

ELECTION NIGHT RESULTS

Be sure to check hometownlife.com on election night for latest updates and results.

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FALL BACK
Daylight saving time ended 2 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 4

Election closings

Tuesday, Nov. 6, is election day, and all city buildings will be closed with the exception of the City Clerk's office in Westland City Hall which will be open for election business only. All city offices also will be closed in honor of Veterans Day, Monday, Nov. 12. Police and fire services, garbage pickup, recycling and compost will not be affected.

Election guide

With Tuesday's general election nearing, the *Westland Observer* is providing voters with information on local races via the newspaper's website. Beginning Sunday, voters can go to the *Westland Observer's* page at www.hometownlife.com and find our 2012 election guide. It will contain information on, among others, races for Wayne-Westland and Livonia Boards of Education, the 11th and 16th state House Districts, 11th Wayne County Commission District and Wayne County Community College District millage request.

To find the voter guide, just look for the 2012 Election graphic in our Don't Miss module, which is located on the right-hand side of our homepage.

Film festival

France has its prestigious Cannes Film Festival, and now the Detroit metropolitan area has its own version, the Canned Film Festival.

Oak Park-based MJR Digital Cinemas, in conjunction with 93.1 Doug FM and 96.3 WDVD, will host the Canned Film Festival on Wednesday, Nov. 14, at its cinemas in Westland, Southgate, Sterling Heights, Waterford, Clinton Township, Chesterfield and Brighton.

Just bring five cans of food to the participating MJR Digital Cinemas and see a movie for free any time between 4-10 p.m. that day only. WDVD's Jesse also will be broadcasting live from the MJR Westland Digital Cinema 16 at 6800 N. Wayne Road, between Ford and Warren Road, from 3-7 p.m.

All food donations will benefit Gleaners Community Food Bank.

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OBSERVER

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Clerk: Tuesday's election could bring out 40,000 Westland voters

By LeAnne Rogers
Observer Staff Writer

The last day to receive pick up an absentee ballot for Tuesday's presidential election is Monday at 4 p.m.

"You have to be in line by 4 p.m. to get an absentee ballot and you must fill it out there — you can't take it with you," said Westland Clerk Eileen DeHart Schoof.

Late last week, more than 10,600 absentee ballots had been

issued — a number that is about twice as many absentee voters as the last election.

Predicting a 65-68 percent turnout out from among over 63,000 registered Westland voters, Schoof said that would mean 40,000 ballots cast including absentee ballots.

With a two-page doubled-sided ballot, Schoof said people filling out their absentee ballots



LeBlanc



McNamara

at City Hall have been taking about 20 minutes to complete it. Schoof has been encouraging anyone how is likely to be out of the city on Election Day or meeting other requirements to utilize absentee ballots.

"During the last presidential election, at dinner time three or four of our precincts had long waits to vote," said Schoof.

"Absentee ballots make our work harder but it is easier on the voters Election Day."

New technology, in particular the electronic poll books, do speed up the voting process on Election Day, said Schoof.

Along with the presidential race between Democratic incumbent Barack Obama and Republican challenger Mitt Romney, voters have a number of state and Wayne County ballot proposals.

Please see ELECTION, A2



PHOTOS BY STEPHEN CANTRELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Zombie Devin Aziedan of Westland (left), pirate Thomas Cargle of Inkster and Westland resident Halle Titos, a kitten, came to the Faust Library's Zombie Prom for Halloween.

Prom night takes on new meaning at library

Zombies, plus some pirates, kittens and skeletons, turned out for the Zombie Prom at Westland's William P. Faust Public Library.

"We had close to 30 teens, they didn't all come as zombies but we accepted them," said reference librarian Andy Schuck. "I think they had a great time. This is probably the most successful teen event we've had for some time."

The library hosted a monster makeup class the week before and participants could come early Halloween night for help with makeup.

Naturally, part of the Zombie Prom included learning to dance to Michael Jackson's *Thriller*.

"I was surprised but most of them participated in the dance, it was pretty fun to watch," said Schuck.

About 15 adults also attended to hear live music performed by the Hyperlytics, a Green Day cover band.



Princess Angela Ross and skeleton Isaiah Hannah, both of Westland, enjoy a worms and dirt snack during the Zombie Prom. It was made of gummies and chocolate.

By LeAnne Rogers

Brothers face hearing on gun theft charges

By LeAnne Rogers
Observer Staff Writer

Two brothers are facing charges in the theft of handguns from a Westland home.

John Lee Yike, 23, of Westland and brother Thomas Wayne Yike, 22, who lives in Taylor, are each facing multiple felonies in connection with the theft.

The guns, a .44-caliber and a .45-caliber, were stolen from John Yike's roommate, said Westland Police Lt. Michael Harhold. One gun was apparently taken during the summer, the other reported missing in October.

John Yike is facing charges, including two counts each of receiving and concealing stolen firearms, larceny of weapons and larceny.

Thomas Yike is charged with two counts of receiving and concealing stolen firearms and one count of carrying a concealed weapon.

One of the guns had been sold but police recovered the second weapon, said Harhold.

Not guilty pleas were entered for both men. A preliminary examination set for Nov. 1 in 18th District Court was adjourned until Nov. 29.

A \$50,000/10 percent bond was set for the defendants who are being held in the Wayne County Jail.

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Veterans Day observances include memorial groundbreaking

By LeAnne Rogers
Observer Staff Writer

There will be two Veterans Day ceremonies in Westland this year, one on the holiday, the second the following day.

At 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 11, the Westland Veterans Association will hold a ceremony, including

the groundbreaking for the Veterans Memorial Garden of Westland. That ceremony will be held at the pavilion behind the William P. Faust Public Library near where the garden will be constructed.

A second Veterans Day observance is scheduled for 11 a.m. Monday, Nov. 12, at Westland

John Glenn High School.

The City of Westland traditionally hasn't sponsored a Veterans Day program and won't again this year.

"We're just working in conjunction with the Westland Veterans Association on their ceremony and groundbreaking," said Mayor William Wild, who will be

participating in the ceremony at Glenn.

The groundbreaking behind the library comes on a day when the Westland Veterans Association had hoped to be dedicating the memorial garden.

Instead, due to problems with

Please see VETERANS, A2

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Westland Police adds four new officers

There's four new faces in the Westland Police Department, following the swearing in of Michael Stechly, Kevin Smith, Brandon Petit and Cale Furney on Oct. 22.

Smith grew up in Westland and is married with two children. He earned an associate's degree from Schoolcraft College and attended the Wayne County Regional Police Academy.

Officer Smith previously served as a part-time police officer in Springport Township, Mich.

Petit also grew up in Westland and is married with one child. He attended the Detroit Metropolitan Police Academy and was formerly an officer for the Detroit Police Department's 8th Precinct.

Stechly grew up in



The newest members of the Westland Police Department are Officers Michael Stechly (from left), Kevin Smith, Brandon Petit and Cale Furney.

Sterling Heights and earned an associate's degree from Macomb Community College. He attended the Macomb Police Academy and has served as a police officer in Riverview, Waterford Township and Hazel Park.

Furney grew up in Cli-

max and is married. He earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Grand Valley State University and attended Grand Valley State University Police Academy. He previously served as a police officer for the Hamtramck Police Department.

"The City of Westland is honored to welcome these gentlemen to the Westland Police Department and are confident that their training and previous experience will serve the residents of our All American City well," said Mayor William Wild.

Council to consider redevelopment program

By LeAnne Rogers
Observer Staff Writer

A potential tax abatement program to encourage commercial redevelopment along Wayne Road will be discussed at a council study session 6 p.m. Monday.

Specifically, the proposal is for the city to establish a Commercial Rehabilitation District between Cherry Hill and Glenwood, an area within the existing Downtown Development Authority. Property owners could apply for a property tax rebate of up to 12 years for replacement, restoration or new construction on a blighted site.

"A property owner asked us if we did one of these. He had bought a property and worked on it, then it caught fire," said Mayor William Wild. "It (the Rehabilitation District) is a pretty good thing."

The Ford Road section of the DDA has had more

redevelopment than the area along Wayne Road, Wild said. Part of the redevelopment challenge on Wayne Road has been smaller lot sizes.

The request for a Rehabilitation District came from Arif Motorwala, owner of a 9,000-square-foot building at 2066 Wayne Road. The property was damaged by fire during renovations and Motorwala said the existing tenants subsequently vacated the building.

City Attorney Paul Bohn has provided council members with a letter outlining the process under state law for establishing a Rehabilitation District.

In her memo to council, Economic Development Director Lori Fodale described the Rehabilitation District as another economic tool to assist with redevelopment in the DDA.

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ELECTION

Continued from page A1

When it comes to other candidates, the races have been pretty quiet.

In the race for the 16th District state representative seat, Democratic candidate Robert Kosowski, former Westland Parks and Recreation director, is facing token opposition from Republican Mary Stargell, who isn't actively campaigning.

Term limited, the outgoing Democratic state representative Richard LeBlanc is unchallenged in seeking the 12th District Wayne County Commission seat. The redistricted 12th District includes most of Westland, Garden City and Inkster.

Democrat Kevin McN-

mara, D-Belleville, is running for re-election in the redrawn Wayne County Commission District 11 that includes southern Westland, Belleville, Huron Township, Romulus, Sumpter Township, Van Buren Township and Wayne. He is being challenged by Republican Robert Stano and Libertarian Kevin Butkovich, neither of whom are actively campaigning.

Also unchallenged is 18th District Court Judge Sandra Cicirelli.

The polls are open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday. City offices will be closed for the election except the clerk's office which will be open for election business only.

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VETERANS

Continued from page A1

the original site in Central City Park and under-terminated plans for a new City Hall, the decision was made to relocate the memorial garden.

"I met with the city a month ago and talked about moving the memorial," said Westland Veterans Association President Ken Mehl. "I suggested that we do a cable program with us on why and where we moved the memorial. Nothing has been done on that."

The veterans went

ahead with the groundbreaking and Veterans Day ceremony, which will be followed by a lunch at the Bova VFW Post on Hix south of Warren Road.

"We moved the ceremony to 2 p.m. mainly to accommodate groups that needed to be at an 11 a.m. ceremony," said Mehl.

The groundbreaking is important to let people know that the memorial, funded entirely through private donations, is delayed but moving forward, according to Mehl.

Among other Veterans Day activities are:

• State Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland,

in cooperation with AMC 20 Theatres of Livonia, will host a free screening of Disney's film *War Horse* at 3 p.m. on Veterans Day, Sunday, Nov. 11, at Livonia AMC 20, 19500 Haggerty, north of Seven Mile.

In addition to the free screening, concessions will be provided free of charge courtesy of AMC Theatres of Livonia. Tickets are limited and an R.S.V.P. is required. Veterans may request their free tickets by contacting Anderson's office by e-mail at SenatorAnderson@senate.mi.gov or toll free by phone at (866) 262-7306. Tickets are lim-

ited to two per veteran.

• On Nov. 12, Dobozzy's Barber Shop, 244 N. Wayne Road in Westland, is offering \$5 haircuts to all veterans and active military personnel.

• Texas Roadhouse at 36750 Ford Road, Westland, will be offering veterans a free lunch from its special veterans menu of Monday, Nov. 12, dine in only. Active, retired and former military personnel will need to show their military ID cards, Veterans Affairs cards or discharge papers.

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ELECT

Gretchen Alaniz
Schoolcraft College Trustee

Education in High Gear

734-765-5499
Gretchen.Alaniz@gmail.com

My Goal?
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- Ensure appropriate operational policies are in place for efficient use of tuition and tax dollars and to ensure compliance with laws and regulations.

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What is my Education and Experience?

- Graduate of Central Michigan University - Bachelor's in Business Administration.
- Senior Manager in Internal Audit for Livonia-based TRW Automotive
- Livonia Chamber of Commerce - Board of Directors
- Prior audit positions in the Detroit area: Federal-Mogul, MichConvDTE, Ameritech

Why should you vote for me?

- 25 years of governance and compliance *experience* in the internal audit profession.
- *Diverse* set of skills in leadership, strategy development and process improvement.
- Skilled *leader* in building *effective* partnerships, controls, and processes.

How will I serve?
I can bring the *right balance* to the board by helping Schoolcraft College build effective and collaborative *partnerships* with area businesses, community leaders, and educational institutions. We need a frequent and direct dialog to design *flexible* programs to provide the *right skills* at the *right time* and to find the *right opportunities* for students to gain access to local businesses for mentoring and internships.

Paid for by the Gretchen Alaniz Trustee Candidate Committee
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- Wayne County resident for the last 30 years

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Goci pleased with LCC decision on campaign signs

By LeAnne Rogers
Observer Staff Writer

John Goci may not have won his bid for a congressional seat but he was on the winning side of a legal argument over First Amendment rights.

During the primary race to fill the newly redistricted 13th District seat, Goci had a campaign sign displayed outside his business, the U.S. 12 Bar and Grill in Wayne.

That sign prompted complaints to the Liquor Control Commission, which has regulations prohibiting businesses with liquor licenses from displaying election signs.

"You're not supposed to have political fundraisers at bars either — only political conventions," said Goci, a Wayne-Westland school board member. "Every fundraiser I've been to has been held at a licensed establishment. I've held fundraisers at my place and no one ever complained."

In response to the complaints about the election sign, Goci received a warning letter from the LCC.

"I was really upset about it. It's a free speech issue," said Goci, who contacted the American Civil Liberties Union with his concerns. "I met with their attorneys."

The ACLU of Michigan ended up filing a federal lawsuit earlier this month using a different plaintiff — the Aut

Bar, a restaurant and bar in Ann Arbor, arguing that the rule violated the First Amendment. Goci was set to be a witness in the case.

