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ENTERTAINMENT, B6

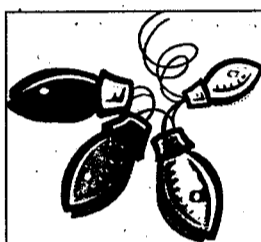
WAYNE-WESTLAND
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Visit with Santa

The Westland Historic Village Park will hold its annual Christmas Open House and Visit with Santa 1-3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 8, at the park at 857 N. Wayne Road, south of Marquette.

There will be cookies and hot chocolate and a chance to whisper in Santa's ear at the Octagon House. Parents can bring their cameras to take photos.



Traditions

Got a favorite Christmas tradition? Maybe it's an annual caroling party or ethnic-inspired Christmas Eve supper, ornament-making with the kids or a cookie exchange with the neighbors. Perhaps you assist at a soup kitchen on Christmas day or volunteer at an animal shelter, head north to hit the slopes or south to bask in the sun. Whatever your holiday tradition is, we'd love to find out more.

Send us a few paragraphs about your Christmas tradition, — include a photo if you'd like — and tell us why it's a mainstay in your holiday celebrating. We'll share it with readers in an upcoming *Observer* edition.

Include your name, phone number, email and city of residence. Emailed photos should be jpg attachments. Email to Sharon Dargay by Friday, Dec. 14, at sdargay@hometownlife.com. Or mail them to her at 615 W. Lafayette, Detroit, MI 48226.

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Westland receives County Parks money for new soccer equipment

By LeAnne Rogers
Observer Staff Writer

New soccer equipment will be installed at Westland's Thomas H. Brown Central City Park, funded in part with Wayne County Parks dollars.

The council voted Monday to approve an Intergovernmental Agreement with Wayne County to accept \$17,000 in funding. Another \$16,700 will be provided by the city for a

total of \$33,700 for soccer nets and benches.

Wayne County Commissioner Joan Gebhardt, D-Livonia, whose term expires at the end of the year, attended the council meeting. She described the Intergovernmental Agreement as her last official duty in Westland, which was part of Gebhardt's district before recent redistricting.

"It was a pleasure to work with you, especial-

ly with the mayor. Our first big project was the reopening of Central City Park," said Gebhardt, who also noted other county projects in the city, such as repaving of Warren Road and reconstruction of the Newburgh-Warren Road intersection.

"I wish the best for Westland and its excellent, excellent residents," said Gebhardt, who didn't seek re-election after the redistricting.

Mayor William Wild and council members thanked Gebhardt for her efforts that also included getting funding to move to and reconstruct the McKee barn at the Westland Historical Village Park.

"I personally appreciated working with you on Central City Park and other projects," said Wild. "You helped us a great deal in cleaning some of these issues up."

Wild added that he looks

forward to working with new county commissioners Richard LeBlanc, D-Westland, whose district includes all but southern Westland, and Kevin McNamara, D-Belleville, whose district includes south Westland.

Gebhardt will continue to serve as a trustee of the Schoolcraft College board.

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PHOTOS BY STEPHEN CANTRELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Faithanne Mellow and brother Tyler of Wayne visit with Santa Claus at the Wayne Historical Museum following the city's annual tree lighting ceremony.

Wayne kicks off holiday season with tree lighting

By LeAnne Rogers
Observer Staff Writer

With the arrival of Santa Claus, Wayne Mayor Al Haidous declared the holiday season officially open Tuesday.

Santa Claus joined the mayor in ceremonially turning on the lights decorating the Christmas tree in front of the Wayne Historical Museum.

Haidous took a moment to have some fun with Santa.

"I want to thank Santa for bringing joy to all the kids and all residents of Wayne," said Haidous. "Now is the time, if you have anything you want to say against Santa."

No one took Haidous up on his offer to air any complaints about Santa Claus, who later visited with youngsters inside the museum.

The crowd gathered for the tree lighting joined students from Livonia Franklin High School in singing Christmas carols before moving into the museum for hot chocolate and cookies. The Wayne Beautification Committee provided the

Please see CEREMONY, A2



Singers from Livonia Franklin High School performed Christmas Carols at the Wayne Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony.

Westland gets lot for W-W building project

By LeAnne Rogers
Observer Staff Writer

The site for a 2013-14 Wayne-Westland Construction Technology Program home has been acquired by Westland.

A new construction home will be built by students at 499 Hix, a parcel that was returned to the city after another planned project fell through.

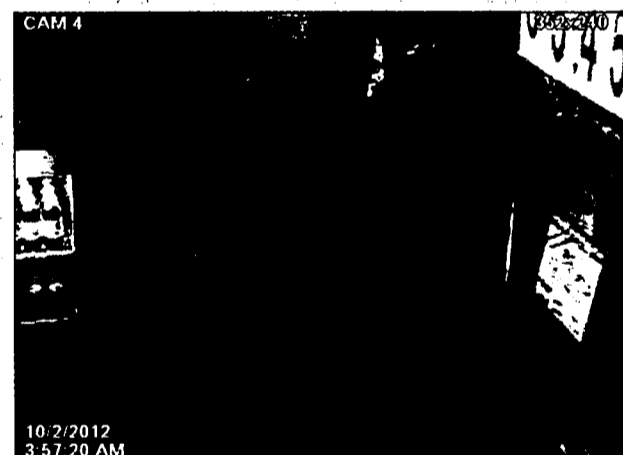
The council voted Monday to accept the deed for the property from Liberty Hill Housing Corporation, which had acquired the site to construct a duplex for people with

disabilities.

Liberty Hill had received council approval for \$250,000 in federal HOME/Community Housing Development Organization funds for the project which was to cost \$450,000 including land acquisition, construction and rental assistance.

"Liberty Hill unfortunately was not able to acquire added funding, so the Hix Road property reverted back to the city," said Westland Community Development Director Joanne Campbell.

The Wayne-Westland
Please see PROJECT, A2



Wayne Police are seeking information about this man, identified as a suspect in numerous break-ins at Wayne businesses since May. Anyone with information about the suspect or the crimes is asked to contact Detective Kevin Schmidtke at (734) 721-1414 ext. 1509. A reward is being offered.

Wayne police look for burglary suspect

By LeAnne Rogers
Observer Staff Writer

Wayne police have released a photograph of a suspect sought in connection with a string of burglaries that have occurred in recent months at local businesses.

"It's a string of eight or nine burglaries starting

in May through the last couple of weeks," said Wayne Police Detective Kevin Schmidtke.

Surveillance photographs of the suspect have been obtained at several of the businesses leading police to believe the same suspect was responsible for

Please see SUSPECT, A2

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PHOTOS BY STEPHEN CANTRELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Kelly Newman and son Nicholas of Wayne listen to the music during Wayne's Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony Tuesday at the Wayne Historical Museum.

Board to decide Dec. 17 on \$195 million bond proposal

By Karen Smith
Observer Staff Writer

The Livonia school board is expected to decide Dec. 17 whether to ask voters in May for a \$195 million construction bond to pay for districtwide school improvements — as well as \$15 million for a new career technical center.

The districtwide improvements would include new technology, renovations to the three high schools' auditoriums and fine/performing arts classrooms, buses, furniture, roof repairs, windows, doors, flooring, ceilings, plumbing and electrical work, cafeteria upgrades, and relocation of elementary school offices to entrances for better security.

Trustee Colleen Burton said at a committee of the whole meeting Monday she wanted to keep the price tag under \$200 million. "My gut is if we go over \$200 million, we may not be able to pass the bond. I'm afraid if we hit \$200 million, it's a different mental dollar amount."

Trustee Dianne Laura said she's opposed to asking voters for \$195 million in improvements, an estimated 2.59-mill tax increase that would

cost approximately \$19 per month for a resident with a home valued at \$178,000, the median home price in the school district.

A \$15 million bond issue for a new career center would require an additional 0.20 mills, or about \$1.50 more per month, for that same homeowner.

"I'm just looking at the financial picture," Laura said. "There are still people out there who can't afford the \$20. I hope I'm wrong. I have a different view of what's going to pass."

Trustee Randy Roulier said he doesn't think any of the improvements the board is considering are excessive or exuberant. He said things are only going to get more competitive for school districts with the changes being considered in Lansing. "If we don't stay as close to cutting edge as we can, we're doing a disservice to our kids... if we don't do anything, I would say shame on us."

Vice president Gregory Oke said he wants to ask voters in a separate ballot proposal for a new career technical center. The technical center program is supposed to be cutting edge, he said. "That's certainly

not what comes to mind when you look at our current facility."

Consultant Greg VanKirk, a partner with Plante Moran CRESA, said the board may be creating a marketing issue for itself in having to explain what the two proposals are and why they are needed. He said the board needs to be very clear so as not to confuse voters.

Trustee Eileen McDonnell said she is concerned about spending \$55,000 on a special election in May when an August or November election would cost the district nothing.

Oke said that given the success rate of May ballot proposals for school districts, the cost is worth the investment. "We want to put something to the voters that is successful," he said. "I think May is the time of year that does that."

Board president Patrice Mang said the \$55,000 can come out of the bond so it won't take away from other budget items like textbooks and teacher supplies.

She said the board needs to put a proposal before voters. "I think \$195 million is very fiscally responsible to ask for and then we let them decide," she said. Mang

said the residents she spoke with at community forums held earlier this year on the topic of a bond proposal were concerned about upgrading schools to maintain their home values.

VanKirk and Paul Wills, another partner with Plante Moran CRESA, told the board the median household income in the school district is \$69,400 with \$772 left over at the end of each month for discretionary spending.

Superintendent Randy Liepa said the board will consider two resolutions Dec. 17 — one for the \$195 million bond and the other for a new \$15 million technical center. However, the actual ballot language will not be voted on until after the first of the year.

The board will have two new members in January — Julie Robinson and Tammy Bonifield. Mang was defeated in the November general election and Oke did not seek re-election.

The current board had told residents it would decide by Dec. 31 on the dollar amount for a bond, what it would cover and when it would place the proposal before voters.

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CEREMONY

Continued from page A1

refreshments.

There was a line to see Santa, so Wayne resident April Henley and her children, Tommi, 9, and Jay, 6, had refreshments first. The family attends the tree lighting each year.

Declaring that she has been good, Tommi said she was asking Santa to bring her another Monster High doll — she already has two of the dolls.

"I'm asking for Legos — the gold mine. I have a million Legos already," said Jay, who added the best thing about Santa was his reindeer.

Attendance at the ceremony was down a bit



Santa chats with Wayne Police Chief Jason Wright.

from recent years. Maybe the early Thanksgiving and balmy for December weather is fooling people.

"Christmas is sneaking up on me," said Wayne-Westland Parks and Recreation Director Nathan Adams.

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AROUND WAYNE AND WESTLAND

Pearl Harbor Day

American Legion Post 32 will remember Pearl Harbor with a ceremony at 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 7, at the post, 9318 Newburgh, north of Joy, Livonia.

The program will include a tribute to survivors. Heiner Jagalla and Bobby Wood, rifle salute by the post's Honor Guard and the playing of *Taps* by the post's Color Guard bugler.

Coffee and cake will be served at the conclusion of the program.

Cookie Walks

Sts. Constantine and

Helen Greek Orthodox Church will hold a cookie walk/bake sale 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 15, at the church, 36375 Joy, east of Newburgh, Westland.

Holiday cookies, spinach pies, sweet Greek bread and Greek pastries will be available.

The First United Methodist Church of Wayne will hold a cookie walk 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 8, at the church, 3 Town Square, across from the Wayne Office, in Wayne.

Homemade holiday cookies and candies will

be available. Cookies will be sold by contains, candies by the pound. For more information, call (734) 721-4801.

Lunch with Santa

Youngsters can spend some quality time with the big guy at Lunch with Santa on Saturday, Dec. 15, at the Wayne Community Center, 4635 Howe at Annapolis in Wayne.

Festivities get underway noon. The cost will be \$4 for Wayne and Westland residents and \$5 for non-residents. Children 2 and under are free. The cost includes

pizza, salad, bread sticks, arts and crafts, and face painting. Photo packages with Santa will be available. Tickets are limited. For more information, call (734) 728-2900.

No coffee hours

State Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, will not hold his monthly coffee hours in Westland, Garden City, Redford and Livonia in December. Coffee hours will resume in January.

Constituents who would like to address an issue with Anderson can contact him by mail at P.O.

Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48909, by phone at (866) 262-7306 or by email at SenatorAnderson@senate.michigan.gov.

Game night

The Dyer Senior Center in Westland is holding its monthly game night 6-9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 6. Due to the holidays, the center will not hold its monthly spaghetti in December. It also has euchre and bingo at 1 p.m. Wednesdays and pinochle is played at 1 p.m. Fridays.

The Dyer Center is at 36745 Marquette, east of

Newburgh, in Westland. For more information, call (734) 419-2020.

Kids Night Out

Do some last minute shopping and drop the kids off at the Wayne Community Center, 4635 Howe at Annapolis in Wayne, 6-10 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 15.

Have your kids bring a bathing suit, towel and lots of energy. Activities include swimming, arts and crafts, games, pizza and pop. Resident cost is \$13, non-resident is \$16.

For more information, call (734) 728-2900.

SUSPECT

Continued from page A1

all of the break-ins, said Schmidtko.

The suspect is described as a black male, approximately 20-25 years old, 5-foot-7, weighing 160 pounds with a mustache and goatee.

"The burglaries occurred primarily at night at retail businesses," said Schmidtko. "The burglaries were at a gas station, convenience store, ice cream place and

a jewelry store (among other businesses)."

Both merchandise and cash were reported stolen during the burglaries. Several local business have put together a reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the suspect.

Anyone with information about these crimes or who can identify the subject in the photograph is asked to contact Schmidtko at (734) 721-1414, Ext. 1509.

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PROJECT

Continued from page A1

Schools Construction Technology Program, housed at the William D. Ford Career Technical Center, will construct a new home on the property during the 2013-14 school year.

In related community development actions:

The council approved acquisition of a single story quadplex located at 32570-72-74-76 Mackinac, which will be demolished.

An amendment to the Wayne County Neighborhood Stabilization Program 3 subrecipient agreement with the city was approved, adding \$150,000 in funding to an earlier \$500,000 allocation.

This addition funding will be used to acquisition, rehabilitation and buyer assistance of 29074 Brody. The council had approved acquisition of the property last month.

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Toy Drive: Help area children have a happy holiday season

Scoop the Newshound is asking Novi families to join the O&E Media toy drive to benefit youth served by Methodist Children's Home Society and Orchards Children's Services.

"Both organizations help protect abused and neglected children by providing housing, education and other services," said Choya Jordan, O&E Media marketing manager and project organizer. "Please consider donating a new unwrapped gift this year. Your gift will help brighten a youth's holiday season."

Donate a new unwrapped toy and you will receive a voucher for a free Buddy's four-square cheese pizza.

This is the second year the O&E has sponsored a toy drive to benefit these local organizations and help brighten the holidays for area children. The Methodist Chil-



dren's Home Society in Redford has been successfully helping children for 95 years, but right now foster children are in dire straits. The cost of caring for these children has increased, but state funding has not. In these hard economic times, these children need help now, more than ever.

Last year MCHS served more than 270 children through residential, foster care, adoption and lit-

eracy programs.

Orchards Children's Services has been a beacon of hope for children and families for more than 50 years.

Orchards seeks to protect and nurture children and youth by providing shelter, sustenance, life and educational skills and opportunities. Orchards programs and services touch children from birth to young adulthood, and the agency remains committed to them every step of the way.

Orchards was also recognized in 2011 as one of three agencies nationwide to receive the highest score in every category of assessment from the Council on Accreditation. This is a national accrediting body that demands the highest standards of service and care.

For more information contact Choya Jordan via e-mail at cbjordan@hometownlife.com.

Wayne High hosts annual holiday night

The students and staff of Wayne Memorial High School are inviting the community to enjoy the holiday season at its annual Holiday Night Friday, Dec. 14.

The event will be 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the high school at Second Street and Glenwood in Wayne. It's free and open to the high school staff and all families in the Wayne Memorial community. Participants are asked to bring a canned good

to donate.

The evening includes dinner. Children will have a chance to visit with Santa at the North Pole and have their picture taken with him. There also will be a chance to make an old fashioned ornament, decorate holiday cookies and write a letter to Santa. There also will be time to bounce on a big inflatable.

The school will be decked out for the holidays and there also will

be caroling. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Enter the school at the Glenwood doors. This is the fourth year the high school has opened its doors for the community a holiday celebration. Last year's event attracted more than 1,300 adults and children.

For more information, call Sue Webb at (734) 788-9362 or Jan Tomlinson at (734) 419-2255.

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Modano Arena gets connected with wi-fi

Westland's Mike Modano Ice Arena now provides free wi-fi for all of its guests.

"Technology is an important part of our lives and we are working to make city buildings convenient for visitors who require Internet access," said Mayor William Wild. "I am proud of this service at the ice arena as this allows parents the opportunity to get connected to the Internet while their children skate."

The cost of just over \$4,000 for the project was funded with pro-


ceeds generated by the annual Wild Wings vs. Red Wings Alumni game, where fans are treated to a friendly game with past Red Wings stars and Hall of Famers vs. a local team made up of Wild and several city officials.

Along with the recent addition of free wi-fi, the city has taken several steps in the last few years to improve the facility, including energy and efficiency upgrades to the heating and cooling systems as well as renovations to the lobby and conces-

sions area.


Located at 6210 N. Wildwood, Mike Modano Ice Arena provides several skating activities for all ages. Along with hockey and figure skating, guests are able participate in open skate opportunities, Friday night Glow Skate and even Learn To Skate programs that are now in full swing.

For more information about activities and events at Mike Modano Ice Arena, call (734) 729-4560 or visit www.cityof-westland.com/icearena.html.



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Stolen GC car turns up in Lincoln Park

Stolen vehicle

A resident in the 32000 block of Balmoral in Garden City said that she didn't notice until Nov. 22 that the 2006 Lexus convertible usually parked in her driveway was missing.

That wasn't uncommon she told the police officer because she owns nine vehicles and four are usually parked in her driveway. She told the police that she still had all sets of keys, and the vehicle had a partially flat rear tire.

When the police investigated, they learned that the Lincoln Park police had the auto towed and impounded with a set of car keys inside. The own-

GARDEN CITY COP CALLS

er said that she didn't know the man who stole her car and who Lincoln Park police arrested for driving with a suspended license and for reckless driving. She also couldn't explain why he had the car keys.

Home invasion

A Realtor reported the theft of copper plumbing from the basement of a home in the 5600 block of Gilman Nov. 24. She said that she hadn't checked on the home for a month.

The police believe that the thieves entered through a bedroom

screen which was cut and pried off. There were no pry marks on the window which was left open.

An air conditioning unit was also stolen.

Theft

An employee at the Rite Aid store, 29447 Ford, reported that an unknown man stole about eight miscellaneous bottles of liquor value at \$140 about 5 p.m. Nov. 30.

