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MILITARY TROOPS  
A MERRY CHRISTMAS**  
COMMUNITY LIFE, B5

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CLASSIFIED, SECTION C

**'PARENTAL  
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USA WEEKEND

USA WEEKEND

BILLY  
BETTE'S  
TIPS FOR  
PARENTS

**Meeting  
schedule**

The Wayne-Westland school board has approved its meeting schedule for 2013.

With the switch to even year school elections, the board's annual organizational meeting will be on Jan. 14. The meeting will include the election of the board president, vice president, secretary and treasurer.

The school board meetings are at 7 p.m. and are held in the district's administrative offices at 36745 Marquette, Westland. The other meeting dates for 2013 will be Monday, Feb. 11, March 18, April 22, May 20, June 10, July 15, Aug. 26, Sept. 23, Oct. 21, Nov. 11 and Dec. 9.

**Blood Drive**

In the mood for giving this holiday season? Well, be sure to put the gift of life on your list.

Hurricane Sandy has affected blood banks and there is a high demand for donors. In an effort to help, the William P. Faust Public Library will hold a blood drive Thursday, Dec. 20. The American Red Cross will be at the library 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

To make an appointment, log on to [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) and enter sponsor code: wplccp or call 800-RED-CROSS. Everyone who donates in December is eligible to win a \$500 VISA gift card from the Red Cross. Individuals age 17 or over (age 16 with permission slip) can donate.

The library is a 6123 Central City Parkway, north of Ford Road.

**Holiday  
photo  
contest**

Enter your favorite holiday photo in a contest for a chance to win a \$20 gift card to a department store.

Upload a picture of your house in lights, a visit with Santa or anything related to the holidays. Share the link with friends and see if you come out on top! You and your Facebook friends are allowed one vote per day.

To find the contest, go to our website, [Hometownlife.com](http://Hometownlife.com), and look on the right-hand side in our Don't Miss module. Clicking on the photo of the Christmas presents will take you to the contest page. The voting ends Dec. 30. Good luck!

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**Obama talks 'fiscal cliff' with Wild and Haidous**

By Sue Mason  
Observer Staff Writer

Just two days after visiting Redford, President Barack Obama was again talking to elected leaders in Michigan, explaining the ins and outs of the "fiscal cliff."

The conversation came by way of a conference call to 100

of America's mayors, including Westland's William Wild. The conference call included a discussion of the president's plan to extend middle-class tax cuts and a balanced approach to deficit reduction.

"The president tried to break down the fiscal cliff in easy terms so local officials can explain it to people," said Wild.

"He did a really good job of explaining it."

Two mayors from each state were selected by the U.S. Conference of Mayors to participate in the phone call. In addition to Wild, Flint Mayor Dayne Walling was selected to participate. The mayors were encouraged to reach out to other mayors and elected officials. Wayne Mayor Al

Haidous, Melvindale Mayor Stacy Striz and Trenton Mayor Kyle Stack, Westland City Councilman Dewey Reeves and Michael Kehler, several ministers and members of the community participated in the call, which lasted almost 30 minutes.

"We had a very productive con-

Please see OBAMA, A2



School board President Carol Middell presents a plaque to outgoing board secretary Cindy Schofield. The Wayne resident is leaving the board after serving more than 12 years.

**Wayne Police investigate theft of Salvation Army kettle**

By LeAnne Rogers  
Observer Staff Writer

Some people seem to lack that holiday spirit — like the man who stole the kettle from a Salvation Army bell ringer last Tuesday.

The bell ringer was in front of the Kroger store on East Michigan Avenue at Elizabeth in Wayne, collecting donations for the Salvation Army just before 4:30 p.m.

"Someone pulled up in a blue Dodge Durango. A black male got out of the passenger side of the vehicle and grabbed the bucket," said Wayne Police Detective Kevin Schmidtko. "Then he got back into the vehicle and fled eastbound on Brush."

The driver of the vehicle was described as a white male. Both suspects were described as 20-30 years old. The black male was described as being dressed entirely in black and wearing a black hat.

"No weapon was shown or implied," said Schmidtko.

It was estimated that the stolen kettle contained less than \$200 in cash.

"This is the first one of these incidents I've investigated but that doesn't mean there had not been other ones," Schmidtko said.

Anyone with information on the theft or the suspects can contact Schmidtko at (734) 721-1414, Ext. 1509.

This year the Wayne-Westland Salvation Army is working to raise \$200,000 in the red kettles located in front of local stores. Last year it raised \$185,000. As of last week, \$105,450 had been raised through kettle donations and \$7,000 in mail donations.

Last year, the local Salvation Army Corps assisted 522 families for a total of 1,921 people with Christmas food and toys. Currently there are more than 400 families registered for assistance with the total number expected to reach 600 families.

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(313) 222-5428

**In leaving, Schofield challenges W-W board to 'focus on children'**

By Sue Mason  
Observer Staff Writer

When Cindy Schofield joined the Wayne-Westland school board she thought she knew quite a bit about how the district operated. She now knows differently.

Last Monday evening, Schofield made her last comments and cast her last vote and challenged her colleagues to "focus on the children." One of the district's longest serving board

members, she is stepping down after 12½ years on the board.

She was honored by her colleagues and school officials at the board's last meeting of 2012.

"I will miss you terribly," board President Carol Middell told Schofield in presenting her with a plaque in recognition of her years of service.

"In fact, I even tried to come up with a committee, a job, a title of school board trustee emeritus, so I could constantly tap you for the wonderful ideas, the things you

have learned over the years and the skills and expertise you have brought to the board. You will be missed, but I have your phone number," said Middell.

Schofield was elected to the school board in 2000 and successfully ran for re-election in 2004 and 2008. Due to a state law which moved school elections to November in even years, her final term was extended an additional six months.

Please see SCHOFIELD, A2

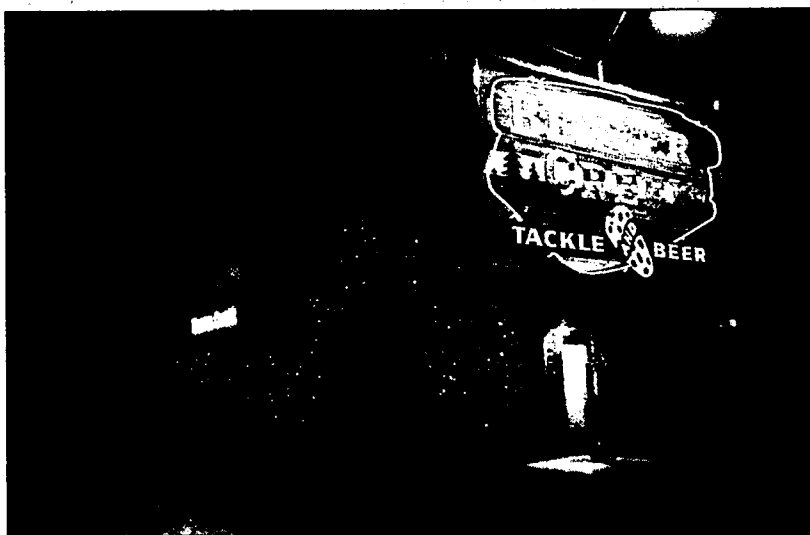
**Big, blue Beaver Creek lights up for holidays**

By Sue Mason  
Observer Staff Writer

General manager Misty Lindquist has wanted to decorate the exterior of Beaver Creek Tackle and Beer in Westland for several years and even went so far as to get a price to have someone do it. But when she told co-owner Steve Hazergian the amount, he laughed and said that wasn't going to happen.

"It was kind of pricey and I told her I could do it for less," said the Plymouth Township resident.

And he did. With a few friends and eight hours of work over two days, Hazergian transformed two sides of the popular restaurant into dazzling display of blue lights — 9,600 blue LED lights, to be exact. "I got a call at 11 p.m. one evening from a woman who lived in Westland who said that was the nicest thing to do, it really brightened the area," said Lindquist. "The other night a lady drove by and saw it. She turned around,



STEPHEN CANTRELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Steve Hazergian may have gotten the idea from the city of Rochester, but the 9,600 LED blue lights has been a show stopper at Beaver Creek Restaurant in Westland.

came back and came in to say how nice it was."

"We've had people taking family pictures in front of the building, we've definitely had a positive

response," said Hazergian. "This is our 29th season here and we decided to do something different

Please see LIGHTS, A2

# SCHOFIELD

Continued from page A1

"I want to thank the community for electing me three times to this position," said Schofield. "I was honored each and every time that you put your trust in me. I tried always to respect the office and remember that I represented the Wayne-Westland Community Schools whether I was sitting in a board meeting, attending a school function or shopping in the local grocery store."

School Superintendent Greg Baracy called Schofield "a visionary" who was always calm and persistent.

"She made many contributions to the district, but more importantly to the children we serve," Baracy said. "I'm deeply thankful for what she has given to us."

Trustee Shawna Walker admitted that Schofield wasn't one of her big fans when she joined the board.

"But we quickly learned we had a lot in common and could work together on the board," Walker said. "I now consider her a friend."

"I don't think the meeting could last long enough to cover all her successes," added Trustee Frederick Weaver. "From something so simple and so profound, you were always there."

Trustee Thomas Buckalew who served with Schofield for 1½ years told her she had been an asset in his understanding of what was going on. She also slapped his hand when she caught him taking notes during a closed meeting.

"I didn't learn quite quick enough," Buckalew joked. In closing the meeting, Schofield acknowledged the "many wonderful parents and students" she has met, and the district administrators, teachers and support staff "who have always had time to listen to my crazy ideas and answer my questions."

She also thanked her three sons - Joshua, Justin and Jacob - who shared her with 12,000 other students and her husband David who "served

as my sounding board and helped out at home to make everything run smoothly."

She added that when she joined the board she was passionate about continuing to improve the schools, provide quality textbooks, a music program that reached down into the elementary schools and a Talented and Gifted Program. Over the years, she added a few passions - the district's award-winning JROTC program, the sports programs, the career technical center and the Upward Bound program that "pushes students to excel."

"I couldn't have done this job without the support of the 17 other board members I served with over the years," she added. "I challenge those of you who will carry on the legacy of past boards to always put the children of this district first."

She cautioned board members about the "many individuals or groups who will try to pull your focus from the children" and reminded them to "focus on the big picture not the minutia."

"Remember you have been entrusted with our community's future," she said.

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Westland Mayor William Wild was joined by Wayne Mayor Al Haidous in a conference call with President Barack Obama a day after he spoke in Redford.

# OBAMA

Continued from page A1

versation, not only did we get a better understanding for what these potential tax cuts mean, but we were able to hear the president's passion for the middle class and what seemed like a genuine willingness to work with Congress," Wild said.

The president did take questions from mayors he selected from the list. Wild had hoped that the president would have reached out to one of the Michigan mayors because

the president had been in Redford on Monday.

In July, President Obama issued a proposal that would extend middle class tax cuts for the 98 percent of Americans who earn less than \$250,000 a year, which was passed by the Senate a few weeks later. However, if Congress fails to decide by the end of the year, families could see a tax increase that of \$2,300 for a typical middle class family of four.

According to a White House report, approximately 3.7 million Michigan families will face the potential increase.

The president stressed the importance of preventing American families, as well as a majority of small businesses, from paying higher taxes next year and urged mayors and county officials to "call on Congress to extend tax cuts and not hold the middle class hostage," Wild said.

"It was a real honor to be invited by the White House and President Obama to hear his thoughts and feelings on this extremely important matter," said Wild.

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# LIGHTS

Continued from page A1

for a wow factor." Hazergian got the idea, with the help of Lindquist, from the city of Rochester, where businesses in the downtown are covered in lights for the holiday season.

Hazergian initially thought of using clear LED lights, which come on longer lengths, but at the suggestion of Linda Egeland, who does the

interior designs, he used 160 strands of blue lights. Taking into consideration the building's facade, he strung a chain across the bottom, fastened to wood between the cultured stone. He attached the lights to the chain with plastic fasteners and was able to staple the strands to wood at the top.