As a result of the lawsuit, the LCC agreed to stop enforcing the rule against election signs at licensed establishments. The LCC is also using an expedited process to rescind the rule.

"With the election just two weeks away, we are pleased that the Liquor Control Commission has agreed to stop enforcing an archaic rule that violated the free speech rights of Michigan bar and restaurant owners for more than 50 years," said Michael J. Steinberg, ACLU of Michigan legal director.

In its lawsuit, the ACLU of Michigan argued that the LCC rule violated the First Amendment by denying individuals who own businesses that sell alcohol their fundamental right to express their views about political candidates while allowing signs on virtually any other topic — including commercial signs, signs about ballot initiatives and advocacy signs addressing social issues.

"It was important to me to get this done. It was unconstitutional. It violated my free speech and property rights," said Goci. "You don't give up your rights because you have a licensed business."

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Playing the parts of the Charity Workers are Katie Smith and Lauren Tisler.



Connor Even plays the part of Dick Wilkins, a friend of the young Scrooge, played by Mitchell Meyer.



The ghost of Christmas Future, played by Carrie Caruthers, visits Scrooge, played by Peter Sillanpaa.

PHOTOS BY TOM BEAUDOIN

Lutheran High presents 'A Christmas Carol'

The strange visitations to the home of Ebenezer Scrooge on Christmas Eve will come to life on stage as students at Lutheran High School Westland present the Charles Dickens classic, *A Christmas Carol*, Friday and Saturday, Nov. 9-10.

The play is under the direction of Kate Ulrey, head of the drama department at the Westland high school. It will be performed at 7 p.m. Friday and 4 p.m. Saturday at the school, 33300 Cowan, east of Wayne Road, West-

land. Tickets are available at the door and cost \$5 for adults and \$2 for children. Preschoolers are free.

Some 40 students are appearing in the production which recounts the transformation of the sour and stingy Ebenezer Scrooge, played by Peter Sillanpaa, after the supernatural visits of the ghost of Jacob Marley, his late business partner, played by Janine Erickson, and the Ghosts of Christmas Past (Helene Woyczeszyk), Present (David Kusch) and Future (Car-

rie Caruthers).

"This is a larger production than we normally do, it's a big undertaking for us," said student Eric Smith, who plays Fred in the production.

Also appearing in the production are Brandon Kruger as Bob Cratchit, Scrooge's clerk, and Natalie Husby as Cratchit's son, Tiny Tim.

Erickson and Woyczeszyk are pulling double duty as student directors for the production and along with Sillanpaa, appear with the high school's Chamber Sing-

ers, under direction of John Boonenberg, which are the carolers in the play.

The production comes at a time when a thespian chapter has been started at the school. David Kusch, part-time instructor for English and social studies and the assistant drama director, is the director of Thespian Troupe 4248.

"We're really excited about that," said Smith. For more information about the play, call the school at (734) 422-2090.

By Sue Mason

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To My "Guardian Angel" Jonah,

As I'm sitting here writing this letter to you, so much is flashing through my mind.

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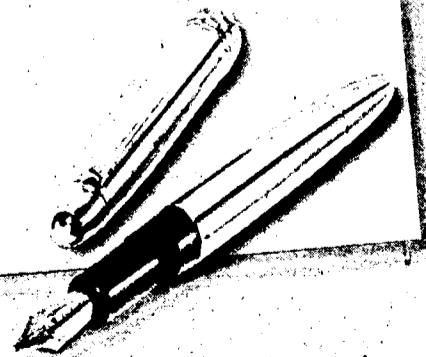
Jonah, I am humbled and I am overwhelmed! I thank you so much for all that you have done. I wanted to make sure you would be proud of me! I worked hard in Therapy. Thank you for helping me through my healing process, with my nursing care, medicine, feeding, physical therapy, occupational therapy and administrative needs. I want you to know that from my heart, you have done so much for me! I'm succeeding in my goal of healing in my total hip replacement. I also want you to know while I was at Westland Nursing & Rehabilitation Centre, so many people were so kind and caring. It was a wonderful place to go to heal and recuperate from an injury.

The administrative office, doctors, nursing, CNAs, therapy department, kitchen and staff, maintenance, grounds keeper, etc... everyone was so kind and helpful. Mr. Jonah, you have a wonderful establishment and a great staff of people working for you! They care about the people they care for. You are a wonderful man, with a heart of gold and a soul that will be rewarded over and over! Each day I thank God that he has his Earth Angels here on earth looking out for those who are in need. I am overwhelmed and thankful for all that you have done for me. A friend forever in my heart!

Always and forever,

Darline Woodard

P.S. My "Earth Angel" will always be in my prayers! I'm walking better each day.



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Students 'practice for the real thing' at the polls

They lined up at the polls, just like voters will do on Tuesday.

With their favorite candidates in mind, students cast their ballots at the "polls" that were set up at Franklin High School and Holmes Middle School this week.

Not quite old enough to vote in a real election, students at both Livonia schools said they learned a lot about the democratic process and the importance of voting.

"It's kind of like we're practicing for the real thing," said Victoria McCormick, a junior at Franklin, who was among the hundreds to cast their ballots on Thursday. "You don't want other people to decide for you - you have to vote your own opinion."

Franklin voters made their selections on realistic - although much shorter - ballots that listed presidential and Congressional candidates, along with Michigan's Proposal 3.

Junior Shelby Moody said the election, organized by social studies teachers Paul Newitt, Dave Currier and Mike Woods, was a good learning experience.

"I thought it was a great way to show students how voting goes, and the responsibility the voters have to the country," she said.



Students at Franklin cast their votes on Thursday at the polls, just as they would in a real election.

Paulina Michuta, a sophomore, said she'll pay more attention to Tuesday's presidential election, now that she "voted" at school.

"This is so we can be prepared when we're 18," she said. "I'll be watching TV and seeing how the election is going and seeing who won."

Social studies teacher Paul Newitt said the lessons are valuable.

"We want them to have the experience of voting and knowing how important it is, being an Ameri-

can citizen," he said. "We stress the idea that it is so important that your voice is heard... and to be passionate about what you believe."

It was expected that about 80 percent of the more than 1,750 students at Franklin would cast ballots while the "polls" were open during lunch periods.

The results of the FHS mock presidential election will be announced on Monday. Principal Dan Willenborg said it should be interesting, because the demographics of FHS mirror those of the nation.

CLOSE RACE

It was a nail-biter at Holmes Middle School Thursday afternoon, as the 405 ballots were being tallied. In the end, the lessons on the democratic process went beyond the expected. Students voted in the



Holmes seventh-grader Elijah Jaramillo casts his ballot on "election day" at Holmes Middle School.

electoral college system that's used in real elections. Instead of by states, they were divided by social studies teachers and electoral votes were given to those teachers, based on the number of social studies classes taught by each teacher.

For example, if a teacher has five classes, there were five, plus two U.S. Senate votes, for a total

of seven electoral votes. There were 42 total electoral votes and 22 were needed to win.

Barack Obama won the electoral college, 29-10, but there was a tie vote in one class, so the official, final results were expected to come Friday afternoon, following a tie-breaker. Three electors were to be selected in the class. They were to leave the room and come

to a final decision on who gets the class's three electoral votes.

"I feel like this couldn't have gone any better," said Josh Perusse, a student teacher at Holmes, who organized the election. "It was a tight race, a tie-breaker will be needed, and the importance of every single vote is evident."

Eighth grader Jeff Della Mora realized the importance of his vote, as he cast his ballot.

"You never know whose vote could win the race," he said.

Obama also won the popular vote 206-195, a close call as well. There were two votes for the Green Party's Jill Stein and one vote for the Natural Law Party's Ross Anderson, while one voter wrote in Ron Paul. There were 10 spoiled ballots, due to students not following directions.

In order to vote, students had to register earlier in the week and bring their student ID to the polls.


"The big thing I focus on is the importance of voting and on the process," said Perusse. "We tried to make this very similar to the real voting process."

Eighth grader Olivia Seale said she realizes that it's important to vote.

"Because we all have an opinion, and we should all have the right to say it," she said.

Parent volunteer Cyndi Pierzynski said she was glad to see the high "voter turnout" as she handed out "I Voted" stickers at the "polls," set up on the stage in the cafeteria.

"I think it's awesome to teach kids how the political system works," she said.



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Reality TV stars who make more than government officials

Debra Auerbach,
CareerBuilder Writer

Our nation's leaders carry a heavy weight on their shoulders. They are under intense pressure and scrutiny, charged with making decisions that affect each and every American.

Then there are reality TV stars. Sure, they help Americans in their own special way -- giving viewers a mindless and entertaining escape from life's daily stresses. But there's no way these stars get paid more money to broadcast their lives on national TV than top government officials do to run our country. Right? Wrong. While government leaders do earn high salaries, their paychecks don't compare to the hundreds of thousands, or even millions, of dollars that reality TV stars pocket per episode or season.

To see just how big the salary discrepancies are between these two groups, here's a list comparing the earnings of top government leaders and reality TV stars. Of course, any one of the earners on this list may make, or have, more money from additional sources -- such as previous businesses, other current ventures or inheritances -- but this list focuses solely on the salaries made via their government job or their current reality TV show.

Read on, and get ready to be shocked:

President of the United States: President Barack Obama makes \$400,000 a year*, which includes a \$50,000 expense allowance. The first U.S. president, George Washington, earned a \$25,000 annual salary -- a large sum for that time in history.

Reality TV star who earns more: Snooki, JWwow, Mike "The Situation" and the entire cast of "Jersey Shore" reportedly make \$100,000 per episode. With an average of 13 episodes per season, they're raking in more than \$1 million to drink, swear and generally make fools of themselves.

Vice president of the United States: In 2012, Vice President Joe Biden earned a salary of \$230,700.

Reality TV star who earns more: According to the website Celebrity Net Worth, "Bachelor"/"Bachelorette" host Chris Harrison makes \$60,000 per episode. There were 12 episodes in the most recent "Bachelorette" season, so that equals a cool \$720,000.

Speaker of the House: According to 247wallst.com, Rep. John Boehner, R-Ohio, earns an annual salary of \$223,500 as the current speaker of the House.

Reality TV star who earns more: It's hard for anyone -- government official or other reality TV star -- to keep up with Kim Kardashian. Kardashian makes

\$40,000 per episode for her reality TV show "Keeping Up With the Kardashians." There are 18 episodes in the 2012 season. Remember: This doesn't include the money she earns from various endorsement deals, product lines and appearances.

Chief Justice of the United States: All eyes were on Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. after he upheld Obama's health-care reform. In his role as the head of the U.S. federal court system, Roberts makes \$223,500 a year.

Reality TV star who earns more: Entertainment news website Radar Online reports that Vicki Gunvalson of "The Real Housewives of Orange County" makes \$450,000 a season.

Cabinet officials: The current Cabinet officials, including Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Attorney General Eric Holder, each make \$199,700 annually.

Reality TV star who earns more: "The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills" star Lisa Vanderpump's famous pup, Giggy, truly lives in the lap of luxury. He can afford to be spoiled, since Vanderpump makes a reported \$250,000 a season.

Party leaders of the House and Senate: The House and Senate majority and minority leaders each earn a yearly salary of \$193,400.



Reality TV star who earns more: Emily Maynard, the most recent "Bachelorette," was looking for love with the help of an estimated \$250,000 paycheck. Who wouldn't be ready and willing to find "the one" for that salary?

*Unless otherwise specified, all U.S. government officials'

salaries are from <http://usgo-vinfo.about.com>.

Debra Auerbach is a writer and blogger for CareerBuilder.com and its job blog, The Work Buzz. She researches and writes about job search strategy, career management, hiring trends and workplace issues.

OE2284806

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Public tours 'new St. Mary Mercy Hospital' for first time

An estimated 2,000 people attended Sunday's grand-opening celebration of St. Mary Mercy Hospital's new three-story addition featuring a state-of-the-art emergency center and 80 private patient rooms.

"The turnout was tremendous," said Jennifer Kennedy, director of marketing and public relations for the Livonia hospital. "We hoped that many would be interested in seeing the newest addition to the hospital and enjoy the activities, and we are certainly pleased with the attendance."

The new South Wing is the first portion of a \$89 million project — funded through a mix of debt financing, cash and philanthropy — that will completely rebuild the 53-year-old hospital from the inside out. The new emergency center is double the size of the old one. Renovation of the North Wing, where the majority of 90 existing rooms will be converted to private rooms, will begin next month and is expected to be completed in about 16 months. The North Entrance will also be renovated.

"The grand opening of our new addition was a great way to introduce 'the New St. Mary Mercy Hospital' to the community," Kennedy said. "We wanted to offer a fun, family-friendly event, while showcasing our beautiful new emergency center and new patient rooms. We've been overwhelmed with positive responses from the community about it."

She said the new addition allows the hospital to meet contemporary standards of care and provide the necessary



Airbrushed temporary tattoos are not just for kids: Sue Hensel and Martha Kusza are from Westland.

space for advanced technology. "The rooms are also set up to provide a comfortable space for family members and visitors because we know that they are also at the heart of healing," Kennedy said.

The 154,000-square-foot addition was open for tours Sunday. "There was a large steady stream of traffic through the tours — all were excited to see it," Kennedy said.

The patient rooms will start being used Nov. 5, the new emergency room will open the second week in November.

The 304-bed hospital was established in 1959

by the Felician Sisters and has had four previous significant additions to the original building — in 1959, 1972, 1988 and 1997.

By Karen Smith



St. Mary's stroke robot has a little less critical duties to perform during the open house.



