to a new year that promises to be filled with extraordinary news stories.

For the first time in what seems like an eternity, the economy — both locally and nationally — is on the upswing. Let us hope that continues. Far too many people in Michigan have been hurt by layoffs and lost income since the beginning of the "Great Recession" and we could certainly use some good news on the economic front. It will be nice to report some good news on that front this year, especially how an improved economy will mean brighter days for our communities.

Elections also promise to be big news in 2012. Many local, state and federal offices will be up for

grabs. We hope to see an informed electorate head to the polls in the August primary and November general elections. While most of the national media will focus on the presidential race, we know that state and local campaigns will have a more direct impact on our readers, especially as it relates to taxes and services. You can look to us to provide the political coverage that hits closer to home.

We realize in most cases our newspapers are the only source when it comes to local news coverage. We take that responsibility very seriously. That's why we have reporters at school board and city

council meetings, prep sporting events and all the other happenings that are important to our readers.

In 2012, we invite our readers to become more involved. Whether it is a letter to the editor or a comment on our website, we want everyone's voice to be heard. That's what we are here for. We just ask that everyone respects the opinions of others — even when you might not agree.

As we turn the page on another year, we hope you will continue to look to us as your trusted news source. We are proud to be a part of our communities. And we thank you for trust.

COMMUNITY VOICE

What is your wish for the New Year?



"I guess just another happy, healthy New Year for me and my family."

Matthew Stabile
Farmington Hills



"Get a job and keep one. That's my focus right now. I moved from Traverse City and I'm looking for job opportunities."

Scott McCloskey
Livonia



"I wanted the Lions to make the playoffs; now that they're there, I want them to do well in the playoffs."

Christa Bekker
Canton



"It's going to be mostly what it is every year - to organize at home."

Mona Smith
Garden City



"Personally I wish the world would know the Christmas season is a celebration of Christ's birth and his message to the world."

Eric Moore
Livonia



"Generally, I don't make them."

Rob Bloomfield
Westland



"I don't have one, I don't usually do one."

Julie Forthun
Garden City



"Just a safe and healthy family."

Hunter Stabile, 9
Farmington Hills



"I think to be more patient with my children and keep up with the yard work."

Kimberly McDonaldson
Westland



"Peace for families. A lot of families don't have that."

Susan Stoney
Plymouth



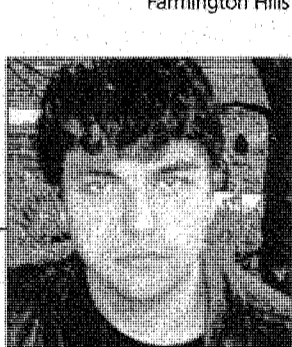
"Truly for people to co-exist with a real conscience and awareness of the true meaning of life, because there is so much negativity. There's more to life than just themselves."

Jennifer Westcott
Livonia



"Just a happy, peaceful life. I'm semi-retired, so just enjoy life, why not?"

Rajendra Shah
Farmington Hill



"I want to quit smoking, and hopefully I'll get into the University of Michigan to study medicine."

Michael Awad
Plymouth



"For me, it's to make time to work out and make use of my gym membership."

Ashlee Baracy
Westland



"I hope maybe to just try and eat healthier and not be on a diet."

Barb Wlosinski
Garden City

Teamwork vital for money worries

We've had our silent night. Now the area is about to get a whole lot noisier, and it won't just be from the revelry on New Year's Eve.

As a troubled year is ending, a challenging one is beginning throughout the region. Frequently, as individuals voice their New Year's resolutions, a big one is always to lose weight, but that was high on Gov. Rick Snyder's list even before the end of this year.

The kind of weight the governor had in mind was that from unnecessary expenses and duplication of service in our towns and schools. Officials railed bitterly against making awards in revenue sharing and aid to education dependent on meeting criteria

showing moves to reduce expenses by sharing the burden of providing services. Most officials pointed out that their schools and local governments have already done just that.

But the truth is that the state budget has become skinny, skin and bones, if you will. It is providing the spine of structure, but little else for local entities.

Perhaps in a way this is better than the bulimic feeding frenzy of past years for funding for sustenance of services that may have been able to have been fed a more healthy diet. But who is to say what nutrients are essential and which are icing on the cake?

Well, the one good thing is that

the governor has left it up to communities and schools to devise their own diet. The problem is that it has been a forced crash diet. So that noise you are about to hear as the New Year begins is likely to be from the gnashing of teeth as the budget process begins for the next fiscal year.

There is an image with a puzzle that involves a group of people sitting in a circle around a pot of food. Each person has a spoon, but it is a very, very long spoon — far too long to dip into the pot and then bring the nourishment to an individual's own lips.

The puzzle is: Will those people starve and go into receivership? Or will they find a solution

to their collective problem? The answer to that puzzle is the one all schools and governments must embrace.

In the case of the pot of food, the people sitting around it discovered that the spoon may be too long to feed themselves, but it was just right to feed the person opposite them.

Local officials are all sitting around a pot of money, diminished though it is. As many times as they have called for cooperation, it is more essential now than ever.

Local officials will always have their own spoons, but they will have to come up with ways to make sure we all get our daily bread.

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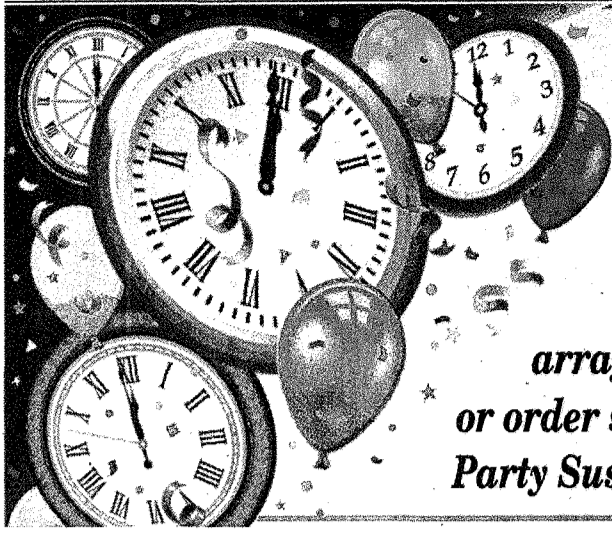
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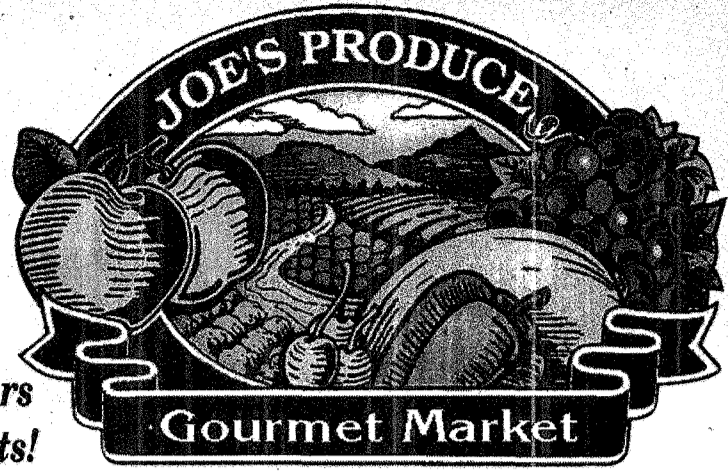
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Jipping plays big in PCA win

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Opponents flinch when Plymouth Christian Academy senior center Eric Jipping turns it up a notch.

And Dec. 22 against visiting Franklin Road Christian, the 6-foot-5 Jipping wasn't about to let the Warriors get any gift-wrapped victory.

Pounding the ball inside time after time, he scored 27 points — including a personal 7-0 run in the fourth to give PCA the lead for keeps — as the Eagles came away with a 56-55 Michigan Independent Athletics Conference crossover win to improve to 3-1.

Other PCA contributors included junior forwards Mick Noel (16 points, four assists) and Drew Ibach (seven points).

The physical Jipping, who also had 10 rebounds, is a treat to watch any time he's on the court. But on Thursday, his bulldog attitude brought a smile to PCA head coach Dominique Washington's face.

"He's our senior and our leader," said Washington, about Jipping taking control of the game in the fourth. "If he wants to play at the next level, he's going to have to be able to do that at this level."

"We have confidence in the decisions he makes. We know he's a great player, he's very, very confident. Fourth quarter, if he's going to step up he's going to step up. We're going to let him go."

The Warriors (1-3) led 51-47 midway through the final frame. Three Jipping power moves to the basket and a free throw later, it was a 54-51 PCA lead with just 1:44 remaining.

In all, Jipping tallied 12 of the Eagles' 15 points in the final stanza.

PCA never gave up the lead after that, although a triple at the horn by junior Quinn D'Ascenzo (21 points, eight rebounds) made it a one-point differential.

According to Franklin Road head coach Chico Hamilton, the play of Jipping wore down his defense, and contributed to senior forward Averett Barksdale's late foul trouble.

Barksdale (16 points), who has drawn interest from Schoolcraft College, had to ease up on his defensive pressure after drawing his fourth foul of the night.