The clerk said that the man left the store without paying for the liquor and sprinted across the drugstore parking lot and then into the adjacent McDonald's parking lot.

A customer said that she observed the suspect getting out of a pickup before entering the store. Because she was gone when the police arrived, the customer couldn't be questioned.

The store employee described the thief as having a thin build, wearing a sweater hoodie, jeans and gym shoes.

Suspended licenses

When the police heard a 21-year-old Taylor man's loud exhaust, they stopped the driver at Ford and Garden about 3:30 a.m. Dec. 3. He was immediately arrested for driving with a suspended license.

He said that he was delivering newspapers before he was stopped.

• A 24-year-old Westland woman was arrested for driving with a suspended license about 11 p.m. Dec. 2 in the area of Merriman and Beechwood.

She, at first, told the officer that she didn't have her driver's license with her. Upon investigation, the officer learned her license was suspended and she had no proof of insurance.

• A 43-year-old Wayne man was arrested for driving with a suspended license in the area of Middlebelt and Cherry Hill about 8:30 p.m. Dec. 2.

Identity theft

A resident in the 31000 block of Block reported that someone used her personal information fraudulently in November. A student charged \$3,000 at American Public University in West Virginia, using the woman's name, Social Security number, date of birth and address.

No license

The police arrested a 30-year-old Westland man for driving with no license at 4:30 a.m. Nov. 27 at Merriman and Warren. The driver could only produce immigration papers.

By Sue Buck

Electronics, clothing among items taken from apartment

Break-in

A 32-inch flat screen television, two laptop computers, assorted clothing and shoes, gold and silver necklaces and a watch valued at \$9,600 were reported stolen Nov. 28 from a unit at the Scotsdale Apartments, 37820 Scotsdale Circle.

The resident told police that he had been out of

WESTLAND COP CALLS

the country, attending a funeral, since Nov. 11. When he returned home, he said the door to his apartment was unsecured and the dead bolt was damaged.

Larceny from a vehicle

An iPod and a GPS unit valued at \$200 were reported stolen Nov. 26 from a 2010 Ford Fusion parked in the 29000 block of Brody. There was no damage to the vehicle which the owner said had been parked in the rear yard.

Break-in

On Nov. 26, a resi-

dent in the 33000 block of Lynx told police that someone had broken into his garage and motor home. Officers found pry marks on a garage window and the motor home door. The owner said numerous items were missing, including stereos, speakers, a bag of tools and a cordless drill.

Vandalism

A resident of the River Bend Apartments, 30154 Warren Road, told police Nov. 26 that someone had slashed tires on two vehicles. Four tires were reported cut and flat on a 1999 Ford Econoline van with one tire slashed on his 2009 Lincoln MKX.

Vehicle stolen

A 2007 Ford Focus was

reported stolen Nov. 28 from the parking lot at the Country Court Apartments, 5995 N. Wildwood. Broken glass was found on the ground and the owner told police she had the keys.

Vandalism

The sliding passenger door to a Dodge Grand Caravan was reported damaged while it was parked in the 8200 block of Hugh Nov. 27. The owner said nothing of value had been stolen from the vehicle.

Larceny

An employee at the Sunoco gas station, 31215 Warren Road, told police Nov. 29 that someone had cut into the outer metal housing on an coin-operated air pump located

on the north side of the building. An unknown amount of coins had been stolen.

Vandalism

A Westland man told police Nov. 29 that someone had damaged the passenger door lock, the steering column and ignition on his 2003 Ford Econoline wagon while it was parked at the Michigan Academy of Gymnastics, 5870 Hix.

The owner said the vehicle had been left parked behind the business since Nov. 23.

Hit and run

A Canton woman told police Nov. 29 that she was driving eastbound on Ford when she slowed for a red light at Wild-

wood. She said she was rear ended by a pickup truck that was directly behind her.

The woman said she pulled her 2013 Ford Taurus into a parking lot and saw the truck driver pull into an adjacent parking lot. The other driver got out to look at his truck and then drove away with attempting to leave any information. The report didn't indicate whether the Taurus had been damaged.


Vandalism

A resident at condominiums in the 8200 block of Bristol told police Nov. 29 that someone had spray painted graffiti on the side of a condo, a stop sign and a Dumpster.

By LeAnne Rogers

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Check Social Security info to avoid errors later

By Rick Bloom
Guest Columnist

I met with a new client recently and, when reviewing their information, something didn't seem quite right. The husband told me that he had worked for nearly 40 years, but when I looked at his Social Security benefits, it appeared that he was not receiving nearly the amount which I thought he was entitled to. When I questioned him on it, he told me that one of his previous employers had misreported his Social Security number and the result was he did not get credit for his earnings for a number of years.



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

because of budget cuts, the SSA ceased sending those statements for all citizens last year. However, the SSA did start re-sending statements on a person's 25th birthday and to those over age 60 who are receiving benefits.

If you were not in that limited group of people who are receiving a Social Security benefit statement, checking your benefits is something you need to do.

I recommend checking your Social Security earnings record once a year to make sure that they are accurate. Social Security has made it easy to do. Go online at www.ssa.gov/mystatement to review your account. You will be asked a number of questions about yourself and this will allow you to set up an account where you can review your earnings.

If after you have set up an account and reviewed your statement you find there is an error, immediately contact Social Security to correct the error. Remember, Social Security has a very short statute of limitations, so time is of the essence.

I look at Social Security not as a government benefit program, but rather as an insurance policy. You paid money into Social Security and you're entitled to collect the benefits. If the records that Social Security has are in error, it is going to cost you and potentially your family a substantial sum of money.

If you believe the money looks better in your pocket than it does anyone else's, then it makes sense to set up an account through Social Security and spend a few minutes to make sure your information is correct.

The few minutes that you spend can eventually mean thousands of dollars more that will end up in your pocket — exactly where it belongs. Good luck!

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



Technology in learning

State Sen. Glenn Anderson met with students from William D. Ford Career Technical Center in Westland, who participated in the 12th annual AT&T/MACUL Student Technology Showcase Nov. 28 at the State Capitol Building in Lansing. At the showcase were Steve Schiller, Michigan Association for Computer Users in Learning board president (from left), Donald Dick, Kaylee Yuresko, Anderson, Brandi Caloia and teacher Zach MacLean. The Wayne-Westland school was one of nearly 35 elementary, middle and high schools statewide that participated in the event which showed members of the Michigan State Senate and House of Representatives how technology is being used in the classroom to enhance student achievement. AT&T and MACUL sponsor the event.

Conference features Westland's Passport to Health program

By LeAnne Rogers
Observer Staff Writer

Westland's Passport to Health Program will be featured during a daylong obesity prevention conference Friday. "I'll be part of a panel on building partnerships for a healthy community," said Westland Mayor William Wild.



Wild

The theme for Wayne County's Annual Obesity Prevention Conference is asking community leaders and businesses to "Step into Action." For Wild, that means talking about the Passport to Health program which lets registered participants earn rewards when their passports are stamped for exercise, healthy eating and doing other things that are good for them.

"We have 200 participants as of Monday. We're coming out in January with a re-launch — a passport 2.0," said Wild. "That will expand it and add some new things. We're partnering with someone and will have a surprise announcement."

Actually, Wild let the surprise out — Passport to Health will join forces with Buddy Shuh, a Wayne pastor and recent participant on the reality weight loss show *Biggest Loser*.

"With Buddy Shuh, we will take it to next level," said Wild, noting Shuh's congregation meets at Westland's Friendship Center.

The *Detroit Free Press*'s Stephen Henderson will moderate the panel discussion on communities working together. Along with Wild, the panelists will include Gloria Zunker of the Michigan Department of Education, Dr. Reginald Eadie of the DMC, Dr. Kimberly Dawn Wisdom of Henry Ford Health System, Detroit City Council President Charles Pugh and Wayne County Commissioner Tim Killeen.

Local physicians, dietitians and fitness instructors also will be on hand throughout the day in various workshops to discuss healthy eating, weight management, surgical options and more.

The conference will be held Friday at Wayne County Community College-Northwest Campus, 8200 W. Outer Drive, Detroit. Registration is 8 a.m. with the conference scheduled to run from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Preregistration is required and can be sent to culrich@vceonline.org or sent via fax to (734) 785-7740.

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Does your holiday gift list include a new car?

Area dealers are ready, willing to help make it a Christmas to remember

By Michelle Muñoz
 Correspondent

We've all seen the TV commercials around this time of year — someone looks out their window Christmas morning to find a shiny new car in the driveway with a big bow on top. Have you ever wondered if that really happens?

Area car dealers say it does indeed, and the big bow is part of the deal. Dealers all over southeast Michigan say giving cars as gifts doesn't happen everyday, but when it does the buyer often enlists the help of the dealership to orches-

trate the perfect surprise. Gifting automobiles happens all year, and the holiday season is no exception. John Swanson, Buick and GMC sales consultant from Somerset Buick in Troy, said the deals customers can get during the holidays bring them in, not necessarily gift shopping.

course, growing up in it, I have always seen about four or five during the holiday season," Jeannotte said. "It's a lot more common than people are aware."

Ed Pobur, general manager of Cadillac of Novi, likes to remind his sales staff that not only is the customer trying to craft a surprise, but they are also buying a new car, something that people only do every few years. Pobur and his sales staff do what they can to make the experience special.

Rob Millar, a sales associate at Fred Lav-
 erty Porsche in Birmingham, said he has delivered vehicles to valet stands at restaurants or country clubs. Bob Faust, general sales manager at Jack Demmer Ford in Wayne, said the dealership has even delivered vehicles Christmas Day to a buyer's home.

Dealers said the cars are going to children from parents for graduation or birthdays, from one spouse to another (usually from husband to wife) and sometimes from children to their parents.

Popular models

A dealership's most popular models are often their most popular gifts as well. Often the people giving the car go for practicality and affordability rather than luxury. Jason Scott, general manager of Dick Scott Dodge in Plymouth, said the customer will go with whatever car fits their needs.

Hunsinger enjoys getting involved and helping to create a magical gift-giving moment.

"There hasn't been a request that we haven't been able to assist with the gifting of a vehicle yet," Hunsinger said. "It's really a fun and engaging experience."

Ron Chaudoin, general manager at Lou LaRiche Chevrolet in Plymouth, said gifting a car to loved ones is something everyone should take into consideration.

"I don't know why more people don't buy them as gifts," Chaudoin said. "If you're

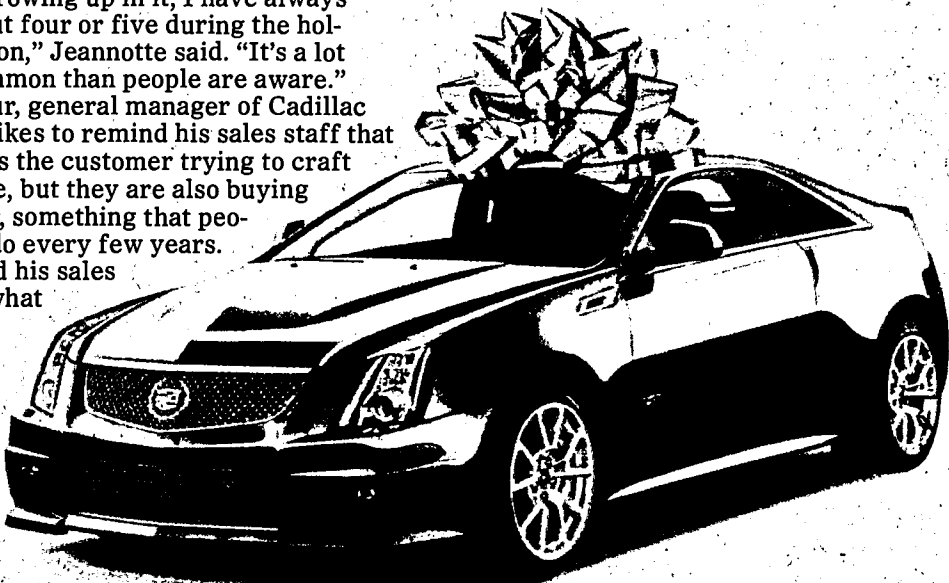
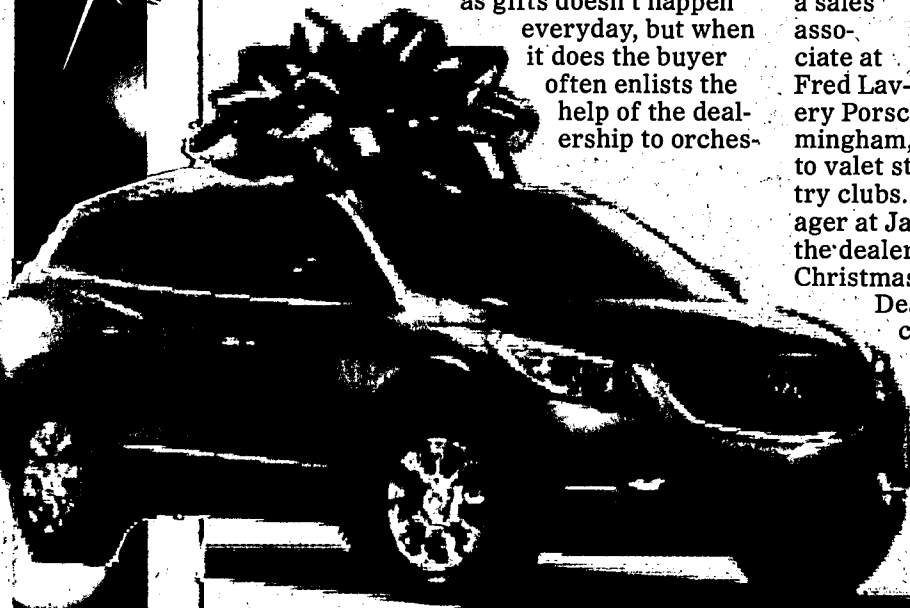
going to buy a car anyway, why not take credit for it and get it as a present for the family."

Before making the move, though, do your homework. Even though it is often a surprise and a gift, picking the right car requires some forethought. Steve Hunsinger, new car sales manager at Jack Demmer Lincoln in Dearborn, said he has seen a few customers try to return a gifted car after the holidays.

Deciding between a lease and a purchase depends on the situation, dealers said. Chaudoin said parents of children heading off to college should consider whether they want the car to last throughout the four years of school when opting for a lease or purchase.

When spouses are picking a car for each other, doing some preliminary shopping can make a big difference, dealers said. Jeannotte said the successful surprises usually start with a couple browsing together before one decides to make the car a gift. He said some spouses also like to go with a pre-

paid lease, so the car can be enjoyed worry-free until it's time to pull out another big holiday bow.



Chris Jeannotte of Bob Jeannotte Buick GMC in Plymouth said the dealership already has two cars prepared for Christmas delivery.

"I've been in the business for 22 years and, of

course, growing up in it, I have always seen about four or five during the holiday season," Jeannotte said. "It's a lot more common than people are aware."

Ed Pobur, general manager of Cadillac of Novi, likes to remind his sales staff that not only is the customer trying to craft a surprise, but they are also buying a new car, something that people only do every few years. Pobur and his sales staff do what they can to make the experience special.

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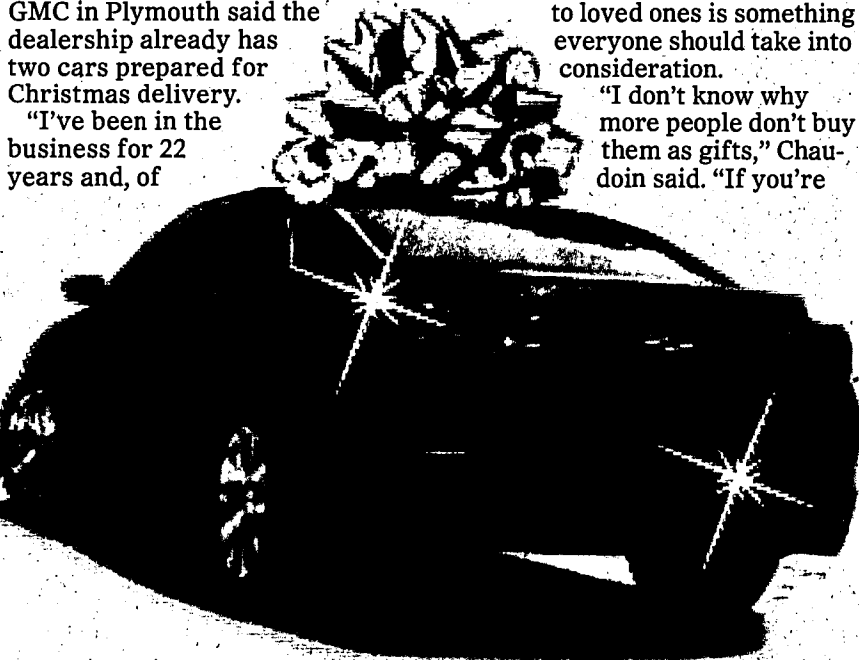
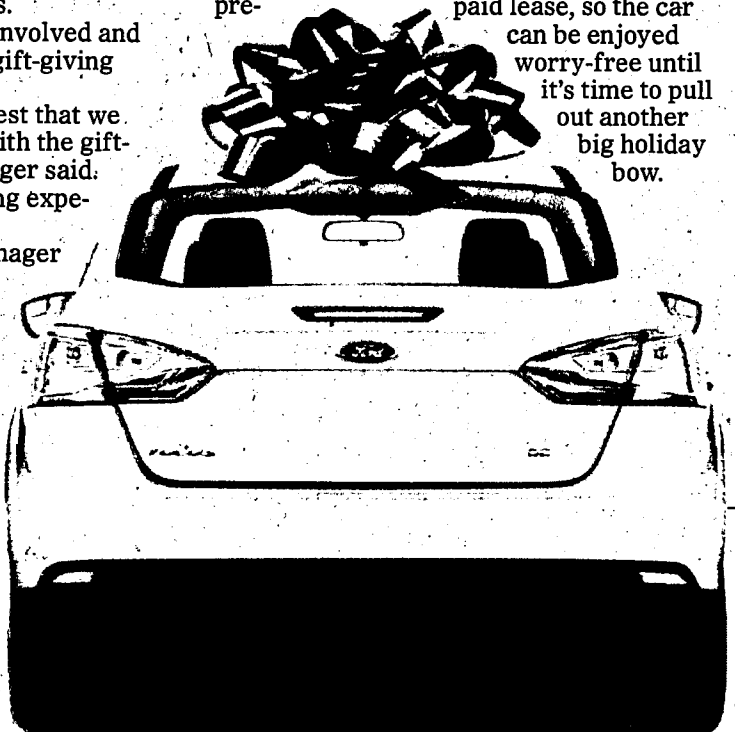
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Listings for the Community Calendar can be submitted by e-mail at smason@hometownlife.com. They also can be mailed to Sue Mason at 615 W. Lafayette - Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226, or faxed to her attention at fax at (313) 223-3318. For more information,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

Upcoming Events

COOKIE WALKS

Time/Date: 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 8

Location: First United Methodist Church of Wayne, 3 Town Square, across from the Wayne Office, Wayne

Details: Holiday cookies and candies, all home made. Cookies will be sold by the container, candies will be sold by the pound.