Tom Parrin, director of clinical engineering, explains how a patient lift works to Carol Westhaus, of Livonia, and Judy Moore, of Detroit.

Cox sues Blue Cross on behalf of Michigan seniors

Mike Cox, managing partner of the Mike Cox Law Firm in Livonia, announced Wednesday the filing of a class action lawsuit against Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Michigan in Wayne County Circuit Court for allegedly violating federal and state law.

Cox filed the lawsuit on behalf of thousands of Michigan seniors denied access by Blue Cross to its most popular Medigap plans, including its most popular, Legacy C.

Cox filed the lawsuit on behalf of a retired Ford Motor Co. nurse, Catherine Liller, and thousands of Michigan seniors who earned a small retiree health care reimbursement benefit from companies like Ford Motor Co. and Chrysler Group LLC. Medigap, formally known as Medicare sup-

plemental insurance, is sold to seniors who are on Medicare to cover health care expenses that are not covered, or only partially covered, by Medicare.

This lawsuit alleges Blue Cross denies every senior who has a health reimbursement account (HRA) or health savings account (HSA) access to its most popular Legacy Medigap plans, including Legacy C, forcing thousands of retirees to buy more expensive policies or risk going without coverage.

Federal and state law prohibits all insurers from denying the sale of Medigap policies to any eligible Medicare recipient, Cox said. Federal and state law also prohibits insurers from discriminating in the sale of their Medigap policies, he said.

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<h4>All Christmas Floral</h4> <p>Arrangements Bushes Wreaths Garlands Swags Stems Picks Ribbon</p> <p>50% OFF</p> <p>*DOES NOT INCLUDE CUSTOM DESIGNS</p>	<h4>Christmas Crafts</h4> <p>50% OFF</p> <p>ALL ITEMS LABELED MAKE IT CHRISTMAS, CHRISTMAS CRAFTS, JESSE JAMES & ROBERT STANLEY CRAFT COLLECTIONS</p>	<h4>Christmas Light Sets</h4> <p>Everyday Low Prices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GE Mini Light Set 150 Count 4.99 All-In-One Clips Omni 100 Count 4.99 GE Icicle Light Set 300 Count 12.99 Chaser Light Set 150 Count, 16 Function 12.99 Net Style Lights 150 Count 9.99 GE Light Sets 25 Count, C-9 9.99
<h4>Ribbon & Trims By The Roll</h4> <p>INCLUDES FABRIC, TULLE & DECOR FISH IN OUR WEDDING, FLORAL & FABRIC DEPARTMENTS DOES NOT INCLUDE RIBBON, TRIM & TULLE SOLD BY THE YARD</p> <p>50% OFF</p>	<h4>Floral</h4> <p>Categories Listed 50% OFF</p> <p>• Floral Arrangements FLOWERING & GREENERY DESIGNS & POTTED TREES</p>	<h4>Garlands, Swags, Wreaths & Teardrops</h4> <p>FLOWERING & GREENERY</p>
<h4>Wedding Sale</h4> <p>All Items Labeled His & Hers CHOOSE FROM INVITATIONS, TOASTING GLASSES, RING HOLDERS, CAKE TOPPERS & MORE</p>	<h4>Furniture</h4> <p>Always Marked... 30% OFF</p>	<h4>Needle Art</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coats® Classic Crochet Thread 2.22 300 - 400 YDS. poly-fil® 100% Polyester Fiberfill with Stuffing Tool 2.99 12 OZ. I Love This Yarn!® CHOOSE FROM ACRYLIC, YARN, SOLIDS, STIPPLE, CROCHET & METALLICS DOES NOT INCLUDE CROCHET 3.66 5.8 7 OZ. Needle Art Kits CHOOSE FROM COUNTED, SOULDS, INCROCHER & NO SEW FLEECE KITS ALWAYS 30% OFF THE MARKED PRICE
<h4>Framing</h4> <p>Categories Listed 50% OFF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collage Frames INCLUDES DECORATIVE MEMO BOARDS, CHALKBOARDS & CORKBOARDS PRICED \$19.99 & HIGHER Custom Frames ALWAYS 50% OFF THE MARKED PRICE APPLIES TO FRAME ONLY 	<h4>Photo Frames</h4> <p>ALWAYS 50% OFF THE MARKED PRICE CHOOSE FROM OUR ENTIRE SELECTION OF BASIC, FASHION TABLETOP FRAMES, INCLUDES WOODEN PHOTO STORAGE</p>	<h4>Wall Frames</h4> <p>CHOOSE FROM POSTER, DOCUMENT & PORTRAIT FRAMES WITH GLASS</p>
<h4>3-D Embellishment Stickers</h4> <p>by Jolee's®, Soft Spoken® & La Petite® CHOOSE FROM OVER 700 STYLES 40% OFF</p>	<h4>Cricut® Cartridges & Accessories</h4> <p>CHOOSE FROM CUTTING MATS, REPLACEMENT BLADES, TROOLS, TOTES & MORE DOES NOT INCLUDE MACHINES 30% OFF</p>	<h4>Cards, Tags & Envelopes</h4> <p>by the Paper Studio® CHOOSE FROM OVER 300 STYLES 50% OFF</p>
<h4>Gemstones</h4> <p>by the Paper Studio® CHOOSE FROM OVER 300 STYLES 50% OFF</p>	<h4>Papercrafting</h4> <p>Categories Listed 50% OFF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fairy Tale™ by Bead Treasures™ CHOOSE FROM PENDANTS, CHAINS & BEADS FOR A GROWN UP HAPPILY EVER AFTER Bead Stringing by On-A-String™, On-A-String™ & On-A-Wire™ Plastic & Acrylic Beads & Gems by in Bloom™, Bead Design Co., The Beadery™ & Treasures Studio INCLUDES 1 LB. TUBS 	<h4>Traditions™</h4> <p>NATURAL SHELL, FRESHWATER PEARLS, WOOD & STONE BEADS & PENDANTS</p>
<h4>Explorer™</h4> <p>by Traditions™ FRAGILES INSPIRED BY WORLD TRAVEL</p>	<h4>Charm</h4> <p>by a Bead Story™, Charm Me™ & Delight Only DOES NOT INCLUDE STEELING SEVER</p>	<h4>Sew-ology® Sewing Notions</h4> <p>50% OFF</p>
<h4>Home Decor Fabric</h4> <p>CHOOSE FROM PRINTS, SOLIDS & SHEERS ALWAYS 30% OFF THE MARKED PRICE</p>	<h4>Calico Prints & Solids</h4> <p>INCLUDES APPAREL PRINTS ALWAYS 30% OFF THE MARKED PRICE</p>	<h4>Ribbon, Trim & Tulle Spools</h4> <p>DOES NOT INCLUDE RIBBON, TRIM & TULLE SOLD BY THE YARD 50% OFF</p>
<h4>McCall's® Patterns</h4> <p>LIFT 10 PER CUSTOMER DOES NOT INCLUDE KWIK SEW PATTERNS 99¢</p>	<h4>Fleece</h4> <p>CHOOSE FROM PRINTS, SOLIDS, INCROCHER & NO SEW FLEECE KITS ALWAYS 30% OFF THE MARKED PRICE</p>	

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The Doll Hospital & Toy Soldier Shop 3947 W. 12 Mile, Berkley
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Prices good in stores only. Nov 5-10, 2012. Selection may vary by store. This ad does not apply to pre-reduced items. Sale items not available online.

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It's wise to hire a pro when facing an IRS audit

By Rick Bloom
Guest Columnist

Q: Dear Rick: I just received a notice from the IRS that my tax return for 2010 is being audited. I assume I'm being audited because 2010 was an unusual year for me. My employer went out of business and I never received a W-2 from them. Because of that I showed very little income that year. At the time my friends told me that since I didn't get a W-2 I didn't have to report the income. Also that year, after my employer went out of business I got another job but they considered me self-employed. I did report the income, however, I was a little aggressive with my deductions. Do I have anything to worry about, particularly by not reporting my W-2 income? In addition, my wife thinks that we should hire someone to help us with the audit. I think I can do it on my own. What's your opinion?



Money Matters
Rick Bloom

A: In reviewing your situation, I believe you have some issues. Just because you did not get a W-2 does not relieve you of the obligation to report the income. The IRS has a methodology that taxpayers are supposed to follow if their employer does not provide them with a W-2. Since it appears that you did not follow that process, there are issues you must deal with. That being said, there's also a silver lining to this. Although you did not report the income, you also did not claim the federal withholding tax

that you're employer took out of your check. Therefore, most of your tax liability should be offset by the withholdings you did not claim.

There is, however, a possibility that tax is due. You will have to pay a tax and the IRS will also assess interest and possibly a penalty.

The IRS generally has no discretion on interest. It does have discretion regarding penalties. The IRS has a variety of penalties it can assess. In certain situations, the IRS can assess upwards of a 50 percent penalty. What that means is that if you owe \$10,000 in taxes, the IRS can assess you a \$5,000 penalty. You also have issues with regards to your deductions. If you cannot substantiate those deductions, the IRS can deny them.

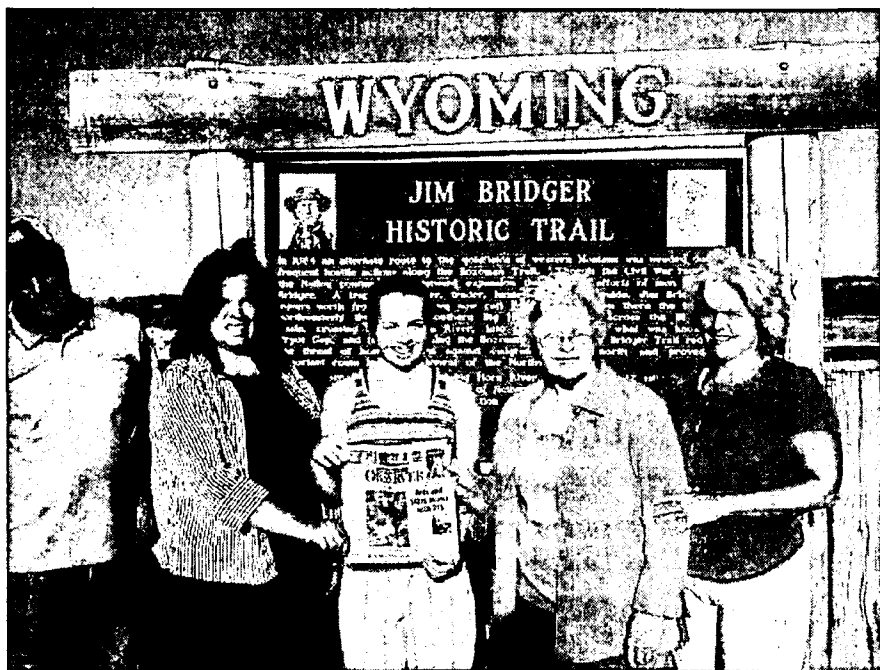
Unfortunately, with these deductions you have a double whammy. Not only would the denial of those deductions cause your income tax to increase but also your self-employment tax. The self-employment tax in 2010 was 15.3 percent. This tax is similar to the Social Security tax that you and I pay as employees. As employees we pay our Social Security tax but then our employer matches it. When you're self-employed, you end up paying both parts. Therefore, the denial of the deductions can result in a substantial increase in your taxes. I agree with your wife on hiring a professional. It would be a mistake for you to go into the IRS alone. When you go in

front of any government entity, it pays to have someone who's familiar with the process and with the associated rules and regulations to protect your interests. When you go in alone, the IRS will have the upper hand. When you have a professional represent you, even though the IRS may still have the upper hand, it's at least a much more level playing field.

In your situation, where it appears there will be additional tax liability and potential penalties, it makes sense to have someone represent you. After all, a professional will be able to better deal with the IRS; whether in regards to reducing the tax liability or potential penalties.

When it's your tax return that's being audited and the IRS is questioning you about the deductions, you and I will have a tendency to be emotional about these issues. A professional won't have that same involvement. That being said, I do recognize that professionals do not come cheap, however, it's worth it. Most of us wouldn't try to fix our air conditioning because it's too complex. Trust me, taxes are even more complex. Therefore, to protect yourself, listen to your wife (not your friends) and hire a professional. Good luck!

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



Wish You Were Here

In July, Kathleen Dryovage of Garden City, her daughter Jeannie Lillystone of Royal Oak and granddaughter Heather Lillystone visited Kathy Dryovage Smith and her husband Kim Smith in Worland, Wyoming, in the middle of the Big Horn Mountains. The Smith daughters - Paul and Patricia - joined in the celebration. They posed for Wish You Were Here at the Jim Bridger Historic Trail marker. "We all had a great time," Kathleen Dryovage said. If you go on vacation, be sure to take a picture with your Observer and send it to Sue Mason as a jpg at smason@hometownlife.com or by mail to her attention at 615 W. Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226. Be sure to include your name and information about your photo.

AROUND WESTLAND

Lunch Buffet

Chef Tony Paquette and his culinary arts students will host a Thanksgiving lunch buffet 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 13, Café Marquette, located at the William D. Ford Career Technical Center, 36455 Marquette, Westland.

The lunch will benefit the Wayne-Westland Family Resource Center and help provided Thanksgiving food baskets to needy families in the community. A minimum \$10 donation is kindly suggested.

Dinner tickets

Time is running out to purchase tickets for Westland Friendship Center's Thanksgiving Celebration. Monday, Nov. 5, is the last day to purchase tickets, priced at \$10 for mem-

bers and \$15 for non-members.