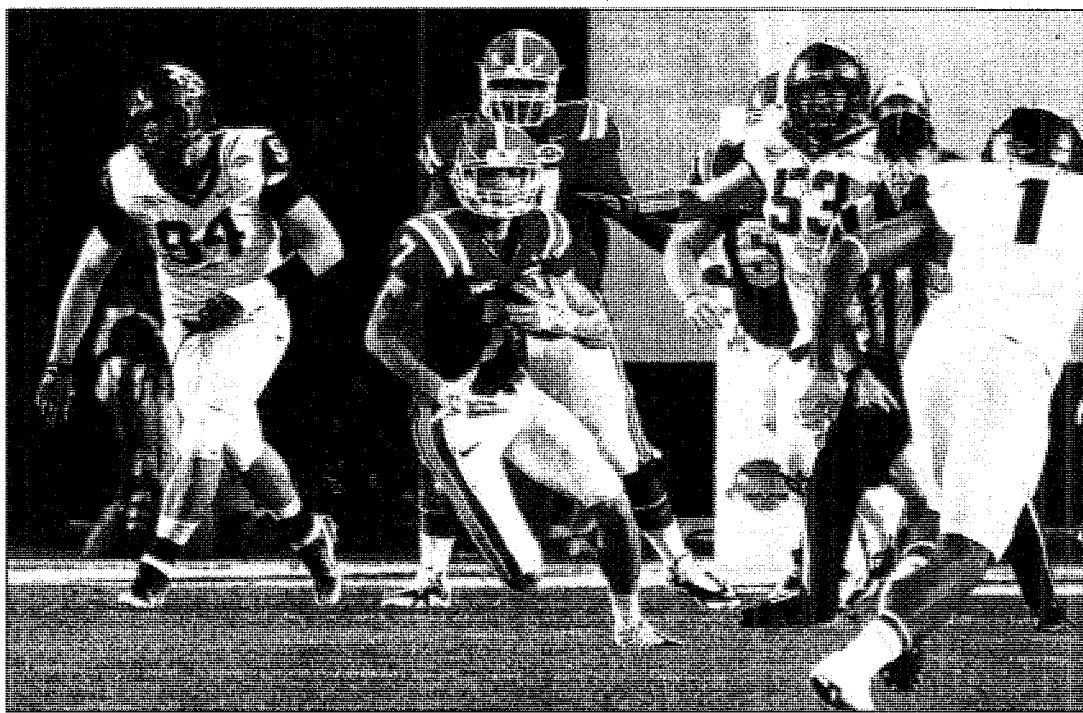
Hamilton subsequently had to use a guard against Jipping, creating a mismatch.

"He (Barksdale) had to play more tentatively and cautiously," Hamilton said.

On the flip side, Hamilton said the Warriors "took a couple bad shots where we could have worked the ball inside to get a better shot. Too many unnecessary threes. We weren't attacking the basket in the second half."

Despite the win, Washington said there is much room for the Eagles to improve.

Please see HOOPS, B2



Stevenson High grad Myles White (7) makes the grab for Louisiana Tech during last week's Poinsettia Bowl game in San Diego against TCU. White had seven catches for 110 yards in a 31-24 setback.

A White Christmas

'Tis better to receive for Stevenson grad at La. Tech

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

Myles White has taken a circuitous route to remain a Division I football player.

It's over 1,000 miles and a 17-hour drive from Livonia to Rushton, La., but the junior wide receiver from Stevenson High is thankful he's gotten a second chance after a couple of embarrassing incidents at Michigan State, which led to his transfer.

After a sprained foot limited his play during the first half

of the season, the 6-foot-1, 185-pound White finished the season with a flurry including a career-best seven catches for 110 yards — including a 61-yard touchdown reception that gave Louisiana Tech a late 24-17 third-quarter lead — in the Bulldogs' 31-24 loss last week to No. 18-ranked TCU in the Poinsettia Bowl held in San Diego.

For the season, White ranked third in receptions (30) for a total of 414 yards and three TDs for the 8-5 Bulldogs. He also averaged a team-best 13.8 yards per catch for the Western Athletic Conference champions.

"I was irritated that we lost because I felt everything was in place, but it was a fun game overall just to be on national television, and to play in front of everybody," White said. "Louisiana Tech hadn't been to a bowl game since 2008, so

that was good for the school and the university.

After catching the 61-yard TD pass from quarterback Colby Cameron, the national TV cameras captured a glimpse of White on the sidelines. And never one to shy away from the cameras, White delivered a message.

"It's a shout out to Michigan and Livonia, and everybody back home, my whole family, and everybody at Stevenson," he said. "I just wanted to show everybody where my heart is."

White's heart was originally with Michigan State where he earned a football scholarship.

It's also the place where he his dad Michael ran track and where his twin brother, Mitchell, joined him the same year as walk-on defensive back.

The White brothers, which also included Austin (now at Central Michigan), led Stevenson to the 2007 MHSAA Division 1 state championship game.

After red shirting his freshman year (2008), Myles White appeared in six games for MSU during the 2009 season while earning his letter.

But later that season, White ran into trouble with the law

and was suspended for the remainder of the season. He transferred to Louisiana Tech after a year at Michigan State.

White's transfer to Louisiana Tech was a surprise to many, but he says he's happy to be back on the field.

"I'm excited to be here and to play for Louisiana Tech. I'm going to give it my all and try to help the team win."

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Stevenson High grad Myles White makes the grab for Louisiana Tech during a regular season game against Fresno State.

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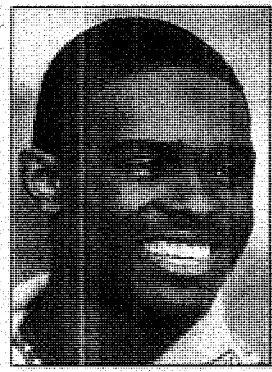
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Buford opts out to Iowa

Canton senior defensive back/half-back/return specialist Kevin Buford will be a Hawkeye.

Buford recently visited the campus of the University of Iowa and immediately loved it enough — not to mention the lure of playing in the Big Ten — to decide to change his verbal commitment from the University of Toledo.

The Hawkeyes' football staff also liked Buford and he could make an impact as soon as the 2012 season.

Canton head football coach Tim Baechler said it's a good fit for the All-Observer player.

"Kevin will play corner at Iowa and may return kicks and punts as well," Baechler said. "They like his personality and character and his explosiveness and big play ability."

A formal signing will take place in February.

Blazers skate past Pioneer

Goalie Sarah Koch made 18 saves to post the shutout as red-hot Livonia Ladywood captured its fourth straight game last week with a 3-0 Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League win over the host Pioneers at Veterans Arena.

After a scoreless opening period, Ladywood's Lane Kolpacke tallied the game-winner from Katie Folk in the second.

The Blazers (4-5, 4-5) added two more goals in the third from Jackie Kristofik (unassisted) and Hannah Pereira (empty netter).

Paulina Arsenaault made 21 saves for Ann Arbor (5-2, 5-2).

Moose skate vs. ex-Wings

The Detroit Moose Hockey Club and the Detroit Red Wings Alumni Association will host their annual charity hockey game on Jan. 7 at the Arctic Edge Ice Arena in Canton.

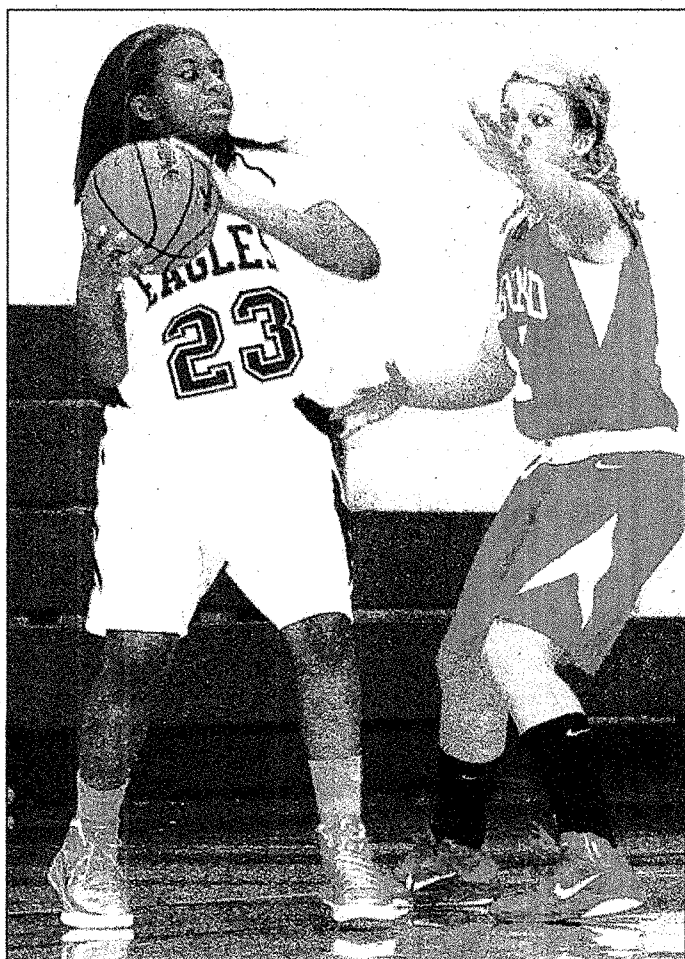
All funds raised from the event will benefit the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

Doors open at 4:30 p.m. and the game will start at promptly at 5 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$15 the day of the game. (Children under the age of 10 will be admitted free.)

A variety of raffle prizes will also be given away and all admission tickets will be entered into the drawing.

A special drawing will also be held for a shot to skate with the Detroit Red Wings Alumni, which will be announced during the Jan. 2 Winter Classic. These \$25 tickets must be purchased in advance (adults only).



Redford Thurston sophomore point guard Brijanae Durrough scans the court for an open teammate during overtime of the Eagles' 56-49 setback to Bedford Tuesday night.