Contact: For more information, call (734) 721-4801.

Time/Date: a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 8

Location: First United Methodist Church, 6443 Merriman Road, Garden City

Details: The Cookies Walk and Crafts will feature a variety of homemade cookies, candies and breads along with homemade crafts. The event is sponsored by the women of the church.

Contact: For more information, call (734) 421-8628.

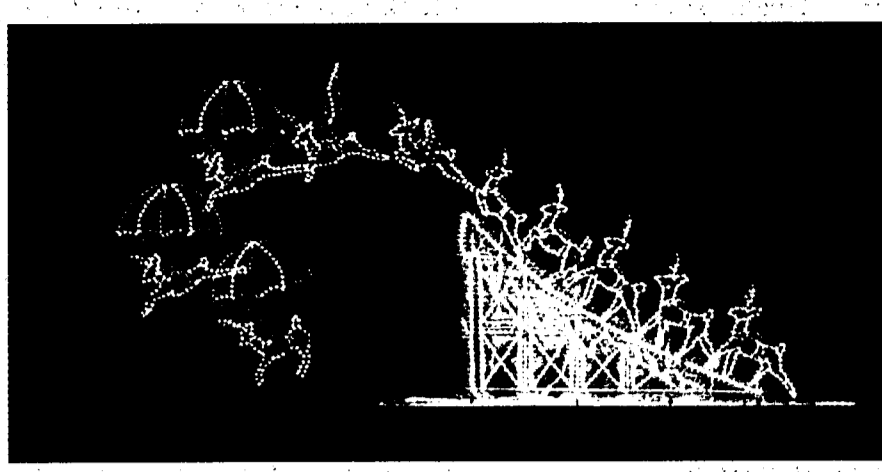
WCGH REUNION

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.netor Pat



Holiday lights

The annual Wayne County Lightfest is lighting up Hines drive with more than 35 animated displays and more than one million lights. The holiday light display is open 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. through Dec. 31. It will be closed Christmas Day. There is a \$5 donation per car. Although Lightfest begins at 7 p.m., Hines Drive closes to traffic beginning at 5:45 p.m. nightly. Visitors enter Wayne County Lightfest at Hines Drive and Merriman in Westland.

Ibbotson at (734) 331-9291 or e-mail pibbotso@aol.com.

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Time/Date: 6 p.m. Monday, Dec. 31

Location: AMVETS Post 171, 1217 Merriman, south of Cherry Hill, Westland

Details: AMVETS Post 171 will hold a New Year's party. Doors open at 6 p.m., with dinner served at 7 p.m. Music by Cadillac Karaoke will be 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Cost is \$25 per person and includes buffet dinner, open bar, pizza at midnight and champagne.

Contact: For more information and tickets, call (734) 729-8930.

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 31

Location: Joy Manor, 28999 Joy, east of Middlebelt, Westland

Details: Dr. Pocket and The WhatAbouts will provide the music for the New Year's Eve party. Doors open at 7 p.m. with dinner at 8 p.m. Music will be 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Tickets cost \$60 per person and champagne toast, prime rib and more, complimentary bar.

Contact: Call Craig at (586) 924-6866 or Joy Manor at (734) 525-0960 or send an email to arrangeit@aol.com.

WIDOWED FRIENDS

Time/Date: 5 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 12

Location: Corsi's Italian Restaurant, 27910 W. Seven Mile, west of Inkster Road, Livonia

Details: Widowed Friends will gather for dinner, support and games at Corsi's in Livonia. Widowed of all ages are welcome to attend a social hour at 5 p.m. and an Italian dinner buffet served promptly at 6 p.m. Cost is \$15 and includes buffet, beverage, dessert, tax and tip. Pay at the door (cash only) with the exact amount. Stay for cards games and conversation until 9:30 p.m. Reservations required by Dec. 5.

Contact: RSVP to Cookie at (248) 357-2183.

Time/Date: 5 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 16

Location: G. Subu's, 20300 Farmington Road, south of Eight Mile, Livonia.

Details: Widowed men and women are invited to attend a social hour at 5 p.m. (cash bar) and a dinner buffet served promptly at 6 p.m. 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. Reservations required by Jan. 11.

Contact: RSVP to Carol (313) 562-3080.

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

Education

WILLOW CREEK

Location: 36660 Cherry Hill in Westland

Details: Willow Creek Co-operative Preschool offers a Parent/Tot, Young 3's, 3-year and 4-year programs.

Contact: (734) 326-0078

ST. DAMIAN

Location: 29891 Joy, Westland

Details: St. Damian Catholic School offers preschool for 3-4-year-olds and full day kindergarten through grade 8.

Contact: (734) 427-1680, www.stdamian.com.

YWCA PRESCHOOL

Details: The YWCA of Western Wayne County's Education Department offers quality preschool programs to children aged 2-5 years old at no cost to most families. There are many locations available throughout the community. Home-based programs are also available.

Contact: (313) 561-4110, Ext. 10

ST. MARY

Location: St. Mary Catholic School, 34516 Michigan Ave., Wayne

Details: St. Mary School is currently is currently registering students for the 2012-2013 school year. Openings are available in pre-K-3 and 4 and kindergarten-eighth-grade. St. Mary has been recognized as a School of Distinction.

Contact: For more information, call the school office at (734) 721-1240.

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

Abandoned vehicle auction: Saturday 12-11-2012 12pm Sparks Auto and Towing, 31797 Block Street Garden City MI

1.	1995	Chevrolet	1G1JC5245S7220603
2.	1992	Honda	JHMBB225XNCO19697
3.	2000	Chrysler	1C4GP44G5YB600926
4.	2000	Pontiac	1G2NF52E3YM883840
5.	2002	Mercury	1MEFM55SX2G608980
6.	1991	Honda	1HGED3644ML015497
7.	2000	Ford	1FMNU435XYEA01729
8.	Xxxx	Jeep	JTHG6411JT069251

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Sunday, Noon - 6pm
BREAK TIME: 2:30 - 3pm

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December 15, 8 am at the Food Court

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December 10, 6:30 pm

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CBL

Best gadget gifts for holidays

By Jon Gunnells
Guest Columnist

If the person on your holiday shopping list already has the newest tablets, video games and electronics that doesn't mean you still can't surprise them. Here's a list of hot gadgets for 2012 that most people have never heard of.



Tech Savvy

Jon Gunnells

AR Drone

This amazing toy is what happens when remote control devices meet the smartphone age. The AR Drone is a remote-controlled helicopter that can be controlled by an app on your Verizon smartphone. The wi-fi enabled helicopter has two on-board cameras and 1GB of storage. It takes still photographs in 720p HD and charges using a lithium ion battery. The drone has altitude sensors and even some not-so-new technologies: stickers so you or your recipient can customize the look.

The AR Drone is compatible with Android and Apple devices and retails for about \$300.

Zepp GolfSense Swing Analyzer

A perfect gift for the golfer on anyone's list. The Zepp GolfSense Swing Analyzer uses

a sensor to determine club speed, position and temp of your golf swing. The analyzer is light and attaches to any club with a strap. Like the Drone, the golf swing sensor reports data to your iPhone so golfers can analyze the data when they are off the links.

Golfers can also use this device by placing it in their pocket to analyze hip motion during the swing. The analyzer is compatible with Apple products and retails for about \$130.

Belkin Netcam Wi-Fi

Ever wonder what happens at your home when you aren't around? For a reasonable price (\$130) you can find out. The Belkin Netcam lets you, your friends or family keep an eye out when you're not around.

This Wi-Fi enabled camera, can also be controlled by your Verizon mobile device and shoots wide angle videos and even utilizes night vision. Owners can receive piece of mind by sending email alerts when the camera detects activity.

The Netcam is compatible with Apple and Android devices that can automatically save your recordings and photos.

Nest Labs Learning Thermostat

The energy-saver on your shopping list will appreciate you for this gift and their bank account will too.

The Nest Labs Learning Thermostat is an advanced, programmable thermostat that automatically learns heating and cooling patterns of the home.

Like the other gadgets on this list, the Nest can be set remotely from smartphones, because it has a built-in sensor. The first generation Nest Labs Thermostat is available for less than \$200 while supplies last.

The newer model retails for \$250, but even at that price point it is a steal. I installed my Nest Thermostat a few months ago and saw a 34 percent decrease in energy consumption from November 2011 to November 2012. Based on my savings thus far, my new thermostat will have paid for itself by the end of winter.

Under \$100

On a tighter budget? There are still plenty of cool gadgets for less than \$100 including the Kindle Fire (\$70) e-reader, the Roku LT (\$50) media player that attaches to your television and the Logitech Wireless Solar Keyboard (\$65).

Logitech also offers a number of great-valued gadgets this holiday season like their Harmony universal remote which is a beginners' universal remote for less than \$70.

Jon Gunnells is a social media planner at a Detroit-based advertising agency. He can be reached at jonathan.gunnells@gmail.com. Follow him on Twitter @GunnSh0w.



Chef Aaron McCargo Jr. also met with the staff of Fresenius Medical Care Garden City, which included renal dietitians, social workers and nurses. When a patient begins dialysis treatments at Fresenius Medical Care, a healthcare team works together to ensure the patient is maintaining their best quality of life to live a better on dialysis.

Food Channel chef creates stir at dialysis center

Chef Aaron McCargo Jr. created a stir when he stopped by Fresenius Medical Care Garden City Friday.

McCargo bought his cooking skills and signature "flavor of bold" cuisine to the center to help dialysis patients and their families learn how to create delicious kidney-friendly meals. He also shared cooking tips and recipes for the holidays, signed autographs, and distributed Fresenius Medical Care's *Fill Your Plate* cookbook to the first 100 attendees during his visit.

McCargo, the star of Food Network's *Big Daddy's House* television show, also gave a live cooking demonstration at the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan's Kidney Ball on Saturday at the MGM Grand in Detroit.

A healthy diet is important to dialysis patients who must control their levels of potassium, phosphorus, salt and saturated fats by limiting their intake of certain foods.

More than 940,000 Michigan residents have chronic kidney disease, according to the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan. This progressive, usually permanent



Martha East, a dialysis patient at Fresenius Medical Care Garden City, met with Chef Aaron McCargo, Jr., star of Food Network's "Big Daddy's House," during an open house at the dialysis clinic, located at 27201 W. Warren Road, Dearborn Heights.

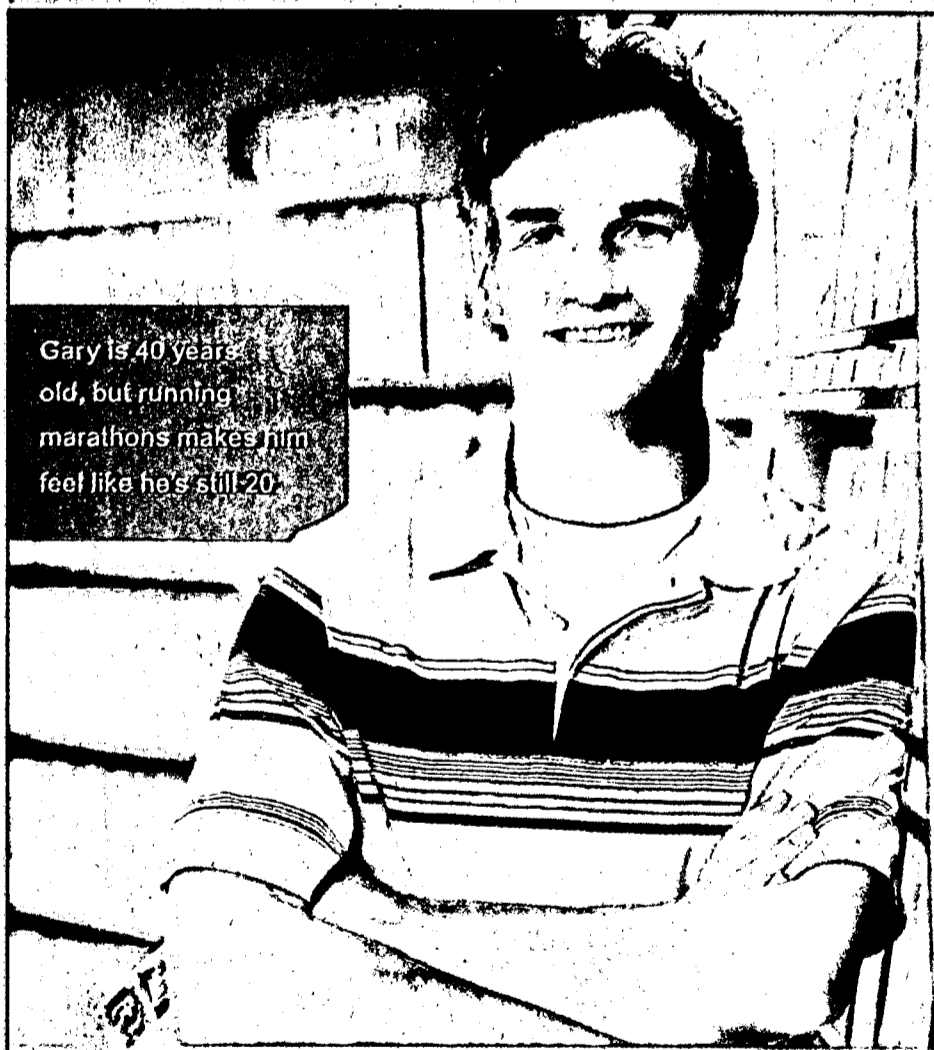
loss of kidney function frequently leads to kidney failure, which can only be treated with dialysis or a kidney transplant. Michigan has one of the highest rates of kidney failure in the entire country with close to 14,000 patients on dialysis.

People can see McCargo's renal diet recipes and his online cooking

demonstration, as well as find fitness tips, recipes, videos and other information about staying active and maintaining a healthy diet at www.ultracaredialysis.com.

The Fresenius Medical Care Garden City dialysis clinic is at 27201 W. Warren Road, Dearborn Heights. For more information, call (313) 274-5568.

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Paper kettles

The Chicken Shack at 34850 Warren Road, Westland, is among restaurants and retailers throughout Michigan are selling hope this holiday season.

Now through Dec. 24, Chicken Shack is inviting customers to make a paper red kettle donation in support of The Salvation Army. For \$1 or more, patrons can sign a paper kettle for display in the store. The paper red kettle sales support the Salvation Army's 2012 Red Kettle Campaign, the nonprofit's primary annual fundraiser.

This year's goal of \$8.5 million in metro Detroit alone will help ensure the organization can continue providing meals, shelter and other vital human services to the less fortunate in the coming year. The funding need is even greater for Salvation Army services across the entire state of Michigan.

Recent U.S. Census Bureau data reveals more than 40.9 percent of individuals in the city of Detroit, and 17.5 percent overall in the state of Michigan, live in poverty. Funds raised through paper red kettle sales support services in the communities in which they are donated.

"We are grateful to partner with such great businesses in pursuing our 2012 Red Kettle Campaign goal," said Major Mark Anderson, gener-

al secretary and metro Detroit area commander. "It's wonderful to see them rally their customers in giving back to communities here in Detroit, and across the state, through paper red kettle donations."

Chicken Shack is open 10:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 10:30 a.m. to midnight Friday-Sunday and 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday. For more information, call (734) 421-4100.

Allstate honors

Several Allstate Insurance Company agents were recently recognized for high standards in customer satisfaction, customer retention and profitability.

Allstate agency owner Paula Schembri has achieved the distinctive Allstate Honor Ring award based on its 2011 achievements in serving customers and driving successful business results. For more than 60 years, the Honor Ring has been Allstate's symbol of outstanding achievement and honorees have proven to be champions in growing their agencies and serving Allstate customers.

"It's a tremendous honor to earn an invitation to be a part of Allstate's Honor Ring," said Schembri. "My agency is fully committed to helping customers meet their protection and retirement needs throughout the year and

we're proud of the recognition from Allstate."

Schembri's Allstate office is at 29207 Ford Road, Garden City.

Agency owner Bradley Trombley has been named to the Inner Circle Elite Award for high standards in customer satisfaction, customer retention and profitable business growth based on sales of auto, property, commercial, power sports insurance and financial services in the country.

Trombley's office is at 5836 Wayne Road, Westland.

Belly workshop

Dr. Chad D. McKernan will be talking about a convenient, cost effective way to improve your health and lose at least 15 pounds - guaranteed - at a "New Belly" Workshop Tuesday, Jan. 15.

The workshop will be at 7 p.m. at Elite Health Centers, 6095 N. Wayne Road, Westland. The workshop will cover losing weight in a healthy way and learning how to keep it off isn't easy. It takes a new way of thinking. The use of specialized nutritional supplements helps to ensure success by decreasing appetite, increasing metabolism and preventing vitamin deficiencies. Proper hormone levels and ratios are crucial to weight loss.

The workshop is free, but registration is required. Space is limited, Call (586) 532-1448.

'It's a Wonderful Life' star talks Hollywood and beyond in Penn Theatre appearance

By Matt Jachman
Observer Staff Writer

Yes, Virginia, there is a wonderful life after Hollywood.

Virginia Patton Moss, who had a bit role in *It's a Wonderful Life*, spoke about her film career — and giving it up — on Sunday after signing autographs and posing for pictures at Plymouth's Penn Theatre ahead of an afternoon showing of the Christmas time classic.

Moss said she couldn't find a role model, among the stars of the era, who appealed to her.

"I couldn't see me doing that for my life," said Moss, who acted as Virginia Patton in 15 movies between 1943 and 1949, according to imdb.com, the Internet Movie Database. "That isn't what I wanted."

Patton instead married Cruse Moss, an industrial engineer who went on to have a long career in vehicle manufacturing. He is credited with developing the Jeep Wagoneer, a pioneering sport-utility vehicle, while a vice president at the Willys Corp.

Virginia Moss recalled that Frank Capra, the director of *It's a Wonderful Life*, told her, "You made the right choice." She and Capra kept in touch for many years.

Fans flock to theater

Cruse Moss accompanied his wife Sunday during her appearance at the Penn, which saw dozens of people lining up to meet them before the mov-



Virginia Patton Moss, an actress in the 1940s, poses with husband Cruse Moss and an unidentified fan at the Penn Theatre on Sunday. Virginia Moss had a small part in "It's a Wonderful Life," the Penn's weekend feature.

ie started. The two have been married since 1949.

One fan, Robert Volpe of Livonia, had her autograph an original poster for the 1949 western *Black Eagle*, in which she played the female lead. "Not a good movie," she told him.