The strings of lights are four inches apart and are plugged into each other. Since LED lights use less power, Hazergian was able to connect 45 sets together, cutting down

the number of plugs to three.

Hazergian will probably leave the lights up until March, but turn them off for good by Jan. 8. He wants to get a few years out the lights and figures waiting for warmer weather will avoid cracked wiring.

He's happy with the response to the light show, but said his intention wasn't to start something although it would be nice if other businesses did.

"I wanted to create a

wow factor on Wayne Road," he said.

He's succeeded in doing that, but he's now concerned about the other restaurants — Deadwood Bar and Grill in Northville, the Moose Preserve and Iroquois Club in Bloomfield Hills and Club Ticonderoga in Troy — he and his three other partners own.

"They're going to want the same thing next year," he said.

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Volunteers strike a pose following last year's Christmas Day dinner.

## St. Dunstan serves dinner to those alone on Christmas Day

By Sue Buck  
Observer Staff Writer

Margaret Jane Chapman marked her calendar early and made reservations for the annual Christmas Day Dinner at St. Dunstan Church in Garden City.

She loved it the first time she attended four or five years ago and looks forward to it again this year.

She has no family nearby.

"It's fun," said Chapman, a Livonia resident. "We sing Christmas carols."

St. Dunstan has made it a tradition to serve dinner for those who are alone on Christmas Day.

Judy Larry, a Realtor known affectionately as "Judy O," always tells people to bring a hearty appetite, a joyful spirit and a voice ready to join in on a Christmas carols sing-along. People from throughout the area who need a place to go on Christmas Day are treated like family at the free holiday dinner.

Larry, an organizer of the annual dinner, wants fun to punctuate the occasion, and guests to be treated royally.

"We have people to take their coats," Larry said.

"And we always give them a little gift."

The doors open at 1 p.m. and the dinners will be served about 2 p.m. Reservations are preferred but no one is turned away that day.

Larry's family knows how dedicated she is to this effort. They also volunteer with her.

She looks forward to the event which she called, "really, really nice."

After serving her own family a Christmas breakfast at home, her children and grandchildren know that if they want to see more of Grandma Judy, they can follow her over to the church complex on Belton, south of Ford in Garden City. They roll up their sleeves and pitch in to serve the guests.

Larry's volunteers haven't wavered through the years. Larry took over the task more than 10 years ago from volunteers John and Mary Surge.

Larry becomes emotional at the vision of the recipients' grateful faces and when she recalls hearing their voices when they call and leave their names as they RSVP. The guests reach her directly when they

call. Recipients come from everywhere including Livonia, Plymouth, Wayne, Detroit and Dearborn. They have no one else to be with that day.

"This whole church hall is filled on Christmas Day," Larry said. "People have no family, nowhere to go and just need to be with someone."

Larry said that St. Dunstan is the only church in the area that hosts a dinner Christmas Day. More than 100 people came to dinner last year; many were senior citizens.

People make cash donations to help offset the costs for the dinner, which is funded through St. Dunstan's Christian Service fund. That money also feeds hundreds of people during the year through the church's food pantry program.

The full sit-down dinner will include turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, salad, rolls, butter and an assortment of desserts. Larry likes to have a lot of baked goods on hand. People who want to donate something can drop it off at the parish office.

For reservations, call Larry at (734) 595-3049.

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Jessuca Thomas and Jennifer Williams have volunteered at St. Dunstan's annual Christmas Day dinner.

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## ACHIEVERS

Six Garden City residents are among 2,600 students graduating from Wayne State University this semester. Receiving their diplomas are Erin Cummins, bachelor's degree in professional nursing; Danya Jaber, bachelor's degree in psychology; Nickolas Keane, master's degree in biomedical engineering; Bethany Moses, master's degree in music; Ekoyata Ulinfun, bachelor's degree in sociology; Karen Zalewski, bachelor's degree in psychology, and Hannah Zorkot, bachelor's degree in accounting.

Joshua Pugliesi of Westland graduated this past summer from Northwood University in Midland with a bachelor of business administration degree.

Adam Bonner of Garden City has been accepted at Coastal Carolina University in Conway, near Myrtle Beach, S.C., for the fall 2013 semester. A Garden City High School student, he plans to major in marketing.

Hannah Mielke, a senior at Hope College, served as a play coach for the 78th annual Nykerk Cup competition.

The Nykerk Cup competition, an annual Hope College tradition since 1935, involves freshman and sophomore women competing in the areas of song, oration and drama. Participants practice for 3 1/2 weeks before the competition. The freshman and sophomore teams are coached by juniors and seniors respectively. Moralers, men of the same graduating class as the women, encourage the teams in their efforts.

This year the freshman class of 2016 won the competition.

Mielke, the daughter of Bruce and Jennifer Mielke, is a graduate of Lutheran High School Westland.

Cameron Bassett of Garden City is enrolled at Heidelberg University in Tiffin, Ohio, for the fall semester. Bassett is among a group that ranks as the eighth largest class of new and transfer students to enter Heidelberg.

Founded in 1850, Heidelberg is affiliated with the United Church of Christ.

## Dads become WATCH D.O.G.S. at Walker-Winter

Walker-Winter is going to the dogs - the WATCH D.O.G.S. (Dads Of Great Students), an innovative program being used by schools across America to help positively impact the lives of students by having a committed involvement of fathers and father figures.

The goal of the program is to have men spend at least one day at the school to be a positive male role model for all of the students and to provide an extra set of eyes and ears.

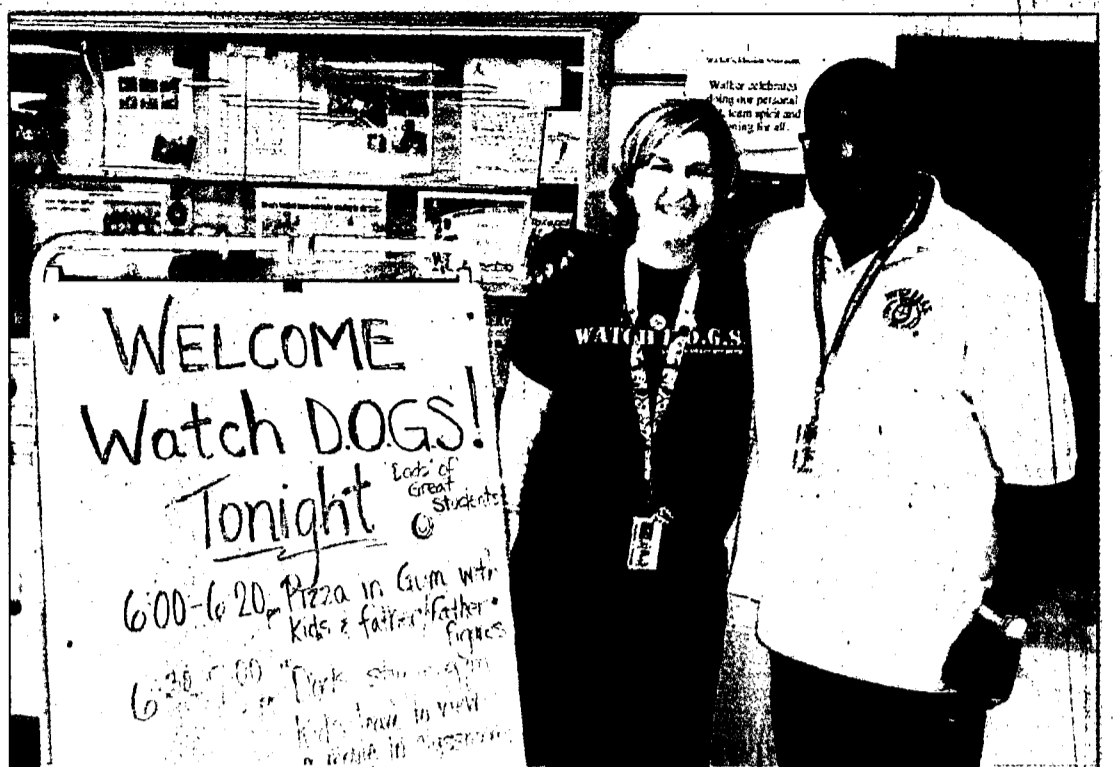
Walker-Winter is the first school in Wayne-Westland to begin using this program, which offers a chance for fathers, grandpas, uncles, step-dads and adult brothers to spend a day helping out.

WATCH D.O.G.S. hosted their first annual Dads and Kids Pizza Night on Dec. 5 and had more 100 dads. They were treated to pizza and had a chance to mingle with other families. Then the kids watched a movie while the WATCH D.O.G.S. program was explained to the dads.

"Our attendance was excellent," said Walker-Winter Principal Julie Mytych. "We had over 84 father and father figures and 108 students in attendance."

WATCH D.O.G.S. was started by the National Center for Fathering. The mission is to improve the well being of children by inspiring and equipping men to be more effectively involved in the lives of children.

"All we ask is for you to spend one day of your valuable time at school," said Mytych. "Each watch dog will help out greeting students in the morning, supporting students in classrooms, in the lunchroom, at recess, during specials and in the hallways. Our dads are asked to be a positive role model for all of our students." Top DOG Andrew Dobbins, Sr. is



Principal Julie Mytych welcomes top D.O.G. Andrew Dobbins Sr. to Walker-Winter Elementary School in Canton.

a lunchroom volunteer and grandfather of two former Walker-Winter students leads the group.

"I would like to challenge all male role models to step up to the plate," Dobbins said. "The time is now; our students of today will be our leaders of tomorrow, so man up."

The team is made up of one dad from each grade level. It is their job to recruit and communicate with other male role models. Mytych's goal is to have every dad or father figure volunteer one day at the school.

"They will make a positive impact on kids," she said, adding that "more would be great too."

Mytych recruited her father, brother, members from the Canton Kiwanis Club and even a local police officer and firefighter.

WATCH D.O.G.S. has two main purposes - education

and safety in schools. They will provide a fathering presence and a positive and active role model for students.

While at Walker-Winter they will monitor the school property, mentor kids in small groups and help plant the seeds of success, Mytych said.

WATCH D.O.G.S. was founded by Jim Moore, a concerned father who chose to take action in response to a 1998 middle-school shooting in Jonesboro, Arkansas.

There are multiple benefits of the program. Students gain a positive male role model. Schools gain an extra set of eyes and ears. The presence of a father or father figure enhances a sense of security at the building for students and staff and helps create an environment conducive to learning.

Fathers also get a glimpse of their students' everyday world and learn about the

increasingly complex challenges and decisions today's youth are facing. They gain a greater awareness of the positive impact they can have on their student's life in three critical areas including academic performance, self-esteem and social behavior.

The WATCH D.O.G.S. program has been recognized by the United States Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and has been involved in the U.S. Department of Education's P.F.I.E. (Partnership For Family Involvement In Education) and the Department's Safe School Summit.

The WATCH D.O.G.S. program has received the endorsement of the National PTA organization and was asked to be a charter member of the PTA's M.O.R.E. program (Men Organized to Raise Engagement).

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# Right-to-work law has people talking

By Sue Buck  
Observer Staff Writer

Julie Naughton, president of the Garden City Education Association, was among the thousands of union workers who converged on the State Capitol this week to voice her opposition to the new right-to-work law.

Naughton never got inside but was surrounded by kindred voices who were there to support unions and not the right-to-work legislation.

She was disappointed at the legislative outcome.

"I can honestly say that I am ashamed to be a resident of Michigan," Naughton said. "I always thought that Michigan would be the 50th state to approve it."

Right-to-work legislation was approved last week by state lawmakers and signed by Gov. Rick Snyder last Tuesday making Michigan the nation's 24th right-to-work state.

Earlier that day, the Michigan House of Representatives sent Snyder two controversial right-to-work bills as thousands of protesters demonstrated outside the Capitol.

The House first approved House Bill 4003, 58-51, establishing a right-to-work law for public sector unions. A second bill, Senate Bill 116, which applies to private sector unions, was approved, 58-52.

Naughton said that it

was peaceful where she stood in Lansing. Loud chants, of course, were present but there were no scuffles or fights, she said.