Thurston doomed by late collapse

By Ed Wright
Observer Staff Writer

Led by a high-performance Lexus, Redford Thurston's girls basketball team cruised through the first 28 minutes of Tuesday night's game against Temperance Bedford when it built a 10-point lead.

Unfortunately for the Eagles, the wheels came off down the stretch.

A big night from Thurston junior forward Lexus LeGardy (12 points) couldn't put the brakes on a furious fourth-quarter rally by Bedford, which survived with a 56-49 victory over the Eagles in an opening-night encounter in the Airport Christmas Classic.

Thurston (4-2) was set to play Adrian in Wednesday's action at Carleton Airport High School.

Sharing scoring honors with LeGardy was Taylor Hunt, who also poured in 12 points. Sophomore point guard Brijanae Durrough scored eight points for the Eagles.

Ellen Hays led the winners with 19 while Taylor Foster pumped in 14.

After trailing 27-26 at the half, the Eagles surged in the third quarter and early in the fourth when they constructed a 45-35 advantage.

But the Kicking Mules took advantage of a sudden shooting slump by Thurston to knot the game at 48-48 at

the end of regulation before holding the Eagles to just a single free throw by Hunt in the four-minute overtime.

"Once we got up by 10 in the fourth quarter, we kept shooting the ball instead of showing some patience," said Thurston head coach Marvin Essix. "We had too many wild shots and lazy passes. Bedford kept playing and made a couple plays to get back in it, then we panicked a little bit."

With the Eagles leading by two points and just over a minute remaining on the fourth-quarter clock, Durrough was injured when she collided with a Bedford player while in possession of the ball, however, no foul was called. Bedford tied the game with 53 seconds left in regulation.

"Lexus LeGardy shot the ball very well tonight," said Essix, when asked for some bright spots. "She was getting her feet set and her jumper was falling."

"We were patient with the ball as a team for most of the game. We passed the ball around until we got an easy basket — until the fourth quarter. Give Bedford credit. They kept playing and kept fighting."

Essix was also impressed by the effort of junior forward Adajaih Pittman, who pulled down a team-high 10 rebounds.

GIRLS BEST SWIM TIMES

<p>200-YARD MEDLEY RELAY Farmington Hills Mercy 1:46.57 Farmington Harrison 1:48.99 Canton 1:52.28 Livonia Stevenson 1:52.89 Plymouth 1:54.40</p> <p>200 FREESTYLE Sato Kakahara (Mercy) 1:52.81 Olivia Samoray (Mercy) 1:53.00 Maggie Hack (Harrison) 1:53.37 Kathleen McGee (Mercy) 1:53.90 Lauren Seroka (Salem) 1:55.42 Lauren Folkert (Farmington) 1:55.54 Maddy Loniewski (Mercy) 1:57.03 Miranda Doepker (Harrison) 1:57.59 Abby Aumiller (Salem) 1:58.09 Sarah Cauzillo (Stevenson) 1:58.20</p> <p>200 INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY Maddy Loniewski (Mercy) 2:04.82 Marina Borri (Harrison) 2:09.44 Annie Valentine (Mercy) 2:10.43 Delaney Adams (Canton) 2:12.29 Lauren Seroka (Salem) 2:12.71 Hannah Jenkins (Canton) 2:12.85 Kathleen McGee (Mercy) 2:13.53 Emily Toro (Plymouth) 2:13.79 Elliott Schinella (Mercy) 2:14.23 Linda Erickson (Plymouth) 2:14.49</p> <p>50 FREESTYLE Maddy Loniewski (Mercy) 24.15 Elliott Schinella (Mercy) 24.25 Sandra Johnson (Harrison) 24.44 Destinee Barmore-Hicks (Cant.) 24.60 Sato Kakahara (Mercy) 25.20 Roxanne Griffore (Mercy) 25.21 Brenna Gabrielson (Stevenson) 25.26 Stephanie Matsui (Plymouth) 25.29 Carlee Jackson (Mercy) 25.42 Rachel Mack (Mercy) 25.42</p> <p>DIVING Emmy Orrico (Mercy) 402.25 Erica Allor (Mercy) 310.65 Christine Peterson (Mercy) 309.90 Molly Miller (Harrison) 275.70 Bridget Maul (Salem) 267.45 Yumi Nozawa (Churchill) 254.85 Sydney Grenier (Churchill) 251.65 Megan McKeehan (Plymouth) 250.50 Melissa Green (Canton) 245.00 Alyssa Bresso (N. Farmington) 242.80</p> <p>100 BUTTERFLY Sato Kakahara (Mercy) 56.68 Annie Valentine (Mercy) 56.75 Miranda Shelly (Harrison) 58.45 Emily Toro (Plymouth) 59.55 Sara Stemen (Stevenson) 59.92 Delaney Adams (Canton) 1:00.00 Miranda Doepker (Harrison) 1:00.22 Hannah Schmidt (Mercy) 1:00.39</p>	<p>Ashley Reed (Stevenson) 1:00.70 Hannah Knoop (Mercy) 1:00.81 Emily Brunett (Harrison) 1:00.82</p> <p>100 FREESTYLE Olivia Samoray (Mercy) 52.13 Sato Kakahara (Mercy) 52.61 Maggie Hack (Harrison) 53.17 Roxanne Griffore (Mercy) 53.50 Maddy Loniewski (Mercy) 53.51 Kathleen McGee (Mercy) 54.01 Christine Edwards (Mercy) 54.02 Destinee Barmore-Hicks (Cant.) 54.26 Sandra Johnson (Harrison) 54.82 Stephanie Matsui (Plymouth) 54.84</p> <p>500 FREESTYLE Lauren Seroka (Salem) 5:02.46 Kathleen McGee (Mercy) 5:03.62 Olivia Samoray (Mercy) 5:04.17 Claire Green (Canton) 5:13.78 Sato Kakahara (Mercy) 5:15.07 Evelyn Stein (Stevenson) 5:15.57 Julia Suriano (Salem) 5:16.32 Michaela Bargardi (Mercy) 5:19.49 Emma Michalczuk (Mercy) 5:20.12 Emma Baldus (Mercy) 5:20.15</p> <p>200 FREESTYLE RELAY Farmington Hills Mercy 1:36.34 Farmington Harrison 1:39.68 Plymouth 1:40.61 Canton 1:42.30 Farmington 1:44.11</p> <p>100 BACKSTROKE Elliott Schinella (Mercy) 57.14 Abby Aumiller (Salem) 58.32 Jordan Ewald (Mercy) 59.49 Christine Edwards (Mercy) 59.66 Lauren Folkert (Farmington) 59.77 Roxanne Griffore (Mercy) 59.83 Olivia Rath (Harrison) 1:00.01 Ashley Reed (Stevenson) 1:00.68 Maddy Loniewski (Mercy) 1:01.04 Brenna Gabrielson (Steve.) 1:01.21</p> <p>100 BREASTSTROKE Maddy Loniewski (Mercy) 1:05.12 Marina Borri (Harrison) 1:06.44 Hallie Zulch (Mercy) 1:07.98 Hannah Knoop (Mercy) 1:08.74 Delaney Adams (Canton) 1:09.58 Rachel Mack (Mercy) 1:09.80 Sarah Cauzillo (Stevenson) 1:10.26 Lauren Seroka (Salem) 1:10.48 Julia Hurler (Stevenson) 1:10.56 Mikayla Doepker (Harrison) 1:10.63</p> <p>400 FREESTYLE RELAY Farmington Hills Mercy 3:31.11 Farmington Harrison 3:37.60 Salem 3:38.12 Livonia Stevenson 3:40.99 Plymouth 3:41.77</p>
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Rocket boys cagers fall to Ypsi, 49-35

The Westland John Glenn boys basketball team stayed close for a half Tuesday afternoon before falling to host Ypsilanti, 49-35, in the Metro Detroit Basketball Coaches Association Christmas Tournament. Tristan Simmons scored a game-high 21 points, while Lavonta Davis add-

ed 12 for the victorious Phoenix, who improved to 3-2 overall. Junior guard Nick Daniels paced the Rockets (1-2) with 15 points, while senior forward Eric Covile chipped in with 12. After a 16-all halftime deadlock, Ypsilanti went on a 17-8 third-quarter

run to take command. The Phoenix then outscored Glenn 16-11 during the final period. Ypsilanti connected on 7-of-12 free throws, while Glenn hit 7-of-12. The Rockets return to action 1 p.m. Friday at Ypsilanti to face Grosse Pointe South in the Metro Detroit Tournament.

THE WEEK AHEAD

<p>BOYS BASKETBALL 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 Thursday, Dec. 29 Harrison at Northville, TBA. (Det. Country Day Tourney)</p>	<p>Lady. vs. Pershing, 4:40 p.m. Friday, Dec. 30 N. Farmington vs. Chandler at Country Day M.S., TBA. 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.)</p>	<p>in Denver, Colo., 3 p.m. (CST) Saturday, Dec. 30 S'craft at Glen Oaks, 3 p.m. WOMEN'S COLLEGE HOOPS Thursday, Dec. 29 Madonna vs. Lewis & Clark (Ill.) at Las Vegas Shootout, 7 p.m. ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE Friday, Dec. 30 Whalers vs. Saginaw Spirit at Computware Arena, 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 31 Whalers at Windsor, 2 p.m. TBA - time to be announced.</p>
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WHITE

Continued from page B1

and was sentenced two 18 months probation and 150 hours of community service for his involvement in a misdemeanor incident at MSU's Rafter Hall. White pleaded guilty to misdemeanor assault, while a charge of conspiracy was dropped against him. He was also charged a month later with urinating in public, a 90-day misdemeanor, and with minor in possession of alcohol.