Volpe also had another poster, for *The Horn Blows at Midnight*, a vehicle for the comedian Jack Benny in which Patton had a small role.

Virginia Moss said she was cast in 1946's *Wonderful Life* when she appeared in a play at the University of Southern California that was directed by William DeMille, the brother of legendary Hollywood

director and producer Cecil B. DeMille.

She remembered the *Wonderful Life* set as being one of both good camaraderie and professionalism. "When you were on that set you knew your lines," she said.

The Mosses, who live in the Ann Arbor area, had three children and became active in the community, and remain so; Virginia Moss was on the Board of Trustees at Cleary University and is still a docent at the University of Michigan's art museum.

A Bailey foil

In *It's a Wonderful Life*, Virginia Patton played Ruth Dakin Bailey, who

marries Harry Bailey, the brother of George Bailey, the film's central figure, played by Jimmy Stewart. It is Ruth who pulls Harry (Todd Karns) from the family business, Bailey Building and Loan, further trapping the unhappy George there.

In a scene filmed at a train station in Pasadena — they only time, the actress said, the cast was filmed off the set — Ruth is introduced to George Bailey and Uncle Billy (Thomas Mitchell) for the first time as Harry returns from college with his new bride.

The Penn audience on Sunday applauded warmly as Patton first appeared on the screen.

"Ruth Dakin Bailey, if you don't mind," she announces smartly when her film husband introduces her.

A moment later, she's talking to George, who realizes he's gained a sister-in-law but lost a successor for the family business, which, at this point in the movie, doesn't suit his dreams.

Patton and Stewart share a bag of popcorn in the scene — something that stands out in the actress' memory.

"I'm eating buttered popcorn with white gloves on," she recalls worrying. "What if Capra pulls in for a closeup?"

After Sunday's screen-

ing, Virginia Moss said she was again touched by the movie.

"That really is a wonderful motion picture," she said as she exited the auditorium. "I haven't seen it for a while."

Her visit was arranged by Andy Zazula of Plymouth, a movie buff who found the Mosses lived nearby and looked them up.

"I think it worked out great," Zazula said of the event, which saw a near-capacity crowd turn out to see the actress. "I knew it would happen, people would eat this up."

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OUR VIEWS

Speak up!

Tell lawmakers what you think about budget, school issues

As lame duck sessions go, this one is shaping up to be an interesting one when it comes to the Michigan Legislature and U.S. Congress.

In the past two weeks, Gov. Rick Snyder has rolled out his plans for sweeping reforms of public education and revamping the state's personal property tax. Congress, on the other hand, is in the middle of a stare down with the President that could take the country over the fiscal cliff.

None of these issues as they presently stand, bode well for taxpayers. Michigan cities could lose money with the elimination of the personal property tax that businesses pay. School districts could lose control of their purse strings not to mention unused school buildings. And taxpayers would lose even more, if there's no agreement on continuing tax cuts and a long-term plan to cut the deficit.

This all comes at a time when politics is the last thing people want to think about. It's Christmas. There's gifts to buy, cookies to bake and parties to plan.

Wrong. Voters also need to keep their attention focused on what is happening in Washington and Lansing, and let legislators know what they think about their plans.

In the case of the fiscal cliff, the pain will be felt in pay checks. The House and Senate failed to resolve major party differences on \$1.2 trillion in targeted savings over 10 years, triggering the tax hikes and program cuts scheduled to begin next year. Income tax will increase, if the Bush tax cuts are allowed to expire on Dec. 31, and payroll taxes will climb, if President Barack Obama's two-year-old Social Security payroll tax ends.

It's time to get on the phone, write an e-mail or send a letter. Compromise is needed now, not in the 11th hour. Recovery from the last recession has been painful at best and the financial losses, as the result of it, have affected all citizens. Partisan politics need to be set aside for the good of the country.

Lansing is another place voters need to watch closely.

Gov. Snyder has done well to turn around the state's finances, but at what price? Support to public schools has been cut, and cities have seen revenue sharing slashed. Both entities now must meet a number of devised best practices to get a little extra cash out of the state.

While the elimination of the personal property tax would be phased in, it's still a loss for cash-strapped communities, even with the creation of an authority that would send back money, if the loss is a minimum 2.5 percent of the general fund revenues.

School districts, for years, have said that the funding mechanism for K-12 education is flawed, but the proposed changes which would revamp the School Code go well beyond tweaking.

The governor has said the state's educational system has not given taxpayers, teachers and students "the return on the investment" they deserve." Last month lawmakers rolled out proposed bills that will, among other things, create a new any time, any place, any way, any pace public school learning model in which per pupil school aid would be tied to the student not to a specific district.

The bills also expand the use of virtual learning, putting education just a mouse click away, use performance as the basis for funding and create a list of unused school buildings that could be taken over by the state and repurposed for public academies and charter schools.

Politicians are always good about telling constituents what they want and what they need, whether or not they want it or need it. In these instances, people need to make it perfect clear what it is they want: Higher taxes? Giving up local control of their school districts? Giving up control of school buildings they paid for with their tax dollars?

Whether the answer is yes or no, now is the time for people to let their voices be heard loud and clear. Today is the day to send the Beltway and Lansing a message: You, the people, elected them, and they need represent your interests, not theirs.

Don't wait, don't hesitate. Tomorrow will be too late.

COMMUNITY VOICE

Do you know what significant event happened around Dec. 7?

We asked this question at the Westland Shopping Center in Westland.



"Pearl Harbor. I know that because of school and my grandparents."
Kristin McDonald
Garden City



"Pearl Harbor. I was 11 years old when it happened."
John Suder
Westland



"I'm not sure, I know it was in 1941. At least I got the year right."
Diane Hoffman
Redford

LETTERS

Library closed

I just read that the Westland Library was closed on Tuesday, Nov. 13, because of Veterans Day. This is crazy.

You are already closed on Sunday and Monday, and Monday was officially Veterans Day, so you did not need to close on Tuesday, plus pay your employees. That makes it a shame for those who voted for extra money for the library. Shame on you.

Loretta La Berge
Westland

What to do with Obama

Mr. Obama has been doing a reasonably good job.

His muzzling of the banks following the market crash that coincided with his election seems to be going well. The banks appear to be returning to their role in our economy.

The medical insurance system he proposed is some response to the problems of greed and fiscal incompetence of American health care.

Obama exulted in his victory at this last election. He even shed at least two tears. I saw them on TV.

It is my opinion that his plate is full. Ensuring the banks continue to reduce their own business activity while performing the functions they should — like lending, saving and investment — is a large task. His insurance scheme has yet to be put into operation. That will be much work.

Mr. Obama has, unfortunately, shown a disdain for anyone who does not swear allegiance to him. It strikes me that he believes that those who oppose him or his ideas are ignorant. His second term is thanks to two facts. First, there are only two powerful (though corrupt) working political parties in the United States. Secondly, the opponent the Republicans chose to pit against him was a gift.

The fact of the matter is that if the American people he looks down on were as ignorant as he seems to believe then we would have put Romney in the White House.

Now that we have dealt with Mitt Romney and the Money Circus — what do we do with Obama?

Alfred Brock
Wayne

Important decision

Today (Nov. 27) in Lansing, the Senate approved legislation authorizing the formation of a regional transit authority (RTA) in southeast Michigan, taking an important first step toward solving a decades-long challenge for our region. As the only major urban area in the country without a regional transit system and plan, southeast Michigan is long overdue

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

We welcome your Letter to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We may edit for clarity, space and content. Submit letters by the following formats:

Web: www.hometownlife.com

Mail: Letters to the Editor, Observer Newspapers, 615 W. Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226

Fax: (313) 223-3318

E-mail: smason@hometownlife.com

Blog: You may also let your opinions be heard with your own blog at hometownlife.com.

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

for an RTA that can serve its communities, foster economic growth, create a much-needed, well-coordinated regional transit infrastructure and address the urgent need for public transportation.

The organizers of M-1 RAIL congratulate Senate Majority Leader Randy Richardville and the Michigan Senate for today's historic bi-partisan vote. An RTA will have a lasting, positive effect on southeast Michigan and the state well into the future. As we continue to work hard on making M-1 RAIL a reality as a catalyst for investment, economic development and urban revitalization within Detroit, the region's core city, we are encouraged by what took place in Lansing today and look forward to continuing our support for the RTA over the coming months.

Matt Cullen
president and CEO
M-1 RAIL

The forgotten man

America of the free has transformed into an America of the dependent as President Barack Obama's election promise to "fundamentally transform America" is fulfilled. The guiding principle is now "from each according to his ability, to each according to his need."

Obama's class warfare and envy rhetoric have proven this point. This is a fundamental shift from the idea that each of us may "pursue" a better life, as established in our founding, to one that demands a "right" to economic security and happiness. In this rush to create entitlements and a dependent society, we tend to forget who will pay.

Near the time of our founding, Frenchman Alexis de Tocqueville noted that eventually people in a democracy will discover they can vote for politicians who will provide what they demand from others. During WWII, Austrian economist Friedrich Hayek wrote in "The Road to Serfdom" that planned collectivist economies, like Obama's, a necessary trade

off of personal freedom with a coercive centralized government. Following the Great Depression and during WWII, FDR promoted an economic "second Bill of Rights" giving the right to the necessities of life at public expense.

Buried deep within this ebb and flow of history is "the forgotten man." This is the person who dutifully works to provide the wealth and resources consumed by government planners and the dependent in society. In 1883, Yale professor William Sumner first lectured on "the Forgotten Man." In this brilliant essay, he described a hardworking individual who pays, but is "never thought of" for his contribution. Later during the Great Depression, FDR cynically appropriated the phrase referring to the forgotten man as those needy and necessarily dependent upon government. It's time to return professor Sumner's original definition to the public consciousness. The forgotten man is a victim of Obama's policies.

If you need evidence, look around. Government policies such as the Community Reinvestment Act corrupted the financial institutions and destroyed home values. My relatives lost a great deal in value off their "old GM" stocks and bonds after the GM bailout. I have seen people in my extended family out of work and comfortable on the public dole.

In the larger moral battle, charity should be with the individual, not with the coercive power of the state. Therefore, out of respect and fairness to the forgotten man, I see no reason to compromise and accept Obama's transformational regime.

Robert Smith
Milford

Stand up

We all need to contact especially our Michigan Republican representatives in Congress. They need to know that we want compromise, not the same old bickering. They need to hear that Grover Norquist is not running this country. That a vast majority of us want the rich to pay a little more. That taxing them more on what they earn over \$250,000 will not kill them. They still will be able to spend tons of money and still live in their huge homes and still be able to buy anything they want.

But if we sit back and don't say anything, our elected officials will think they don't have to represent us and Grover Norquist wins. Therefore, I am asking everyone to stand up for the 99 percent of us who are now carrying the burden of taxes proportionally.

Joanne Braund
Royal Oak

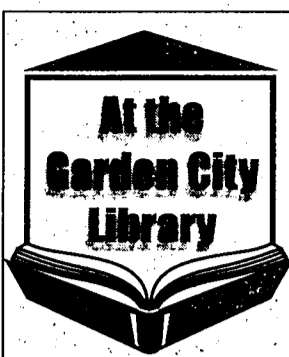
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Holiday Happenings @ Garden City Library



The holiday season is upon us and the year is rapidly coming to a close. Before we are swept away into a new year, consider joining the Garden City Public Library for two holiday themed programs:

Holiday Concert featuring Beckridge Chorale's Village Voices: 7 p.m. Tuesday Dec. 18. Come and join us and experience the "Magic of Christmas" this holiday season. Village Voices, a select group of singers from Beckridge Chorale out of Plymouth will present a special performance of Beckridge Chorale's Christmas concert. This is an event that is not to be missed and will be the highlight of your Christmas preparations. Come on out on Dec. 18 to the Straight Farmhouse and find the true "Magic of Christmas."

Cookie Decorating and Exchange: 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 15

Come decorate cookies at the library! You bring a set of cookies to decorate and the library will provide the frostings and more to finish them off. Bring another set of cookies to participate in the cookie exchange.

Both of these programs require registration so please call the library at (734) 793-1830



A musical journey through the experiences that make the Christmas season magical!



Magic of Christmas

31735 Maplewood Street in Garden City. The best entrance to get into the library is off of Balmoral, one road south of Maplewood. The hours are 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday and Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

Be sure to check out our website, www.garden-city.lib.mi.us, for more information about upcoming programs, new materials and much more.

At the Library was written by Stephanie Charlefour, youth and teen librarian. She can be reached by email at scharlefour@garden-city.lib.mi.us or by calling (734) 793-1837.

or stop by the Reference Desk to reserve your spot today. Be sure to bring the whole family because everyone would surely love to hear the beautiful Christmas music or have a blast decorating cookies.

The weather outside is not frightful as of yet, but that does not mean a good holiday book or movie should not be on your list of entertainments. Check out the list below for some holiday movies and books to warm up your holiday season:

ADULT FICTION

- Robyn Carr, *My Kind of Christmas*
- Susan Mallery, *A Fool's Gold Christmas*
- James Patterson, *Merry Christmas Alex Cross*
- Janet Evanovich, *Visions of Sugar Plums*

YOUTH FICTION

- Mary Pope Osborne, *A Ghost Tale for Christmas Time*
- Jane Yolen, *How do Dinosaurs Say Merry Christmas*

- George Matteson, *Christmas Tugboat*
- Lori Walburg, *The Legend of the Candy Cane*

FAMILY MOVIES

- *Frosty the Snowman*
- *Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer*
- *A Charlie Brown Christmas*
- *Santa Clause*

ADULT MOVIES

- *Four Christmases*
- *Nothing Like the Holidays*
- *Elf*
- *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation*

Many more titles are available so be sure to ask us at the Reference Desk for more titles. To register for the programs above or to place one of these titles on hold, call the library at (734) 793-1830 or stop by the Reference Desk the next time you are at the library.

Please be aware that the Garden City Public Library will be closed the following days in honor of the holidays: Monday and Tuesday,

Dec. 24-25 and Dec. 31-Jan. 1. We will reopen on the Wednesday, Dec. 26

and Jan. 2, with regular hours. The library is located

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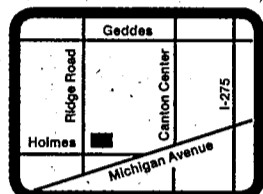
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Wayne Clinic receives health foundation grant

A medical clinic that provides free care to low-income, uninsured adults has received a \$12,500 grant from the Metro Health Foundation of Detroit to help expand the services provided by its satellite medical clinic in western Wayne County.

The Hope Wayne Medical Clinic is based on the model of Hope Medical Clinic in Ypsilanti, which was founded in 1982 by a local family practitioner Dr. Daniel Heffernan. Hope opened the clinic

in 2007 to provide more accessible care for the many patients who were traveling to Ypsilanti from western Wayne County. In August 2012, the Wayne Clinic moved to its new home in the basement of the Lighthouse Home Missions building at 33608 Palmer Road, Westland.

The clinic has weekly walk-in clinics on Saturday mornings with sign-in from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. It also has two monthly weekday clinics to provide continuity of care

for patients with chronic conditions. Care is provided by volunteer doctors, nurses, and other medical professionals, supported by a small paid staff. St. Joseph Mercy Health System and St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia provide laboratory services and X-rays. Referrals for specialty care are made as resources are available.

Free or low-cost medications are provided to Hope patients through retail programs, pharmaceutical company patient



Mary Dekker, Wayne Clinic coordinator (from left), is joined by Lillie Tabor, president of the Metro Health Board of Trustees; Cathy Robinson, executive director of Hope Clinic, and Gail Bernth, clinical services coordinator at Hope Wayne Clinic, in receiving the grant.

assistance programs, bulk medicines. For more information, contact Wayne Hope Clinic at (734) 710-6688.

'Pray for us,' says Awrey worker

Company seeks buyer, investor to prevent shutdown

By Karen Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Brian Corrigan, a union steward at Awrey Bakeries, is taking things one day at a time as the 100-year-old Livonia company seeks to find a buyer or investor to prevent a permanent closing early next year.

"The last year's been rough," said Corrigan, a Garden City resident who has worked there for 33 years washing pans and doing general cleaning.

A letter was delivered to United Distributive Workers, Council 30, last Thursday by certified mail giving written notice that Awrey could lay off about 150 workers — and possibly shut down — due to economic

conditions unless a buyer or investor is found, according to published news reports.

By federal law, Awrey must give workers — or their union representatives — at least 60 days' notice.

Joe Silva, president of United Distributive Workers, Council 30, could not be reached for comment last Friday. Awrey CEO Bob Wallace did not return a reporter's call last Friday.

The company has 157 union employees and 46 non-union workers, according to the notice signed by Wallace, and will "fully and permanently close" during a 14-day period between Jan. 27 and Feb. 9 unless a buyer or investor is



Awrey Bakeries is a familiar Livonia landmark on Farmington Road.

found, the news reports said.

Corrigan said the plant was quiet as employees went about doing their jobs.

"No one's doing anything stupid," he said. Corrigan, who has two grown sons and whose wife works at a group home, said he doesn't know what he will do if the plant closes.

"It's too early to tell,"

he said.

Corrigan said he was laid off for a week once before by Awrey, but this is different.

"You're talking about closing a facility down. You've got a lot of people working here. Pray for us."

Last Wednesday, hit driver Tim Gallagher told the *Observer* the plant was told by management the previous

day that employees can expect to receive a written notice soon.

"They met with our top committee, who then came down and told us," said Gallagher. "They said that if the company could not find another buyer or investor, that the business is closing."

Council 30 agreed to a wage cut in late May to help keep the company from closing its doors. The union voted to accept a \$1 cut in members' hourly wage at that time and a second 85-cent cut in September. The 160-member union voted to accept the wage cuts in a 97-38 vote.

Gallagher doesn't understand why the company is facing continued financial problems.

"We already gave them \$2 (\$1.85) in May, and \$3 an hour several years ago when the company was sold," Gallagher said.

Awrey moved to Livonia from Detroit in 1967.

It got its start in 1910 in the home of Fletcher and Elizabeth Awrey, who were living in Detroit, after moving there from Canada.

The Awrey family no longer owns the company. It was sold in 2005 to Hilco Equity of Chicago and Monomoy Capital to help the company emerge from Chapter 11 bankruptcy. In June 2009, Awrey's purchased Athens Elegant Dessert in Noblesville, Ind., which specializes in the company's cheesecake and high-end desserts.

Awrey makes a number of items including cakes, cookies, Danish pastries, doughnuts and croissants, which are used by restaurants, hotels, schools, hospitals and other institutional customers.