She became concerned and a bit worried when the police appeared with masks and protective gear, an indication to her that the dreaded vote of approval was imminent.

She views the legislation as a further attack on teachers, particularly. She also pointed out that it wasn't applied fairly because public safety groups are exempt.

Some like resident Bill Saile, who once was a steelworker in a union shop and who now is a landscape maintenance employee and isn't unionized, believes that he can see the pros and cons of both sides of the union environment.

He said that unions protect poor employees often get their jobs back.

"They help people who don't deserve to be in the job that they have," Saile said. "You can't get fired for being dumb."

He added that, if fired, poor employees often get their jobs back.

"If everybody is doing their jobs correctly, you don't have to worry about your job," he said.

Some people expect other people to do their job and still get paid for it, he added.

Brian Chambers, who works as a helicopter mechanic in the Army

and just returned home from Afghanistan, said that he was just learning about the right-to-work legislation. After hearing the details, he thought that right to work was a good idea.

A 2008 Garden City High School graduate, Chambers said that he has union and non-union members in his family.

"I'm just not a fan of unions," Chambers said. "I think unions were a good thing when they started but I think people in unions don't work as hard. I think that it slows down progress."

James North, owner of North Brothers Ford, said that he was in favor of the right-to-work legislation.

"We have dealt with some labor problems over the years," North said.

He believes that it is the workers' right to take the job without "paying somebody to do it."

Small business own-

er Peggy Sexton said that she is "absolutely" in favor of the legislation.

"If the unions are doing a great job, then people would want to belong to them," Sexton said. "Everybody should have their own choice, if they want to belong to a union or not."

Gene Sulewski, who is almost ready to graduate from the University of Michigan-Dearborn, already is working in a marketing research position.

"I don't personally hear talk about it at school," Sulewski said. "I do read the newspapers a lot."

He added that his father, an AT&T service manager, is a strong supporter of unions.

"He feels that right to work is one step toward dissolving the unions altogether," Sulewski said. "I can see his point."

sbuck@hometownlife.com  
(313) 222-2249

## St. Mary Mercy seeks help meeting blood drive goal

St. Mary Mercy Hospital and the American Red Cross will hold their final blood drive for 2012 from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 27, in the North Auditorium at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, Livonia.

So far this year, they have collected 422 pints of blood, just shy of their goal of 450. The American Red Cross encourages area residents to join St. Mary Mercy Hos-

pital employees and volunteers to donate blood and help meet or exceed the goal.

To schedule an appointment, call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE or visit redcrossblood.org. There will also be appointment sheets in the hospital cafeteria. Walk-ins are accepted, but appointments are preferred.

St. Mary Mercy Hospital is at 36475 Five Mile Road at Levan.

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# Disney's folly: 'Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs'

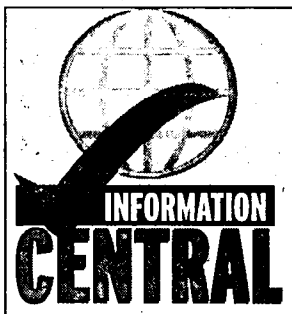
If Walt Disney's little "folly" hadn't worked out, there may not have been any Disney princesses, Disney World or Disneyland. That little folly was the first animated feature, *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, which made its premiere Dec. 21, 1937.

As much deserved credit goes to Mickey Mouse for the success of the Disney empire, there may not have been an empire, if *Snow White* had failed. What *Snow White* did achieve was movie history: first full-length animated feature, first animated feature produced in the United States, first full-color production, first Walt Disney Production film, and the first American film to have a soundtrack released with the movie.

It was named the greatest American animated film by the American Film Institute in 2008. Walt Disney also received an honorary Oscar, in the form of a full-size statue and seven dwarf-sized ones, for "significant screen innovation, which has charmed millions and pioneered a great new entertainment field."

The movie has been re-released to theaters eight times and has grossed \$416 million, which makes it still in the top 10 of American films when adjusted for inflation.

The William P. Faust Public Library has the Brothers Grimm fairy tale that was the basis for *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*. You can also find other books that have Snow White inspirations such as Tanith Lee's *White as Snow*, Gregory Maguire's *Mirror Mirror*, Bill Willingham's *Fables*, Jim C. Hines' *The Mermaid's Madness* and *The Stepsister Scheme*.



To read more about Walt Disney, check out these titles: David Koenig's *Mouse Under Glass*, Amy Boothe Green's *Remembering Walt*, Marc Eliot's *Walt Disney* and Neal Gabler's *Walt Disney*.

The library also has travel guides to help you plan your next trip to Disneyland or Disney World. The new Snow White-inspired mine ride roller coaster doesn't open until 2014 but you can always catch a glimpse of Snow White with the other princesses.

The William P. Faust Public Library of Westland is open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday-Saturday and closed Sunday and Monday. The library will also be closed Dec. 24-26 for the Christmas holiday. Visit anytime online at [westlandlibrary.org](http://westlandlibrary.org)

If you are you still in a gift-giving mood, want to help someone you may never even meet? Give the gift of life by donating your blood at the blood drive to be held at the William P. Faust Public Library of Westland. The blood drive will be 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 20. To make an appointment, log onto [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) and enter sponsor code: wplccp or call 800-RED-CROSS.

### Highlighted Activities

**Noontime Book Club:** noon Dec. 18  
*Before I Go To Sleep*



Based on the fairy tale by the Brothers Grimm, *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* was the first animated feature produced by Walt Disney.

is a psychological thriller from S.J. Watson. Due to a traumatic attack that occurred in her mid-20s, 47-year-old Christine suffers from a severe and rare form of amnesia, prohibiting her from retaining memories for more than a day. Christine's doctor, in an effort to help cure her, has encouraged her to start a journal to piece together fragments of her memories. As Christine puts the pieces together, she makes a shocking discovery about her past and her future that has massive ramifications for everyone around her. Copies will be available at the Reference Desk.

**Winter Concert in the Library:** 7 p.m. Dec. 18

It's the time of year that we endure a lot of stress and strain. The library is happy to offer an evening of musical cheer via the delightful interplay between marimbas that is *Musica Batteria* (a marimba is like a xylophone) in the Faust Area for this

winter concert. No sign-up is necessary.

**Jazzercise:** 5 p.m. Dec. 19 and 10:15 a.m. Dec. 21 and Dec. 22

Come Jazzercise at the library with Robert Cassidy. These sessions are designed for exercisers over 40 as a free trial while the Westland Friendship Center is closed. No registration necessary.

**Adult Book Discussion Group:** 7 p.m. Dec. 19

This month we are discussing *The Girl Who Fell From the Sky* by Heidi Pitlor. Eleven-year-old Rachel Morse has survived horrible tragedy that claimed the lives of her Danish mother and African American father.

Sent to live with her stern, black grandmother in Oregon, Rachel becomes painfully aware of the fact she is biracial. As she navigates the terrain of young adulthood, grief and society's demands, Rachel must search her soul to find who she really is in a world that isn't as col-

orblind as she'd thought. Limited number of copies of the book will be available at the Reference Desk.

**American Red Cross Blood Drive:** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 20

To make an appointment log onto [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) and enter sponsor code wplccp or call 800-RED-CROSS. Hurricane Sandy has affected all blood banks so there is a high demand for donors. Everyone who donates in December is eligible to win a \$500 VISA gift card from the Red Cross. Individuals age 17 or over (age 16 with permission slip) can donate. Help us reach our goal, again.

**Writers Club:** 7 p.m. Dec. 20

Have you written stories or poems that you would like others to hear, but not critique, in a casual atmosphere? Looking to get back into writing but could some support and/or exercises? Join us as Cheryl Vatcher-Martin leads the

Westland Library Writer's Club. No sign up necessary.

**Friday Night Movie:** 6:30 p.m. Dec. 21

Join us for a recently movie and a fun trivia contest (with prizes). Tonight's movie is *Hope Springs*, a drama/comedy about an older married couple who decide to go on a counseling retreat to re-invigorate their marriage. This movie is rated PG-13. Snacks and refreshments provided (donation suggested, not required). This is an after-hours event, so doors will open at 6:30 p.m. No sign-up required.

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

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

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

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

The Library will close Dec. 25 and 26 for the Christmas holiday. Regular hours will resume on Thursday, Dec. 27.

Information Central was compiled by Susan Harrison, technical services librarian. The William P. Faust Public Library is at 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland. For more information, call (734) 326-6123 or go online to [westlandlibrary.org](http://westlandlibrary.org).

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## St. Damian holds dodge ball tournament

The balls will be flying when Athletic Department of St. Damian Athletic School in Westland hosts a dodge ball tournament Friday, Dec. 28.

The tournament will start at 6:30 p.m. and will be held in the gymnasium of the school at 30055 Joy Road, west of Middlebelt, in Westland. Check-in will be at 6 p.m. It's open to children age eight and older and adults.

Participants can register as individuals or as teams. Individuals will be teamed up with other individuals to make a team. The fee is \$5 per person or \$40 per team. Registration fees and forms can be filled out on day of event, however, early payment guarantees a spot in the tournament.

A team of six to eight people will play best out of three games. Special foam dodge balls will be used, in the games which will last five minutes each. The object of the game is to eliminate all opposing players by getting them "out." That can be accomplished by:

- Hitting an oppos-

ing player with a live, legally thrown ball below the shoulders.

- Catching a live ball thrown by an opponent before it touches the ground.

- Causing an opponent to lose control of a held ball as a result of contact by a thrown live ball which usually occurs when a ball is being used to block a thrown ball.

- The stepping out of bounds by a player.

The rules of the game also can be found on the website.

Registration form can be found online under the Sports tab of the St. Damian website at [www.stdamian.com](http://www.stdamian.com). Registration also can be completed by sending an email to [sports@stdamian.com](mailto:sports@stdamian.com) or by calling or texting (248) 504-7563.

Checks should be made payable to St. Damian and mailed to Athletic Director, St. Damian Parish, 30055 Joy Road, Westland, MI 48185. The fee also can be paid the day of the tournament.

There also is a \$1 charge for non-players to watch the games, and a concession stand will be available.

## Residents celebrate holiday at park's open house

The holidays came to Westland's Historic Village Park last week with the annual Christmas open house and visit with Santa at the Octagon House.

Hosted by the Westland Historical Commission and Westland Historical Society, guests enjoyed cookies and hot chocolate and were eager to tour the buildings. Johnson estimates that 250 adults and 70 children stopped by.

"We had a good turnout," said Jo Johnson. "We had children come in with parents and grandparents and they looked the place over."

The Westland Downtown Development Authority helped decorate the village string lights on the Octagon and Rowe house and stringing roping and hanging wreaths on the other buildings. A lack of outdoor plugs limited the light display.

"We'll take care of that and next year we'll be a



STEPHEN CANTRELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Kailei Cleary of Westland wore her best dress for a visit and picture with Santa Claus who stopped by the Octagon House at the Westland Historic Village Park for the annual Christmas open house.

light fest," she added.

Youngsters had an opportunity to visit with Santa in the Octagon House and families were encouraged to take pic-

tures. There also was a friendly contest, with guests invited to guess how many green and red M&Ms were in a jar.

Randy Dunn was the

winner who guessed that the jar contained 7,800 M&Ms. The correct amount was 8,460. His prize? The jar of M&Ms.

By Sue Mason

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# All hands on deck

## Sea cadets commission school as training 'ship'

### SEA CADET CORPS

Sea Cadet organizations exist in most of the maritime nations of the world. Recognizing the value of these organizations in educating youth in maritime matters, the Department of the Navy requested the Navy League of the United States to establish a similar program for American youth. The Navy League agreed to do so and formally established the Naval Sea Cadet Corps (NSCC) and Navy League

Cadet Corps (NLCC) in 1958. The Sea Cadets program is for youth age 13-17, while the Navy League Cadets are for those age 11-14. The James M. Hannan Division and the Training Ship Bristol Bay meet at Henry Ruff School, 30300 Maplewood, Garden City. For more information, contact Lt. Ed Brennan at (248) 685-9568 or by email at Cromwell30@aol.com.