Suspended by MSU, White decided to go the junior college route landing at Northwest Mississippi Community College during the fall of 2010.

With the Rangers, White ranked sixth nationally in receptions (53) for 712 yards. He also caught six TD passes while earning NJCAA All-Region XXIII and All-Conference honors.

"I was looking for a place to go and I considered Grand Rapids CC (Community College), but I got a call and said I was better off in Mississippi," White said. "I went down there and had a pretty good season."

But playing for a JUCO in a place (Senatobia) where he had never been to before proved to be an adjustment.

"When I first got down there I was kind of in a culture shock because it was kind of 'country,'" said White, who helped his team to a 9-1 record and a playoff spot. "It kind of threw me off a little bit, but actually it was great. I'm glad I went down there and got some experience. There's something about the south and their hospitality... they love football and always go to the games. It wasn't much of a drop-off going from Michigan State to a junior college. It was just a whole bunch of kids playing for a few scholarships. It was just playing for fun... it was a great. I enjoyed the experience. Even though it was a setback, it was an enjoyable setback."

White fielded numerous offers following his junior college stint. Among the schools who offered included Utah State, Troy, Memphis, Arkansas State and New Mexico State.

"I kind of trusted Louisiana Tech more," said White, who was also a track standout at Stevenson. "The coaches flew up and came here, visited my parents, and that kind of sealed the deal."

"I got there in the spring of last year. I went to spring ball and into the fall season, and that's kind of the story in a nutshell."

White liked the spread attack Louisiana Tech head coach Sonny Dykes brought in as an offensive coordinator from Arizona.

Assistant head coach and wide receivers coach Rob Likens. Dykes coached Nick Foles "Coach (Sonny Dykes) coached at Texas Tech when they had Michael Crabtree (now with the San Francisco 49ers), so I had a pretty good idea of what kind of offense they were running," White said. "I decided that was the offense I wanted to be in. We just kept talking about it. It was the spread offense, and he was going to take care of me."

"Basically he earned the trust of me and my parents. I'm just thankful of everything he's allowed me to do, and given me the opportunity to play football at the D-1 level."

White, however, got off to rocky start.

"I had gotten hurt in the first game against Southern Miss and it was one of those injuries that took me out for three or four games, and it kind of lingered on throughout the entire season," he said. "I really wasn't healthy until the sixth or seventh game of the year. It was a foot sprain where I couldn't run. I was actually on crutches and in a boot for three or four weeks."

"I felt like myself after the Utah State game and it carried on."

His first game as a Bulldog, however, proved to be memorable in a 19-17 setback Sept. 3 at Southern Mississippi.

"The first game was an aftermath of a hurricane," White said. "It was a monsoon over there. There were puddles in the field. It was pretty crazy. I hadn't played in rain like that ever before."

Louisiana Tech, meanwhile, got off to a rough start as well (1-4), losing

three of four games by a total of nine points. La Tech also fell to Houston (35-34) and SEC opponent Mississippi State (26-20). "It was kind of a heart-breaking situation," White said.

But the Bulldogs regrouped and went on a seven-game winning streak, including a 27-7 victory over another SEC foe Mississippi.

And while White is over a 1,000 miles away from home, he still keeps tabs on Michigan State, where his twin brother Mitchell is a back-up defensive back and special teams player.

He sees the Spartans go play in the inaugural Big Ten Championship game and win the Legends Division.

"There's no bad blood," White said. "I still love Michigan State. I still root for them. I love their coaching staff. Any time they play - with this bowl game with Georgia - I'm hoping they'll win. It's good to see a lot of the people I played and practiced with, and were friends with, especially Jerrell Worthy, Trenton Robinson and Keshawn (Martin). It's good to watch people you know do well."

White has a new home and he's acclimated to the environment and the climate.

"It's still country (Rush-ton, La.), but it's hot, too," he said. "The fans treat the team good. You couldn't ask for better fans and we're starting to turn the program around step-by-step. We went 8-5 this year and we expect big things next year."

"We're looking to go undefeated. We actually have 38 returning juniors. We have a chance to be really, really special. We just have to keep working hard and basically push each other as far as competition on the field."

During his second recruitment, White feels like he was given a clean slate by Dykes despite his past troubles in East Lansing.

"That stuff is really all behind me," the junior wide receiver said. "We kind of had a general understanding and I felt like and they got a grasp of that, and I grew up from that. It really wasn't much of a conversation. It's in the rear view mirror."

bemons@hometownlife.com (313) 222-6851

HOOPS

Continued from page B1

"Their big man (Barksdale) did a great job breaking our pressure at times," he noted. "But we composed ourselves and kept doing what we do best."

Back and forth

The game was a seesaw affair much of the way. Franklin Road trailed

early, but bounced back midway through the second to take the lead 20-18 following back-to-back treys by D'Ascenzo and Phillip Isbell.

PCA regained the lead at halftime (27-26), sparked by junior guard Alex Huber's triple from the left flank.

There were four lead changes during the third quarter before the Eagles went on a 7-0 surge to take a 40-34 edge with three minutes to go. Eric Jipping muscled in

for two putbacks during that span and sophomore guard Daniel Jipping (six boards) drove through the lane for a layup.

It was 42-39 PCA after three, but the Warriors weren't done, regaining the lead and increasing it to 51-47 thanks to a 10-3 run.

But all that did was hit a nerve with Eric Jipping. The Warriors found out that's not the thing to do.

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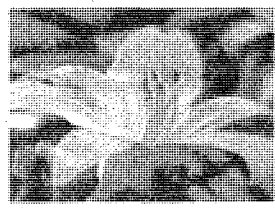
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12/29/11 04



IACOBELLI, OTTAVIO
Age 85, December 24, 2011. Beloved husband of Maria for 50 years. Loving father of Carlo (Shelly) and Linda (Ed) Lutz. Dear nonno of Dominic, Alexandria, Julia, Paulina and Victoria. Visitation Wednesday 1-9pm with a 7pm rosary at Harry J. Will Funeral Home, 37000 Six Mile Rd. in Livonia. Funeral Service Thursday, in state 9am until the time of Mass at 9:30am at St. Aidan Catholic Church 17500 Farmington Rd. in Livonia. Entombment Glen Eden Cemetery. Memorial Contributions may be made to Angela Hospice. www.harryjwillfuneralhome.com

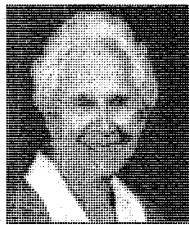


McCORMICK, EDNA
Age 83, December 25, 2011 of Garden City. Beloved wife of the late Joseph A. McCormick. Loving mother of Ellen (Bob) Norgren, Bett (Tom) Arnold and the late Robert. Dear grandmother of Shannon Slebodnik, Jessica Novak, Tara Novak, Lauren Novak, Kristen Novak, Racheal (Frank) Pies, Jillian Norgren and Jacob Norgren. Great grandmother of Frankie and Aiden Pies. Sister of Albert (Neva) Evans. Funeral service will be held Thursday at 11am at R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home, 31551 Ford Rd., Garden City. Family suggests donations to the Michigan Humane Society. Please sign the on-line guest-book at www.rgharris.com

SMITH, KRESTYN GARDNER (Ken/KG)

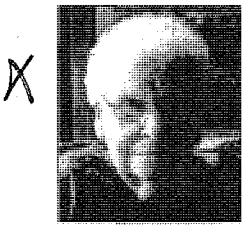
Of Redford, MI. Born January 7, 1916 in Rossville, Illinois passed away peacefully on December 26, 2011 at the age of 95. Krestyn is survived by his wife Betty M. (Halifax) Smith of 59 years. He was a loving and devoted father to sons Dennis (Lynda) of Port Huron, MI and Kenneth (Karyl) of Livonia, MI as well as daughter Sandra Smith of Redford, MI who survive him in death. Krestyn was a caring brother to sister Cleeta Prillaman as well as a loving and protecting grandfather to 9 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren; all of them were special and brought much joy to his life. His kind, generous spirit and appreciation for life allowed him many years of helping others. He is preceded in death by daughter Virginia (Orville) Guillems as well as parents Ara J. and Samuel Q. Smith. Krestyn served in World War II at Fort Knox, Kentucky. His successful 45 year career was spent working for Montgomery Ward & Co. in Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin and Michigan; where he retired in 1981. He enjoyed retirement by traveling and spending time with family and friends. Resting at the L. J. Griffin Funeral Home, 7707 Middlebelt Rd. (At Ann Arbor Tr.) Thursday 3:00-9 p.m. Instate Friday 9 a.m. at Redford Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 10000 Beech Daly Rd., (S. of Plymouth Rd.) until time of service 10 a.m. Memorial Contributions to Greater Michigan Chapter of Alzheimer's Association would be appreciated. Share a memorial tribute with the family at griffinfuneralhome.com

JUREK, EILEEN
Age 87, of Farmington Hills. Passed away December 22, 2011. Arrangements by Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington.