The Thanksgiving Celebration will be noon-3 p.m. Friday, Nov. 9, at the Friendship Center at 1119 Newburgh Road. The menu includes turkey, kielbasa and sauerkraut, whipped potatoes and gravy, green beans, butternut squash, jellied cranberry sauce, tossed salad and dressing, rolls and butter and pumpkin pie.

For more information, call (734) 722-7628.

Used book sale

The Friends of the William P. Faust Library of Westland will hold a used book sale Thursday-Saturday, Nov. 15-17, at the library, 6123 Central City Parkway north of Ford Road.

The hours will be 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday and Friday and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday.

There will be a special sale with \$1 hardcover fiction - buy one, get one free. Other prices are \$2 for coffee table books (makes a great Christmas gift), \$1 hardcover non-fiction books, DVDs, CDs, 50 cents large paperbacks, 25 cents small paperbacks, videos, cassettes, records and auto books on cassette - the whole book for 25 cents - 10 cents small paperbacks - romance - and magazines. Saturday will be a \$4 Big Bag Sale. Bring your own bag.

There will be a preview sale for Friends members 4-7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 14. You can become a Friend at the Preview Sale.

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stmarymercy.org

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Rediscover your mobility.

The Center for Joint Replacement at St. Mary Mercy Hospital has a comprehensive team approach which results in shorter hospital stays, better pain management and faster recovery.

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NOTICE

The Offices of the Wayne County Clerk
Vitals Statistics Division
and
Westland Satellite Office
Will Be Closed On the Below Dates
Due to Mandatory Furlough Days

November 5, 2012
December 3, 2012

Services Affected By These Closings:
Birth and Death Certificates
Marriage Licenses
Assumed Names
Notary Publics
Concealed Weapons

AT-8789432

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Upcoming Events

VETERANS DINNER

Time/Date: 1-5 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 11
Location: Myron H. Beals American Legion Post 32, 9318 Newburgh Road, Livonia
Details: The post will be holding a spaghetti dinner for veterans. It is free to veterans with military service ID, \$6 for non-service guests and \$3 for children under five years old.
Contact: For more information, call (734) 427-5630.

WCGH REUNION

Time/Date: 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 11
Location: Café Marquette in the William D. Ford Technical Center, 36455 Marquette, west of Wayne Road, Westland
Details: Wayne County General Hospital employees will gather for their 28th annual holiday reunion. A luncheon buffet will be served starting at 11:30 a.m. The cost is \$16 and includes beverage, dessert and tip. You can pay at the door.
Contact: For more information contact Kay Shafi at (734) 427-3437 or e-mail chknlit@wideopenwest.com, Dennis Abraham at (734) 721-2917 or e-mail fightingirish316@global.net or Pat Ibbotson at (734) 331-9291 or e-mail pibbotso@aol.com.

RAILRODIANA

Time/Date: noon-4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 25
Location: Ss. Simon and Jude Church Hall, 32500 Palmer, west of Merriman, Westland
Details: Ss. Simon and Jude Usher's Club will sponsor a Toys and Train Show in the church hall. Admission is \$2 per person, or \$4 per family. Food and beverages are available and parking is free. There will be approximately 130 dealer tables available at \$10 each. Dealer setup is at 9 a.m. on the day of the show.
Contact: To reserve a dealer table, call Norm at (734) 595-8327.

WIDOWED FRIENDS

Time/Date: 5 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 14
Location: G. Subu's, 20300 Farmington Road, south of 8 Mile, Livonia
Details: Widowed men and women are invited to attend dinner and games in Livonia. Social hour is at 5 p.m. (cash bar) and a dinner buffet served promptly at 6 p.m. The cost is \$18 and includes meal, beverage, dessert, tax and tip. Pay at the door (cash only) with the exact amount. Stay for cards, games, and conversation until 9 p.m. No walk-ins please. Must RSVP by Nov. 6.
Contact: Call Carol at (313) 562-3080, Joan at (734) 331-6866 or Mary Anne at (313) 565-5749.
Time/Date: 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 18
Location: St. Kenneth

Church, 14951 N. Haggerty Road in Plymouth
Details: Widowed men and women are invited to celebrate Mass followed by fellowship and refreshments. Join us in a safe and friendly setting at.
Contact: For more information, call Pat at (734) 895-6246.

HOLIDAY DINNER

Time/Date: 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 25
Location: Compari's, 350 S. Main St. in Plymouth
Details: Join Widowed Friends for a holiday celebration. Order from the menu, separate checks. A 20 percent gratuity will be included in the bill. Talk with Micki to reserve a spot, no answering machine reservations will be accepted. All calls will be returned. No walk-ins or late reservations. Afterwards the group will do "The Walk of the Trees" through Kellogg Park which is across from the restaurant.
Contact: Call Micki by Nov. 21 at (734) 455-0094

BURROUGHS OLD TIMERS

Time/Date: 11:30 a.m. on the last Friday of the month.
Location: Plymouth Elks Club, 41700 Ann Arbor Rd., Plymouth
Details: Any former employees of Burroughs/Unisys are welcome to join us to socialize or renew acquaintances. There is no cost to join or to attend. A cash bar and a fish buffet is available but not mandatory.
Contact: John Kusch 734-751-9765 or kuschjt@yahoo.com

SHORT SALE SEMINAR

Time/Date: 6:30-8 p.m. Monday, Nov. 12
Location: Novi Public Library, 45255 10 Mile Road, Novi
Details: Come with your questions to a free seminar and learn about what a Short Sale is and the different alternatives available. Explore your options with a Professional Resource Panel, from both the Selling and Buying side. Sponsored by The MacNro Team, Keller Williams Agents, working the Detroit Metro Area.
Contact: Call Sheila Roma at (248) 760-6785 or Debbi McLaughlin at (248) 561-0077 for reservations by Friday, Nov. 9.

CRAFT SHOWS

Time/Date: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 10
Location: Garden City High School, 6500 Middlebelt Road in Garden City between Ford and Warren Road, Garden City
Details: Garden City High School is hosting its annual craft and vendor show on Nov. 10. There will be 75 tables of home vendors, such as Pampered Chef, Avon and Creative Memories, as well as a great variety of home made arts and crafts. There will be door prize raffles, 50/50 drawings, a bake sale and concessions available throughout the show. Admission is \$1 which includes a free raffle ticket.
Contact: For more information or for table availability, email Sheryl at vendorshow@gmail.com or call (734) 367-0898 and leave a message. All proceeds will benefit the GCMS PTSA.

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 10
Location: Cherry Hill Baptist Church, 1045 N. Gulley, Dearborn Heights
Details: The annual craft show will feature crafts, raffle and food. The \$1 entry goes toward Bridges to Healing: A Veteran's Support Group.
Time/Date: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 10
Location: Hosanna-Tabor Lutheran Church, 9600 Lucerne, Redford
Details: Admission is \$1 to a vendor/craft show held by American Legion Auxiliary Post 396. Food will be available for purchase and there will also be a bake sale.

Organizations

FRIENDS OF ELOISE

Time/Date: 7 p.m. third Tuesday of the months of February, April, June, September and November
Location: Collins House in the Westland Historic Village Park, 857 N. Wayne Road between Marquette and Cherry Hill, Westland.
Contact: Pat Ibbotson at (734) 331-9291 or by e-mail at pibbotso@aol.com or Jo Johnson (734) 522-3918

WESTLAND ROTARY

Time/Date: 12:15 p.m. Thursdays
Location: Joy Manor, 28999 Joy, east of Middlebelt, Westland
Details: Community Service programs and planning. Catered lunch; visitors welcome. Check www.westlandrotary.com for more information about meetings, programs and events.
Contact: Jeff at (734) 261-5010

2012 Lightfest kicks off with fun run/walk, bike ride

The countdown is on to the opening of the Wayne County Lightfest 2012. But Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano throws the switch on Thursday, Nov. 15, to officially open the 4 1/2-mile long light show, they'll be twinkling for two pre-Lightfest activities - 17th annual Wayne County Lightfest 8K Fun Run/Walk on Tuesday, Nov. 13, and Bike through the Lights on Wednesday, Nov. 14

Both events will take place at 7 p.m. They'll start in Merriman Hollow in Hines Park at Merriman and Hines Drive in Westland. Participants will be among the first to view more than 35 animated displays, which include a variety of holiday themes. In addition, there will be a new display at the Lightfest entrance.

There will be post race food for both events, along with long sleeve T-shirts and glow necklaces. Registration prior to Nov. 5 is \$18. After Nov. 5, the fee is \$20 in advance for adults and \$25 on the day of the race.

High school students and younger pay \$12.


Registration forms for the 8K Fun Run/Walk can be downloaded at www.totalrunner.com. Forms also can be picked up at the Nankin Mills Interpretive Center at 33175 Ann Arbor Trail, Westland, and at Total Runner, 15265 Dix-Toledo Road, Southgate.

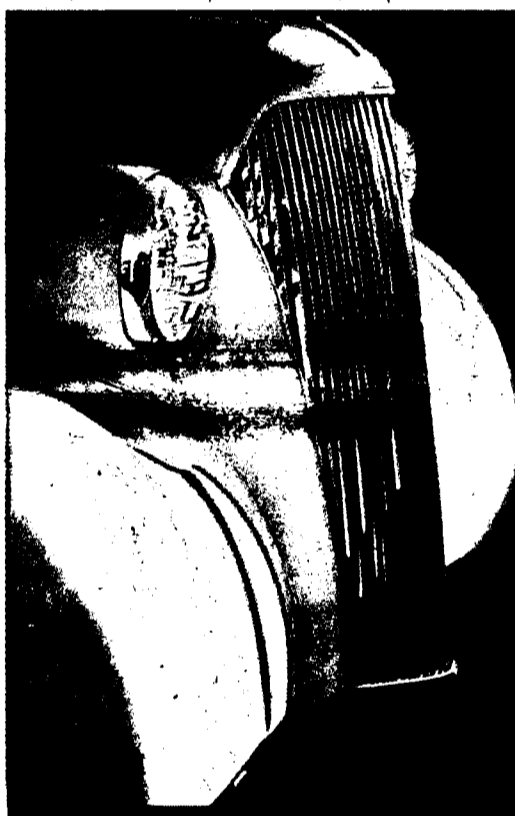
Checks should be made payable to Friends of Wayne County Parks, and sent to Total Runner, 15265 Dix-Toledo Road, Southgate, MI 48195.

Back by popular demand, bike ride is a point-to-point event so all riders must be able to bike to the Warrendale picnic area and back to Merriman Hollow. All bikes must have a light, and all participants must wear a helmet. There will be a prize for the most decorated bike.

The start area and check-in for both events is 6:30-6:45 p.m.

Proceeds to benefit Friends of Wayne County Parks. For more information on these Wayne County Parks events, call (734) 261-1990.

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FEATURING SPEAKER
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 SR. VICE PRESIDENT
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SAVE THE DATE MONDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH, 2012 | 11:15 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

Auto workers, have you been offered the option to receive a lump-sum payment from your employer? If so, please join us at our upcoming informational event.

Luncheon to include choice of:


- \$ Filet Oscar *grilled filet topped with jumbo lump crab & béarnaise sauce*
- \$ Tuna Mignon *seared rare with poppy seed au poivre & tomato onion gratin*
- \$ Seared New Bedford Scallop *meyer lemon-honey glaze, baby carrots, green beans, asparagus*
- \$ New Zealand Double Lamb Chops *grilled brochettes with pistachio hummus pesto*

Seating is limited, please RSVP today.
 Call Mary at 734.432.6490 or email to Mary.A.Zak@ampf.com

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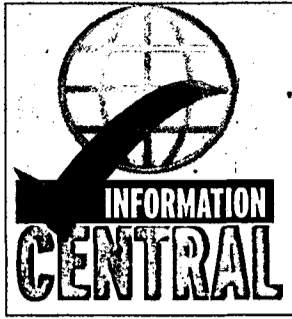
This is an informational event. There is no cost or obligation. Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc. Member FDIC. ©2012 Ameriprise Financial, Inc. All rights reserved. (7/12)

Mulching: It's not just for springtime anymore

Just when you thought you could put down your gardening tools and pick up the remote control, it's time for fall mulching.

Never considered mulching in the fall? Well, you are not alone. Mulching during this time of the year has a much different purpose than spring mulching. This is due to temperature dips. During the fall temperatures can change dramatically resulting in the ground heaving as it freezes and thaws. This action forces root systems of many plants to move up from the soil and exposing them to the harsh temperatures.

"Mulch helps maintain a more even temperature and also raises the freeze line, which encourages earthworms to work closer to the surface of the soil," according to hgtv.com. Dr. Leonard Perry, Extension Professor University of Vermont Extension Department



of Plant and Soil Science, said it's been "found that by adding only a couple inches of bark mulch in the fall, you can prevent soil temperatures from moderating or fluctuating wildly by as much as 10 degrees. So if air temperatures drop to below freezing overnight, soil temperatures might remain at 40 degrees or above and roots will continue to grow."

To get started, make sure you have cleaned up mulch from summer. Leaving it can invite disease and rodents. Apply fall mulch when the ground is frozen or near

frozen. Elizabeth Stell's *Secrets to Great Soil: A Grower's Guide to Composting, Mulching and Creating Healthy, Fertile Soil for Your Garden and Lawn* is a comprehensive guide to mulching throughout the year.

When it comes to what kind of mulch to use, choices are either organic or inorganic. Organic options, such as chopped leaves, straw, shredded or chipped bark, grass clippings, pine needles or even compost are all options to consider. Just remember that if you use organic mulch, you will need to replenish it from time to time because it breaks down to improve your soil.