By Sue Mason  
Observer Staff Writer

For decades, Henry Ruff School in Garden City has been educating youngsters and later teenagers. But last week, the building took on a new title as the command officers and crew of the James M. Hannan Division and Training Ship Bristol Bay commissioned it as a training ship.

The ceremony was held Dec. 8 at the school which has become home for the two divisions of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps after they took "conditional command" of the facility in July.

Patterned after an official ship commissioning, two bells were sound-

ed to represent the two units, a whistle was blown and a light flashed as the Sea Cadets and Navy Leaguers were given the order to man the "ship," by LCDR Philip Winteringham of the James M. Hannan Division.

"It's a tradition in the Navy to commission a new ship, it's a very important ceremony," Winteringham told the cadets, their parents and guests. "We're also commissioning the school as a naval base and training center."

In its 48th year of operation, the Hannan Division is the oldest continuously serving sea cadet unit in the state, and possibly the second oldest unit in the United States, according to its executive



PHOTO BY TOM BEAUDOIN

Dylan Mondak receives the DAR Bronze Medal from Peggy Sue Scully, the Michigan DAR state chairperson.

officer, Lt. Ed Brennan of Milford.

### 'Awesome' program

The program draws its members from throughout southeast Michigan, with cadets coming from as far away as Howell, Grosse Pointe Park and Warren to as close as Garden City. It offers youth ages 11-18 the "unique opportunity to experience what it's like

to be in the military without making a four-year commitment."

"This program is awesome," said Jeff Warren who was at the ceremony with his wife DeShanne.

The Garden City couple have been involved in the Sea Cadet program for nine years, first with their son Kyle and now with son Weslee.

"Kyle is at Western Michigan University,

studying aviation, he discovered that through this program," said DeShanne Warren, "Weslee wants to go to the Naval Academy."

The ceremony also served as the backdrop for the presentation of awards, promotions and recognitions, including swearing in of four new members. Receiving their identification cards and saying the oath

were Patrick Snider Sr., a new instructional officer, Joseph Pope, Dylan Mondak and Dominic Pope.

Mondak, who promoted to the rank of petty officer first class during the ceremony, walked away with the most honors, including a Sea Cadet perfect attendance award as well as Theodore Roosevelt Award for overall perfect attendance during the 2012 training year. The latter award recognizes Roosevelt who, as president, was the driving force behind the creation of the Naval Sea Cadet program.

Mondak also received the Daughters of the American Revolution NCSS medal and ribbon for his exceptional and

Please see CADETS, A9

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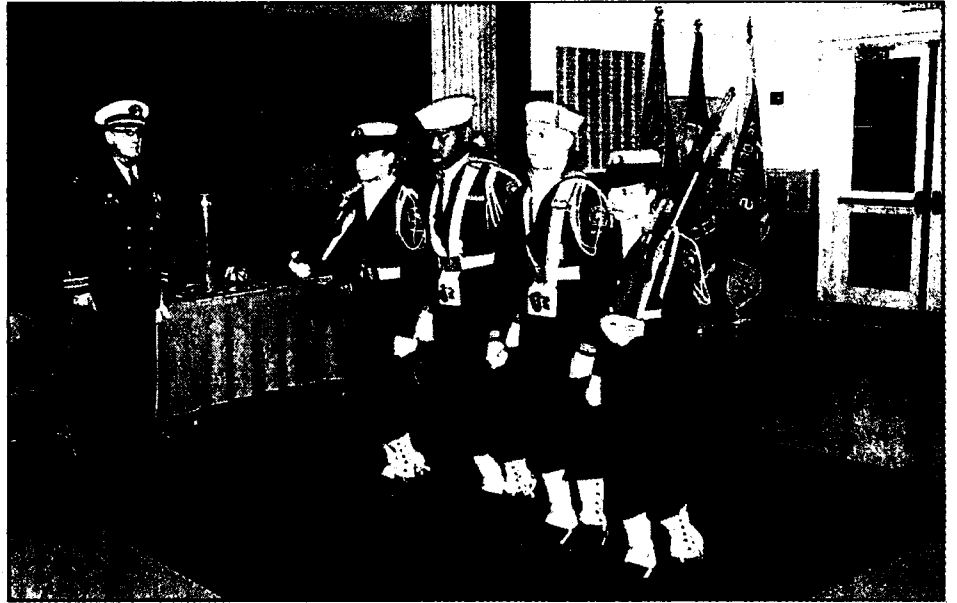
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Map showing location on Plymouth Road, near Saint Michael's Church.





Caleb Bien-Aime of Northville and Isabelle Larson of Farmington Hills receive their promotion to the rank of petty officer third class.



PHOTOS BY TOM BEAUDOIN

LCDR Philip Winteringham watches as the honor guard - Isabelle Larson, Tyrone Coleman, Dylan Mondak and Melanie Quantrell - post the colors at the commissioning ceremony.

### CADETS

Continued from page A8

meritorious performance of his duties, his leadership, character and discipline and was named the Sea Cadet of the Year for 2012.

#### Receiving awards

Also receiving the award were:

- Sea Cadets Melanie Quantrell and Nicholas Aben and Navy Leaguers John Nicolia and James Pope for perfect attendance. Pope also was awarded the Theodore Roosevelt Award.
- Caleb Bien-Aime and Isabelle Larson who were promoted to the rank of petty officer third class.
- Sea Cadet Tyrone Coleman and Navy League Cadet John Nicolia who received the Melvin J. Kates Award which recognizes inspirational leadership during the year.

James Pope who received the Navy League Cadet of the Year award from last year's recipient John Nicolia.

The program also took time to recognize several adults who have helped. Among them was instructor Julie Carl who was



Brothers Dominic and Taylor Pope of Taylor say the oath to receive their identification cards for the Sea Cadets.



Lt. Ed Brennan, the executive officer, served as master of ceremony for the commissioning ceremony.

honored for her continuing support of the program.

"We don't give this award out every year, but the staff agreed that she deserved this award," said Brennan. "This is my

go-to girl, if I want something done. She understands and reads young people very well."

"My son was a sea cadet and a very successful one," said Carl. He's now in the Navy and just made petty officer third class."

Winteringham also honored his wife Jean for her support, presenting her with a sculpture he had received many years ago.

"Without the mothers and wives, there would be no sea cadets," he said.

For Brennan, Winteringham and LCDR Leonard DeNard of the Bristol Bay, the best part of the event was hearing each of the cadets tell what they get out of the program. The cadets said the

program, among other things, taught them how to lead, helped them with their academics and for one young woman, how to iron an uniform.

"That's one of Phil's

hot buttons, he wants their uniforms to look like they're in the military," said Brennan who referred to the cadets comments as "one heck of a sales pitch for the

program." "We talk about pay and about a lot of zeroes, but this is our reward."

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## AROUND WAYNE AND WESTLAND

**Christmas Party**

Tickets are on sale for the Wayne Golden Hour Christmas Party Golden Hour Christmas Party which will start at 11:30 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 20, at the Wayne Community Center, 4635 Howe at Annapolis in Wayne.

There will be a punch reception, followed by lunch at noon.

Tickets are \$12 and can be purchased at the Wayne Community Center. For more information, call (734) 728-2900.

**Community Center**

Wayne Community is offering a lock-in visit for families this winter. Pay \$5 per visit per family and enjoy your choice of swimming, ice skating or using the indoor track. A visit is

good for 10 a.m. to noon Monday-Friday and 3:30-6 p.m. Sunday at the center, located at Annapolis and Howe. The offer is valid now through March 31.

The center also is offering winter walker/skating/swim passes. Get 30 visits to use the track, go to open skate or open swim. The cost is \$30 for residents and \$60 for non-residents. The visits are good now through March 31st.

For more information, call (734) 721-7400.

**Ice skating**

Looking for something to do on a Friday evening? Stop by the Mike Modano Ice Arena in Westland for Glow Skate 8-9:20 p.m. Fridays. Get a Glow Skate punch card. Skate five times and the sixth is free. The arena also offers.

open skate 1:30-3:20 p.m. Saturdays. The cost is \$4 for resident youth, \$5 for resident adults. Non-resident charges are \$4.50 for youth and \$5.50 for adults. Skate rental is \$3 for residents and \$3.50 for non-residents.

The arena is at 6210 Wildwood, Westland. For more information, call (734) 729-4560.

Open skate at the Wayne Ice Arena is 10-11:20 a.m. and 2-2:50 p.m. Monday and Friday, 10-11:20 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday (for parent and children age 6 and under), 5:30-6:50 p.m. Saturday and 3:30-4:50 Sunday.

Fees are \$3 for resident children and seniors and \$3.25 for resident adults. Non-resident charges are \$5 for children and \$6 for adults. Children age 3 and under are free.

The community center is at 4635 Howe, Wayne. For more information, call (734) 721-7400.

**Blood Drive**

The William P. Faust Public Library will hold an American Red Cross blood drive 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 20. To make an appointment, log onto [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) and enter sponsor code: wplccp or call 800-RED-CROSS.

Hurricane Sandy has affected all blood banks so there is a high demand for donors. Everyone who donates in December is eligible to win a \$500 VISA gift card from the Red Cross. Individuals age 17 or over (age 16 with permission slip) can donate.

The library is on Central City Parkway, north of Ford Road.



Cheryl Nadratowski (left) and Barb Burnett, Valassis employees, shop for toys with money raised for Toys for Tots.

## Valassis employees host chili lunches to support Toys for Tots

The aroma of homemade chili and soups was in the air recently at the Anderson Printing Division and Valassis Client Services Division, both in Livonia, as they hosted their annual Toys for Tots Chili Lunches, which have become a much-anticipated annual tradition. The luncheons mark the start of fund-raising efforts for the Toys for Tots program at these Valassis locations.

A joint effort with local businesses that donated food helped supplement the homemade pots of chili, soup and desserts. For a \$5 cost, employees were treated to an "all-you-can-eat" meal with all proceeds going to buy toys for less fortunate children for this annual drive.

George Dimopoulos of George's Senate and Coney Island Restaurant with multiple locations in the metro Detroit area has been a faithful food donor over the past several years.

Josh Mayse with Thomas's Catering of Livonia has contribut-

ed the last few years and graciously welcomes the donation request for a good cause. Tim Jahn of AVI Food Systems keeps the vending machines well-stocked for the charity luncheon and donates beverages and salted snacks to keep everyone coming back for more.

"More than generous best describes restaurant contributions and Valassis employees when it comes to the food donations," said Cheryl Nadratowski, one of the organizers at the Anderson Printing Division.

Additionally, Valassis Corporate Headquarters, also in Livonia, kicked off its Toys for Tots drive with both fundraisers and toy donations. For one fund raiser, a prime parking space for the winter months was raffled off with money used to purchase additional toys.

This year, approximately \$5,000 was raised for Toys for Tots and a multitude of toys were purchased and donated.



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# Parts-time players: Online orders fly in for area company

By Darrell Clem  
Observer Staff Writer

An 81-year-old woman was distraught after the baking element quit working on the General Electric oven range that came with a house she bought 50 years ago. Without a replacement part, she faced a pricey decision to replace not only her beloved avocado green stove but, to avoid clashing kitchen colors, the matching refrigerator and dishwasher.

After ordering a \$20.88 part from Canton-based RepairClinic.com, this happy Connecticut customer can use her retro range and bake until her heart's content. She even said so in an email she sent to this growing company, on Michigan Avenue west of Beck.

"I'm good for another 50 years," she wrote. "On second thought, that might be a reach. I'm 81 years old. Still, the part is supposed to extend the range's life — not mine."

That's a favorite testimonial of Jody Lamb, public relations manager for RepairClinic.com, a multimillion-dollar company that stocks more than a million parts — mostly new, some aftermarket — for major home appliances, vacuum cleaners and outdoor power equipment such as lawn mowers and weed trimmers. Just weeks ago, the business launched its product line for heating, ventilation and air conditioning.