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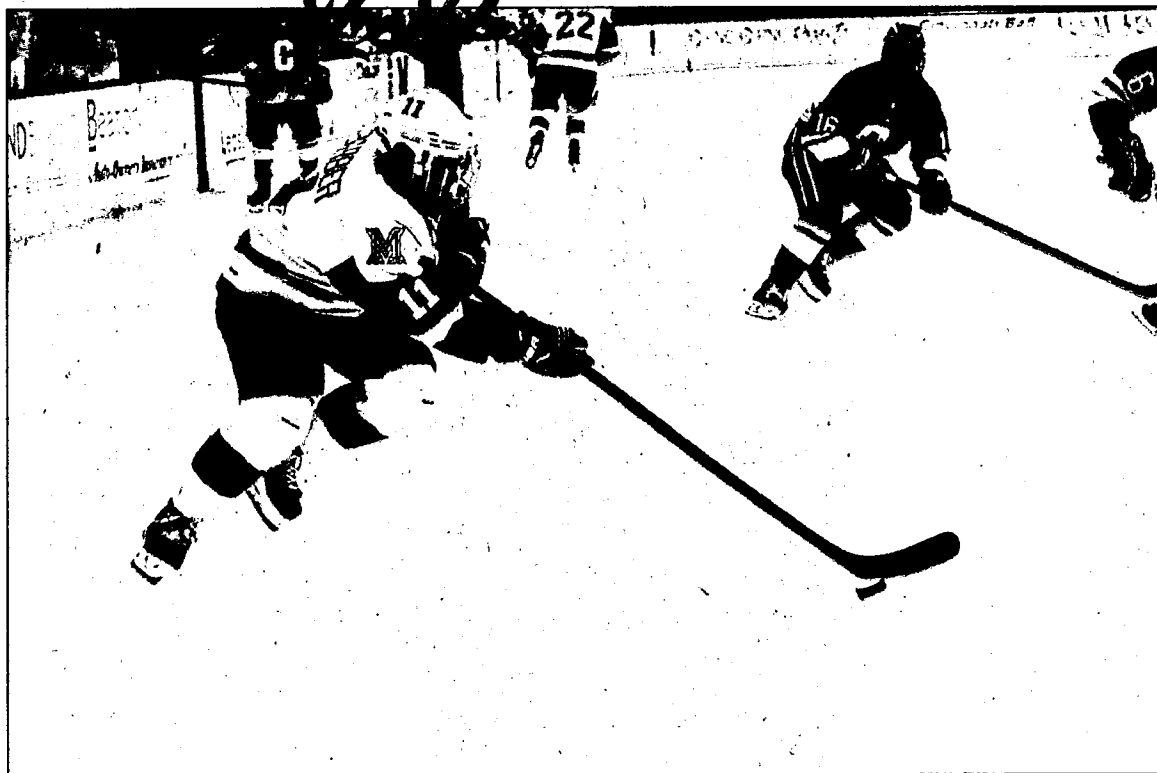
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SPORTS

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Livonia native Riley Barber (11) has been named Central Collegiate Hockey Association Rookie of the Month twice already as a right winger for first-place Miami of Ohio.

MIAMI UNIVERSITY ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS

Life of Riley

Miami rookie Barber eyes World Juniors

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

Not even a trip to Fairbanks, Alaska, over the weekend could put a freeze on one of college hockey's hottest freshman.

Miami of Ohio right winger Riley Barber popped in a goal and had a pair of assists as the RedHawks swept their Central Collegiate Hockey League two-game series with Alaska, 5-2 and 4-0.

"It's cold, negative 30 (degrees) up there," Barber said. "It was pretty crazy, but at the same time it's good to be back. It's warm here. It's good



Barber

to come back, too." The Livonian, a sixth-round pick (167th overall) of the NHL's Washington Capitals, has felt right at home ever since he stepped on the ice for the fourth-ranked RedHawks, who stand 9-2-3 overall and 6-2-2 in the CCHA.

The 5-foot-11, 185-pound Barber ranks second in the CCHA in scoring with six goals and 12 assists and has already been named CCHA Rookie of the Month twice.

On Tuesday, Barber was

named to the preliminary roster for the 2013 U.S. National Junior Team, which will compete Dec. 26 through Jan. 5, in Ufa, Russia, at the IIHF World Junior Championships.

The 27 players named to the U.S. roster will convene Dec. 16-18 in Tarrytown, N.Y., for training camp at the New York Rangers' Madison Square Garden Training Center. Another camp will then be held Dec. 19-23 in Helsinki, Finland, where the 23-man roster will be announced.

"We're excited for Riley that he has an opportunity to repre-

Please see BARBER, B3

Robichaud staves off Glenn rally

Westland John Glenn's second-half comeback fell short Tuesday as the Rockets dropped their boys basketball season opener at Dearborn Heights Robichaud, 61-59.

James McPherson paced four Bulldog players in double figures with 15 points.

Darius Phillips chipped in with 11, while Robbie Crawford and Lloyd Harris-Bay added 10 apiece.

BOYS HOOPS

Junior forward Isaac Everette paced Glenn with a game-high 23 points, while senior guard Nick Daniels added 14.

Glenn trailed 30-20 at halftime and 49-37 after three quarters before making a run with Everette and Daniels combining for 17 of the Rockets' 22 points, but it wasn't enough.

Junior forward James Pruitt added 11 points for the Rockets, who made 13-of-19 free throws. Robichaud connected on 8-of-13 foul shots.

BELLEVILLE 69, WAYNE 42: Rod Walker scored 18 points and Alex Fowler added 13 Tuesday to lead the host Tigers past Wayne Memorial in the season opener.

Wayne trailed by only three at intermission, 24-21, before being outscored 27-15 in the third quarter and 18-6 in the fourth.

"We had a great first half," Wayne coach Mike Schuette said. "The second half our defense went sour, along with our ball-handling, passing and rebounds. Everything that could have gone wrong went wrong."

"We have a lot of first-year varsity players and now they know what it's like."

Josh Lowry scored nine in a losing cause, while Juawn Snipes and Rio Washington added seven apiece.

Please see ROUNDUP, B4

MU volleyball duo honored

Two Madonna University women's volleyball players, junior setter Evia Prieditis (Milford) and senior middle hitter Nastija Baranovska (Riga, Latvia), were both named to the 2012 National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) Volleyball All-America team.

Prieditis — who was also selected to the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference (WHAC) first-team for the third straight season — was named WHAC Player and Setter of the Year after leading the league in total assists (1,698) and assists per set (11.1).

She ranked sixth nationally in assists per set and fourth in total assists.

The second-team All-America award comes on the heels of the junior setter being named AVCA Region Player of the Year last week. Prieditis currently sits third in career assists (6,154).

Baranovska earned honorable mention honors after leading the WHAC in total blocks (152) and blocks per set. Her .342 attack percentage ranked 19th nationally, while her 152 total rejections was good for 13th nationally.

MU spikers All-Academic

Three Madonna University players — Emilie Freeman (Lutheran High Westland), Nastija Baranovska and Nastija Seremetjeva (both of Riga, Latvia) — were selected to the Daktronics NAIA Scholar-Athlete team.

Baranovska (English), Seremetjeva (international business) and Freeman (language arts/education/math) all qualified by carrying a 3.5 cumulative G.P.A. or better.

Mira named All-America

Grand Valley State University senior Alyssa Mira (Livonia Churchill) was recently named to a pair of All-America squads in women's soccer.

For the second time, Mira garnered a spot on the Daktronics NCAA Division II third-team after leading the Lakers with nine assists to go along with three goals.

The midfielder, was also named to the NSCAA/Continental Tire All-America Division II team for the first time after helping the Lakers, an NCAA Final Four team, to 18 shutouts.

Mira closes out her four-year career with 23 assists, which ranks ninth in the GVSU record book.

Mira was also named to the All-Midwest team and is a two-time All-Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference selection while also earning Defensive Player of the Year honors as a junior.

GVSU junior defender Kayla Kimble (Livonia Stevenson) also earned second-team All-Midwest honors for the 20-2-3 Lakers, who fell 2-1 to UC San Diego in the national semifinals.



Churchill's Michelle Azar (4) rushes the ball down the court with Dearborn's Fatima Zahr (24) in pursuit during Tuesday's season opener.

DOUGLAS BARGERSTOCK

Up-and-down

Chargers inconsistent despite win

It was less than an artistic victory Tuesday night for the Livonia Churchill girls basketball team, but the Chargers will take it.

Churchill, playing its season opener, used a 14-3 first quarter advantage before holding off visiting Dearborn's second half surge for a 43-35 triumph.

The Chargers led 24-10 at halftime, but got outscored 25-19 by the 0-3 Pioneers in the second half.

"We came out really flat and we couldn't score," Churchill second-year coach Matt McCowan said. "We couldn't get into the groove. It was our first game."

"Then we got into a groove, but came out in the third quarter really flat and then picked

ourselves back up. We had really high-highs at one point and really low-lows at other points. We have to realize that's it's four quarters. We have to play all four quarters the same."

Senior Sydney Anderson paced the victorious Chargers with 14 points, while Julia Szuba and Michelle Azar added seven each.

Molly Jarvis also pulled down 10 rebounds.

Amelia Denison led Dearborn with 11 points, while Fatima Zahr added eight.

The Pioneers shot a miserable 10-of-29 from the foul line (34.4 percent), while Churchill made only 16-of-31 (51.6 percent).

"We definitely have to shoot better at the line

and be more disciplined," McCowan said. "Key girls got in foul trouble the first half and it really threw them off and they came out cold the second half."

JOHN GLENN 66, G.P. NORTH 34: Senior Raine Bankston scored 16 points to lead four players in double figures Tuesday as host Westland John Glenn (1-0) ran away from Grosse Pointe North (1-2).

Junior Kaira Barnes added 13 points, while seniors Raven Bankston and Kierra Jordan chipped in with 12 and 10, respectively, for the Rockets, who led 16-2 after one quarter and 47-24 after three.

Maria Liddane paced the Norsemen with 14 points. Glenn made 7-of-10 foul shots, while North connected on 5-of-8.

FRANKLIN 52, SKYLINE 49: Livonia Franklin (3-0) stormed back in the second

Please see HOOPS, B3

Livonia Red gymnasts have high hopes

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

Livonia Red girls gymnastics coach Kelly Grodzicki is eagerly anticipating Thursday's season opening tri-meet at Plymouth against Salem.

"We definitely have a lot more depth this year," said the 11th-year coach. "We have the talent. It really comes down to if we can keep everyone healthy. If we can push through and hopefully come ahead of where we were last year, that would be great."



Diaz

Livonia Red, despite the graduation loss of Division 2 individual state qualifier Rose Prebola on the balance beam, should be able to surpass last year's eighth place finish in both the regional and Kensington Lakes Activities Association meet.

Junior Shannon Diaz (Churchill) leads the way after finishing 10th on the uneven bars (8.9) at last year's Division 2 individual state finals.

Diaz will be an all-around performer along with senior captains Maggie McGowan (Churchill), Mallory Dorton (Franklin) and Sarah Gosdzinski (Franklin).

Please see GYMNASTS, B3



Livonia Red gymnastics team captains this season include (from left) Mallory Dorton, Maggie McGowan and Sarah Gosdzinski.

BRAD EMONS

SPORTS ROUNDUP

MU softball camp
Madonna University will hold a series of winter softball camps (ages 7-18) including:
Hitting - 9-11:30 a.m. (Session I) and noon to 2:30 p.m. (Session II), both on Saturday, Dec. 22 at the MU Activities Center. (The cost is \$30.)
Fundamentals (Camp I) - 8:30-11:30 a.m. Saturdays, Jan. 5, 12, 19 and 26; Fundamentals (Camp II) - noon-2:30 p.m., Sundays, Feb. 3, 10, 17 and 24. (Cost for each is \$125 by

Dec. 1; or \$150).
For more information, visit www.MadonnaCrusaders.com.
Winter baseball
Madonna University will stage a winter baseball camp (ages 7-16) from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Wednesday through Friday, Dec. 26-28, at Total Sports in Wixom.
Campers will work with college coaches and players. The cost is \$160 per camper (half off for siblings).

For more information, visit www.MadonnaCrusaders.com.
Weekly 5K runs
All runners, joggers and walkers are welcome to participate in a weekly timed 5-kilometer run-walk at 9 a.m. each Saturday at Livonia's Bicentennial Park.
Participation is free, but you must bring your registrant barcode to earn by registering at www.parkrun.com or www.parkrun.us.

Brighton's special teams haunt Pats

State champs win, 12-4

Defending Division 1 state champion tallied four power play and added three short-handed goals en route to a 12-4 mercy-rule boys hockey win Saturday afternoon over visiting Livonia Franklin at the Kensington Valley Ice House.
The Bulldogs, who improved to 6-1 overall, got pair of short-handed goals from Brian Dowd along with two each from Joe Borst and Michael Yuhasz.
Other goal scorers for Brighton, which led 4-3 after one period and 7-3 after two, included Danny Bosio, Luke Mor-

BOYS HOCKEY
gan, Tyler Hayes, Mike Gessler, Aaron Sturos and Alex Saychak.
"Brighton is one of the top programs in the state and we were in it until they scored three power play goals during a 5-minute major at the end of the second and beginning of the third," said Franklin first-year coach Dennis Gagnon, whose team slipped to 1-2-1 overall. "We lost our composure a little bit and had some discipline issues. You can't afford to have any lapses against such a skilled and well coached team."
Mike Diaz had an unassisted short-handed goal and two assists for the Patriots, while Matt Van

Hulle and Josh Dudek added one goal apiece.
Other assists went to Elijah Grimm and Tyler Morrison.
Matt Monendo played the first two periods in goal for the Patriots before giving way to Sean Reeves-Carson in the third period.
Matt Scrivano was in goal for the Bulldogs, who ended the game with three minutes to go.
"Overall, I was pleased with our effort," Gagnon said. "And I think our team is starting to realize that we can compete with the upper echelon teams, as long as we maintain our focus and discipline. I look forward to watching our team improve and mature as the season progresses."

Blue nation

Livonia gymnasts show potential

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

There were plenty of ice packs to go around Monday night following Livonia Blue's season-opening girls gymnastics competition at Livonia Churchill High School.
Coach Lisa Broomfield's squad got an early jump on the season in a quad meet against Howell, Brighton and Pinckney.
Howell came away the victor with 134.35 points, while Livonia Blue and Brighton finished second and third with 133.80 and 131.65, respectively.
Broomfield, whose squad is made up entirely of Stevenson High students this season, lost her top all-around gymnast to graduation in Alex Kitz, who finished 14th in the all-around in the Division 2 individual state finals.
Kitz also placed fifth on the uneven bars and was 10th in the vault.
Also graduating was state qualifier Haley Olson in the vault, along with Andrea Irvine, Sarah Hogan and Alexis Soave.
"It's definitely a rebuilding year," said Broomfield, whose team finished fourth at the regional (139.65) and seventh in the KLAA meet last season. "We had a lot of new potential come out, so we're excited to see how the season goes and progresses, and see how they compete as a team."
Senior returnees Allison White and Jamie Jasinski will serve as team captains.
White will compete



Livonia Blue gymnastics team captains this season will be Jamie Jasinski (left) and Allison White.

on vault, balance beam and floor exercise, while Jasinski is slated for the vault and beam.
Also returning is junior Jillian Zafarana, along with sophomores Katie McDougall and Nicole Sokolowski. The trio will compete in all four events.
Freshman newcomer Bri Rhoad already shows promise after placing third in the all-around with a 34.80, including a 9.5 on the balance beam in Monday's season opener.
Another ninth-grader, Emily Chatterjee, added a second on the uneven bars (8.35), while junior newcomer Alex Zukowski contributed a third on the beam (8.85).
"Alex Zukowski was injured last week and really came out and showed her skills," said Broomfield, now in her seventh season. "And her teammate, Jillian (Zafarana), ended very well tonight. She pulled through with every-

thing. And Bri (Rhoad), our brand new freshmen, came out strong."
Livonia Blue will have seven days off before returning to action Tuesday, Dec. 11 at Plymouth.
"The meet came up really quickly in the season," Broomfield said of the Dec. 3 opener. "We need a little more practice putting routines together. They're really going to be a decent team. I'm looking forward to seeing how they do together. We have a lot of new people and a lot of new freshmen that came in with a lot of great skills. Now they just have to get high school scoring down."
And that gives Broomfield's squad some time to heel.
"It's been a lot on their bodies in a short time," she said. "It's icing to make sure they're healthy for the rest of the season."

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GYMNASTICS RESULTS

GIRLS GYMNASTICS QUAD MEET RESULTS
Dec. 3 at Livonia Churchill
TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Howell, 134.35 points; 2. Livonia Blue, 133.80; 3. Brighton, 131.65; 4. Pinckney, 35.25.

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS
Vault: 1. Ashley Hextall (Pinckney), 9.3; 2. Marisa DeCamp (Howell), 9.95; 3. Margo Mekjia (Brighton), 8.9; 4. Paige Blythe (Howell), 8.85; 5. Annie Martini (Brighton), 8.8.

Uneven bars: 1. Blythe (Howell), 8.625; 2. Emily Chatterjee (Blue), 8.35; 3. Bri Rhoad (Blue), 8.2; 4. Hextall (Pinckney), 8.125; 5. Allison Augustyn (Howell), 8.075.

Balance beam: 1. Blythe (Howell), 9.6; 2. Rhoad (Blue), 9.5; 3. Alex Zukowski (Blue), 8.85; 4. (tie) Martini (Brighton) and Hextall (Pinckney), 8.65 each.

Floor exercise: 1. Hextall (Pinckney), 9.175; 2. Blythe (Brighton), 8.775; 3. Rhoad (Blue), 8.6; 4. Samantha Rauch (Howell), 8.575; 5. Marisa DeCamp (Howell), 8.425.

All-around: 1. Blythe (Brighton), 35.85; 2. Hextall (Pinckney), 35.25; 3. Rhoad (Blue), 34.80; 4. Martini (Brighton), 33.30; 5. DeCamp (Howell), 33.125; 6. Jillian Zafarana (Blue), 33.10; 7. Mekjia (Brighton), 33.075; 8. Alex Zukowski (Blue), 32.575.