And don't forget to cover all your bare soil with mulch, most weeds will never be able to come into contact with the soil and fewer weeds in the spring is always a good thing. A thick layer of mulch inhibits weeds in two important ways. First, by thoroughly covering the soil and depriving

weed seeds of the light they need to germinate, mulch prevents them from gaining a foothold in the first place.

Among the other benefits of mulch is that it helps control erosion. Garden mulch applied in the fall keeps the severe weather conditions of winter from eroding soil and robbing it of valuable nutrients.

Both Erin Hyne's *Improving the Soil* and Alan Titchmarsh's *How to Be a Gardener* offer a wealth of information regarding getting your garden in shape. Also why not check out an issue of *Better Homes and Gardens* or *Horticulture* magazine for more tips and guidelines for your green space.

To find out more about mulching, planting, fertilizing or any other gardening topics stop by the library, go online to see our collection catalog. westland.lib.mi.us/, or call the reference desk at (734) 326-6123 and there will be someone to assist you.

gy trends to hit the market this coming holiday season, including tablets, e-readers, apps, movie and music streaming and much more. There will be equipment on hand for you to test-drive after the talk. Sign up online at westlandlibrary.org/ events or call the library at (734) 326-6123 to reserve your seat.

NaNoWriMo Write-In: 6 p.m. Nov. 8

Do you have the Great American Novel brewing in your head? Do you enjoy writing but can't ever make the time for it? National Novel Writing Month is here to bring it out of you. Join other aspiring novelists for weekly Write-Ins to help you get your writing motor started or to keep it revving. Occurring each Thursday in November (except for Turkey Day, of course). Participants who don't have a laptop will be able to borrow one during the Write-Ins. Just bring in your state ID to use it in the library.

Open Mic: 7 p.m. Nov. 8
Songwriter John Latini emcees tonight's festivities with our usual array of strumming, singing and poetry reading.

If you do any of those (or something else performance-related), it's your turn at the mic. If you like to listen to fine live music and poetry, please join us as well. Everyone welcome. No sign up required.

ESL English as a Second Language Class: 10-11:30 a.m. Nov. 9

Last session this Fall. New session begins in March.

Friday Night Movies are Back! 6:30 p.m. Nov. 9

Thank you for your votes and for all of your patience as we adjust

schedules. Tonight's movie, *Dark Shadows*, is a dark comedy about a vampire who goes back to his home only to find his family extremely dysfunctional (PG-13). Refreshments and snacks provided (donation suggested, but not required). Trivia and prizes. No sign-up required.

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

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

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

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

Computer classes are offered all year long. Contact the library to find out more. The library offers One-on-one computer classes. Call (734) 326-6123.

Library has new hours - 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

Information Central was compiled by Marilyn Kwik, head of Information Services. The William P. Faust Public Library is at 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland. For more information, call (734) 326-6123 or go online to westlandlibrary.org.

WHY BE CATHOLIC?

The popular monthly series of personal stories and testimonies continues its 4th season with an exciting roster of new speakers, sure to bring rewarding new insights to your own faith life



Dr. Eduardo Echeverria

Wednesday, November 14 at 7 PM

Former Reformed Calvinist, well-known author and theology professor at Sacred Heart Major Seminary, Dr. Eduardo Echeverria, details his journey from large Catholic, Mexican family and parochial high school boy to Protestantism and back.

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KNOW THE SCORE

CHECK OUT THE NUMBERS IN TODAY'S SPORTS SECTION

Highlighted Activities

Senior Health Series - Elder Abuse: 3 p.m. Nov. 6

Join the good folks from Garden City Hospital for a new, monthly talk designed specifically for seniors in our community. This month's topic is Elder Abuse, presented by Nursing Home Ombudsman Dakima Jackson. Sign up or drop in. We'll save you a seat. Call (734) 326-6123.

Gadgets, Tablets and Apps for the Holidays: 7 p.m. Nov. 7

Join Lindsay Wiczorek, gadget and app aficionado, as she discusses the latest technolo-

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- Police Officers Association of Michigan
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- Detroit Police Officers Association
- Livonia Mayor Jack Kirksey
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- Westland Mayor William Wild
- State Representative John Walsh
- State Representative Phil Cavanagh
- State Senator Patrick Colbeck
- County Commissioner Laura Cox
- County Commissioner Diane Web
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Snyder bus tour stops in Livonia



Governor Rick Snyder stops for a photo with Nick Netschke, a fifth-grader at Cooper Elementary School.



Livonia resident Jim Hinkle meets Governor Rick Snyder and State Rep. John Walsh at the Senate Coney Island.

By Karen Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Bob Kenyon, a tax consultant from Northville, didn't know what way he was going to vote on the bridge proposal until he met Gov. Rick Snyder Thursday morning while eating breakfast at George's Senate Coney Island Restaurant in Livonia.

"I was undecided, and he changed my mind," said Kenyon, who now plans to vote no Tuesday on Proposal 6, which would amend the state constitution to require a statewide vote on new bridges or tunnels.

Snyder visited George's Senate Coney Island as part of his four-day statewide bus tour to discuss the six ballot proposals with citizens. Snyder is encouraging residents to vote "Yes on 1, No on the Rest."

Snyder told Kenyon that Michigan taxpayers won't pay any portion of the proposed New International Trade Crossing bridge because the bill will be paid entirely by Canada. "They're paying for the whole project.

They want it that badly," Snyder said.

Snyder went from table to table saying hello and talking with customers at George's Senate Coney Island. Some, like Kenyon, had heard the governor would be there and made plans to attend. Kenyon is a regular customer at George's Senate Coney Island in Northville.

Others, like Mike McCool of Livonia, were surprised by Snyder's visit. "I had no idea he was going to be here. For him to walk by was pretty neat," said McCool, a salesman for Ralph Thayer Automotive, located across the street.

McCool supports Snyder. "I'm there with you," he told the governor. "I approve of everything you're doing."

Snyder said he thinks it's important to give voters the correct information about the proposals. "The bridge is a classic example," he said. "People thought we were going to be paying for it."

Robert Nasir, a computer technician from Redford, came into

George's Senate Coney Island after he saw the bus sitting outside and decided to stop in for a "chance to see the excitement."

Nasir said he plans to vote yes on Proposals 5 and 6 "at this point," but he intends he re-read them and consider both sides before doing so.

Proposal 5 would amend the state constitution to require a two-thirds majority vote of the Michigan House and Senate or a statewide vote of the people for the state to impose new or additional taxes.

Nasir said he is 90 percent in agreement with Snyder and just wanted to shake his hand and tell him he appreciates the work he's doing. "My disagreements with him are few," he said.

But, he said, he is concerned about the econo-

my and, because of that, the money it will cost taxpayers to upgrade, build and maintain roads leading up to the proposed New International Trade Crossing. He said the two-thirds majority vote on new or additional taxes would support fiscal responsibility.

State Rep. John Walsh (R-Livonia), who visited Senate Coney Island customers with Snyder, said while the two-thirds majority vote may resonate with voters, the Michigan Business Tax wouldn't have been repealed last year had the proposed Constitutional amendment already been in place. Lt. Gov. Brian Calley cast the tie-breaking vote. He said members of both parties thought repealing the MBT was a good idea; they just disagreed on how to replace it.

Walsh said he thinks voters will see through the misleading advertising and vote no Proposals 2-6, all of which would amend the constitution. "People know when something is false," he said. Proposal 1 is a referendum on Public Act 4 of 2011, the emergency manager law.

Snyder's visit made no difference to John Caizza of Walled Lake, a retired autoworker who meets weekly at the Livonia restaurant with former coworkers. He has already voted, casting a yes vote for Proposal 6. "I want the right to vote (on a bridge)," he said. "I'm hard to convince."

Caizza said he is concerned that if the company that builds and operates the new bridge runs into financial difficulties, taxpayers will be left bearing the respon-

sibility.

Jeremy Brady of Livonia stopped in for breakfast with his 2-year-old son, Bruce, after dropping his wife off for work at St. Mary Mercy Hospital. He saw the "Yes on 1, No on the Rest" tour bus parked outside but didn't realize the governor was inside the restaurant.

A lifelong Democrat, the appliance delivery man said he's going to vote the opposite of what Snyder suggests on all the proposals.

Even so, he said he respects Snyder and the position he holds and thought it was "pretty cool" that he got to meet him. "All I did was come in for breakfast and I got to meet the governor," he said.

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| Westland Chamber of Commerce | 36900 Ford Rd., Westland |
| Westland City Hall | 36601 Ford Rd., Westland |
| Westland Fire Station-Main | Ford Rd at Central City Pkwy, Westland |
| Westland Library | 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland |
| Westland Nursing & Rehab Centre | 36137 W. Warren Rd., Westland |
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Western Wayne residents dominate circuit court race

On Nov. 6, voters will elect three new judges to the Wayne County Third Circuit Court. Five of the six candidates running for office live in western Wayne County.

The position pays \$138,272 salary and offers benefits. Circuit Court judges serve six-year terms. Voters will find the

race on the nonpartisan section of Tuesday's ballot.

The candidates are **Karen Braxton of Canton Township**, **Kevin Cox of Livonia**, **Dana Hathaway of Grosse Pointe Farms**, **Brian Morrow of Northville**, **Kelly Ann Ramsey of Livonia** and **John J. Sullivan of Northville**.

Here's a review of candidates for the non-incumbent positions for circuit court. Voters can select three names on the non-partisan ballot.

The challenge for all judicial candidates is to make sure voters take the time to review the nonpartisan ballot.

"As a judicial candidate, it is an uphill battle to get your message to voters, especially when overshadowed by many contested congressional races and a presidential race," said Braxton.

"The best strategy for me in this race is continue what I have been doing which is to meet as many people as I can. I believe that people are more likely to vote for you if they have met and connected with you in some way."

"Additionally, it is important for me to inform vot-

ers of how a judge can affect people's everyday lives. Many people want to vote in a presidential or congressional election because they believe that they have a vested interest in the outcome and it will directly affect their standard of living. However, some people do not understand how a judicial election will affect them. The key is to make judicial election and the role of a judge relevant to a voter's life."

Karen Braxton, Canton

Braxton holds a bachelor's in economics and political science from the University of Rochester and a juris doctor from



Braxton

Case Western Reserve University Law School. Her professional affiliations include Board of Trustees' ReTOOL, Wayne County Criminal Defense Bar Association, Black Women Lawyers Association and the NAACP.

ReTOOL is a program that serves the needs of young people that are in the juvenile justice system or homeless. Braxton works directly with female youth in the program offering tutoring, mentoring and professional and personal guidance.

She is married to Thomas Braxton. The couple has two children, Aaron and Maya, who attend Plymouth-Canton Schools. The family attends El Bethel Baptist Church in Redford.

Braxton is currently a trial attorney in a solo practice handling a wide variety of cases, including criminal, probate, juvenile, landlord-tenant and family law.

"I want to be judge of the Wayne County Circuit Court because I am confident that I can bring equality, efficiency and effectiveness to the court," said Braxton.

How does she expect to make a difference on the court?

"I intend to use my role as a judge to help others, specifically underprivileged youths, in the county," said Braxton, adding "I am appreciative of

every opportunity that I have been afforded and I wish to share my knowledge and experiences with others.

"In addition, by focusing on the youth in Wayne County, I am able to target an impressionable group and possibly give them an alternative to a life of crime," said Braxton adding that she is "ready and eager to serve."

Kevin Cox, Livonia

Cox holds a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Michigan and a juris doctor from Wayne State University Law School. He is married to Elizabeth Cox. The couple has four children: Kiefer, 23; Kasey, 20; Jack, 17; and Brian, 14.



Cox

His community activities include St. Edith Parent Association, St. Edith CYO Athletics Board of Directors and coach, Catholic Central Dad's Club, fundraiser for the Salvation Army, Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries and the Capuchin Soup Kitchen.

As an assistant attorney general in the labor division of the Office of Attorney General, Cox represents the state of Michigan in state courts and administrative hearings.

"I have extensive experience as a trial attorney for over 27 years and have had the benefit of watching and learning the qualities that make judges effective and efficient," said Cox, who prior to this assignment was in private practice for 25 years.

"My practice was comprised of complex injury litigation throughout the state. I owned and managed a law firm of 12 attorneys and over 20 employees for several years."

"I have had extensive experience trying cases in front of juries for over 25 years," said Cox who received a "Well Qualified" rating (highest offered) by the Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association.

"I am the candidate with the most courtroom and trial experience and thus most capable of running an effective and efficient court," said Cox.

Please see COURT, A11

VOTE

Hathaway for Circuit Court

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COURT

Continued from page A10

Dana Hathaway, Grosse Pointe Farms

Hathaway is a Wayne County prosecutor handling felonies and misdemeanors.

"I work hard daily to ensure that justice is done on behalf of crime victims," she said. "I know how to efficiently move a court's docket because that is what I do every day."

Before joining the prosecutor's office, she worked for a national trial law firm specializing in high-stakes litigation — defending product liability and personal injury actions and litigated commercial actions across the country.

Hathaway comes from a long line attorneys and judges. Her aunt, Amy Hathaway, is a Wayne County Circuit Court Judge. Her mother, Diane, sits on the Michigan Supreme Court. Being a judge is something that Hathaway, a highly-awarded attorney (she was named a Michigan Super Lawyers - Rising Star for her litigation experience), says she has prepared for since college.

She holds a degree in chemistry from the College of Charleston, and juris doctorate from the University of Detroit Law School where she was associate editor of

the Law Review. She is a member of State Bar of Michigan, Women Lawyers Association of Michigan, Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association, Incorporated Society of Irish American Lawyers, Illinois State Bar Association

Hathaway is married and the mother of two daughters, Riley and Mackenzie. She is a member of St. Paul Church in Grosse Pointe Farms.