KROUT, JUNE NISSEN PROCTOR
Wife of the late John Proctor and the current Col. Harold E. Krout, USAF, RET, passed peacefully into heaven on Saturday, December 10, 2011. June was born in Royal Oak, Michigan in 1923 to Christian and Elsie Nissen. Her surviving siblings are Donald, James and Joan. She is the beloved mother of five children, David, Sandra, Nicholas, Christina and Timothy; grandchildren David, Johnathan, James, Matthew and Austin; great grandchildren Sean and Jerica and great great grandchild Kasey. June was a member of both the First Baptist Church of Wixom and Wayne while she resided in Michigan. She moved to Naples, Florida in the late 90's. June worked in the medical field as an LPN for over 30 years in both Michigan and Florida and was highly respected by her co-workers and patients. Those who knew her for her love of life, family and God will remember June. She will also be remembered for her great pies and jams. A Celebration of Life will be held summer 2012 in Wixom, Michigan. Donations in memory of June can be made to Samaritan's Purse, World Vision or the Alzheimer's Association.

RITCHIE, BETTY A.
Age 87, December 25, 2011. Beloved wife of 61 years to the late Frank Ritchie. Mother of John (Sharon), Elizabeth and Mark (Lynda). Dear grandmother of John David, Kathryn, Andrew, Leah, Katelynn and Maggie. Born in Covington, KY. Graduated from the University of Cincinnati. Married Frank and moved to Canada in 1946. They moved to Northville/Farmington Hills in 1971. She was active in the AAUW, Farmington Hills Garden Club and the Friends of the Farmington Library. She loved gardening, golf and curling. She was an excellent mother, loved to cook and she will be missed by all. Memorials to the Friends of the Farmington Library and Salvation Army. Arrangements by the Harry J. Will Funeral Home in Livonia. harryjwillfuneralhome.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 were held Monday at the UH Funeral Home, in Westland. In lieu of flowers, donations to the American Heart or Lung Associations would be appreciated. Please visit and send condolences at: www.uhfh.com

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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. 31

NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICE

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Dec. 31
Location: Lola Park Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford
Contact: (734) 968-3523 or (313) 532-8655

NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICE

Time/Date: 4:30 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 31
Location: St. John's Church, 555 S. Wayne Road, Westland
Details: A rosary also is said at 11:30 a.m., with worship at noon, Friday, Dec. 30
Contact: (734) 721-5023

Jan. 1-11, 2012

CATHOLIC PROGRAM

Time/Date: 7 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 11-Feb. 15, 2012

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, 2012

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 Archdio-

cese 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

NEW YEAR'S DAY SERVICE

Time/Date: 9:30 a.m. Jan. 1, 2012

Location: Lola Park Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford

Contact: (734) 968-3523 or (313) 532-8655

NEW YEAR'S DAY SERVICE

Time/Date: 10:30 a.m., Sunday, Jan. 1, 2012

Location: St. John's Church, 555 Wayne Road, Westland

Contact: (734) 721-5023

PARENTING CLASS

Time/Date: 12:30-2:30 p.m. beginning Sunday, Jan. 8, 2012

Location: Northwest Unitarian Universalist Church, 23925 Northwestern Highway, on the south-bound service drive of the Lodge freeway, between Nine Mile and 10 Mile, Southfield

Details: This is a five-session parent skills training program designed to help parents break out of established patterns that unwittingly support aggressive, defiant, oppositional and disrespectful behavior. It's designed for parents of children, 10-17. Jerome A. Price, founder of the Michigan Family Institute in Southfield leads the classes. Materials cost is \$25
Contact: The Rev. Kimi Riegel or Jerry Price at (248) 548-2376

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

CONCERT

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 21, 2012

Location: Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia

Details: London, England-based Tenors Un Limited present original compositions along with timeless favorites in a production called "The Rat Pack of Opera." Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$10 for students and children, and \$50 for a family ticket, (two parents and two students or children)
Contact: Michele at (734) 464-8513 or e-mail to tenorstickets@yahoo.com

WIDOWED FRIENDS

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

Location: St. Kenneth Church, 14951 Haggerty, Plymouth

Details: Mass followed by refreshments, social time. Widowed Friends is a peer group within the Archdiocese of Detroit that offers activities for widowed men and women in a safe and friendly setting
Contact: Pat at (734) 895-6246

ONGOING

CLASSES/STUDY

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

Time/Date: 7-8 p.m., second Monday of the month
Location: 34567 Seven Mile, between Farmington and Newburgh roads, Livonia

Details: Open Arms Bible class for adults with developmental disabilities and special needs. Includes songs, Bible lessons, crafts and activities, prayer, snacks and fun.
Contact: Pastor Scott Sessler at (734) 673-2485 or e-mail to pastorscott@emmanuel-livonia.org

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<p>CATHOLIC</p> <p>ST. ANNE'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH Tridentine Latin Mass St. Anne's Academy - Grades K-8 38100 Five Mile Road Livonia, MI 48154 • (734) 462-3200 Mass Schedule: First Friday Mass 7:00 p.m. Saturday Mass 11:00 a.m. Sunday Masses 7:30 & 10:00 a.m. Confessions Heard Prior to Each Mass Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions Tuesdays at 7:00 P.M.</p>	<p>UNITED METHODIST</p> <p>ORCHARD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 30450 Farmington Road • Farmington Hills www.orchardumc.org 248-626-3620 Worship: 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. Christian Education for all ages Pastors: Carol J. Johns, Jim Braid, Margo Dexter</p>	<p>PRESBYTERIAN (U.S.A.)</p> <p>ROSEDALE GARDENS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) 9601 Hubbard at W. Chicago, Livonia, MI (between Merriman & Farmington Rds.) (734) 422-0494 Friends in Faith Service 9:00 am Traditional Service 10:30 am Visit www.rosedalegardens.org For information about our many programs OE08747564</p>	<p>LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD</p> <p>Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia just north of I-96 www.christoursavior.org Sunday Worship 8:30 & 11:00 am - Traditional Sunday School/Bible Class 9:45 am Early Childhood Center Phone 734-513-8413 Staffed Nursery Available Making disciples who share the love of Jesus Christ Pastors: Davenport, Bayer, & Creeden 734-522-6830 OE08747549</p>
<p>CHURCHES OF THE NAZARENE</p> <p>PLYMOUTH CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 45801 W. Ann Arbor Road • (734) 453-1925 Sunday School - 9:45 A.M. Sunday Worship - 11:00 A.M. Sunday Evening - 8:00 P.M. Family Night - Wed. 7:00 P.M. NEW HORIZONS FOR CHILDREN LEARNING CENTER (734) 455-3196</p>	<p>PRESBYTERIAN</p> <p>Fellowship Presbyterian Church Adult Sunday School: 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. • Worship: 10:30 a.m. Childrens Sunday School: 10:30 a.m. Pastor: Dr. Jimmy McGuire Services held at: Saint Andrews Episcopal Church 16360 Hubbard Road in Livonia • South of Six Mile Road Nursery provided • www.fellowship-presbyterian.org OE08747552</p>	<p>EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN</p> <p>WARD CHURCH 40000 Six Mile Road Northville, MI 48168 248-574-7400 www.wardchurch.org Traditional Worship at 8, 9:30 & 11 a.m. Contemporary Worship at 9:30 & 11 a.m. Children's Programs available at 9:30 & 11 a.m. The Traditional Service is broadcast on the radio each week at 11 a.m. on 580 AM OE08747576</p>	<p>LUTHERAN CHURCH WISCONSIN SYNOD</p> <p>ST. PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL 17810 FARMINGTON ROAD, LIVONIA (734) 261-1360 WORSHIP SERVICES SUNDAY: 8:30 A.M. & 11:00 A.M. THURSDAY: 6:30 P.M. website: www.stpaulsilivonia.org OE08747575</p>
<p>ASSEMBLIES OF GOD</p>	<p>OPEN ARMS CHURCH Worship: Sunday 10:30 am Children's Programs Available Kid's Stop Preschool Now Enrolling 248.474.0001 Meet our New Pastor Grady Jensen & Assoc. Pastor Abe Fazzini 33015 W. 7 Mile Rd. • Livonia 48152 Between Farmington & Merriman Across from Joe's Produce 248.471.5282 OE08747580</p>	<p>CONGREGATIONAL</p> <p>North Congregational Church 36520 12 Mile Rd. Farmington Hills (bet. Drake & Halsted) (248) 848-1750 10:30 a.m. Worship & Church School Faith - Freedom - Fellowship Rev. Mary E. Biedron Senior Minister OE08747544</p>	

For Information regarding this Directory, please call Donna Hart at 248-437-2011, Ext. 247 or e-mail: dhart@dnp.com

New adult troupe debuts on youth stage in Livonia

By Sharon Dargay
 O&E Staff Writer

Motor City Youth Theatre's new adult offshoot — Motor City Musical Theatre — will debut Friday, Jan. 6, 2012 with a little-known Stephen Sondheim play.

"When we heard the rights for the show had been released, we wanted to get in on that. It's a rarely-performed piece ... a rare treat. It's the first time it will be performed in Michigan, and possibly even in the Midwest," said Dave Cowan, a cast member who's also handling publicity for the show.

The play, *Saturday Night*, with Sondheim's lyrics and music, was set to debut on Broadway in the mid-1950s and would have introduced Sondheim, then 25, to theatergoers for the first time. When one of its lead producers died in 1955, the show was shelved until 1997 when a small professional theater in London, England produced it for the first time.

The story, written by Julius and Philip Epstein, authors of *Casablanca*, tells the story of Gene, a dreamer and a Wall Street clerk, who convinces his lonely, dateless friends to invest in the stock market during the spring before the stock market crash of 1929. Gene uses their money in a series of impulsive purchases, and is lured back to the real world by a developing romance.