### Adding video

RepairClinic.com touts annual sales of \$30 million to \$50 million and ships thousands of parts every day by Fed Ex throughout the United States and, since August,



Chris Hall, who started out as an appliance repair worker, now is president of a multimillion-dollar Canton-based company, RepairClinic.com, which houses more than 1 million parts for customers.

to Canada. It has reached three million customers.

What's more, the company has complemented its parts by producing 850 do-it-yourself videos that have accumulated 10 million hits on its YouTube channel and its own website, www.RepairClinic.com.

Not bad for former appliance repairman Chris Hall, the company president who started the business in a rental building in 1999 with CEO Larry Beach. It became so successful they opened their current 86,000-square-foot facility in 2004, Hall said, "and 2012 has been the best year in the history of our company."

RepairClinic.com employs 130 full- and part-time workers,

though it expects to add several jobs next year. The vast majority of its customers order their parts online, though some walk in to the front desk and others contact a telephone call center that's open 6:30 a.m. to midnight, seven days a week, with English- and Spanish-speaking employees.

The company has established a strong following among the online do-it-yourself community, which relies on videos to repair 150 brands ranging from carpet cleaners to washing machines. RepairClinic.com also has started making troubleshooting videos to help customers.

### Picture perfect

Moreover, the company has a photo lab where

pictures are taken — and posted online — for the parts it stocks. It also has a partnership to provide parts to 2,000 Home Depot stores.

Though RepairClinic.com had a slower-than-normal year in 2010, Hall said business has otherwise flourished amid a tough economy as more people delay expensive purchases and buy much-cheaper replacement parts.

"We're growing because of the economy," Hall said, adding later, "Refrigerators are the biggest thing. They have a lot more parts than other appliances."

Lamb has noticed one consumer trend.

"There has been a definite recent spike in comments from customers

making a point to identify themselves as women, 65-plus years old or unhandy by nature," she said.

Customers pay a flat \$5 shipping fee, though they can pay more for rush orders. RepairClinic.com sells more parts to the most populated states, but orders have shipped to every state, Puerto Rico and Ontario, Canada.

"California is our biggest market just because of the population," Hall, a Saline resident, said.

Inside the RepairClinic.com building, Hall and Lamb gave a tour of an efficient, high-tech facility that allows employees to use software, wireless gadgets, cardboard boxes, biodegradable packing materials, an automated conveyor system and stock-picker lift

trucks to locate specific items, get them packaged and shipped to customers.

### Protect the rep

Company worker Dean Kovacs of Romulus drives a lift truck, which essentially operates itself using an under-concrete wire that communicates with a truck sensor to guide the vehicle to the appropriate shelf. The truck then lifts Kovacs up — sometimes way up — so he can retrieve the part.

"It's like second nature after a while," he said.

In another area, video production manager Roger Ryan of Livonia and video specialist Adam Earl of Brighton demonstrated the do-it-yourself videos they make using information they get from repair gurus. They strive to create videos to help even the most fix-it-challenged viewer.

Pausing in one area, meanwhile, Hall points to a large box filled with 150 pressure washer pumps the company has received for its stock.

"If we order 150 of these," he said, "it means that part is failing."

RepairClinic.com has built a reputation on customer service, including a return policy that stretches a full year. That's how confident Hall and others are that they are providing the parts and the videos people need to succeed.

"We're empowering people to fix something they used to hire out," Hall said. "We're not saving the world. We're just helping people fix something like a washing machine."

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# Rare restoration

## Fox Run resident takes his time with 129-year-old grandfather clock

By Cal Stone  
Staff Writer

Harry Burt has restored 25 grandfather clocks, but the one that he's currently working on is special — there are only two in the world.

The 82-year-old resident of Novi's Fox Run is putting the finishing touches on a two-weighted, 129-year-old American clock built in Rhode Island by Walter H. Durfee.

"It's coming along pretty good," said Burt recently after a day in the retirement community's hobby shop.

Burt said he's cleaning it up and overhauling the movement. He doesn't strip the mahogany finish at all; he only hand rubs it and removes the grime from the metal parts.

"His clocks were so well

finished when they were made," said Burt. "They look like they just came out of the factory today."

He's restoring the clock to its original condition, including a functioning pendulum to sound each hour.

So what makes this particular clock, which Burt purchased in September from a California owner, so unique?

"The American grandfather clock industry came to a screeching halt in 1815, and only the wealthy could afford them at that time," explained Burt. "In the 1880s, Durfee made the Rolls Royce at that time — even up to today, actually — with high quality, style, design and now historical value."

For nearly 50 years, Burt and his wife, Jo,

have been collecting clocks. He learned of the Durfee through his membership in the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors. The Burts are particularly fond of clocks from the E.N. Welch Manufacturing Company, which made clocks in the 1860-1895 period, but he won't reveal how many clocks are in his collection overall.

"Collectors don't tell," he said. "Now we're limited by space, and the major collection I have given to my grandson, who is 30. I restore them for him."

The Burts moved to Fox Run in August 2011 from Rochester. Jo doesn't work on the restorations, but Burt spends time in the hobby shop along with about 55 other men



PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Novi Fox Run resident Harry Burt, 82, has spent a lot of time in the last three months restoring to good working condition this 1885 Walter Durfee grandfather clock. The clock, made in Providence, R.I., was found by Burt in California, and the lifelong Michigan resident plans on giving it to a grandson after it's displayed at Fox Run for a while.

who belong to the community's hobby club.

"After I moved in, I was looking for something to keep me occupied," said Burt. "I asked if I could restore a grandfather clock here. I heard about the Durfee, purchased it and had it shipped."

A former auto parts supplier to Detroit's Big Three automakers, the Redford native has published articles about Durfee, who made clocks for around 20 years.

Burt's clock measures eight feet high; 22 inches at the base; 16 inches

at the waist; and 12 inches deep.

Once he's finished with the restoration, it will be displayed on the Fox Run Campus — ideally, in time for the holidays.

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# Do your homework before giving to charity

By Rick Bloom  
Guest Columnist

It's that time of year when we are inundated with e-mails, letters and calls from charitable organizations looking for contributions. I give to charities and believe that when you give your money to a reputable and qualified charitable organization, you get a good feeling about yourself. After all, it feels good when you know that your money is going to help others less fortunate.

Americans are the most generous people on earth. Unfortunately, the scam artists in our society and around the world



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

also know how generous Americans are and take advantage of our good nature — particularly at this time of the year. Because of that, it is important to do some investigation to make sure that your hard-earned money goes for the charitable purpose you wish to accomplish.

Some people are surprised when they hear how much money some

charities spend for non-charitable purposes. Some executive directors of charities are making more money than if they worked in the private sector. In addition, some charitable organizations spend more than half their money raising money. Of course, there are also charities that aren't real charities. They are just there to scam you out of your money.

What many low-lives in our society do is establish a charity with a name that sounds legitimate. They will set up websites and have testimonials on the site that tug at your heartstrings.

What does all this mean for you and me? It means that we have to check out our charities before we turn over our hard-earned money.

One way to check out a charity is to research it on the internet. Sites like charity www.charitynavigator.org or www.give.org are great places to get independent information on a charity. I won't invest in anything I can't check out independently and the same thing applies to a charity. If I can't find independent information on a charity, I'm not going to give.

Another rule I have is I don't give through phone solicitations. I'm

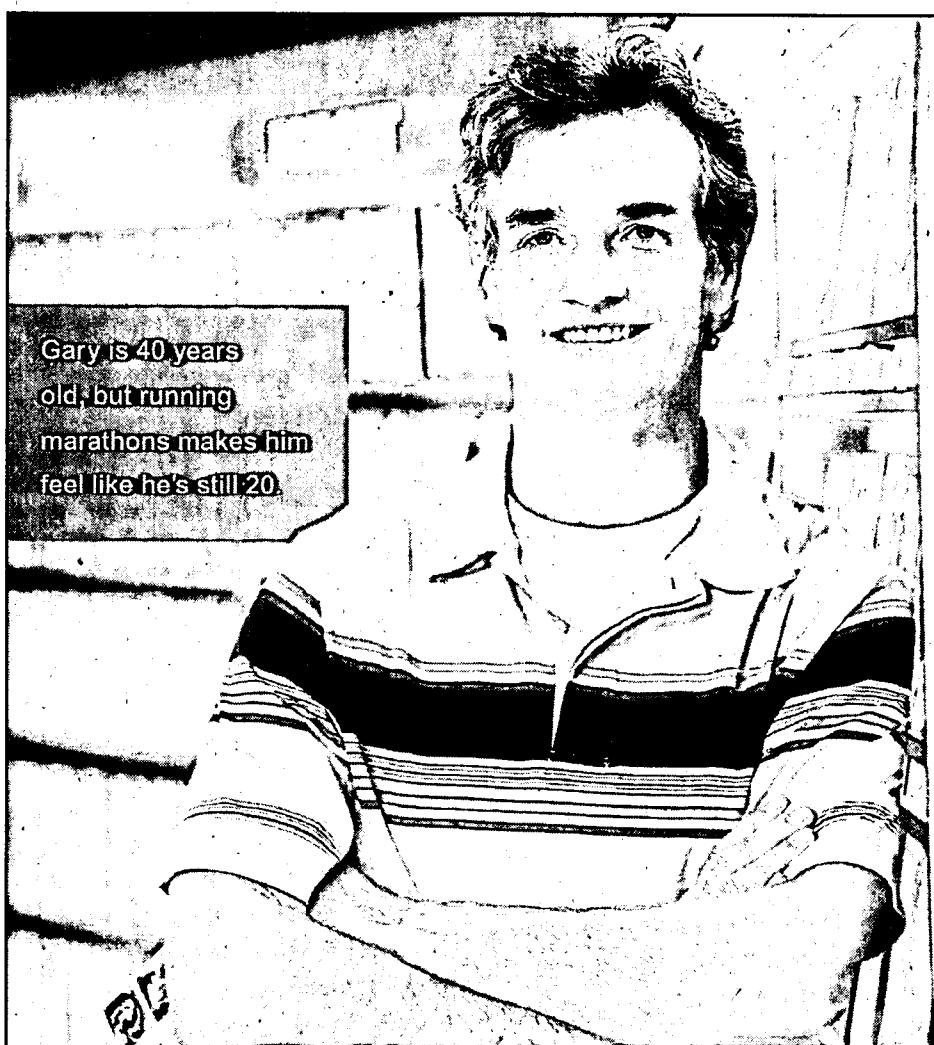
not giving my charge card information over the phone to someone who I have no clue about. In addition, even if I know the charity I generally don't like giving through phone solicitation. In many cases, upwards of half the money you donate through phone solicitation goes to the solicitor, not to the charity.

I recognize that legitimate charities will tell you that that's what they have to do in order to raise money. That may be, however, that doesn't mean I have to give, nor will I through a phone solicitation.

As we enter the holiday

season it seems that people have a tendency to let their guard down. Unfortunately, it should be the exact opposite. The holiday season is when the crooks come out in force. Prevent them from stealing your money and the most effective way is to do your research and check out a charity before you donate your hard-earned money. Good luck!

**Rick Bloom** is a fee-only financial adviser. His website is [www.bloomassetmanagement.com](http://www.bloomassetmanagement.com). If you would like Bloom to respond to your questions, please e-mail him at [rick@bloomassetmanagement.com](mailto:rick@bloomassetmanagement.com).



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

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

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

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

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

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

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# Used sheet music finds new life as holiday wreath

By Sue Mason  
Observer Staff Writer

The wreath behind the circulation desk at the Wayne Public Library has attracted a lot of attention, so much so that library aide Ginny Cesarz offered a class on how to make one.

The wreath is made of rolled sheet music and is designed to be used for all occasions by simply replacing the center decoration.

"A lot of people asked about making one," said Cesarz. "We had a great turnout, 14 people. A lot of those who took the class said they enjoyed it. If there's interest, I'll do it again."

Cesarz learned the craft while on a weekend visit to a friend in Ohio. Working from a picture and using printed copies of sheet music, they spent their time mastering rolling the paper into tubes.

"The first one we made took several hours because we had to wait for the printer," she said. "We had to copy both sides. It was very expensive."