Brian Morrow, Northville

Morrow, holds a bachelor's degree from Michigan State University and a juris doctorate from Wayne State University Law School. The married father of two adult children, Morrow is deputy chief of the Juvenile Division of the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office.

His job involves prosecuting cases that range from home and school truancy to armed robbery, criminal sexual conduct, carjacking and homicide.

"In addition to my other duties, I developed an award-winning juvenile diversion program called 'Teen Court' that is having a positive effect on reducing recidivism among first-time juvenile offenders. I am running for circuit court because I have demonstrated to myself that I have the judicial temperament, compassion and reasonableness to be a highly effective

jurist." Morrow has some 26 years of experience as an attorney, 11 of those years spent as supervisor of other lawyers.

Morrow and his wife, Mary, established the Brian and Mary Morrow Community Service Scholarship to reward the initiative of graduating Detroit Public Schools students who have been actively involved in community service projects. He also has organized volunteers from the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office to participate as a group in Habitat for Humanity-Detroit workdays.

"Confidence in the judicial system can only be achieved when citizens believe that, regardless of outcome, they have been afforded a full and fair opportunity to be heard by an impartial judge of the facts and the law," said Morrow.

Kelly Ann Ramsey, Livonia

Ramsey holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan-Dearborn and a juris doctorate from Wayne State University Law School.

A Detroit native, she works as a referee in the Family Division-Juvenile Section of Wayne Circuit Court. The court has jurisdiction over delinquency, abuse/neglect and adoption cases.

A lifelong resident of Wayne County, Ramsey

is the daughter of a Detroit police officer and department of social services caseworker. Her daughter is a teacher in the United Nations International School.

Ramsey serves on the boards of Vista Maria, Child's Hope, Save Our Children Coalition and Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association Foundation. She supports the Innocence Lost National Initiative and is a visionary of the "For The Seventh Generation" program.

"I have more than 20 years of judicial experience as a referee, and more than five years as an assistant prosecutor. During my tenure, I have adjudicated thousands of cases," said Ramsey

"As demonstrated for over 25 years, I understand and respect the

responsibility I have to the people who appear before me and to the community that I serve," she said.

John Sullivan, Northville

Sullivan holds a bachelor's degree and a juris doctorate from the University of Michigan.

The married father of three children has practiced law for 16 years and has been

running his own law practice in Wayne County for the past 14 years.

His current practice includes probate work, personal injury, contracts, family law, criminal law, real estate and general consumer law. "I have a deep desire

to help serve and protect my community and to help people," said Sullivan. "I have spent a great deal of time serving Wayne County in many capacities and I have served on numerous boards and agencies including both the Michigan Association of Counties and Wayne County's Judiciary and Public Safety Committees.

"I have run my own small business and I have experience as an elected law maker in Wayne County and serving as an Administrative Law judge for the State of Michigan.

"I have a reputation for being very patient and having a great judicial temperament. I will make smart decisions that will be beneficial to the parties in court and to our community," said Sullivan.



Hathaway



Morrow



Ramsey



Sullivan

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ENDORSEMENTS



Our Views: Partisan and non-partisan races

13th Congressional District

With redistricting, Garden City and Westland move from the 11th to the 13th Congressional District in January. Democrat **John Conyers Jr.** and Republican **Harry T. Sawicki** are vying for the seat.



Conyers

The only campaigning that took place in the district was during the August primary election when Conyers faced four challengers for the Democratic nomination.

Conyers is the second-most senior member of the House, dean of the Congressional Black Caucus and chairman of the House Judiciary Committee. We cannot deny Conyers his place in history and because the district is heavily Democratic, he will in all likelihood win a 25th term. But his lack of involvement in the western Wayne County area of the district this election season doesn't bode well for suburban voters who are used to effective leaders who are visible and responsive. We hope that will change.

State House Districts

In the 11th District, **David Knezek** of Dearborn Heights is facing Republican **Kathleen Kopczyk** of Garden City. In looking at the candidates, we believe the district would be best served by **David Knezek**.



Knezek

An Iraq War veteran, Knezek has a keen eye on the issues, zeroing in on education which is a part of reinventing Michigan. He is proposing a public safety task force to determine minimum police and

fire staffing levels and passing legislation to ensure communities have that level of protection.

He understands he will need to reach out to fellow Republican lawmakers and is ready to do so to accomplish his goals.

In the 16th District, Democrat **Robert Kosowski** is being challenged by Republican **Mary Stargell**. In looking at the two candidates, we believe **Robert Kosowski** is the best choice for the district.



Kosowski

In a heavily Democratic district, Kosowski is the heir apparent to term-limited Rep. **Richard LeBlanc**. He understands the first and foremost issue facing residents is jobs and he wants to facilitate job fairs to make sure residents have easy access to work.

He also makes it perfectly clear he is in this campaign to win and fully represent the district in Lansing.

Wayne County Commission

For many years, all of Westland and Garden City have been in the same Wayne County Commission District, but with redistricting, Westland will be in two districts — with Garden City in the new 12th District and the southern portion in the new 11th District.



LeBlanc

In the 12th District, the choice is simple — **Richard LeBlanc**.

LeBlanc is running unopposed for the seat. He brings to the office a wealth of elective experience and a proven track record of

being a hard worker as an elected official. He looks at all sides of an issue and isn't shy to ask the hard questions. As a state representative, he has been accessible to constituents and has already begun introducing himself with residents in Garden City.



McNamara

In the 11th District, Democrat **Kevin McNamara** is the best choice. His challenger, **Robert Stano**, like many Republican candidates, has been a no-show for the election.

We like McNamara for his behind-the-scenes efforts, helping to secure funds and grants to improve roads and parks in the current 11th District. We believe he will continue that work in the new 11th District.

He serves on five commission committees and chairs the commission's newly-formed Youth Services Committee that oversees all funds and services related to youth programs in the county. He also is a representative to the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments and is joining the Airport Authority Board later this month.

18th District Court

Incumbent **Sandra Ference Cicirelli**, who is completing her first six-year term as a judge, faces no challenger in the election.



Cicirelli

Even though she lacks a challenger, we believe it important to recommend her re-election to the bench. She has been effective in her handling of cases that come before her. She shows compassion for the victims and a strong knowl-

edge of case law in dealing with defendants.

She is a perfect fit for the court and deserves a second term.

Wayne County Circuit Court

Six lawyers are vying for three non-incumbent open seats on the Wayne County Circuit Court. Three stand-out — **Kelly Ann Ramsey**, **Kevin Cox** and **Brian Morrow**.



Ramsey

Ramsey, a veteran hearing officer in the Family Division-Juvenile Section in Wayne County, has championed the causes of children in the juvenile justice system by prosecuting those who have neglected or abused children. She will make a strong addition to the circuit court bench.



Cox

Cox is currently an assistant attorney in the state attorney general's office. He has a strong work ethic.



Morrow

His varied and extensive experience, along with his temperament, make him an outstanding candidate for the bench.

Morrow is deputy chief of the juvenile division in the Wayne County Prosecutor's office. He is one of the founders of the prosecutor's teen court program, in which nonviolent first-time offenders have their cases heard by their peers, under the guidance of an assistant prosecutor. He, too, will make an outstanding judge of the Wayne County Circuit Court.

W-W, LPS and Schoolcraft boards, WCCCD millage

Wayne-Westland Schools

Five candidates are campaigning for the two six-year terms on the Wayne-Westland school board.

Of those candidates, we believe the district and students would best be served by **Frederick Weaver** and **Jeffrey Hayton**.



Weaver



Hayton

With the departure of veteran board member **Cindy Schofield**, Weaver will be the only member with institutional knowledge to help guide a board through the difficult times the district faces. He has served on the board for nine years and has made it clear he has one agenda — to make the Wayne-Westland Schools a better place for students to learn.

Hayton served on the board briefly in 2011 and understands the difficulties the school district is facing. He believes the district is moving in the right direction, but thinks it should look at ways to smooth the transition to scale back services, if needed, and at two-year budgets so school officials can know what to expect.

Livonia Public Schools

Five people are running for two seats on the Livonia school board Nov. 6. We recommend voters elect incumbent **Patrice Mang** and newcomer **Julie Robinson**.



Mang



Robinson

Mang has been on the board for four years, the last year as president. She has served as a check and balance and has shown leadership in the handling of abuse allegations at Webster Elementary and in the board putting together a bond proposal for 2013 for building improvements and technology upgrades. She should be allowed to see that project through, regardless of how district residents vote on the bond.

Robinson is new to the district, and we think that is a benefit. Her background in finance — she has a master's degree in business administration — would be an asset

as the board considers a bond proposal. **Robinson** is smart, organized and brings fresh ideas to the district.

Schoolcraft College

Two six-year terms and a partial four-year term on the Schoolcraft College Board of Trustees will be filled in Tuesday's election.

The board has done a good job of managing its budget, expanding programs and keeping tuition at affordable levels. We believe the college district would be best served with the election of incumbents **Douglas Adams** and **Eric Stempien** to the six-year terms and **John Elkins** to the four-year term.

Adams, Stempien and Elkins are part of a successful board that does what it was elected to do — set policy and standards, connect with the community and act as advocates for the college. They have been a cohesive, thoughtful team always doing what is best for the college.

They have acted responsibly and always in the best interest of the college.

WCCCD millage

One of the least talked about proposals on the general election ballot is the Wayne County Community College District (WCCCD) request for a 1-mill tax increase.

The college district covers a large part of Wayne County, including the Wayne-Westland Community Schools portion of Westland and Canton and the city of Wayne. Currently, residents of the district pay 2.25 mills. One mill is a permanent levy, while the remaining 1.25 mills is a 10-year levy renewed by voters in 2008. The new tax request would generate more than \$21 million a year and would offset the revenue losses the district has experienced because of declining property values.

The college has worked hard to meet the needs of its students and has seen its enrollment steadily climb. The college has proven to be a wise steward of the money it receives. But without the new millage, it would have to scale back its programs which would be bad news for the people who are turning to the college for the training and skills needed to get a job and keep a job.

We recommend residents of the district vote YES on the WCCCD millage request to let the college continue to meet the needs of its students now and in the future.

State, county proposals

State proposals

Proposal 1: An emergency manager has become dirty word in Michigan because of currently-suspended Public Act 4 of 2011. For school districts and cities facing deficits, an EM is the most feared of solutions. The law is a last resort that goes against our democratic process, but it's a mechanism that forces correcting problems that local officials can't (or won't).

A YES vote is a correct vote on Proposal 1. Without the law, troubled school districts like Detroit and local governments like Pontiac could go bankrupt and hurt all taxpayers in this state. As much as it is vilified, the emergency manager law makes accountability mandatory. Voting no leaves the causes of the financial distress unaddressed for those who continue to spend more than they take in.

Proposal 2-6: When special interest groups don't get their way, the result is seen in the ballot proposals in this November's election. That result comes at an extraordinary cost, both in terms of dollars and in terms of a potentially disastrous shift in Michigan's form of government.

If these proposals were to pass, Michigan would move from a republic, in which voters elect officials to represent them, to a form of government by referendum. The result would be paralysis of the legislative process, with officials unable to act without real or potential fear of the next move by special interest groups.

While all six proposals on the ballot are the work of special interest groups, proposals 2 through 6 would change the Michigan constitution. Government by initiative is no way to govern.

Changes to the constitution cannot be readily altered or undone, if the original change brings with it other problems. Some changes in the proposals just don't belong in the constitution, and a lot of the hype that goes with them plays fast and loose with the facts — and the sensibilities of the public.

These proposals are largely the work of special interest groups and, while offering some merit, they do not overall serve the best interest of voters, who should firmly check the NO box for each one Nov. 6.

Wayne County Charter Proposals

Wayne County voters will find five charter amendments on the ballot on Nov. 6.

They deal with removal of the county executive, pension board expansion and auditing guidelines, giving the commission rather than the executive authority to establish the form of the budget, including a line-item veto, and giving the commission authority to approve all appointee compensation. While some of the proposals have merit, they were rushed on to ballot in response to the budget scandals in the Ficano administration.

Supporters say the amendments offer increased oversight of county government. While the commission may need more oversight, the commission needs to refine it requests, hold public hearings and put proposals before voters that have been well researched and well crafted.

Until that occurs, residents should vote NO on the five proposals on the Nov. 6 ballot.

Wayne Memorial gets spooky

Hundreds of youngsters, their friends and families invaded Wayne Memorial High School for what has become a popular Halloween treat for the community.

For the third consecutive year, the students and staff staged their just over hour-long Zebra Spooktacular, inviting Wayne-Westland families to enter the school for Spooktacular free fun. The event was for students in eighth-grade and under who were invited to come dressed in the Halloween best.

There were haunted classrooms, a haunted forest with a witch as well as Halloween skits, cider and doughnuts and, of course, some trick-or-treating.

This is the third year the high school has hosted the Spooktacular.



PHOTOS BY TOM BEAUDOIN

The popular Wayne Memorial High School Spooktacular had people lined up out the door and down the street anticipating the fun they were about to have.



Eleventh-grade Wayne Memorial student, Honia Williams waits for the next person to scare in one of many haunted rooms in the school.



Wayne Memorial School Principal Valerie Orr pushes her two-year-old son Brady through the halls while enjoying Spooktacular.



Wayne Memorial High School students Shanna Zahornacky, Carrinne Mullins and Megan Toms work keep kids safe by helping out at the National Alert Registry table.