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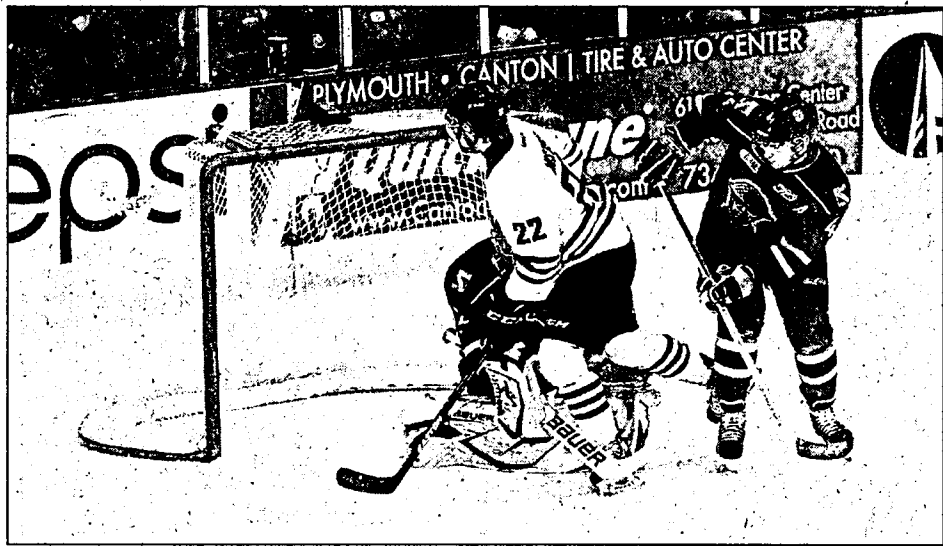
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THE WEEK AHEAD

BOYS BASKETBALL
Friday, Dec. 7
Churchill at Garden City, 7 p.m.
Franklin at S.L. East, 7 p.m.
Wayne at Salem, 7 p.m.
Luth. N'west at C'ville, 7 p.m.
H.F. Academy at L. W'sld, 7 p.m.
HVL at Wash. Christ., 7 p.m.
(St. Joe Mich. Luth. Tourney)
HVL vs. Mich. Lutheran, 8 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 8
St. Joseph Michigan Lutheran Tournament, 5:30 & 7 p.m.
GIRLS BASKETBALL
Thursday, Dec. 6
L. W'sld at Garden City, 7 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 7
Glenn at Divine Child, 7:30 p.m.
C'ville at N.D. Prep, 7:30 p.m.
G.P. North at Lady, 7:30 p.m.
PREP HOCKEY
Thursday, Dec. 6
Ladywood vs. Regina at S.C. Shores Arena, 6:55 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 7
Churchill vs. G.P. North at Edgar Arena, 6 p.m.
Franklin vs. Canton at Arctic Edge, 8:30 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 8
Stevenson vs. Brighton at Kensington Valley, 4 p.m.
Ladywood vs. G.P. South at Arctic Pond, 5:30 p.m.
Franklin vs. Dexter at A.A. Veterans 7:30 p.m.
PREP WRESTLING
Thursday, Dec. 6
L. W'sld at Memphis, 5:30 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 8
Rocket Duals at Glenn, 9 a.m.
Waterford Mott Inv., 9 a.m.
Garden City Inv., 9 a.m.
Blissfield Invitational, 10 a.m.
BOYS SWIMMING
Thursday, Dec. 6
Garden City at Wayne, 6:30 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 8
Rocket Relays at Glenn, 1 p.m.
EMU Classic at Jones Pool, 1 p.m.
PREP BOWLING
Friday, Dec. 7
(at Century Bowl-Waterford)
John Glenn vs. S.L. East, 3:30 p.m.
Wayne vs. South Lyon, 3:30 p.m.
GIRLS GYMNASTICS
Thursday, Dec. 6
Livonia Red vs. Salem at Plymouth, 6:30 p.m.
GIRLS COMPETITIVE CHEER
Saturday, Dec. 8
Onsted Invitational, 10 a.m.
MEN'S COLLEGE HOOPS
Saturday, Dec. 8
Cornerstone at MU, 3 p.m.
WOMEN'S COLLEGE HOOPS
Saturday, Dec. 8
Cornerstone at MU, 1 p.m.



RENA LAVERTY

Matt Mistele (No. 22) of the Plymouth Whalers deflects the puck into the net past Kitchener goalie Franky Palazzese in the first period. The goal prompted fans to toss teddy bears onto the ice at Compuware Arena. At right for the Rangers is defenseman Ben Fanelli (No. 4).

Whalers fall in Teddy Bear toss

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

It was quite a Saturday evening at Compuware Arena, with magical plays, brilliant saves and even more than 1,000 teddy bears raining down on the ice.

The only thing missing for the 3,483 fans in attendance at the annual "Teddy Bear Toss Night" was a Plymouth Whalers victory over the Kitchener Rangers. They almost got it, but lost 5-4 in a shootout.

"It was a great game, I'm sure the fans would have liked a win and so would have we," Plymouth head coach and general manager Mike Vellucci said. "It was end-to-end hockey. We tied it up late, had a lot of chances in overtime, (but) their goalie made some great saves."

The Whalers trailed 4-3 entering the final minute of regulation. With their net empty, forward Rickard Rakell skated deep in the Kitchener zone.

Then came some magic.

As Rakell spun around on the doorstep, he made a dazzling no-look pass across the crease to linemate Ryan Hartman for the tap-in at the right post.

That tally made it 4-4 with 51 seconds left in the Ontario Hockey League tilt. It also was Rakell's third assist and Hartman's second goal of the night.

"He makes that pass quite a bit," said Vellucci about Rakell, an Anaheim Ducks prospect. "He made a great pass and Hartman put it in when he had the chance."

Forward Stefan Noesen almost won the game with the final seconds of the period elapsing. But Kitchener goalie Franky Palazzese came up big for one of his 38 saves for the Rangers (18-

1-1).

Goalie duel

Palazzese followed up with spectacular work throughout overtime and the shootout. The only goal of the shootout was scored by Justin Bailey.

Also playing a strong game despite giving up four goals was Plymouth's 16-year-old rookie netminder, Alex Nedeljkovic, who made 28 saves and could not be faulted on any of the four goals he allowed.

It was Nedeljkovic's third consecutive start following a disappointing 7-6 loss to Kingston on Nov. 23 where the Whalers let a 5-2 lead slip away.

The youngster earned wins at Erie and against Ottawa as Plymouth, with the point Saturday, improved to 14-8-3-2, good for 33 points and first place in the OHL West Division.

"He (Nedeljkovic) played really well this week," Vellucci said. "For a 16-year-old, not too many kids can play that many games and play that well. So we're very excited about him."

Vellucci said he wasn't sure yet whether Nedeljkovic would start again Wednesday at Owen Sound. Another factor is a foot injury hampering the Whalers' No. 1 goalie, Matt Mahalak.

"As a coach you always play the guy that's got the hot hand and the guy that's played well," Vellucci noted. "He's going to play until he deserves otherwise."

From start to finish, it was a back-and-forth game by both teams.

There go the teddies

The first goal of the game, scored at 11:22 of the opening stanza by Matt Mistele — deflect-

ing Tom Wilson's shot into the top-left corner — signaled fans to throw their teddy bears over the boards.

Chuck Gaidica of WDIV-TV, then came out to center ice to briefly talk about how those teddy bears will be distributed this month by Plymouth Community United Way to needy children throughout the area.

When play resumed following a short delay, the Rangers needed just 45 seconds to make it 1-1. Ben Thomson blocked a shot at the Kitchener blue line, then motored down the ice before deking Nedeljkovic and slipping a low shot between the pads.

Garrett Meurs gave Plymouth a 2-1 lead at 4:50 of the second, roofing the puck into the Kitchener net. Rakell set the goal up with a perfect pass.

A wraparound by Bailey, after stealing the puck behind the Plymouth net, resulted in a goal that again tied the contest with 6:16 to go in the frame.

Each team would score late in the period ended to make it 3-3. A fortuitous bounce off the boards behind Nedeljkovic led to a goal by Matia Marcantuoni to give Kitchener its first lead.

Then with 1:10 remaining, Hartman slammed home a one-touch feed across the crease from forward Alex Aleari (Farmington Hills). Starting the play was Rakell, who moved the puck up the wall to Aleari.

Kitchener netted a power-play goal with 13:57 left in the third to go up 4-3. Radek Faksa made good on his own rebound, capping off a three-shot flurry.

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PREP BOWLING CAPSULE OUTLOOK

BOYS PREVIEWS LIVONIA CLARENCEVILLE

Head coach: Phil Horowitz, fourth year.

League affiliation: Independent.

Last year's finish: 14-10 (Division 3 regional runner-up; state quarterfinalist).

Notable losses to graduation: Mike Uren, Brad Martin, Tyler McLean.

Leading returnees: Kyle Kissandi, Sr.; Kaylup Richards, Sr.; Tyler Fox, Sr.; Ricky Rutenbar, Sr.

Promising newcomers: Stephan Clark, Sr.; Matthew Thayer, Sr.

Horowitz's 2012-13 outlook: "I have high hopes for the boys team this year with all the returnees and with the experience they acquired last year in the state finals. I would expect them to surpass last year's seventh-place finish and some of them qualifying for state singles as well."

WESTLAND JOHN GLENN

Head coach: Ron Staples, first year.

League affiliation: KLAA (Central Division).

Last year's finish: 15-1 (Central Division champs); fourth (Division 1 regional).

Notable losses to graduation: Thomas Brusseau (second-team All-Area), Tommy Ruark (third-team All-Area), Mitch Dean.

Leading returnees: Steven White, Sr. (second-team All-Area); Daniel Ammons, Sr.; Mark Kassab, Sr.; Ryan McCarthy, Sr.; Brandon Dulock, Sr.; Mike Russom, Jr.; Steven Brusseau, Jr.; William Wicker, Jr.; Tim Zigalis, Jr.; Jon Schaber, Jr.

Promising newcomers: Andrew Wicker, Fr.; Micah Martin, Sr.; Tyler Riblett, Fr.; Brad Wheeler, Soph.; Damien Strohschein, Fr.; Jon Teppich, Fr.; Ryan Webb, Fr.

Staples' 2012-13 outlook: "I have watched these young men for the last two years and expect very good results again this year. We have a good balance of young and veterans which will help with our team chemistry. Our motto is: 'Next man up,' and I will expect every bowler to be ready when called on. If we fill in the frames at a good percentage we will be fine. We will be the hunted this year and we must be ready for that. My hope is that we will be persistent and consistent."

WAYNE MEMORIAL

Head coach: Bob Jawor, seventh year.

League affiliation: KLAA (Central Division).

Last year's finish: 16-3 (KLAA Association, Division 1 regional, Clarenceville Doubles and Plymouth-Canton tournament champions; state quarterfinalist).

Notable losses to graduation: Elliot Arnold (first-

team All-Area); Zack Huffman (first-team All-Area).

Leading returnees: Kody Wojewski, Sr.; Austin St. Peter, Jr.; Shane Rambaldo, Sr.; Matt Mikulec, Jr.; Darrick Craig, Jr.

Promising newcomers: Connor Weber, Fr.; John Willet, Fr.

Jawor's 2012-13 outlook: "Any program that loses players like Elliot (Arnold) and Zack (Huffman) in the same year would definitely feel the loss, but with the addition of the two fresh-

man Connor (Weber) and John (Willet), the loss will be a little easier to handle. We still have five players returning from last years team and I feel with their experience from last year and the new additions this year, I'm looking forward to the team having a good year. Connor (Weber) reminds me a lot of Elliot when he was a freshman and I anticipate him having a great high school bowling career."

GIRLS PREVIEWS LIVONIA CLARENCEVILLE

Head coach: Phil Horowitz, fourth year.

League affiliation: Independent.

Last year's finish: third (Division 3 regional); 18th (state finals qualifying block).

Notable losses to graduation: Bridget Moricz (first-team All-Area); Nikki Iuliano, Stephanie Quinn, Casey O'Rourke, Alexandria Harrison.

Leading returnees: Amber Young, Sr.

Promising newcomers: Erin Walters, Fr.

Horowitz's 2012-13 outlook: "The only returnee is Amber Young and all the rest are freshmen. Erin Walters is a promising freshman who could be a finalist in the regionals and possibly 'states' with a little improvement."

WESTLAND JOHN GLENN

Head coach: Ralph Cabildo, first year.

League affiliation: KLAA (Central Division).

Last year's finish: 10-5 (KLAA Central Division champs); sixth (Division 1 regional).

Notable losses to graduation: Lenard Montana Grszak.

Leading returnees: Caity Lenard, Sr. (second-team All-Area); Olivia Cabildo, Soph. (third-team All-Area); Bre Riblett, Sr.; Yvette Ayers, Sr.; Beccah Lenard, Soph.

Promising newcomers: Julia Huren, Fr.; Ashley Kolb, Fr.; Emily Dietz, Fr.

Cabildo's 2012-13 outlook: "It should be a really exciting year. We have some really good, young talent on this team, along with a returning leading senior Caity Lenard. Emily Dietz is currently out with a thumb injury and Olivia Cabildo

is coming back from a soccer knee injury. Freshman newcomer Ashley Kolb has been a great surprise and Julia Huren will be anchoring our team as a freshman. We just need to get healthy, go out and have some fun this year."

WAYNE MEMORIAL

Head coach: Diane St. Louis, third year.

League affiliation: KLAA (Central Division).

Last year's finish: 3-12; seventh (Division 1 regional).

Notable losses to graduation: Tiffany Ozog, Alyssa Roberts.

Leading returnees: Tiffany Markham, Sr. (second-team All-Area); Kira Leach, Sr.; Lorissa Willet, Sr.; Marisa Boyd, Soph.

Promising newcomers: Christina O'Harris, Fr.

St. Louis' 2012-13 outlook: "Last year's team (2011-12) was a rebuilding due to a loss of four members to graduation. This year's team will consist of three team members from last year with a 4th member that came up the ranks from junior varsity. We have one newcomer, freshman Christina O'Harris, who is showing tremendous skill and maturity. Christina will follow in the footsteps of her sisters, Rebecca and Stephani, both who were members of the varsity team in previous years. Kira Leach and Lorissa Willet have worked diligently on their fundamentals and have matured into strong competitors. Marisa (Boyd) continues to work hard and will be a nice addition to the team. With our senior member (Markham) leading the way, I expect this year's team to be strong."

LIVONIA LADYWOOD

Head coach: Judy Jaeger, ninth year.

League affiliation: Catholic League (East Division).

Last year's finish: 8-2 (East Division co-champions); eight (Division 2 regional).

Notable losses to graduation: Sarah Czarnomski, Victoria Aina.

Leading returnees: Sabine Hutter, Jr. (third-team All-Area); Kailyn Delonis, Soph.; Veronica Estigoy, Jr.; Shelby Fielding, Soph.

Promising newcomers: Lexi Morris, Fr.

Assistant coach Sara Jaeger Dorow's 2012-13 outlook: "Having not lost one of our starting five bowlers to graduation, we look to come back strong this season. It's a smaller team, which allows for a tight bond among the girls. It also means they have to learn to lean on each other and figure out the shot if they're struggling because there isn't anyone to sub in. In the past, this has made the girls become better bowlers and that's our goal for this upcoming year."



Markham



White



Lenard

Rockets strike fast in bowling opener

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

Westland John Glenn is off to a quick start in both boys and girls bowling.

The Rockets opened the 2012-13 season Monday with 28-2 (boys) and 22-8 (girls) victories over host South Lyon at Pinz Bowling Center.

"Winning both Baker games right out of the gate settled us down and we never looked back," Glenn first-year coach Ron Staples said. "We still need to improve on our spares. I feel we can strike with the best teams in our league, but still need improvement on our fill frames."

Mike Russom led the Rocket boys, who recorded a 1,850 total pin count, with a 438 two-game set including a 259 high. Other top scorers

included Mark Kassab (238), Steve Brusseau (211) and William Wick-er (204).

Meanwhile, JV bowler Tim Zigalis registered the high single game for the day with a 263.

Overall I was very pleased with our effort and look forward toward working very hard in practice so we can get to the next level," Staples said. "There are no off days in our league (KLAA) and this is how we will prepare for the entire season."

On the girls side, Glenn freshman Julia Huren made an impressive debut with a 411 two-game set including a team-high 245.

Sophomore Olivia Cabildo added a 371, including a 192 high, while freshman Ashley Kolb and senior Caity Lenard each

posted game highs of 200. Kasie Allen led South Lyon with a 356 two-game set.

The Rockets split the Baker sets, 143-172 and 171-119, but won the points battle, 6-4, in Ralph Cabildo's debut as Glenn coach.

Wayne boys roll

Connor Weber posted a two-game set of 259-192-451 to lead Wayne Memorial to a 24-6 boys victory Monday over host South Lyon East at Pinz Bowling Center.

The Zebras also got strong efforts from Shane Rambaldo, 210-225-435; Kody Wojewski, 226-200-426; and Matt Mikulec, 189-216-405.

Wayne had a total pinfall of 1,043-1,034-2,077.

bemons@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-6851

ROUNDUP

Continued from page B1

Both teams struggled from the foul stripe — Wayne 11-of-25 and Belleville 16-of-33. **ANNAPOLIS 75, LUTH. WESTLAND 55:** On Tuesday, Nehemiah Graddick poured in a game-high 28 points to lead host Dearborn Heights Annapolis to a season-opening triumph over Lutheran High Westland. Jacob Butzin and Cody

Nickrand each added 10 for the Cougars, who bolted out to a 42-24 halftime lead and 66-35 advantage after three periods.

Juniors A.J. Seltz and P.J. Gusé paced the Lutheran Westland scoring attack with 19 and 12, respectively. The two combined for 12-of-14 free throws and nine rebounds.

Senior Nick Andrzejewski chipped in with eight points and seven rebounds, while Brandon Wyman had six points, six rebounds and three steals.

"It was a high-level, fast-paced game," rookie Lutheran Westland coach Jim Hoeft said. "We fought hard tonight. I saw a lot of good things tonight with our team."

The Warriors were 23-of-38 (61 percent) from the foul line, while Annapolis hit 11-of-15 (73 percent).

"The thing I liked was the intensity our team showed from start to finish," Hoeft said. "This was definitely a good test to start the season, and I like our chances in the (MIAC) conference."

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

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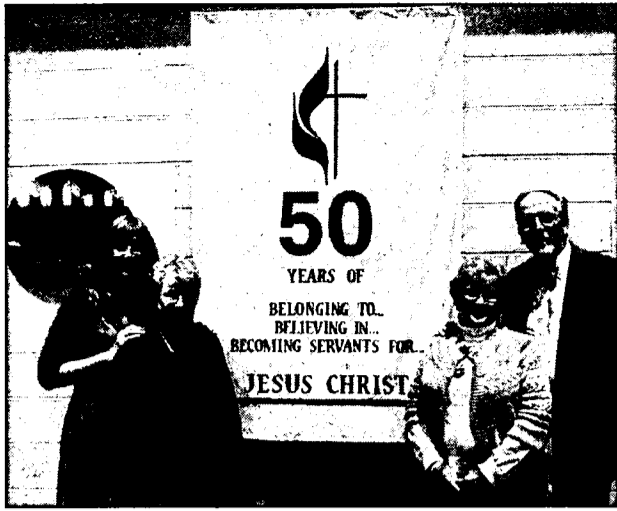
Thursday, December 20th
Hometown Weekly Newspapers:
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Deadline
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For all publications

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Sue Craik, (left), Christian education adviser, Mary Anne Duluk and Marie Adams, co-chairs of the 50th anniversary committee, and the Rev. George Covintree show one of the anniversary banners at St. Matthew's United Methodist Church in Livonia.