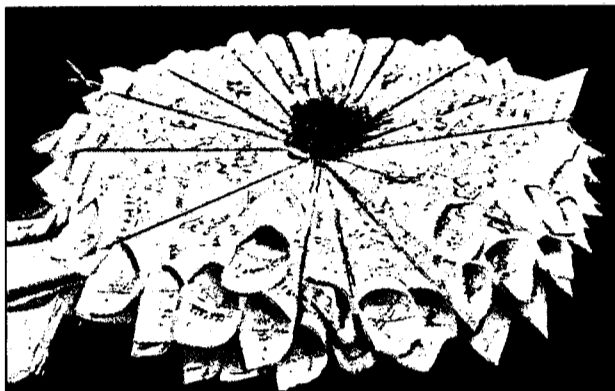
Cesarz decided to order used sheet music for the library program. The sheets were "damaged items that weren't going to be used any more."

"It was a reuse and recycle craft, the pages were no longer usable," she said.

Since there was a time crunch, some of the basics were done in advance. The cardboard backing and cardboard circles to cover the center of the wreath were cut out for participants.



Fidella Davis of Wayne works on rolling sheets of music into cones, the trickiest part of making the wreath, according to instructor Ginny Cesarz.



A bit of evergreen and faux holly decorate the center of a completed wreath.

The center discs have magnets on the back. Holiday items are attached to the front disc which is held in place by the back disc. Doing the decorations that way allows the wreath to be used for any number of holidays and celebrations, she said.

Several participants left with completed wreaths

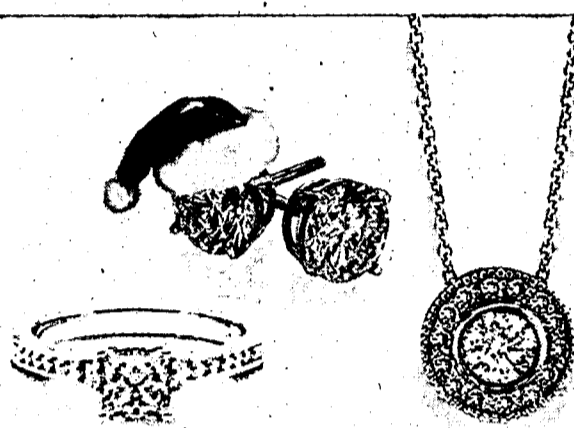
while many were well on their way to finishing when the class ended. "I think someone could make one in three hours max," said Cesarz. "It's a little tricky learning to roll the sheet music cones. It looks simple, but it's not."

smason@hometownlife.com  
(313) 222-6751



STEPHEN CANTRELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Library aide Ginny Cesarz of Livonia show Joann Schlicht of Wayne how to roll sheet music into tubes to create a wreath during a program at the Wayne Public Library.



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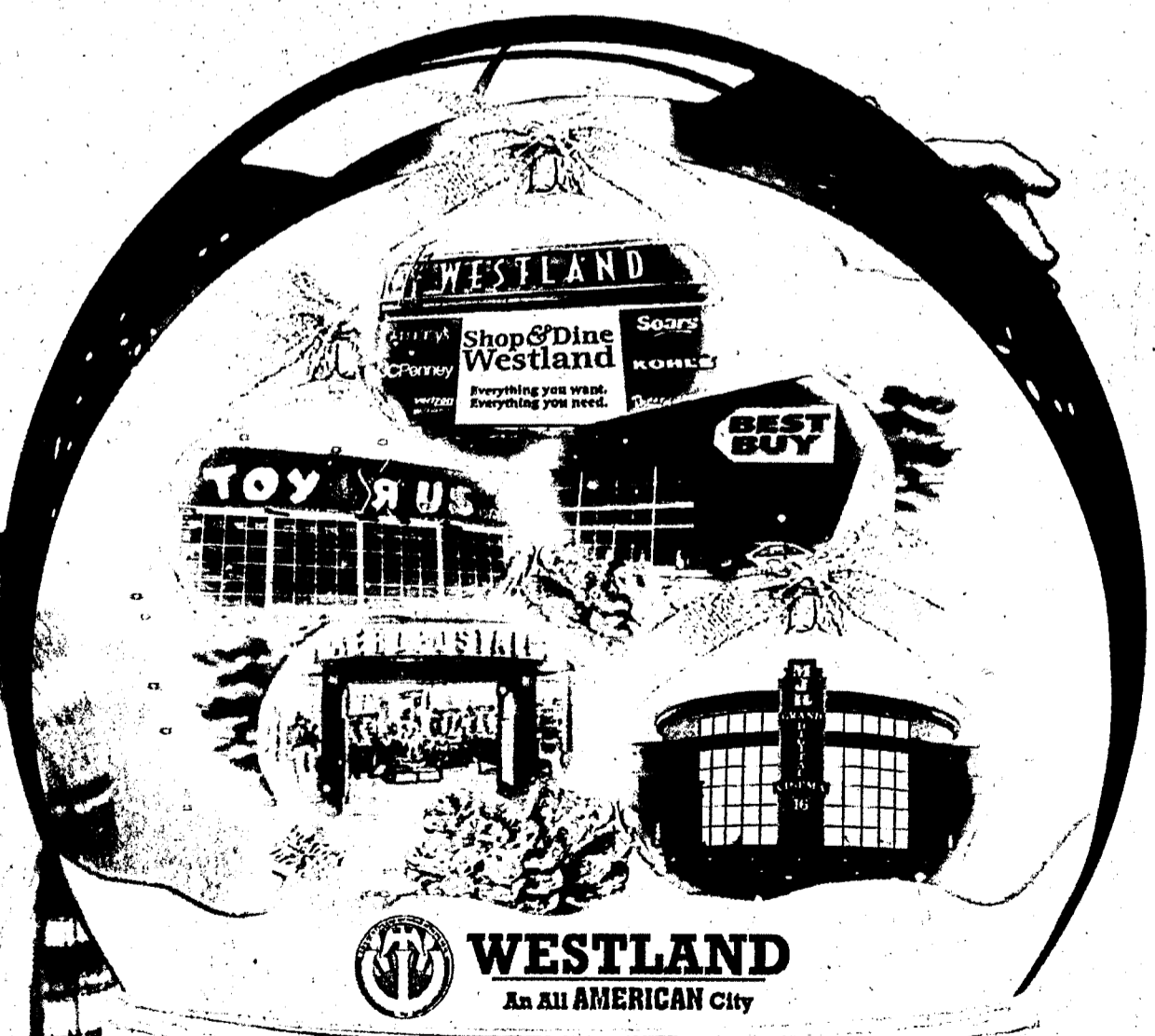
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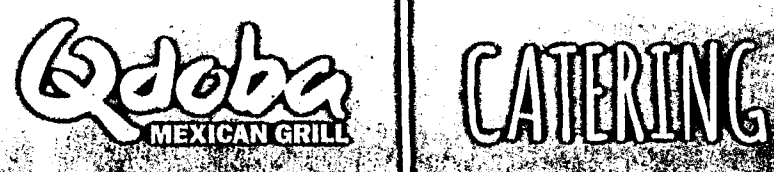


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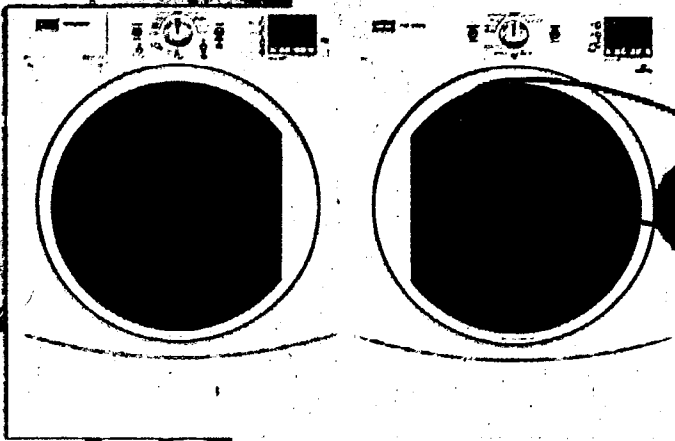


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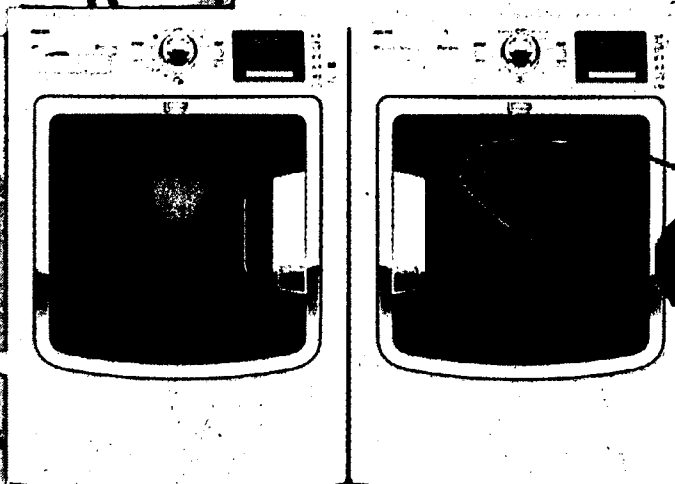
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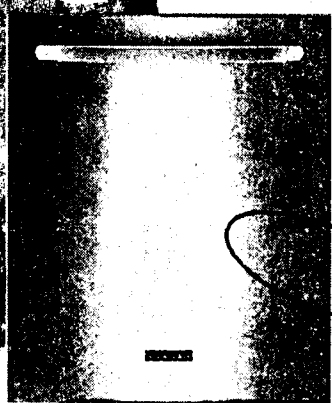
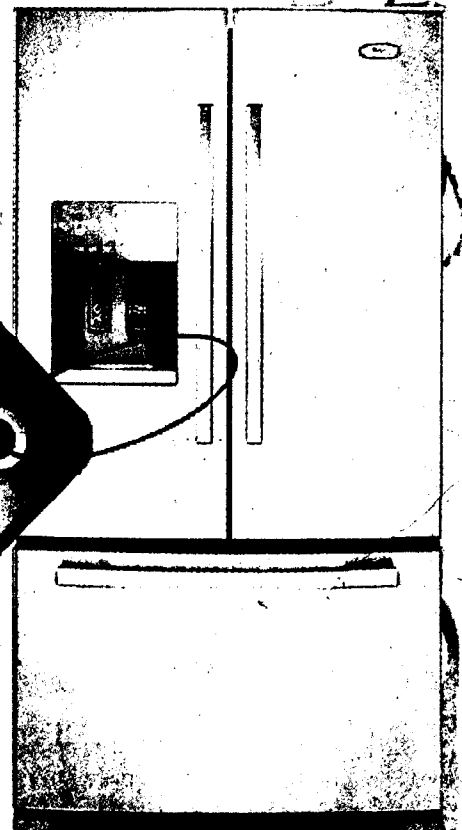
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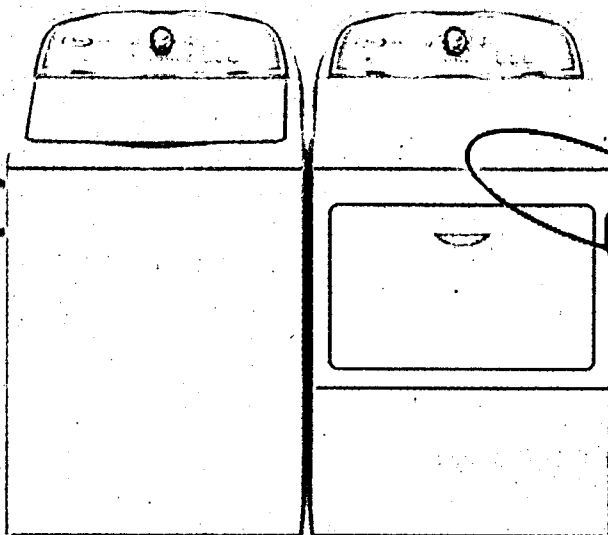
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## SPORTS

## Stevenson escapes Churchill rally

## Campbell hits game-winner

By Brad Emons  
Observer Staff Writer

It was like your typical NBA game — don't start watching until the last two minutes.