Performances are scheduled for 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Jan. 6-7 and 13-14, 2012 and 2



Elyse Moon (standing) portrays "Helen" and George Abud is "Gene" in the Motor City Music Theatre production of Stephen Sondheim's "Saturday Night." They're surrounded by cast members who play Gene's friends.

p.m. Sunday, Jan. 8 and 15, 2012, at the Grantland Street Playhouse, 27555 Grantland, Livonia. Tickets are \$17 for adults and \$15 for seniors and students. Call (313) 535-8962 for reservations or e-mail to motorcitymusicaltheatre@gmail.com.

Hands-on actors

The cast includes mostly students and graduates from drama programs at Wayne State University and Oakland University, as well as a few actors from Windsor, Ont., Canada. They're involved in all facets of the show, including set-making, props, publicity and costuming.

"Everything is being done by the cast itself. We don't have to go through a hierarchy of who would normally make these decisions," Cowan said. "It's a nice change of pace and gives us more freedom. It's a blast."

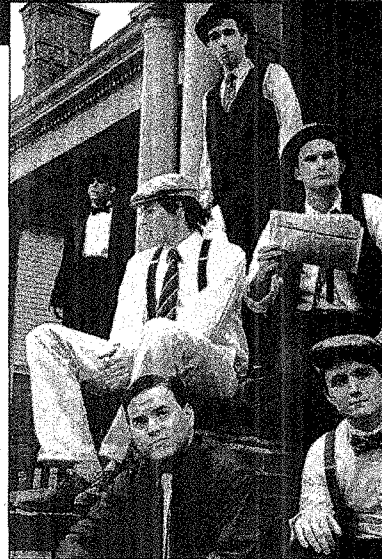
Motor City Youth Theatre founder, Nancy Florkowski, told friends at Wayne State University a few years ago that she wanted to form an adult troupe.

"We got together, pooled resources and found a play we all wanted to do," said Cowan, a Wayne State University graduate who also teach-

es at the Youth Theatre. "We'll sprinkle in two or three (adult) shows a season."

Cast, crew

Jeremy Ryan Mossman of Windsor directs and appears in the show. Other cast members are Wayne State students George Abud, Luke Rose, Matthew Miazgowicz, Andrick Siegmund, Aaron Glenn, Dan Finn, Allison Fisher, Sydney Machesky, and Kendall Talbot; Oakland University student Elyse Moon; and Windsor resident Nathaniel Cedroni. Wayne State grads Adam Crinson designed the



A group of dateless friends are talked into investing in the stock market, in the show "Saturday Night."

play to stage at this time because the expanding income gap between the rich and the poor, along with the protests against Wall Street provide parallels to the story.

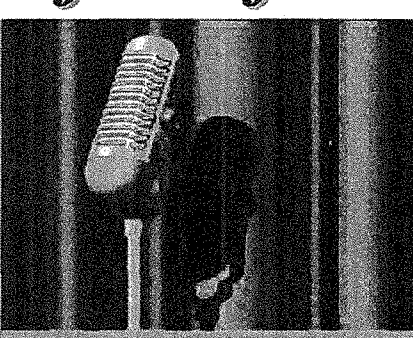
"The jokes are still funny," he said. "We're excited to have an audience. We've been rehearsing since October and we're ready to take the show to the next level."

sets and Megan Amadon designed costumes.

Florkowski serves as artistic director and her husband, Fred Florkowski, is technical director.

Cowan said *Saturday Night* is the perfect

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Farmington Hills artist returns to Ferndale gallery

Kathleen Boettcher of Farmington Hills will show her work in "The Best of 2011" exhibit opening Jan. 11, 2012 at Lawrence Street Gallery, 22620 Woodward, east side of Woodward, two blocks south of Nine Mile, Ferndale.

She's among several prize-winning artists from the gallery's four annual juried shows — invitational, figurative, photographic and small works — who were selected to exhibit a larger selection of their work.



"Just as music, theater and literature look back on the best of the previous year's offerings in January, we at the Gallery have decided

Farmington Hills artist Kathleen Boettcher will exhibit this work in a "best of" show next month at Lawrence Street Gallery in Ferndale.

to give the public another chance to take a look at the new work of last year's top picks," stated Laura Host, exhibition organizer.

Other participating artists are Colin Delaney of Ann Arbor, Larry Zdeb of Troy, Carolyn Mel of Royal Oak, Christine Bruxvoort of Ypsilanti, Krysti Spence of Madison Heights, Robert Bielat of Ferndale, Candace Law of Berkeley, and Anthony Duce of Birmingham.

The show runs Jan. 11-28, 2012, with a reception 6-9 p.m. Friday, Jan. 13, 2012. Gallery hours are noon to 5 p.m., Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday, and noon-9 p.m. Friday; (248) 544-0394, or visit www.lawrencestreetgallery.com

GET OUT!

Art

DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS

Time/Dates: 2 p.m. Sundays
Location: 5200 Woodward, Detroit

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

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

NORTHVILLE ART HOUSE

Time/Date: Through Jan. 13, 2012

Location: 215 W. Cady, Northville

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

Coming up: "Etch, Sketch and Stilettos," an exhibit of the work of Tophar Crowder, runs Jan. 6-28, 2012. The artist is inspired by animated Saturday morning cartoons, vintage postcards, and 1960s/1970s comic books
Contact: (248) 344-0497

gocomedy.net

JD'S HOUSE OF COMEDY

Time/Date: Various show times Wednesday-Saturday evenings

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

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

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

JOEY'S COMEDY CLUB OF LIVONIA

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

Location: 36071 Plymouth Road, Livonia

Details: John Roy, through Dec. 31; Charlie Wiener, Jan. 4-7, 2012; Dave Waite, Jan. 11-14, 2012; Norm Stultz, Jan. 18-21

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

MARK RIDLEY'S COMEDY CASTLE

Time/Date: Joe Devito, Dec. 29-31; Scott Henry, Jan. 5-7, 2012; Mark Sweeney, Jan. 12-14, 2012; Jeff Caldwell, Jan. 19-21, 2012; Frances Dilorinzo, Jan. 26-28, 2012

Location: 269 E. Fourth, Royal Oak

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

Dance

MOON DUSTERS

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

Location: Livonia Civic Center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia

Details: Singles and couples dance to music of the '30s,

Please see GET OUT, B7



Check out these local businesses. Many are offering great values and are ready to serve you... ENJOY!

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GET OUT

Continued from page B6

'40s and '50s; free refreshments. Dance lessons cost \$6; dance and lessons are \$11; dance only is \$7 for guests, \$6.50 for associates and \$6 for Moon Dusters members; upcoming special dances include a New Year's party. Call for details
Contact: Joe Castrodale, club president, (248) 968-5197

Film

PENN THEATRE

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 29 and Jan. 5, 2012, 7 p.m. and 9 p.m., Friday, Dec. 30; and 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 31
Location: 760 Penniman Ave., Plymouth
Details: "The Big Year," \$3
Coming up: "Puss In Boots," 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. Friday, Jan. 6, 2012; 4:45 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Jan. 7-8,

2012; and 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 12, 2012; all seats \$3
Contact: (734) 453-0870; www.penntheatre.com
REDFORD THEATRE
Time/Date: 8 p.m. Jan. 6, 2012 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Jan. 7, 2012
Location: 17360 Lahser, just north of Grand River Ave., in Detroit
Details: "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers," tickets \$4
Contact: (313) 537-2560

Museums

CHARLES H. WRIGHT

Time/Date: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and 1-5 p.m. Sunday
Location: 315 E. Warren Road, Detroit
Details: Dance Theatre of Harlem, through Dec. 31; the play, "There Goes the Neighborhood," runs Jan. 7-8, 2012. Regular museum admission is \$8 for adults, 13-61; and \$5 for youth, 3-12, and seniors, 62 and over. Members and children 2 and

under are admitted free
Contact: (313) 494-5800

CRANBROOK

Time/Date: 2 p.m., Thursday-Sunday
Location: 39221 Woodward, Bloomfield Hills
Details: Docent-guided public tours of Saarinen House, a rare integration of art, architecture, design and nature, depart from Cranbrook Institute of Science front desk. The tours are about 90 minutes long and take place rain or shine.
Contact: (248) 645-3200 for house tours; http://science.cranbrook.edu

PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Time/Date: 1-4 p.m. Wednesday and Friday-Sunday through Dec. 31
Location: 155 S. Main, Plymouth
Details: "A Red Ryder Christmas Story" features vignettes of scenes from the film, "A Christmas Story," information about the his-

tory of Red Ryder BB guns, which were sold by Daisy Manufacturing Company of Plymouth, and artifacts of the 1940s. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$2 for students, 6-17
Contact: (734) 455-8940

Music

THE ARK

Time/Date: Crossroads Ceili, Bua and Nic Gareiss, Dec. 29-30; The Fred Eaglesmith Traveling Show, Dec. 31; Black Jake and the Carnies, Jan. 6, 2012; Jill Jack Birthday Bash, Jan. 7, 2012; Deep Fried Pickle Project, Jan. 8, 2012; Bitch & Ferron, Jan. 8, 2012; Paul Cebar Tomorrow Sound, Jan. 11, 2012; An Dro, Jan. 12, 2012; Mountain Heart, Jan. 13, 2012; Theo Katzman: Songwriting Workshop, Jan. 14, 2012; The Yellow Room Gang, Jan. 14, 2012; Bearfoot, Jan. 15, 2012
Location: 316 South Main, Ann Arbor
Contact: (734) 763-8587; www.theark.org

BASELINE FOLK SOCIETY

Time/Date: 7-9:30 p.m. the third Saturday of the month
Location: JWH Center for the Arts, Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth
Details: The show includes open mic performances and Circle of Friends, this month's featured performer. Admission is \$5. Annual memberships are \$25 for individuals and \$50 for families and offer free admission to monthly concerts
Contact: Mike Mullen at (248) 719-3464