Speaker, displays wrap up 50th anniversary

St. Matthew's United Methodist Church will conclude its yearlong 50th anniversary celebration with a worship service and special guest speaker, 10:30 a.m., Sunday, Dec. 16, at the church, 30900 W. Six Mile, Livonia.

Bishop Deborah Lieder Kiesey will give the sermon and serve communion. The Rev. George Covintree Jr., St. Matthew's pastor, will assist.

A light luncheon will be served in the fellowship hall after the service.

Mary Anne Duluk chaired the 50th anniversary committee, which planned special events throughout the year. Wink Covintree and Dawn Johnson designed anniversary banners and Duluk, Marie Adams and Caren Cunningham make the banners.

The anniversary celebrated the merger of the United Brethren Church and the Methodist Church into the United Methodist Church. St. Matthew's became the first United Methodist Church in the United States.

Historical photos and letters will also be on display after the service.

For more information, call (734) 422-6038.

RELIGION CALENDAR

Send items for the religion calendar to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com.

December

ADVENT SERMONS

Time/Date: 10:15 a.m. Sundays through Dec. 23

Location: St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, located on Five Mile, one block west of Inkster Road, Livonia

Details: Rev. Paul Stunkel will focus on "Why? The Prophecy, The Stable, a Virgin," Dec. 9; "Why?

Shepherds and Wise Men," Dec. 16; and "Why? Jesus, Mary, Joseph, Family, and featuring a live nativity," Dec. 23

Contact: (734) 422-1470

ADVENT SERVICES

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 12, and 19

Location: Lola Park Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford

Details: The meditation theme is the beginnings of the Gospel of St. Matthew, St. Luke and Revelation

Contact: (734) 968-3523

Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

How to reach us:

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Deadlines: Friday, 4:15 p.m. for Sunday paper • Wednesday, 9:45 a.m. for Thursday paper

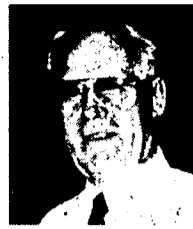
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BERTSCH SMALLIDGE BROWN JOAN

7/7/1929-12/3/2012

(83) was born to Ralph E. Smallidge and Grace E. (Humphrey) on July 7th 1929, at Ford Hospital in Detroit, Michigan. Her family lived in Flint and Ypsilanti and after attending Ypsilanti High School, Joan attended Michigan Normal College (now Eastern Michigan University) where she earned a Bachelor's degree in Teaching and a Master's degree in Special Education. In 1977, she earned a second Master's degree in Guidance and Counseling from the University of Michigan. She enjoyed a very fulfilling teaching career which spanned four decades beginning in Grand Rapids in the early 1950s. She was not only a classroom teacher but also a homebound teacher—for students with illness or disability—and finally a consultant in special education compliance for Oakland County Schools. Joan is predeceased by her only sibling, Patricia (Sutton) and her first husband, Ian H. (Scott) Brown, Jr. whom she married in 1953. Joan and Scott lived in Midland and Birmingham before making their home in Farmington Hills in 1958. Joan is also predeceased by her second husband, Thomas Bertsch, whom she married in 2001. Joan is survived by her three children: Daniel (Claire) Brown, Lawrence (Connie) Brown and Rebecca (Edward) Brinskele and her three step-children: Frederick (Elaine) Bertsch, Maggie Hunkele and Lawrence (Diann) Bertsch. Joan is also survived by her seven grandchildren: Amanda, Caitlin and Bill Brown and Paige, Jake, McCall and Walker Brinskele and six step-grandchildren: Ethan and Parker Portice, Sarah Renee (Dave) Hytinen, Heather (Tim) Muir and Matthew, Michael and Thomas Bertsch and step-great grandchild: Liam Muir. Joan was an energetic, inspirational and loving mother, wife, grandmother and friend as well as a gifted teacher and an accomplished gardener. She will be dearly missed. A memorial celebrating the life of Joan Bertsch will be held on Saturday, December 8th, 2012 at 11 a.m., with visitation at 10 a.m., at the First Presbyterian Church of Saginaw, 121 South Harrison, Saginaw, Michigan 48602. Memorial donations suggested to the Alzheimer's Association (alz.org). Arrangements made by Case (casefuneralhome.com), Saginaw, Michigan.



BOYD, HUBERT J.

Dec. 2, 2012; age 85 of Livonia. Beloved husband of the late Lois. Dear father of Danny (Maureen), Norene (Michael) Hanchett, the late Kathleen Mary & Keith Allen. Brother of Francis & the late Claude, Gerald. Loving grandfather of Melodie (Jason) Alery, Darin Albany, Amy (Bernard) Rizkallah, Angela (Vincent Kutscheid) Albany, Danielle (Robert) Short, Bryan (Tonya Shotwell) Boyd, Danny Boyd. Also survived by 9 great grandchildren. Family will receive friends Sat. 12 noon until time of Memorial Service at 3 pm at the Uht Funeral Home 35400 Glenwood Rd., Westland. Family requests memorials to Odyssey Hospice. Please visit and sign a tribute at www.uhtfh.com



CHAPIN, GORDON CLARK,

Age 91 of Plymouth, December 3, 2012. Beloved husband of Elizabeth (Dinkel) Chapin. Dear father to Ann (Bruce) Cavender of Northville and Clark (Karen) Chapin of Plymouth. Grandfather to Robert (Susan) Cavender of Livonia and Bill (Anna) Chapin of Oakland, CA. He was preceded in death by his wife and brothers, Martin and John. He was the son of Martin G. Chapin and Margaret (Clark) Chapin of Detroit and was born on February 19, 1921. Gordon graduated from Detroit's Redford High School in 1939 and Wayne State University in 1948. A veteran of the US Army, he served in Europe during WWII as part of the 109th Maintenance Company (Medium). He was an engineer who helped develop the first domestic automotive disc brake system while employed by Kelsey-Hayes in Romulus. He was active at the Plymouth Historical Museum and Risen Christ Lutheran Church. An active sailor, he served as Commodore for Portage Yacht Club in Pinckney and sailed 18-ft Interlake Class sailboats until age 85. He was honored by Portage Yacht Club in 2006 for his years of service. Visitation Fri 10 AM until the 11 AM Memorial Service at Risen Christ Lutheran Church, 46250 W. Ann Arbor Road, (btwn Sheldon & Beck) Plymouth. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Friends of the Plymouth Historical Museum, 155 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI 48170 or Risen Christ.

To share a memory, please visit vermeulenfuneralhome.com

GULLEDGE, BETTY JANE
Born April 16, 1929
Died November 23, 2012
Born in Henry County, Ohio our loving mother was preceded in death by her parents; John Henry and Lula May Swalley. Her brothers; Robert & Donald Swalley. She moved from Ohio to Michigan then began working as a home health care aid until her late 60's when she retired. She leaves behind to mourn her passing 5 children: Roger Hurd, James Hurd, Linda Rabe, Pamela Bynum, and Sheryl Pritchard; followed by her 11 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews and many close friends. She is dearly loved and will greatly be missed. Services will be held at Husbands Family Funeral Home 2401 S. Wayne Rd. Westland, MI 48186; followed by a lunch-in Sat. Dec. 8th 2012 at 2:00. Rest In The Arms Of The Angels Mom.

SADOWSKI, ANTHONY F.
Age 64, December 1, 2012.
Resident to Westland.
www.edwardswansonandsonfuneralhome.com



CLARK, TREVA N.

Age 87, November 30, 2012. Loving mother of Dennis (Penny) Clark, Lynne (Ron) Almos, Karen (Fred) Layton and the late Brandon Clark. Dear grandmother of Angie, Arianna, Bonnie, Derek, Amie, Jayme, Ryan, Andrew, Laura and Lisa. Dear great-grandmother of 10. Sister of Larry, Dixie, Bob, Sharon and Andy. Funeral Services were held for Treva on December 3, 2012 at the R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home in Livonia. Please share a memory at: www.rggharris.com

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For Information regarding this Directory, please call Sue Sare at 248-437-2011 ext. 247 or e-mail: ssare@hometownlife.com

Epic story



Detroit firefighters battle a blaze in the documentary, "BURN."

Farmington Hills man featured in firefighter documentary

By Sharon Dargay
O&E Staff Writer

As a Detroit firefighter, Dennis Hunter sees the best and the worst of his former hometown every day.

"I love the city and I hate the city. It's where I grew up. It's my hometown and everyone in Metro Detroit, they know Detroit once was a great city and I believe it can be again. It just needs investment, leadership.

"What I hate is the lack of leadership and the crime and the school system, which is one of the main reasons I left."

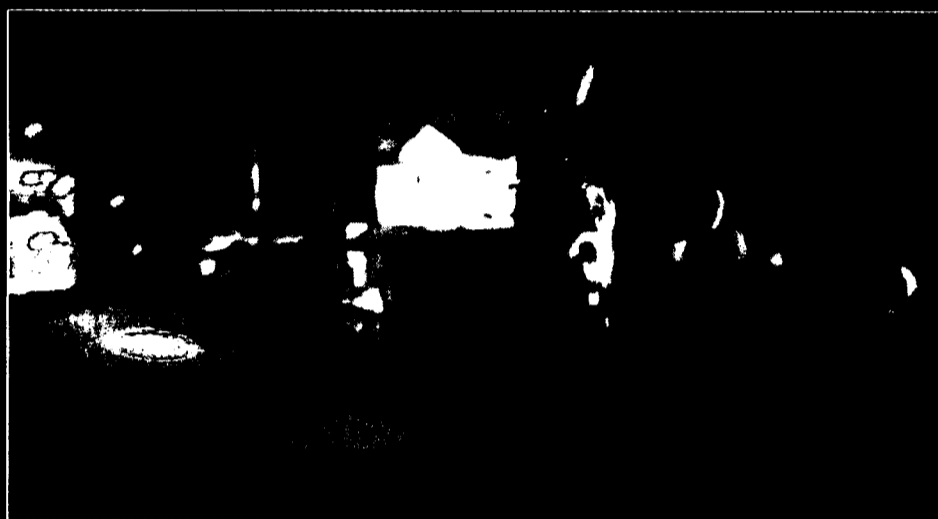
Hunter, 41, who is married and the father of three daughters, moved to Farmington Hills from Detroit about four years ago, but continues to work in one of the busiest fire departments in the country.

He's a senior firefighter in Engine Company 40 on Detroit's west side and one of several firefighters featured in the documentary *BURN One Year on the Front Lines of the Battle To Save Detroit*, by Tom Putnam and Detroit native Brenna Sanchez.

Hunter saw the film at its Tribeca film festival debut in New York earlier this year. It will open Friday, Dec. 7 in Washington D.C., Chicago, Ill., AMC Livonia 20 in Livonia and AMC Forum 30 in Sterling Heights. A portion of the proceeds of the film will go to the Leary Firefighters Foundation to buy gear for Detroit firefighters.

Untold story

Putnam and Sanchez became interested in filming Detroit firefighters after learning in late 2008 that a veteran fireman had died battling an arson blaze in an abandoned home. Nine months later they were embedded in Engine Company 50 on the city's east side where they filmed a test reel. In their first two days of shooting, the crew filmed 21 fires. They also inter-



Dennis Hunter of Farmington Hills is a 14-year veteran of the Detroit Fire Department.

A fire is reflected in the window of a Detroit fire truck.



viewed each member of the eight-man crew and outfitted them with helmet cameras.

They shopped the footage to film executives and cable broadcasters who said they liked the idea but couldn't find an audience for a movie about firefighters. So, the pair posted the trailer on Vimeo.com and YouTube where it drew 100,000 views. They started a Facebook page and led a fundraising campaign on Kickstarter.com. With funding from corporate sponsors, such as General Motors, and individual donors, they began filming in December 2010, finishing in January this year. In the process, Denis Leary, star of

the FX series, *Rescue Me*, and Jim Serpico, president of Motion Pictures and Television at Apostle productions, joined them as executive producers.

In addition to filming at Engine Company 50, the crew spent time at other fire stations, including Engine Company 40, where Hunter is based.

"It was pretty easy. They worked around us," Hunter recalled the film shoots. "They gave us cameras for our helmets. They'd be in the firehouse filming. I got used to it. At first it was, 'wow, I'm getting filmed.' But then it was 'I'm going to be me, be real. I'm at work.' You've got a serious job to do."

A new career

Hunter became interested in firefighting after a cousin, who also works for the Detroit Fire Department, mentioned that the city was taking applications.

"My dad wasn't a fireman. I didn't grow up wanting to be a fireman. I didn't know much about it even though my cousin was one. I have a barbershop I own. I was working there at the time," said Hunter, adding that he continues to cut hair in his spare time. "I decided, man, I could use some insurance. I'll take the test."

Several thousand other job-seekers had the same idea that day at Cobo Center.

"It was like a needle in the haystack. It was ridiculous."

Hunter later received notice that he had passed the test and was accepted into the training academy.

"Now I was getting interested. It was starting to get a little intriguing. Once I got into the academy, it was like, wow, I really want to do this ... helping people, the physical part of it, being in the community."

After four months in the academy, he spent eight months in the field completing his trial period before attaining his badge. He remembers his first fire was in an attic — attic and basement fires are the hottest blazes — and a sergeant led him through the process.

"We were up in the attic for an hour. It was something I never did before. It was scary, but when I saw all the guys seemed so comfortable, it relaxed me. I was probably full of adrenalin."

Suburbs, city

The film notes that Detroit firefighters often douse flames from the inside of a burning structure, a necessity in neighborhoods with older houses in

Please see 'BURN,' B7

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TREAT YOURSELF TO AN EARLY HOLIDAY GIFT

Michigan Philharmonic plays sounds of the season

By Sharon Dargay
O&E Staff Writer

The Michigan Philharmonic will perform its holiday concert five times this month, but each show will vary depending on its location.

"It's very different from place to place and that keeps it fresh," said Beth Stewart, Michigan Philharmonic executive director. "There are a whole



ReGina Coles

host of things that can change it up."

"Home for the Holidays" concerts on Dec. 7 at Walled

Lake Northern High School in Commerce and Dec. 14 at the Seligman Center for the Performing Arts in Beverly Hills will feature school choirs singing holiday tunes and leading the audience sing-a-long. The Huron Valley Council for the Arts sponsors the concert in Commerce, which will include the Walled Lake School youth choirs. The Detroit Country Day School choirs will sing at the Seligman Center.

Vocalist ReGina Coles of Canton will sing Dec. 15 at the Carr Center in Detroit. She's also a board member for the Michigan Philharmonic and a founding member of the Canton Cultural Commission. Coles has performed at venues throughout the Detroit area, including Baker's Keyboard Lounge, MGM Grand, and Motor City Casino.

An early evening con-



The Michigan Philharmonic under the direction of Nan Washburn will perform three holiday concerts Dec. 13-15.

cert Dec. 13 at the Penn Theatre in Plymouth will appeal to families. It's shorter than the other shows and will include an appearance by Santa Claus. A later evening performance is geared toward adults. They also can make reservations at a special dinner that Fiamma Grille offers to concert-goers.

Michigan Philharmonic pianist, Patrick Johnson, will perform at all of the events except for the family concert at the Penn. He is working on a doctorate in piano and music theory from Michigan State University. He also plays organ at St. Mary Magdalen Church in Hazel Park.

The size of the orchestra will stay the same — 30 musicians — for each concert.

"We keep it small and compact because of the Penn," Stewart said, noting that the theater's stage doesn't accommodate larger orchestras. "We have managed to have big sounds with a smaller

number of players."

She said residents from Northville, Canton and Plymouth make up the majority of the orchestra's audience at the Penn Theatre, which is situated in

a perfect location for an evening out on the town.

"It's downtown and close to restaurants and the (Kellogg) park looks beautiful," she said.

Stewart described the

Carr Center as an intimate space, set in old ballroom, where "the audience practically sits around the orchestra." It typically includes children because tickets for



Patrick Johnson

youngsters are free. "At Seligman, it's a fabulous performing arts center. We love playing there and the sound is terrific," she said. "The tickets are priced by section. There is something for everybody."

She added that the symphony's holiday repertoire will offer music for everyone.

"If your favorite isn't here, I'd be surprised. There's a lot of great Christmas music ... Hanukkah songs, too."

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

The Michigan Philharmonic will play seasonal classics including, "Winter Wonderland," "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas;" holiday songs from films, such as "Miracle on 34th Street," the "Polar Express," and more. Michigan Philharmonic pianist, Patrick Johnson, will perform Bach's "Piano Concerto #3 in D Major," and the audience will be invited to sing along on several tunes

Plymouth: 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 13, at The Penn Theatre, 760 Penniman Ave.

Beverly Hills: 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 14, at the Seligman Center for Performing Arts, located on the campus of Detroit Country Day School, 13 Mile and Lahser, in Beverly Hills

Detroit: 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 15, at The Carr Center, 311 E. Grand River Ave.

Commerce: 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 7, at Walled Lake Northern High School, 6000 Bogie Lake Road

Tickets: \$30, \$25 and \$10 at the Penn; \$40, \$30 and \$20 at the Seligman Center; \$25 for adults and free for students accompanied by a paying adult at the Carr Center; and \$40, \$25 and \$15 adult admission, \$10 for youth, 10 and under at the concert in Commerce

Contact: Get information, buy tickets or make Fiamma Grille reservations by calling the Michigan Philharmonic office at (734) 451-2112 or visit www.michiganphil.org. For the Commerce concert, call (248) 889-8660 or visit huronvalleyarts.org

'BURN'

Continued from page B6

close proximity to each other.

"In the suburbs you may have one or two house fires a year. When you do get a fire, you may not have as much experience as someone doing it every day," Hunter said. "We do inside out because we have to get in and get it fast or the house next door may catch."

The slower suburban pace hasn't tempted him to leave the city. Hunter has remained in the Detroit department for 14 years, despite recent 10 percent pay cuts, dysfunctional equipment, disagreements with city

administration, and high arson rates.

"We do save a lot of houses people live in. We save a lot of people. We do have a record amount of fires — 30 to 40 a day (department-wide) and out of those, 70 percent are vacant. Another thing that keeps me going is, you can go through the politics, the tremendous amount of fires and the equipment that doesn't work, and I think when you save a life, save someone's property, that makes everything worthwhile and you can keep on going."

AMC Livonia is located at 19500 Haggerty, north of Seven Mile, Livonia; (888) 264-4386.

AMC Forum 30 is at 44681 Mound, south of M-59 in Sterling Heights; (586) 254-1381.



Dennis Hunter of Farmington Hills is one of several Detroit firefighters featured in the documentary film, "Burn."