VOTE



Hathaway for Circuit Court

Filed for by Committee to Elect Paula Hathaway

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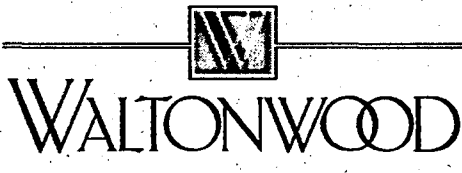
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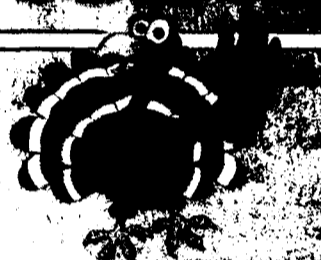
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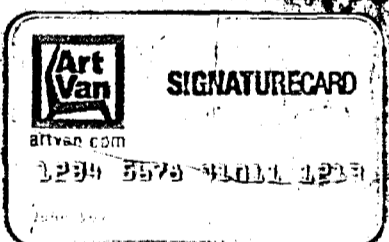
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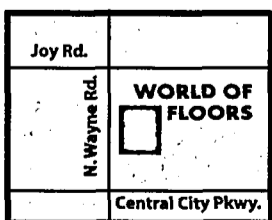
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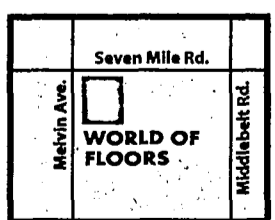
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ABRAHAM

Continued from page B1

put up a tougher battle in the middle set. It was 16-15 in favor of the Saints when Prieditis tallied a sideout slam for the Crusaders, off a feed from Geile.

Two service points by junior outside hitter Stacey Catalano — both thanks to blocks by senior middle hitter Nastija Baranovska — gave MU the lead and Siena Heights could not respond.

Madonna (30-7 overall, 10-1 in the WHAC) also had to rally to finish off the third game, trailing nearly the entire way. Siena Heights built an 18-12 edge only to finally get caught 21-21 on a Saints' attack error.

Siena Heights regained the lead (23-22) but MU senior Taylor Dziewit tallied a kill off an assist from Prieditis to get the

equalizer.

The Crusaders then pulled ahead and clinched the game and match on two points served up by Geile, with attack errors by Siena Heights players each time.

Sparking the MU offense was Geile, with 11 kills. She chipped in with six defensive digs.

Other contributors for the Crusaders included Catalano, Baranovska, Dziewit and junior middle hitter Emilee Freeman (six kills each) and Prieditis (32 assists).

Helping the cause with 12 digs was Obrycki, while Catalano and Geile tallied seven and six digs, respectively.

For Siena Heights, Halie Baker (11 kills), Lindsey Adams (10 kills, 10 digs) and Carly Tillotson (25 assists, nine digs) were top performers.

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PATRICK MOORE | COURTESY MU SPORTS INFORMATION

Madonna University's volleyball team celebrates with head coach Jerry Abraham (far right) after he won the 1,000th game of his career Friday night at Siena Heights.

CHURCHILL

Continued from page B1

onds left in the half on a 25-yard TD pass from quarterback Jamarl Eiland to Conner Stella. (Bobby Deeg converted the PAT.)

But the TD was made possible when tight end Gage Fassbender caught a ball that was tipped at the line of scrimmage for a critical 14-yard gain and a first down.

With 9:11 to play in the third period, Scott forced a Plymouth fumble and Charlie Yost recovered it on his own 13.

Following a Zuzo 47-yard field goal with less than a minute remaining in the third quarter to increase the Wildcats' lead to 20-7, Churchill's high-powered attack offense didn't get on the board again until there was 7:33 remaining. That's when the 246-pound Brown, who had 25 carries 141 yards, rambled in from 21 yards out to cut the deficit to 20-14 (following Also-brooks' PAT).

"We were where we were supposed to be, we were playing hard and got stops when we need-

ed to," Churchill coach John Filiatraut said. "We had timely turnovers to keep it close and give ourselves a chance to win at the end."

Plymouth, backed up on its own 20 following Churchill's second TD, seemed to be on its heels. But the Wildcats got a pair of key first down runs from Eiland, who finished the night with 147 yards on 22 carries.

None was more critical than his 18-yard end-around on third-and-nine with 5:22 left.

"He's a heckuva player (Eiland)," Sawchuk said. "I didn't like the turnovers. It gave me a couple of more grey hairs, but hey, the kids, after a shaky first quarter, they settled down and I love'em for it. They did good job."

Churchill did force the Wildcats to punt late, but simply ran out of clock after burning its three remaining timeouts.

Sawchuk said the 'Pick Six' by Janke was huge. "A defensive score against this (Churchill) team ... I take a defensive score any day," he said. "My coaches have done such a great job all year game planning, and

I can't be more proud of them.

Suida was 14-of-25 for 168 yards, but was picked off twice after throwing just two interceptions all season.

"It's just fundamentals," Janke said. "You've got to read your reads, play as a team. You can't try and do other peoples' jobs. You've got to focus on your job and that's the key to victory because they have a lot of weapons."

Churchill lost despite outgaining the Wildcats in total yards, 322-280.

"We've had some games where they've gone our way, too, so if you're counting on breaks to win the games, it's not exactly how we approach it," Filiatraut said. "I thought our kids played really, really hard and they hung in there the whole way. It comes down to — can you get a couple more stops? Can you save a timeout? Can you get one more play to break a tackle and get into the end zone? Everywhere. It was a very close game all the way across the board."

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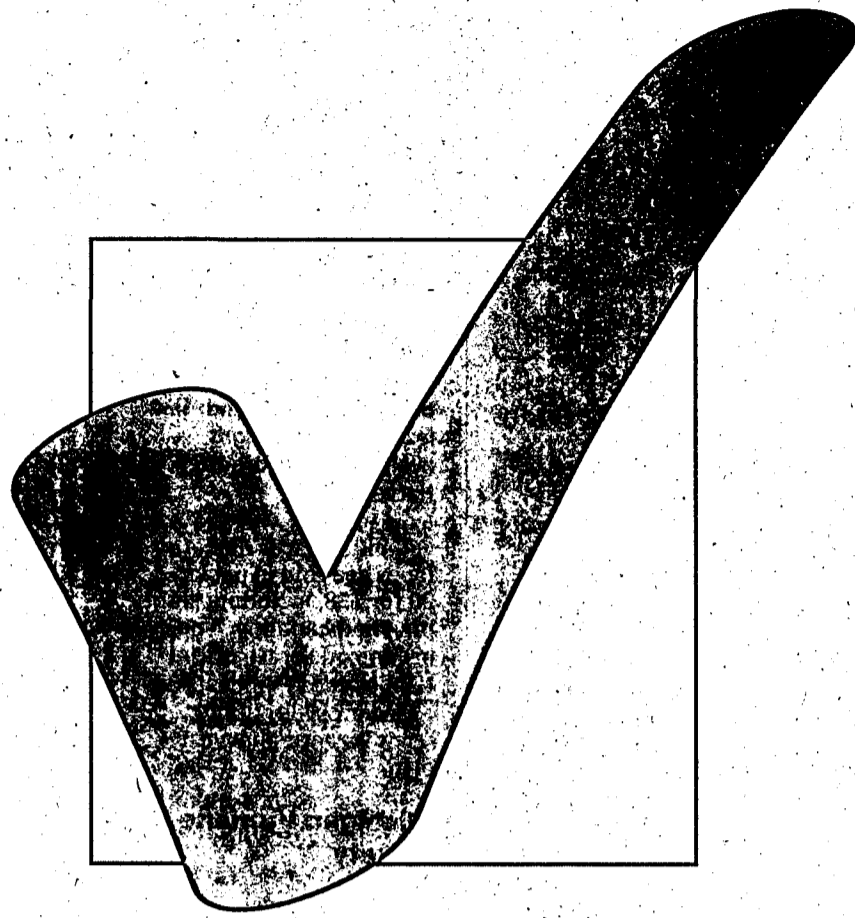
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Holiday cards send greetings, aid charities

By Sharon Dargay
 O&E Staff Writer

You can help visually impaired children read, assist a local food bank or help homeless pets — all by purchasing holiday greeting cards from local charities.

Nonprofit organizations have begun accepting orders for cards that help generate funds to continue their missions.

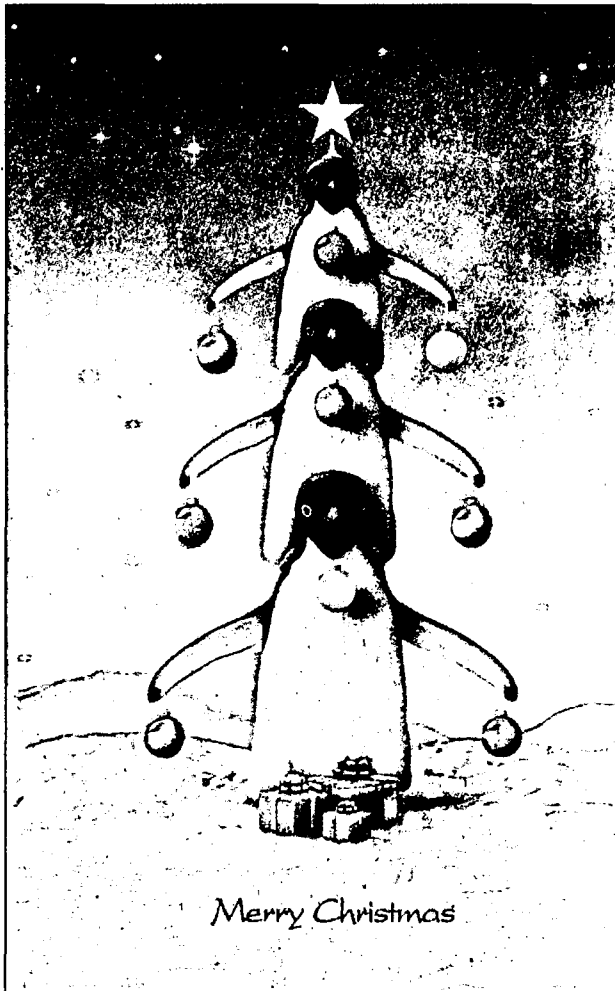
Proceeds from cards sold by Seedlings Braille Books for Children in Livonia, will help it place braille books into the hands of visually impaired children locally and around the world.

"We have over 1,200 titles," said Vicky Opie, community outreach coordinator for Seedlings. "It's a range from classics to best sellers."

Seedlings offers both holiday greeting cards and tribute cards this season.

The organization offers two sizes of holiday cards, created by Pumpnickel Press and priced at \$18 per box of 16 large cards and \$10 per box of 10 smaller cards. All designs are fine art embossed cards, made from premium grade, environment friendly recycled paper. They're available from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday at the Seedlings office, 14151 Farmington Road. Call (734) 427-8552 for directions and more information. Find all card designs online at www.seedlings.org/donate.php.

Tribute cards cost \$10 and are "wonderful gifts from the heart," Opie said. "We sell a lot of them because they make



Oh Penguin Tree is among Seedlings Braille Books for Children's holiday cards.

such nice gifts at the holiday."

The recipient receives a card that says a braille book has been inscribed in their honor.

In addition to holiday cards and tribute cards, the organization also will sell sterling silver and bronze "affirmation charms" and other items at the Alternative Christmas Fair, Saturday, Nov. 10 at Hope Lutheran Church, 39300 W. 12 Mile in Farmington Hills.

"Everyone loves them. They are really unique,"

she described the charms that sport words writing in braille. "They are really fun."

Here's a sampling of other nonprofits that offer holiday cards:

Forgotten Harvest

The organization, which rescues surplus, prepared and perishable food for use by emergency food providers, features three new holiday cards, designed by Matt LeBarre Illustration in Royal Oak, along with one of last year's best sellers.



This card with white doves on a blue background is one of four designs available from Forgotten Harvest.

Holiday cards and envelopes are sold in packs of 20 for \$28, including shipping and handling. The organization also offers a tribute card that costs \$5.

Order cards online at www.forgottenharvest.org

Michigan Humane Society

The animal welfare organization operates shelters in West-

land, Rochester Hills and Detroit, and offers veterinary services, cruelty investigation, emergency rescue and humane education. It is selling one new card design in either red or blue this year. A box of 15 cards costs \$12.95. Cards begin to ship on Nov. 12. Visit www.shopmichiganhumane.org.

Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute

Five card designs are available with a variety of greetings. Orders must be placed by Nov. 15. Prices vary from \$2.60 per card to \$1.80 per card, depending on the quantity ordered. Visit www.karmanos.org to view designs and download an order form.

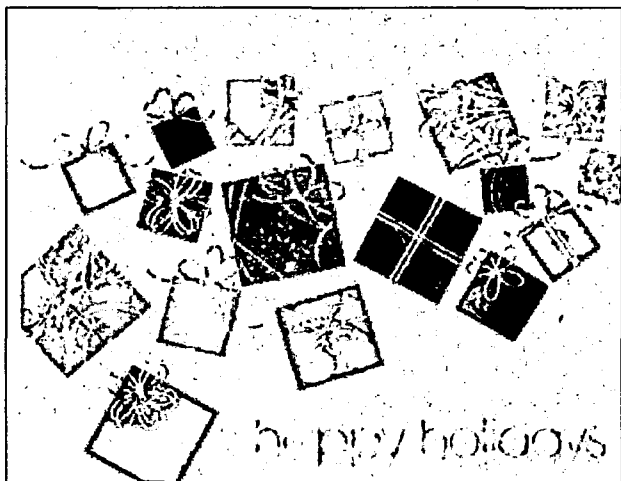
Dawn Farm

The Ypsilanti-based nonprofit assists addicts and alcoholics in achieving long-term recovery. It offers residential treatment, detoxification and many other services.