Livonia Stevenson led 45-34 going into the final quarter Friday night, then watched host Churchill storm back and take the lead, 52-51, with only 9.4 seconds left on a banker in the lane by Dwayne Scott.

Stevenson senior guard Josh Campbell then dribbled down the floor on the ensuing possession and scored on a left-handed layup with only 2.4 seconds remaining to give the Spartans a 53-52 victory.

But wait a minute. Churchill got one last shot and it was a good one by senior Jeremy Lewis, who took a pinpoint three-quarter court pass from freshman Jon Hovermale and launched what appeared to be the game-winner, only to have it rim out.

"I was thinking, 'Do I call a timeout' or just let the kids play?" Stevenson coach Brandon Sinawi said following Scott's go-ahead hoop for the Chargers. "Seeing what I had seen from Josh and from the other guys in practice, and obviously Josh from last year, I had no doubt Josh was going to get to the basket and make a play for us.

"He made the right play and the

right decision. We were lucky to come out and survive this game because Churchill put up a fight. We have a lot to work on, but we'll take the win and we're happy we got the win tonight."

Stevenson evened its record at 1-1, while Churchill falls to 1-2.

Campbell, the Spartans' leading returning scorer from a year ago, finished with a team-high 14 points after going scoreless more than the first 11 minutes.

But the 5-foot-11 senior saved his best for last.

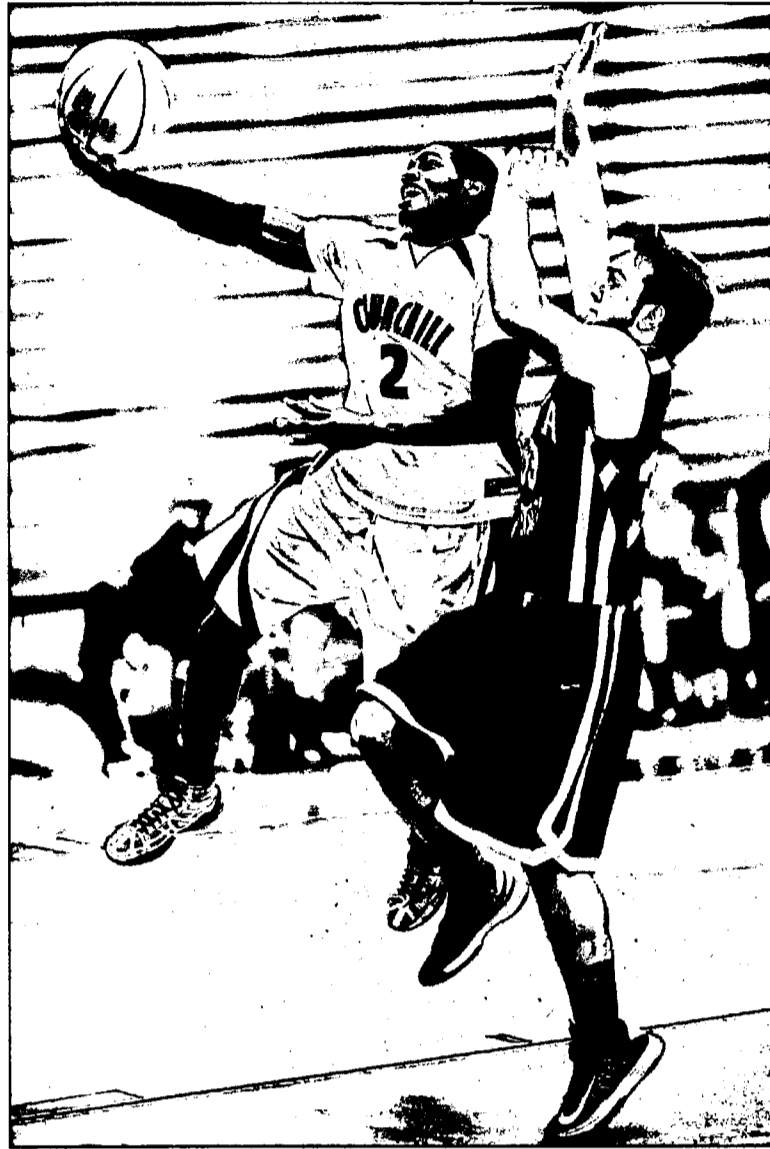
"My first thoughts were to get it to an open player up the floor, but nobody was up there, so I just sprinted up there," Campbell said. "I was actually looking to pass it, but then they (Churchill) cut off the person I was passing it to."

Devin Kelly added 12 points, while Jailen Webber contributed 10 for the Spartans, who committed 26 turnovers, including 12 in the fourth quarter.

Churchill's three-quarter court press created plenty of havoc for the Spartans.

"It shook us up," Sinawi said. "We didn't play with any poise. We were out of control. Twelve turnovers in the fourth quarter tells a lot how hard Churchill played, but how frantic and scared we played, and I mean scared. We didn't have control

Please see STEVENSON, B3



Churchill's Robert Foster Jr. (left) goes to the basket as Stevenson's Devin Kelly tries to make the block in Friday's encounter.

## It's no contest

## Churchill skates to 9-1 win over Pats

By Brad Emons  
Observer Staff Writer

The longstanding gap between the Livonia Churchill and Livonia Franklin boys hockey programs was supposedly narrowing going into Wednesday night's KLA South Division encounter at Edgar Arena.

But after a mercy rule-shortened 48 minutes and 51 seconds, Churchill maintained its dominance with a 9-1 win over the Patriots, who actually entered the game with a better overall record.

"We've got to come to play," said Franklin first-year coach Dennis Gagnon, whose team slipped to 3-4-1 overall and 1-2 in the KLA South. "We've got to show up on time ready to play. Churchill, record-wise, has had a slow start for what they usu-

## BOYS HOCKEY

ally do, but I think they wanted it more and they came with a little desire. We've had a better start than in the past and maybe we came in with not enough desire at the level we need here to compete at."

The Chargers established their superiority from the opening face-off scoring four times with senior Tommy Carey notching a hat trick.

"We knew tonight that Franklin's on the right track and they're certainly not a team to be overlooked anymore, so we knew we had to come in with an 'A' game today, and I'm really proud of the boys," said Churchill first-year coach Jason Reynolds, whose team is 3-4 overall and 1-2 in the KLA South. "He (Carey) is got a fire lit under him right now. He's very moti-

vated. He knows it's his senior year and he really wants to emerge as a leader for this team and I'm really proud of his efforts thus far."

Reynolds also liked what he saw from another senior, Brad Milks, who ended up with an unassisted second period goal to go along with five assists to cap a six-point night.

"Brad Milks has been working hard to get some points on the board," Reynolds said. "We knew that Brad was going to emerge at some point during the games. I'm glad he was able to put a good effort in tonight. He had a bit of a slow start. I think you could tell he was getting a little bit frustrated, but you could tell when he walked into the locker room today that he was ready to play. And

Please see CHURCHILL, B2

## Spartans' top line cracks Rocks, 7-3

By Tim Smith  
Observer Staff Writer

## BOYS HOCKEY

Ryan Ossenmacher prepared his Salem varsity boys hockey game to be ready for Livonia Stevenson's top line Wednesday night when the teams hit the Eddie Edgar Arena ice.

It didn't matter, as Spartans junior forward Devin Kelly scored a natural hat trick to open the scoring in the KLA Central Division matchup. Before long, Salem was down 4-0 and could not recover, falling 7-3.

"Their top line is outstanding," said Ossenmacher, the Rocks' head coach. "Coming in we knew that, it wasn't a surprise. We set up to try and slow that down, obviously it didn't work."

Stevenson coach David Mitchell said the line composed of Kelly, Tyler Irvine (three assists) and Dominic Lutz (one goal) lit the match that pro-

pelled the Spartans (7-1-1 overall, 3-0-1 in the Central).

"For Kelly to get three goals like that obviously sets the tone for us," Mitchell said. "But we knew they wouldn't quit and Salem didn't. They played hard and they made it a game all the way through."

After the Spartans built their big lead, senior goalie Connor Humitz stood tall when he needed to.

Early in the second, when the Rocks had time to get back into the game, Salem senior forward Alek Zultowski ripped two quick shots from the low slot that Humitz turned aside.

"We generated chances," Ossenmacher said. "Connor Humitz played well in net and I thought there were a couple chances to capitalize on

Please see SPARTANS, B2

## MU golf adds 2 All-Staters

Madonna University women's golf coach Scott Marzolino announced the signings of Natalie Blazo (Dearborn Divine Child) and Ayla Bogie (Clio) to NAIA letters of intent last week.

"With the senior class that is graduating this coming spring, I felt it was important to get recruits that could come in and play right away for us," Marzolino said. "Ayla and Natalie can both do that. They were one-two at the state championship and have very good golf resumes coming into the program."

Blazo was the MHSAA Division 3 state medalist for the Falcons with a two-day total of 81-76-157, while Bogie was runner-up with an 81-83-164, Oct. 19-20, at Bedford Valley Golf Course in Battle Creek. Blazo, a four-year letter winner, earned All-Catholic League honors as a senior after placing second in the CHSL championship with a round of 80, one stroke off of the low score. She also earned All-City and All-State honors.

Bogie was one spot behind Blazo at the state finals as the duo shared the overnight lead with rounds of 81.

A four-year letter winner, Bogie is a three-time state qualifier who was twice selected to the Flint Metro League first-team.

Bogie also earned All-State and team MVP honors as a senior.

## Baranovska All-Academic

Madonna University senior middle hitter Nastija Baranovska (Riga, Latvia), an English major with a 3.91 grade point average, was recently named to the College Sports Information Directors Capital One Academic All-America Volleyball team.

Baranovska was named to the All-WHAC first-team for the second consecutive year and was also named to the AVCA All-Mideast Region first-team.

She is also a two-time Academic All-WHAC and NAIA Scholar-Athlete selection.

## Hess tabbed as NAIA scholar

Madonna University junior Brandon Hess (Livonia), an accounting major, was one of 315 men's soccer players nationwide to be named to the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics 2012 Daktronics Scholar-Athlete team.

The Novi-Detroit Catholic Central High grad is the second member of his family to earn NAIA Scholar-Athlete honors, joining older sister Lauren (2008-09) who was a two-time selection on the women's soccer side.

In order to be selected as a scholar-athlete, a student-athlete must be a junior or senior academically, be nominated by his/her head coach and have a 3.5 grade point average or higher.

## Crusaders pull upset, but fall to Grace

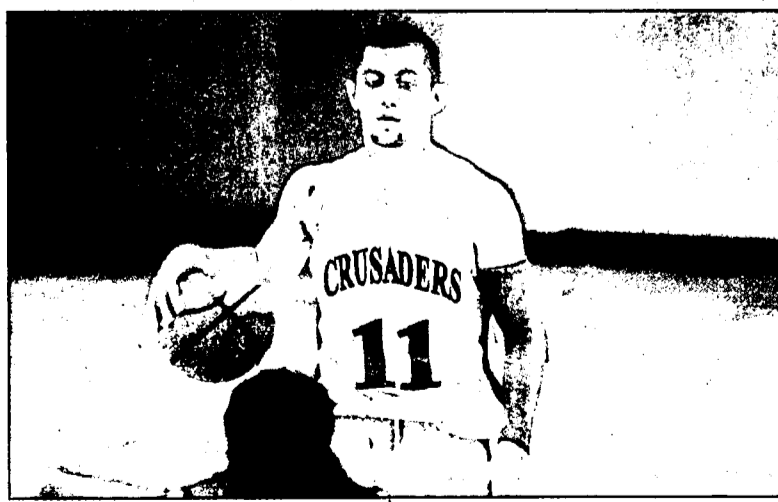
By Brad Emons  
Observer Staff Writer

The Madonna University men's basketball team put itself back in the thick of the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference race Wednesday night with a stunning 82-69 win over No. 6-ranked Davenport University in Grand Rapids.