FARMINGTON PLAYERS BARN THEATRE

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Jan. 14, 2012
Location: 32332 12 Mile, Farmington Hills
Details: "From Broadway to Hollywood with the MOT" features soloists "up close and personal" in an intimate setting. Tickets are \$19 for adults, \$17 for seniors and students. Advance tickets

are available 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, at the Costick Center, 28600 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills. Tickets may also be purchased at www.recreg.fhgov.com or by phone at (248) 473-1848
Coming up: Blackthorn, March 9-10, 2012
Contact: https://recreg.fhgov.com or (248) 473-1848

MICHIGAN PHILHARMONIC

Time/Date: 2 p.m. Jan. 15, 2012
Location: St. John's Seminary Chapel, Plymouth
Details: "Miniature Masterpieces" features music, such as Debussy's "Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun," and Mahler's "Songs of a Wayfarer," performed by the chamber orchestra. A new work, "Changes," by Michigan-born composer, Andre Myers, also will debut. Tickets are \$22 general, \$18 senior and \$10, student
Contact: (734) 451-2112; www.michiganphil.org

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March 2012

Kenya Safari Acrobats
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 3/30/2012 7:30 PM
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 - Oscar-Winner Robert Stromberg, Production Designer for Avatar and Alice in Wonderland

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— Joy Behar, Co-host of ABC's The View

Celebrate New Year with tasty, nonalcoholic drinks

AAA's popular "Great Pretenders Party Guide" is available as a digital publication to help party hosts plan festive holiday gatherings — including tips on how to help reduce drinking and driving deaths and injuries.

The free guide includes drink recipes from AAA-Diamond rated hotels and restaurants that are appropriate for year-round festivities as well as holiday gatherings. It also offers advice to help party hosts monitor alcohol consumption among guests.

Drunken driving continues to be a serious problem on roadways and is a factor in more than one-third of all traffic deaths. Among the safety tips for party hosts:

- If despite your best efforts, some of your guests have had too much to drink, arrange for a ride with another guest who is sober, call a cab or have them stay overnight.
- Choose a reliable "bartender" who will keep track of the size and number of drinks that guests consume. Don't let guests mix their own drinks.
- Plan activities like party games to engage people and make for less active consumption of alcohol.
- Serve foods that act as a buffer to alcohol. High protein foods such as cheese and meats are best because protein stays in the stomach longer slowing alcohol absorption.
- Always offer nonalcoholic drinks or "mocktails" for designated drivers and others who prefer not to drink alcohol. Sparking grape juice is a good alternative to champagne.

The digital guide is located at AAA.com/Pretenders. Recipe cards, which include a nonalcoholic drink and promote the digital guide, are available at AAA branches statewide.

Here's a sampling of recipes:

Sparkling Pineapple Sunset

Submitted by Grand Hotel, Mackinac Island

- 1 cup pineapple juice
- 1 cup Perrier
- Splash of grenadine
- Cherry for garnish

In a large glass filled halfway with ice, add equal parts pineapple juice and Perrier (or any sparkling water). Shake well. Add a splash of grenadine. Garnish with marashino cherry.

Magic Punch

Submitted by Dakota Magic Casino and Hotel, Hankinson, N.C.

- 1½ ounces pineapple juice
- 1½ ounces cherry juice
- 2½ ounces orange juice
- 2½ ounces cranberry juice
- 1½ ounces lemon juice
- 1½ ounces 7-Up
- 2½ ounces nonalcoholic margarita mix

Blend all ingredients. Pour over ice.



A Refreshing Twist

Submitted by Ameristar Casino Hotel, Council Bluffs, Iowa

- 4 mint leaves
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 5 ounces ginger ale
- 5 ounces green tea
- 1 lime wedge

Lightly muddle mint leaves and sugar in bottom of a pint glass with a splash of green tea until all of the sugar is dissolved. Fill glass about half full of ice and add ginger ale and remaining green tea. Stir and top with squeezed lime wedge.

Creamelon

Submitted by Sixteen, Trump International Hotel & Tower, Chicago, Ill.

- 3 cups chopped seedless watermelon
- 1 cup chilled green tea
- 1 cup chilled cream soda
- ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon light brown sugar
- Ice cubes

Blend everything on a low speed and serve in a tall glass. Garnish with big watermelon slice.

Sweet Texas Juice

Submitted by Amarillo Bar-B-Que, Bellevue, Neb.

- 1 part pineapple juice
- 1 part cranberry juice
- 1 part freshly squeezed lemonade
- Cherry for garnish
- Ice cubes

Fill large glass with ice. Add one part pineapple juice, then one part cranberry juice. Top with lemonade. Garnish with cherry.

Baja Sol Cranberry Cooler

Submitted by Baja Sol Cantina, Inver Grove Heights, Minn.

- 4 cups cranberry juice
- 1 cup pineapple juice
- 3 cups ginger ale
- 1½ cups orange juice
- ½ fresh lime (squeezed)

Combine all ingredients in pitcher. Serve over ice in a sugar-rimmed glass.

Submit an apple recipe to win a mixer, bragging rights

The Michigan Apple Committee is accepting recipes through Jan. 31, 2012 for its annual Michigan Apple Amateur Recipe Contest.

"We're looking for original Michigan Apple recipes that will wow the judges," stated Denise Donohue, Executive Director of the Michigan Apple Committee. "Each year recipes submitted

are different and possibly more creative than the previous year."

Amateur cooks may send recipes that highlight Michigan-grown apples, to the Michigan Apple Committee via mail or e-mail. Mailed entries must be received before Jan. 31, 2012 at Michigan Apple Committee, 13750 S. Sedona Parkway, Lansing, MI 48906. E-mail entries must

arrive at Staff@MichiganApples.com before 5 p.m. on Jan. 31, 2012.

Recipes will be judged on taste, originality, preparation, and apple significance.

The top three highest-scoring recipe winners will receive a KitchenAid stand mixer. Their recipes also may be featured on cards distributed by the Michi-

gan Apple Committee at select retailers and farm markets in the Midwest.

Cooks can visit www.MichiganApples.com/contests for more information.

Need a little inspiration to enter the contest? Here are recipes for three previous winners, Pure Bliss Apple Ginger Scones, Skillet Apple-Cherry Pie, and Baked Apple Stuffed French Toast.

Skillet Apple-Cherry Pie

Created by Donna Bardocz of Howell
7-8 Servings

- Refrigerated pie crust (15-ounce box)
- ½ cup dried cherries
- ½ cup chopped pecans
- ½ cup firmly packed light brown sugar
- ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ½ cup (4 tablespoons) unsalted butter
- ½ cup firmly packed light brown sugar
- ½ cup (4 tablespoons) cherry preserves
- 4 tart Michigan baking apples, such as Golden Delicious, Gravenstein, Baldwin, Macoun, Northern Spy or Winesap, washed very well
- 2 tablespoons milk
- 1 tablespoon granulated sugar (for sprinkling on top)

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees F.

Combine the dried cherries, pecans, ½ cup brown sugar and cinnamon in a small bowl and set aside.

Select an ovenproof skillet that measures 9 inches across the bottom and 11-12 inches across the top. A cast-iron skillet works well and makes a home-style presentation. Melt the butter in the skillet over medium heat, and then stir in the other ½ cup of brown sugar and cherry preserves. When the mixture is bubbling evenly over the surface of the pan — 30 seconds or so — remove pan from the heat.

Do not peel the apples; the peels will help them to hold together. Halve them top to bottom, however, and core each half. Spoon some of the cherry-walnut mixture into each apple half, compacting it with a finger.

Quickly invert the stuffed apple halves and place them cut side down in the skillet. You should be able to get 6 or 7 around the outside and 1 in the center. Finely dice the remaining apple half, if left over, and scatter the pieces between the apples. Sprinkle the leftover cherry-nut mixture between the apples.

Between two sheets of waxed paper, converge and roll together both top and bottom pie crusts to form one 12-inch circle. After removing the top sheet of waxed paper, invert the pastry over the apples, center it and peel off the other sheet of paper. Lifting the edge of the pastry, either tuck the edge straight down along the inside of the pan or pinch it to crimp the edge. Poke two large vent holes in the pastry with a paring knife, twisting the knife to enlarge the holes slightly.

Lightly brush the pastry with the milk and sprinkle surface with sugar. Place the pie directly on the center oven rack and bake for 20 minutes. Reduce the oven temperature to 375 degrees and bake until the top crust is golden brown, another 25 minutes.

Transfer the pie to a cooling rack and let cool for at least 30 minutes or to room temperature before serving.



PURE BLISS Apple Ginger Scones

Created by Nadine Mesch of Mount Healthy, Ohio

- 2 cups flour
- ½ cup sugar
- 3 teaspoons baking powder
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 6 tablespoons cold butter
- 2 Gala apples, peeled and finely chopped
- ½ cup candied ginger, chopped
- 1 egg
- ½ cup heavy cream
- 1½ teaspoon lemon zest
- ½ cup powdered sugar
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. In a large mixing bowl combine flour, sugar, baking powder and

salt. Using a cheese grater, grate the cold butter into the flour mixture. Stir. Add chopped Gala apples and candied ginger. In a small bowl mix together the egg, cream and lemon zest. Gently mix into apple mixture. Stir until dough forms. Knead dough 6 times. Place on parchment paper, form into an 8 inch round. About 1 inch thick. Cut into 8 wedges; separate slightly.