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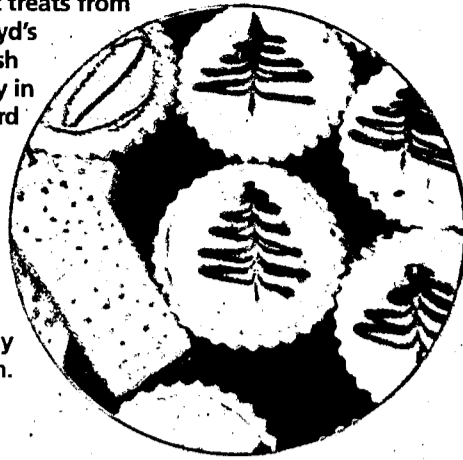
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Bottles of olive oil line the shelves at Cantoro Italian Market in Livonia.



Sweet treats from Ackroyd's Scottish Bakery in Redford are a hit, especially during the holiday season.



Greek feta cheese from Hellenic Bakery and Grocery in Livonia is popular with customers, especially during the holidays.

A culinary trip around the world

Area ethnic markets lead the tour

By Mary Quinley
Correspondent

Distant cultures intrigue me. I especially like to sample unfamiliar foods and check out native shopping possibilities. Yet, travel

to far away places isn't always feasible. If I stayed close to home and scoured local ethnic shops and markets, would I satisfy my



Mary Quinley

urge? Absolutely. I found an amazing assortment of edibles and gifts ideal for celebrations, including the fast-approaching holidays. Here's a sampling:

- A warm, wonderful aroma welcomed me as I strolled into Pearl of The Orient in Livonia on a recent afternoon. It was Chicken Afritada. The stew-like entrée with pieces of chicken, potatoes, carrots, tomato sauce and seasonings is often served in Filipino households, Conrado C. Gegajo, the cook, told me. Made-in-house Filipino hot dishes — beef, pork and squash concoctions among them — and spring rolls are other popular any-occasion to-go items. Customers flock to the store during the holiday season for gift-wrapped hams (marinated with brown sugar and pineapple), pork butt roasts (cooked in Calamansi, a tropical lemon/lime marinade); and, sweet treats like steamed rice cakes and custard cakes.

- "Everything is good and fresh and homemade. That's what I like about this place," said Nick Pitsillos of Livonia, as he shopped for olives and feta cheese at Hellenic Bakery and Grocery in Livonia. His Greek and non-Greek friends, as well, also enjoy made-in-the-back-kitchen spinach pie, arm-length-long loaves of wheat and white bread, kourambietes (Greek almond cookies), baklava, and kolyva (a sweet treat served at Orthodox memorial services). Barrels filled with soup staples like lentils, bulgur wheat and chickpeas; shelves lined with bottles of olive oil and packages of orzo and other pastas; and, a refrigerated case with Greek yogurts, caviar and cheeses lure customers. A limited selection of wines and non-alcoholic beverages — I found Kourou, a favorite Greek white wine — are available.

- Whenever Harini Prabhun needs lentils, or an



Customers rave about the made-in-house pork rinds from Dos Hermanos, a Mexican market in Westland.

century. The couple from Livonia received a hodgepodge of place settings, casserole dishes, salt and pepper shakers and a "whole cabinet of odds and ends." Holiday gift seekers will enjoy shopping for the pottery, amber jewelry, glass ornaments, apparel, tea pots and other Polish-inspired wares.

- Dos Hermanos, a Mexican market in Westland, carries "many things that many places don't sell, like piñatas and homemade pork rinds and tamales," said Reyes Arreola, owner. An assortment of jerseys, T-shirts and other apparel provide possibilities for under-the-Christmas-tree gifts. Piñatas — three sizes of the decorated papier-mâché containers dangle from the store's ceiling — entertain kids as well as adults on happy occasions. Like guacamole? Choose a mild or hot made-in-house variety. Other deli items include mild to very hot salsa, chicken feet (good for soup-making), beef tongue, goat, and, made-in-house chorizo. Shelves are packed with dry spices, Hispanic taco seasonings, and sweets. An eatery, which is attached to the market, serves authentic Mexican fare.

- Not to worry if Japanese is an unfamiliar language. Signs and many labels at One World Market, Michigan's largest Japanese market located in Novi, are bi-lingual. Two cases hold a medley of must-be-cooked-before-eating halibut, snapper, mackerel, butter fish and other fresh fish; and, a variety of safe-to-eat-raw fish like blue fin tuna, whelk and conch. Green tea- and red beans-flavored Mochi Ice Cream Bonbons, plum wine, fresh fruits and veggies, cooking supplies, and, an in-house sushi bar are among the highlights.

- Polanka Market in Livonia features a slew of holiday heat-and-serve meals like stuffed cabbage, city chicken and potato pancakes. Soup choices include dill, dill pickle, and chicken noodle. An assortment of deli meats, baked goods and shelves packed with a variety of Polish cookies, candies and canned goods can also be purchased.

- All things Irish — and then some — decorate the shelves at Colleen's Gaelic Gifts in Livonia. "I carry Waterford crystal, Belleek Parian China, and, a large selection of jewelry, especially Gaelic wedding bands," said Colleen Haggerty, owner. Edibles — a plate of Irish cookies sits on the counter for customers to sample — and, a selection of teas, music CDs, and, "everything in between" make shopping for everyone's "wish list" an easy task. Most merchandise is made in Ireland. Michigan and USA products also are featured.

LOCAL ETHNIC MARKETS

- **Hellenic Bakery & Grocery**, 33306 W. Seven Mile, Livonia, (248) 476-2080; Greek
- **Cantoro Italian Market**, 19710 Middlebelt, Livonia, (248) 478-2345, www.cantoromarket.com
- **DiMaggio's Italian Bakery**, 25861 W. Six Mile, Redford, (313) 538-9665
- **Simply Polish**, 6201 Middlebelt, Garden City, (734) 525-2800, www.simplypolishusa.com
- **Da Zhong Food Market**, 28860 Seven Mile, Livonia, (248) 426-9798; Chinese
- **Dos Hermanos**, 34707 Ford Road, Westland, (734) 326-0523; Mexican
- **Ackroyd's Scottish Bakery**, 25566 Five Mile, Redford, (313) 532-1181, www.ackroydsbakery.com
- **One World Market**, 42705 Grand River Ave., Novi, (248) 374-0844, www.oneworldmarket.us; Japanese
- **Polanka**, 28905 Plymouth Road, Livonia, (734) 466-9725; Polish
- **New International Market**, 15383 Inkster Road, Livonia, (734) 522-2220; European and Mid-eastern
- **Colleen's Gaelic Gifts**, 15373 Farmington Road, Livonia, (734) 513-2107, www.colleensirishgiftshop.com
- **Beirut Bakery**, 25706 Schoolcraft, Redford, (313) 533-4422, www.beirutbakery.net; Mid-eastern
- **Uri Market**, 31557 W. 13 Mile, Farmington Hills, (248) 488-0477; Korean
- **Loaf & A Pound**, 34815 Ford Road, Westland, (734) 728-5623, www.loafpound.com; Italian
- **August Chinese Market**, 42488 Cherry Hill, Canton, (248) 844-8688, www.chinesemarketusa.com
- **Maria's Italian Bakery**, 41706 W. 10 Mile, Novi, (248) 348-0545, www.mariasitalianbakery.com
- **Vani Food**, 38245 W. 10 Mile, Farmington Hills, (248) 919-0062, www.vanifood.com; Indian
- **Namaste Plaza**, 34703 Grand River Ave., Farmington Hills, (248) 476-7500; Indian
- **Koyama Shoten**, 37176 Six Mile, Livonia, (734) 464-1480, www.koyama-shoten.com; Japanese
- **Bombay Grocers**, 45510 Ford Road, Canton, (734) 459-2016; Indian
- **Jeramm Westside Oriental Store**, 29454 Ford Road, Garden City, (734) 421-0019
- **Dedo's Marketplace**, 33021 Grand River Ave., Farmington, (248) 476-0300; Arabic, Eastern European and Indian

Indian spice, like masala powder, or an Indian vegetable, she heads to Vani Food in Farmington Hills or Namaste Plaza in Farmington. "I use the powder to cook Indian gravies," said Prabhun of Farmington Hills, who is a regular customer at both markets. The stores carry an assortment of groceries, fresh vegetables (coccinia grandis, an ivy gourd, can be found only at Namaste), and Indian CDs and DVDs.

- Sausage rolls, meat pies, candy bars and a selection of pastries from Ackroyd's Scottish Bakery elicit happy childhood memories for Derek Marshall of Livonia. "If we behaved ourselves, these (edibles) would show up," said Marshall, chuckling. Shortbread and Empire Biscuits (buttery shortbread cookies filled with strawberry jam and topped with white icing and a cherry piece) are some favorites. During the holiday season, said Allan Ackroyd, co-owner, "steak pies for Christmas dinner are popular." This Redford market also carries a variety of imported items from the Unit-



One World Market, a Japanese grocer in Novi, carries fresh produce.

ed Kingdom including gift boxes of assorted Cadbury candy bars; Christmas Crackers (colorful wrapped cardboard tubes typically filled with small gifts and candies); and traditional Christmas puddings.

- A medley of pleasant scents — fresh-from-the-oven Italian bread and pepperoni rolls, among them — filtered throughout DiMaggio's Italian Bakery and Catering in Redford on a recent Saturday. Debbie Dahlman of Plymouth picked up a "to go" order of pasta salad, dinner rolls, and broast-

ed chicken. "THE best chicken!" Dahlman said. At a table just inside the bakery's door, customers nibbled on Italian subs and sipped bottles of red birch beer, a hard-to-find, cane-sugar-sweetened soda. Sweets, perfect for holiday gift-giving, include cannolis (sprinkled with mini-chocolate chips or dotted with peanuts), chocolate-raspberry cakes, and a selection of cookies. Made-to-order beef, pork or lamb meatballs, or a combination of any of the three, are favorite customer requests. "Whatever people need, that's what we do," said Steve DiMaggio, who is co-owner with his wife, Tina Zdravkovski.

- When Kathy and Franklin Luxon decided they wanted "something different and unique" to add to their bridal registry, they knew just where to find it. Simply Polish in Garden City. "It's the only place (in the area) where you can get authentic Polish pottery," said Kathy Luxon. The stoneware, adorned in patterns of blue, green and earth tones, has roots dating back to the early 19th

As temps fall, be aware of safety in home heating

'Tis the season for rosy cheeks, button-down coats, and cranking up the heat. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), it's also the time of year when home fires peak, many of which are caused by heating equipment. "Half of all home heating fires occur during December, January, and February, when we are fully utilizing our heating systems," said Lorraine Carli, vice president of communications for NFPA. "The public can reduce their risk of getting left out in the cold by following NFPA's safe heating behaviors."

In NFPA's report "Home Fires Involving Heating Equipment," in 2009, heating equipment was involved in an estimated 58,900 reported home structure fires, 480 civilian deaths, 1,520 civilian injuries, and \$1.1 billion in direct property damage. Stationary and portable space heaters accounted for one-third (32 percent) of reported home heating fires, but nearly 80 percent of the home heating fire deaths, two-thirds (66 percent) of associated civilian injuries, and half (52 percent) of associated direct property damage.

Overall, fires, injuries and damages from fires involving heating equipment were all lower than in 2008 and fit into a largely level trend over the past few years. The number of deaths from heating equipment was virtually unchanged.

As temperatures begin to drop, here are some safe heating behaviors to follow:

- All heaters need space. Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from heating equipment, like the furnace, fireplace, wood stove, or portable space heater.
- Have a three-foot "kid-free zone" around open fires and space heaters.
- Never use your oven to heat your home.
- Have a qualified professional install stationary space heating equipment, water heaters or central heating equipment according to the local codes and manufacturer's instructions.
- Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional.
- Remember to turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Always use the right kind of fuel, specified by the manufacturer, for fuel-burning space heaters.
- Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room. Ashes should be cool before put-



ting them in a metal container. Keep the container a safe distance away from your home.

• Test smoke alarms monthly.
NFPA is a worldwide leader in fire, electrical, building, and life safety. The mis-

sion of the international nonprofit organization founded in 1896 is to reduce the worldwide burden of fire and other hazards on the quality of life by providing and advocating consensus codes and standards, research, training, and education.

Lincoln strong college town

By Robert Meisner
Guest Columnist

Q: My son is thinking about going to the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. I am wondering if you happen to have any information about the opportunities for rental and/or purchase in that city?

A: I find that the Lincoln real estate market is similar to that of Ann Arbor. There are lots of apartments and condominiums available for purchase and/or rental, and the economy is relatively strong. Indeed, I have



Robert Meisner

found, in my experience, that the people there are extremely friendly and helpful to persons visiting the city as

they appreciate the basis for an energized economy. You should consult with at least two or three Realtors to find who is best able to fill your needs.

Q: Has the property in San Francisco, in terms of residential housing, taken a dip at all because of the recession, and how does it stand now?

A: It has basically stayed stable. It has not decreased as much as most of the rest of the country; however, the constant appreciation that you would continue to see in, for example, Marin County, has not directly benefited San Francisco proper itself, but it is still extremely expensive to buy or rent real estate in the city. There are opportunities if you find the right location, but obviously zoning limitations preclude new construction in various designated historic areas and as always you are best to consult with an experienced real estate professional in the locale in which you are interested.

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

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-WAYNE

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Aug. 27-31, 2012, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

1956 Liberty St N \$325,000	14117 Mayfield St \$125,000	40564 Newport Dr \$70,000
42173 Saratoga Cir \$137,000	19451 Merriman Rd \$100,000	11759 Parkview Dr \$128,000
4052 Sherwood Cir \$202,000	18377 Norwich Rd \$120,000	13036 Portsmouth Xing \$470,000
45549 Southwick Dr \$354,000	11201 Oxbow St \$64,000	14993 Robinwood Dr \$168,000
2473 Westgate Ct \$212,000	19909 Rensellor St \$63,000	101 S Union St \$165,000
2349 Woodgreen Ct \$230,000	32922 Southgate St \$205,000	101 S Union St \$166,000
2411 Woodgreen Ct \$221,000	14459 Summerside St \$123,000	49966 Standish Ct \$467,000
GARDEN CITY	NORTHVILLE	50591 Top Of Hill Ct \$500,000
7070 Burnly St \$81,000	42149 Crestview Cir \$306,000	9393 Village Manor Dr \$305,000
28523 Donnelly St \$14,000	16229 Crystal Downs E \$530,000	REDFORD
32930 Kathryn St \$29,000	16761 Franklin Rd \$45,000	12828 Beech Daly Rd \$28,000
LIVONIA	18790 Grande Vista Dr \$110,000	18292 Gaylord \$32,000
15352 Brookfield St \$100,000	46444 Greenridge Dr \$400,000	9624 Hemingway \$92,000
17148 Brookview Dr \$115,000	16046 Morningside \$120,000	25711 Lyndon \$80,000
30261 Buckingham St \$134,000	17022 Niagara Ct \$483,000	17451 Macarthur \$62,000
9258 California St \$83,000	17553 Parkshore Dr \$790,000	18401 Negaunee \$67,000
28554 Cleveland St \$58,000	16136 Thorndyke Ct \$315,000	13995 Seminole \$28,000
9130 Colorado St \$130,000	PLYMOUTH	23643 W Chicago \$15,000
14449 Fairway St \$215,000	1664 Cassidy Place Dr \$170,000	WESTLAND
11736 Farmington Rd \$76,000	9862 Dorian Dr \$283,000	2103 Elbridge Ct \$4,000
19001 Gillman St \$55,000	44853 Erin Dr \$95,000	6605 N Wildwood St \$80,000
18351 Heatherlea Dr \$301,000	11665 Lorenz Way \$392,000	1266 Selma St \$94,000
35940 Jamison St \$120,000	40526 Newport Dr \$58,000	1536 Woodbourne St \$79,000

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-OAKLAND

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Aug. 13-17, 2012, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

658 Sedgfield Dr \$224,000	26384 Crestwood Dr \$473,000
1440 Stuyvesant Rd \$643,000	51152 E Bourne Ter \$45,000
856 Thorntree Ct \$321,000	24912 Hadlock Dr \$656,000
3680 W Bradford Dr \$279,000	24368 Hampton Hill St \$129,000
138 W Hickory Grove Rd \$485,000	25613 Hillsdale Dr \$530,000
COMMERCE TOWNSHIP	25786 Island Lake Dr \$440,000
2871 Augusta Dr \$246,000	40598 Lenox Park Dr \$257,000
2969 Gabriel Dr \$119,000	40608 Lenox Park Dr \$261,000
FARMINGTON	40622 Lenox Park Dr \$259,000
22611 Brookdale St \$125,000	24407 Saybrook Ct \$486,000
22799 Hawthorne St \$68,000	45342 Sedra Ct \$40,000
FARMINGTON HILLS	40437 Village Wood Rd \$212,000
35072 Bunker Hill Dr \$190,000	2012 West Lake Dr \$158,000
29700 Drake Rd \$140,000	28279 Wolcott Dr \$84,000
23116 Glenmoor Hts \$117,000	SOUTH LYON
34227 Glouster Cir \$295,000	23791 Copperwood Dr W \$68,000
33117 Hopecrest Ct \$150,000	20919 Greenbriar Cir \$210,000
30146 Kimberly Ct \$225,000	435 Lyon Ct \$81,000
24153 Noble Dr \$152,000	24739 Martindale Rd \$35,000
32308 Red Clover Rd \$175,000	24317 Padstone Dr \$75,000
21521 Riverwalk Ct \$234,000	24445 Peters Barn Ct \$325,000
21684 Rockwell St \$139,000	23497 Prescott Ln W \$406,000
30336 Shawwassee Rd \$121,000	24848 Purlin Ct \$71,000
23217 Springbrook Dr \$93,000	1143 Shetland Dr \$305,000
36451 Valley Ridge Dr \$118,000	53903 Springwood Dr \$25,000
25390 Wykeshire Rd \$189,000	SOUTHFIELD
Lathrup Village \$98,000	28209 E Kalong Cir \$110,000
17545 Roseland Blvd \$98,000	21754 Frazer Ave \$32,000
MILFORD	30161 Marshall St \$55,000
840 Annie Lang Dr \$385,000	23012 Plum Brooke Dr \$72,000
215 Franklin St \$222,000	28540 Selkirk St \$29,000
1433 Hunters Lake Dr \$413,000	21700 W 11 Mile Rd \$2,050,000
800 Milford Glen Cir \$288,000	21270 W Eight Mile Rd \$124,000
192 Turnberry Ct \$244,000	WHITE LAKE
1302 Yellowstone Valley Dr \$25,000	490 Burgess Dr \$379,000
NOVI	8706 Cooley Beach Dr \$155,000
50719 Amesburg Dr \$530,000	2008 Drury Ln \$115,000
24576 Bashian Dr \$45,000	814 Farnsworth Rd \$370,000
50685 Calvert Isle Dr \$505,000	9463 Marina Dr \$43,000
50721 Calvert Isle Dr \$635,000	1490 Midwood Dr \$160,000
24468 Cavendish Ave E \$425,000	10225 Pontiac Lake Rd \$110,000
50875 Chesapeake Dr \$625,000	
23418 Cranbrooke Dr \$124,000	

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