The Michigan Humane Society offers this holiday card in red or blue.

Holiday cards feature a woodcut drawing of either a menorah, Santa with gifts, Santa with "Seasons Greetings," or a Christmas tree. A package of 10 cards costs \$5. To order, visit www.dawnfarm.org.shop or call (734) 485-8725.



This is just one of the many holiday card designs that will benefit the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute.

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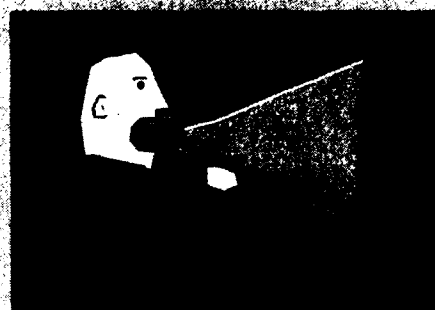
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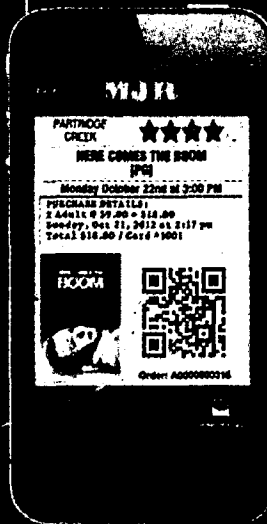
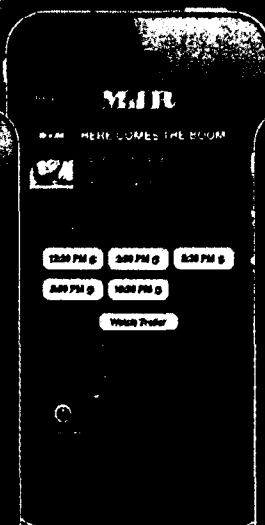
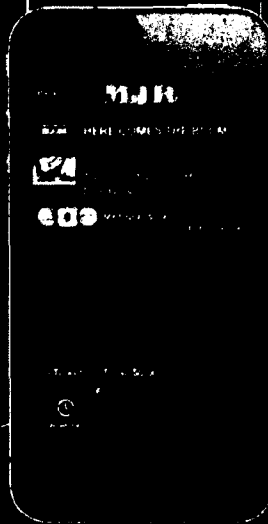
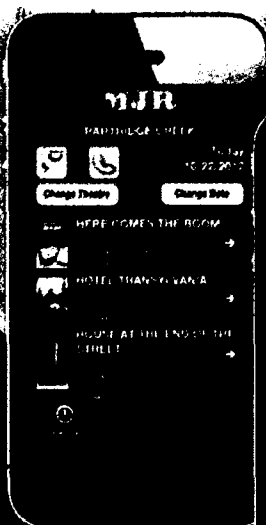
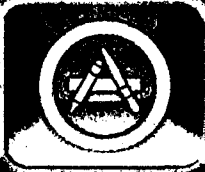


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Bowling event



Darma the dog was among the "alumni" pets — those that have received services through Tail Wagger's 1990 — at a previous Tail Wagger's Bowl.

Tail Wagger's reaches out to pet population

By Sharon Dargay
O&E Staff Writer

Less than a year after moving into its new office in Livonia, Tail Wagger's 1990 is poised to expand both services and elbow room.

"This year what we're going to focus on a lot is the opening of our spay and neuter and wellness center," said Laura Zain, Tail Wagger's 1990 founder.

Plans are under way to lease office space a few doors down from the group's current location at 28402 Five Mile.

"We already went to the planning and zoning guys and got approved by them with flying colors. We're opening this facility so we can make an impact in pet overpopulation ... target families with multiple pets. If we can get the spay and neuter center open in the Spring, we can get a jumpstart on kitty sea-

son."

The organization currently offers low-cost spay and neuter through local veterinarians. Zain said those partnerships will continue even after the new center opens.

"Our demand is so high," she explained. "We can get things done more efficiently and quickly if we jump in."

She said the new facility will enable Tail Wagger's 1990 to control its own pricing for spay and neuter services, enabling it to make the surgery more affordable for multiple-pet families.

The organization will maintain its current offices for its volunteer staff and pet food pantry. The new wellness center will combine clinic space and spay and neuter rooms under one roof.

Zain and a handful of other volunteer staff members visited clinics in Muskegon, Grand Rapids, Warren and Taylor to



Members of the Parrot Heads team support Tail Wagger's 1990 every year. Bowlers sport leis, Hawaiian shirts and sometimes even decorate their seating area, at the Tail Wagger's Bowl.

23RD ANNUAL TAIL WAGGER'S BOWL

What: Tail Wagger's 1990's signature fundraiser
When: Sign up for 1 p.m., 4 p.m. or 8 p.m. bowling times that will be available Saturday, Nov. 10
Where: Woodland Lanes Bowling & Lounge, 33775 Plymouth Road, just west of Farmington Road, Livonia
Details: The \$25 entry fee includes three games of bowling — nine pins down is a strike — shoe rental, lunch or dinner and a tote bag. Attendees will get a chance to see alumni animals that have benefitted from Tail Wagger 1990's services and they'll hear about the organization's successes over the past year. The event will include a 50/50 raffle and strolling raffle prizes
Contact: Sign up at www.tailwaggers1990.org and click on the Tail Wagger's Bowl link. Call Laura Zain, Tail Wagger's 1990's president and founder at (734) 560-4660. The Tail Wagger's 1990 office number is (734) 855-4077

help them plan their facility.

"We've done our research," Zain said.

Bowling event

The Tail Wagger's Bowl, the group's major fundraising fundraiser, will go a long way toward generating funds for the orga-

nization's services, which include low-cost vaccination clinics, a pet food pantry and assistance to animals in emergency situations, as well as low-cost spay and neuter.

"For 25 bucks you're getting a great night out," Zain said. "There are commemorative gifts,

dinner or lunch, bowling, music will be playing and alumni animals will be walking around."

Zain said Tail Wagger's 1990 will expand fundraising next year to include a murder mystery event in June. It also organizes a chili and basketball event in March.

Funding sources

Major grants also enabled Tail Wagger's 1990 to expand services this year. A PetSmart Charities grant targeted pets in Redford Township, offering residents a low rate to spay or neuter their dogs and cats. The service, which is ongoing, includes a rabies shot.

A recent \$10,000 grant from Bissell Foundation will provide financial assistance to residents in Inkster for spay, neuter and micro chipping costs. "There is no income



stipulation for anyone using our services," Zain said. However, the pet food pantry assistance is designed for individuals who are experiencing a challenge such as job loss or disability.

Zain said she hopes to open the new clinic by March. She also plans a new website next year and a canned pet food drive during the upcoming holidays.

For more on Tail Wagger's 1990, visit www.tailwaggers1990.org.

Photographer shows new book at Plymouth museum

Author and photographer John Sobczak will discuss his recently published book, *A Motor City Year* at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 8 at the Plymouth Historical Museum.

Sobczak captures everyday life in Metro Detroit in 365 images in the book. His photographs show the familiar — the Thanksgiving Day parade in Detroit, vendors at Eastern

Market, the Woodward Dream Cruise — the less familiar — cycling at the velodrome in Rochester, robots on the line at the Warren Truck Assembly Plant — and the quirky — the birthday of one of Detroit's oldest women, a tattoo artist at work. Taken together, the photographs in *A Motor City Year* demonstrate the full texture of life in the Detroit area.

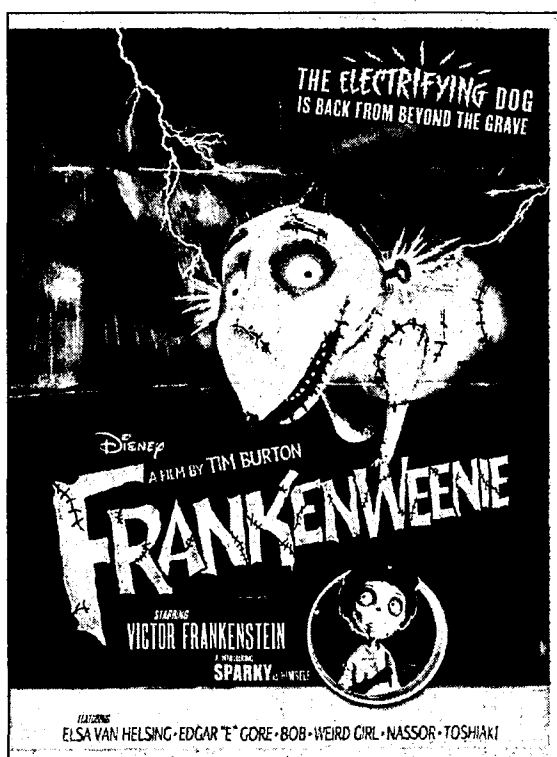
Sobczak has been a professional photographer based in Detroit for more than 25 years. His images have been published in *Time*, *Newsweek USA Today*, as well as many local publications including *Hour Magazine*, *Ambassador*, and *Crain's Detroit Business*. His commercial work has included billboards, brochures and annual reports for such clients

as General Motors Corporation, DTE, AT&T, Chrysler, Lear and Ford Motor Company. In 2007 portfolios of his work became part of the permanent collections of the Cleveland Museum of Art and the Detroit Institute of Art. J

Sobczak, a 1978 Plymouth-Salem High School graduate, lives in Bloomfield Township with his wife Jackie and his

daughter Alex. His presentation is free and open to the public. The Plymouth Historical Museum is located at 155 S. Main Street, one block north of downtown Plymouth. For more information, call (734) 455-8940 or visit the Museum's website at www.plymouthhistory.org.

On Election Day



The Farmington Civic Theater will open early on Tuesday, Nov. 6, because schools will be closed in Farmington and other area districts. The theater will show Tim Burton's "Frankenweenie" at 12:30 p.m., 2:10 p.m., 3:50 p.m. and 5:35 p.m. Other films are "Trouble With the Curve," starring Clint Eastwood, at 12:25 p.m., 2:35 p.m., 4:45 p.m., 7 p.m. and 9:10 p.m., and "Pitch Perfect," 7:25 p.m. and 9:35 p.m. Admission is \$3.50, cash only. The theater is located at 33332 Grand River Ave., in downtown Farmington; (248) 474-1951.

Caregivers can celebrate holiday season safely

November is National Family Caregivers Month.

Sheltering Arms, a program of Catholic Social Services, recognizes the millions of Americans who care for the chronically ill, disabled or aged family members and offers these tips for navigating the holidays:

- Plan ahead for holiday celebrations by evaluating your loved ones' ability to handle large groups which may include children and pets. The change in routine, the decorations, noise and chaos may be too much for a person with dementia. Have a quiet room available for the person if it all becomes "too much." If you are

the host, designate a back-up host in case you need to leave the party for a while.

- Consider safety when decorating for the holidays. Seasonal plants, decorations, candles and alcohol are potential dangers for the person with dementia.

- Avoid clutter because with too many decorations can increase confusion. The Alzheimer's Association reports an increase in hotline calls concerning wandering during the holidays, many of whom try to find their childhood homes.

- Celebrate the joy of the holidays with traditional activities: prepare

familiar holiday food, watch a favorite holiday movie or play soothing holiday music.

- Involve them in the preparations by giving them simple tasks such as cracking nuts and making garlands or cookies. The smell of cookies baking and familiar music playing can be comforting.

Catholic Social Services, founded in 1947, provides professional and volunteer services to protect children, strengthen families and care for the elderly. More information about the agency can be found at <http://www.ccsem.org>.

GARDEN & NATURE

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

Livonia Garden Club

Lisa Steinkopf, who is a houseplant guru from Steinkopf Nursery, will be the guest speaker at the next meeting of the Livonia Garden Club, 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 6 at the Senior Center, located at 5 Mile and Farmington Road, Livonia. Her presentation will focus on the care and cultivation of indoor houseplants, pests, diseases, soils and fertilization. Steinkopf is a certified indoor landscape technician,

certified nurseryman and a member of the Garden Writer's Association. Refreshments will be served; www.orgsites.com/mi/livoniagardenclub.

English Gardens

- Santa arrives at 10 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 4 and will be on hand for photos until 5 p.m. Free photos will be available or bring your own camera. The annual holiday open house will include caroling and refreshments.

- Third annual Ladies Night will run 6-9 p.m. Thursday,

Nov. 8 at the Royal Oak store and Tuesday, Nov. 13 at the Ann Arbor store and will include music, shopping, decorating advice from experts and displays of professionally-decorated trees. The event is free but registration is required. Register at www.englishgardens.com.

- Learn to make a bow at a "Make It & Take It Workshop," Nov. 10-11 and 17-18. Various workshop times are available. Cost is \$5 for ribbon. Sign up online at www.englishgardens.com

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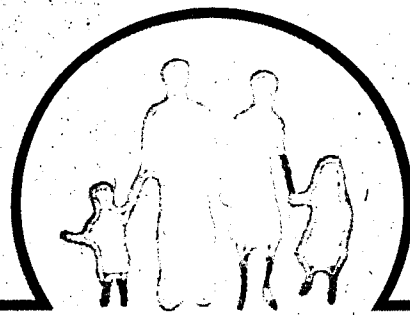
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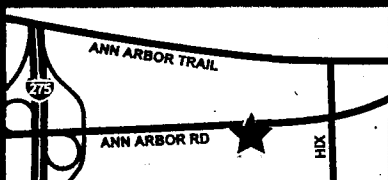
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