Bake for approximately 15 minutes until just lightly golden. Cool slightly. Combine powder sugar and lemon juice, drizzle over scones.

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CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS
1 Stoic founder
5 Weeks per annum?
8 Tree trunk
12 Neglect
13 Beldam
14 Linoleum measurement
15 Prefix with science
16 Michigan town (2 wds.)
18 Toadies' responses
20 Dilapidated
21 Torah reciter
23 TGIF part
26 Queens stadium
29 Took up or let out
31 Orchid-loving Wolfe
32 Had a pizza
33 Food fishes
34 1920s style (2 wds.)

DOWN
1 Giraffe's home
2 TV award
3 Largest digit
4 Elevator pioneer
5 Capital of Tibet
6 Oddjob's creator
7 Base
8 Minstrel
9 Planet, in verse
10 August kid, maybe
11 Flair for music
17 Found a perch
19 Previous to
22 Conductor's need
23 Tadpole, once
24 Autumn colors
25 Carder's demands
26 Space lead-in
27 Baja Ms.
28 Mortar trough
30 Environmental prefix
31 Catch a crook
32 Art school
35 Very light brown color
36 UN headquarters
39 Is overfond
40 Clay pot
42 Rum's partner
43 Versatile vehicles
44 Road map info
45 Kitchen pest
46 Air-traffic org.
47 Douglas —
48 High sign
50 Flamenco shout

Answer to Previous Puzzle

Y	A	M	C	A	R	S	M	A	I	D
U	P	A	A	K	I	N	E	D	N	A
L	P	S	N	A	P	O	L	E	O	N
E	T	H	A	N	W	O	K			
	T	A	D	A	P	L	A	C	E	
P	U	T	T	A	L	B	Y	U	R	T
E	L	I	T	A	O	R	I	A		
A	N	D	Y	E	M	S	C	A	B	S
K	A	Y	A	K	O	C	T	O		
			W	O	E	H	Y	E	N	A
J	O	V	I	A	L	I	T	E	O	S
E	B	O	N	L	O	A	M	L	O	T
T	I	N	G	A	C	M	E	S	K	I

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SUDOKU
Fun By The Numbers
Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

3					4	1		
	9							
	1	8			5			
4								5
				9				3
6	2			5	8			7
	8			4	7			
2					3	9		
	6			2				

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Word Search — New Year's Eve

X	A	T	Z	R	N	Q	D	W	I	N	W	H	I	M
T	O	H	F	E	B	O	Q	A	O	A	E	Q	B	V
I	M	G	R	S	S	Y	I	I	N	Q	N	B	S	P
G	O	I	K	I	E	K	T	S	C	C	L	L	A	B
H	M	N	B	A	V	A	R	K	E	P	E	S	F	C
M	Q	D	R	C	R	X	W	O	M	M	Z	E	H	S
G	T	I	B	B	E	Y	I	S	W	W	A	A	Q	Z
T	I	M	E	S	Q	U	A	R	E	M	K	E	P	P
T	M	L	E	G	S	O	P	W	K	M	P	R	E	A
P	E	G	K	N	L	O	O	U	A	N	C	I	M	R
C	W	A	Y	J	U	D	Q	G	C	B	R	K	F	T
Y	Q	I	R	H	T	O	N	U	W	F	J	T	U	Y
A	B	O	S	U	I	E	C	O	N	F	E	T	T	I
Z	K	A	N	W	O	D	T	N	U	O	C	O	M	I
A	P	Q	B	J	N	X	M	W	I	E	K	B	Z	R

Baby Ball Celebration
Champagne Confetti Countdown
Dance Fireworks Midnight
New Noisemaker Party
Resolution Times Square

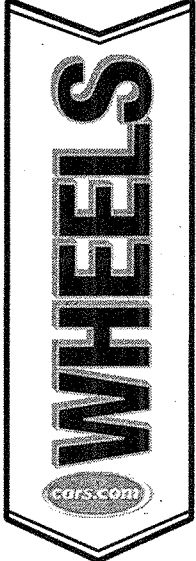
CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

4	3	5	8	2	9	1	6	7	1	8	9
8	8	3	9	1	3	4	5	7	2	2	2
6	8	5	4	6	7	2	1	8	9	8	9
6	2	5	1	8	7	4	7	6	2	9	9
4	7	6	4	9	2	1	1	8	3	3	3
8	6	8	3	7	2	8	6	4	3	1	8
9	8	3	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
6	9	8	3	9	6	4	7	1	8	4	1
8	6	4	1	3	5	6	4	7	2	4	1
2	6	9	6	9	2	7	8	9	5	8	3

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

Word Search

Baby Ball Celebration
Champagne Confetti Countdown
Dance Fireworks Midnight
New Noisemaker Party
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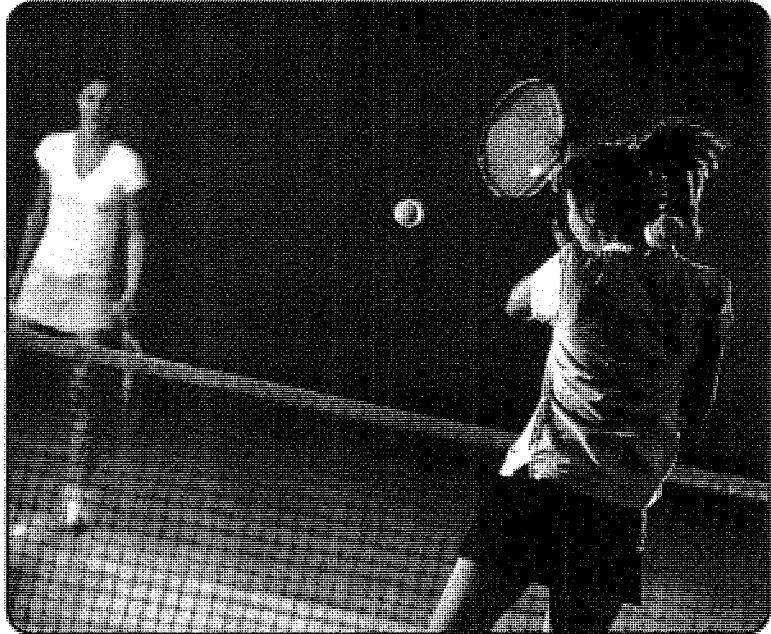
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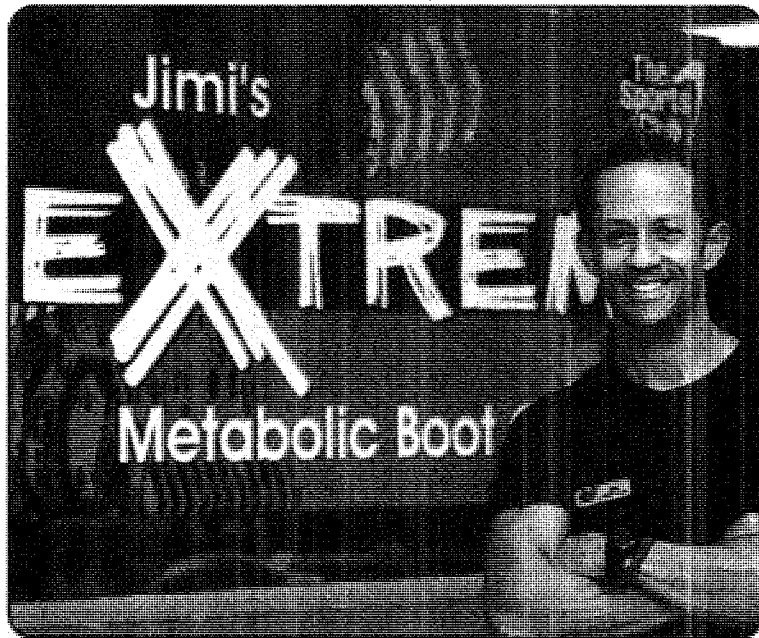
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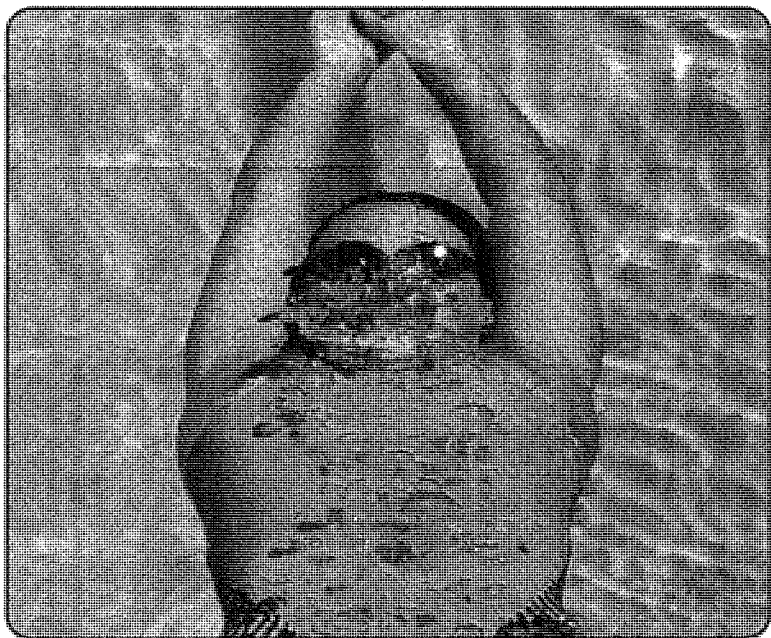
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