The 25th-ranked Crusaders, now 8-4 overall and 5-2 in the WHAC, shot a blistering 61.7 percent from the floor (29-of-47) and rode the 30-point, eight-assist effort of point guard Bobby Naubert.

The Crusaders led 40-36 at half-time and opened up a 25-point lead, 76-51, with 7:28 remaining on a 3-pointer by junior guard Travis Schuba, who finished with 16 points before fouling out.

Junior forward Fred Williams chipped in with 14 points for MU, which shot 11-of-23 from 3-



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Madonna University point guard Bobby Naubert, a junior from Livonia Stevenson, surpassed the 1,000-point mark and had 30 points and eight assists in Wednesday's 82-69 upset victory at No. 6 Davenport.

point range.

Naubert, who scored 18 first-half points, was the catalyst in the Crusaders' 23-0 second-half run. He also surpassed 1,000

career points.

"Bob was incredible," MU coach Noel Emehiser said of the 5-foot-10 junior from Livonia Stevenson. "Teams have made

a concerted effort to take away our perimeter shooting, and Bob has made good decisions based on that. When they extend their defense to try and take away some of his teammates, he does a great job of taking what's there. He never forces anything and takes good shots. At the same time he's scoring points, he's playing very unselfish in running the team the way it needs to be run."

Dominez Burnett paced the Panthers (10-2, 6-1) with 27 points, while JaVontae Ford added 15 points and 11 boards.

Davenport connected on just 26-of-75 shots from the floor (34.7 percent), including just 8-of-27 from beyond the arc.

"The key is that we got 10 consecutive defensive stops (in the second half)," Emehiser said. "We really defended well and I felt like we were beating the

Please see CRUSADERS, B4

### BOYS SWIM RESULTS

**DUAL MEET RESULTS**  
**WESTLAND GLENN 95 GARDEN CITY 81**  
**Dec. 11 at Garden City**  
**200-yard medley relay:** 1. John Glenn (John Kukulka, Derek Sweet, Jacob Burcicki, Tim Green), 2:00.5; 2. Garden City (Alex Biegalski, Tyler Demaree, Toby Down, Pat Selix), 2:04.25; 3. John Glenn, 2:13.54.  
**200 freestyle:** 1. Josh Wak-e-ford (WJG), 1:59.34; 2. Sean Daniels (GC), 2:13.29; 3. Jacob Deering (WJG), 2:14.44.  
**100 individual medley:** 1. Jacob Burcicki (WJG), 2:32.73; 2. Josh Eddings (WJG), 2:43.25; 3. Jason Burcicki (WJG), 2:51.92.  
**50 freestyle:** 1. Cody Hodges (WJG), 24.85; 2. Rory Kemp (WJG), 26.33; 3. Nate Alvord (WJG), 27.43.  
**1-meter diving:** 1. Michael Synder (GC), 117.75 points; 2. Dave Cunningham (WJG), 107.65; 3. Jeff Ball (GC), 98.45.  
**100 butterfly:** 1. Kukulka (WJG), 1:05.01; 2. Jacob Burcicki (WJG), 1:10.86; 3. Eddings (WJG), 1:16.82.  
**100 freestyle:** 1. Daniels (GC), 58.6; 2. Alex Biegalski (GC), 58.73; 3. Chris Sabal (WJG), 1:04.11.  
**500 freestyle:** 1. Aaron Al-holinnna (WJG), 5:43.96; 2. Deering (WJG), 6:06.1; 3. Josh Ferguson (WJG), 6:28.84.  
**200 freestyle relay:** 1. Garden City (Down, Demaree, Daniels, Selix), 1:57.81; 2. Garden City, 1:57.81 (Ball, Chad Berger, Spencer Cussen, Synder), 1:57.81; 3. John Glenn, 1:58.29.  
**100 backstroke:** 1. Kukulka (WJG), 1:07.77; 2. Biegalski (GC), 1:12.51; 3. Jacob Burcicki (WJG), 1:19.73.  
**100 breaststroke:** 1. Brad Al-holinnna (WJG), 1:21.3; 2. Sweet (WJG), 1:23.01; 3. Petr Orzech (WJG), 1:24.29.  
**400 freestyle relay:** 1. Garden City (Down, Selix, Daniels, Biegalski), 4:12.73; 2. John Glenn (Andrei Manaila, Kemp, Deering, Jacob Burcicki), 4:17.31; 3. John Glenn, 4:17.58.  
**Dual meet records:** John Glenn, 1-0 overall; Garden City, 0-2 overall.

# Lutz's hat trick lifts Stevenson

## Brown spurs Churchill win

Dominic Lutz racked up three goals and one assist to lift Livonia Stevenson to a 9-3 KLAAs Kensington Conference crossover boys hockey win Friday over Livonia Franklin at Edgar Arena.

The state-ranked Spartans, who improved to 8-1-1 overall and 3-0-1 in the KLAAs Central Division, also got two goals and one assist from Dante Seychel.

Other Spartans getting into the act included Devin Kelly (one goal, two assists); Chris Catalano (one goal, one assist); Ryan Frazer (two assists); Tim Kelly and Ben Kowalske (one goal apiece).

Josh Dudek, Jacob Decina and Greg Bo tallied goals for the Patriots (3-5-1, 1-3), who trailed 3-1 after one period and 8-1 after two.

Andrew Rozenbaum played the first two periods in goal for the Spartans before giving way to Brad Coutts.

Matt Monendo started in goal for Franklin before being relieved in the third by Sean Reeves-Carson.

"It was a good game on

# CHURCHILL

Continued from page B1

tonight he had a really good night."

Carey's first goal came from Luke Otto at 5:24 of the first period followed by Nike Misiak's break-away effort off a long stretch play from Milks and Brown at 7:31.

Carey connected again at 10:47 on a power-play effort from Milks and Brown following by Carey just beating the horn and Franklin sophomore goalie Matt Monendo on a short-handed effort to end the first off an assist from Evan Gibboney to make it 4-0.

In the second period, Milks scored unassisted at 10:27 and Gibboney tallied a short-handed goal from Otto at 13:17 to push the Churchill advantage to 6-0.

Brown's goal from Milks and Misiak at 5:19 of the third increased Churchill's lead to 7-0, but Franklin's Mike Diaz answered with a power play goal just 25 seconds later from Ryan Pace and C.J. Cromie to spoil junior David Turel's shut-out bid.

The Chargers then added two more to end the game with Brown scoring from Milks and Matt Sinclair at 12:24 followed by Adam Panaretos' goal from Milks with only 2:09 remaining.

"I think our boys are increasing their confi-

dence over time," said Reynolds, whose team outshot the Patriots, 37-9. "We had a bit of a slow start the beginning of the season, but as we progress and continue to get stronger defensively you can really see them gaining confidence. This team has come together a lot over the last two weeks."

A 4-2 victory last Saturday night against host Port Huron Northern also proved to be a boost for the Chargers.

"I think that really instilled a lot of confidence in our boys," Reynolds said. "That was a big win for us. I think once they got past that trip, they realized — you know what — that they're a talented team and they can win some of these games. We're going to keep digging one game at a time and continue to improve, and hopefully good things will continue to happen."

Meanwhile, it's back to the drawing board for the Patriots.

"Churchill came to play," Gagnon said. "They're a very talented team. Tommy Carey is one of the best players in the state. We battled, but unfortunately they got the better of us tonight. It's hockey, sometimes you get beat, sometimes you don't. We got beat tonight. Hats off to Churchill. Very talented team."

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### PREP WRESTLING RESULTS



Wayne Memorial's Kevin Marz (top) won his 152-pound match Wednesday against Lakeland with a 10-2 major decision.

**DUAL MATCH RESULTS**  
**Dec. 12 at N. Boston Huron NEW BOSTON HURON 36 WAYNE MEMORIAL 24**  
**125:** Nicholas Phelps (NBH) d. Tyler Mulligan, 3-2; **130:** Joe Ferguson (NBH) pinned Derek Pomerico, 2:38; **135:** Michael Nicolson (WM) p. Jason Shulaw, 3:07; **140:** Aaron Escobar (NBH) dec. Marcus Jordan, 12-8; **145:** Allen Parker (WM) p. Andrew Cholette, 1:43; **152:** Ryan Skura (NBH) dec. Kevin Marz, 3-2; **160:** Austin Vignola (NBH) dec. James Hieftness, 7-4; **171:** Logan Ritchie (NBH) dec. Sam Ekanem (WM), 7-3; **189:** Lucas Hofbauer (WM) p. Thomas Curiston, 1:38; **215:** Tyler Casteels (WM) dec. Deion Copley, 3-2; **285:** Aaron Mauldin (WM) dec. Michael Long, 6-4; **103:** Judah Caballero (NBH) p. Jack DeJack, 1:57; **112:** Brandon Brooks (NBH) p. Dominick Sanders, 3:24; **119:** Eli Caballero (NBH) dec. Tim Way, 6-4.

**WAYNE MEMORIAL 63 WHITE LAKE LAKELAND 9**  
**130 pounds:** Michael Nicholson (WM) won by major decision over Mike Mahar, 11-1; **135:** Tim Flores (WM) dec. Shane Gustinis, 3-0; **140:** Marcus Jordan (WM) pinned Andrew Spooner, 2:37; **145:** Allen Parker (WWM) p. Brian Miller, 2:31; **152:** Kevin Marz (WM) won by major dec. over Jon Conte, 10-2; **160:** Will Jacobs (WLL) dec. James Hieftness, 12-9; **171:** Sam Ekanem (WM) won by major dec. over Andy Bovay, 11-0; **189:** Lucas Hofbauer (WM) p. Donovan Carter, 3:50; **215:** Tanner Graham (WLL) p. Colin Mullins, 4:50; **285:** Aaron Mauldin (WM) p. David Rosell, 0:41; **103:** Jack DeJack (WM) won by void; **112:** Dominick Sanders (WM) won by void; **119:** Tim Way (WM) p. Noah Rodrigues, 3:02; **125:** Tyler Mulligan (WM) won by void.  
**Wayne's dual match record:** 3-1 overall.

### SPARTANS

Continued from page B1

rebounds and he made some big saves."

**Three in a row**  
 It didn't take long for the Spartans to get on the board.

Kelly beat Salem starting goalie Anthony Veresan just 44 seconds into the game and added his second with 10:42 left in the first period.

About three minutes later, Kelly netted his third straight goal and Lutz added another (from Kelly and Irvine) with 5:08 to play for a four-goal cushion.

That chased Veresan in favor of junior netminder Parker Godfrey.

Salem (3-2-0, 1-2-0) got one back at 14:16, when junior forward Cam Nixon raced down the right wing and blasted a high shot from the circle past Humitz.

Stevenson upped the lead to 5-1 with 13:17 remaining in the second, as freshman forward Ben Kowalske scored (from sophomore forwards Alex Hunt and Stephen Olschanski).

Senior defenseman Jake Kierdorf then drove a long shot from the blue line that eluded Godfrey to make it 6-1.

Before the period ended, with the teams playing four-on-four, Salem senior forward Jake Fedel backhanded a low shot inside the left post for the Rocks' second goal.

A string of penalties opened the third, with Godfrey robbing Kelly in his bid for a fourth goal while the Spartans enjoyed a two-man advantage for 1:48.

**Trading goals**  
 The Rocks got through that unscathed and soon thereafter made it a 6-3 game on a shorthanded goal with 5:43 left. Junior forward Nick Danis ripped a shot from above the right circle high into the Stevenson cage. Earning an assist was junior defenseman Colin Pietron.

Rounding out the scoring at 14:36 was junior forward Ryan Frazer, all alone at the left post to jam the puck in.

Senior defenseman Chris Catalano (two assists) and sophomore forward Alex Hunt (two assists) set up the tally.

"It was good to see a couple other guys get some goals there late so we can start to balance this thing out," Mitchell said.

Ossenmacher, meanwhile, said the speedy Spartans "caught us a little bit off-guard. But at the same time, I think we're better than a 4-0 start against them. We obviously didn't show it tonight."

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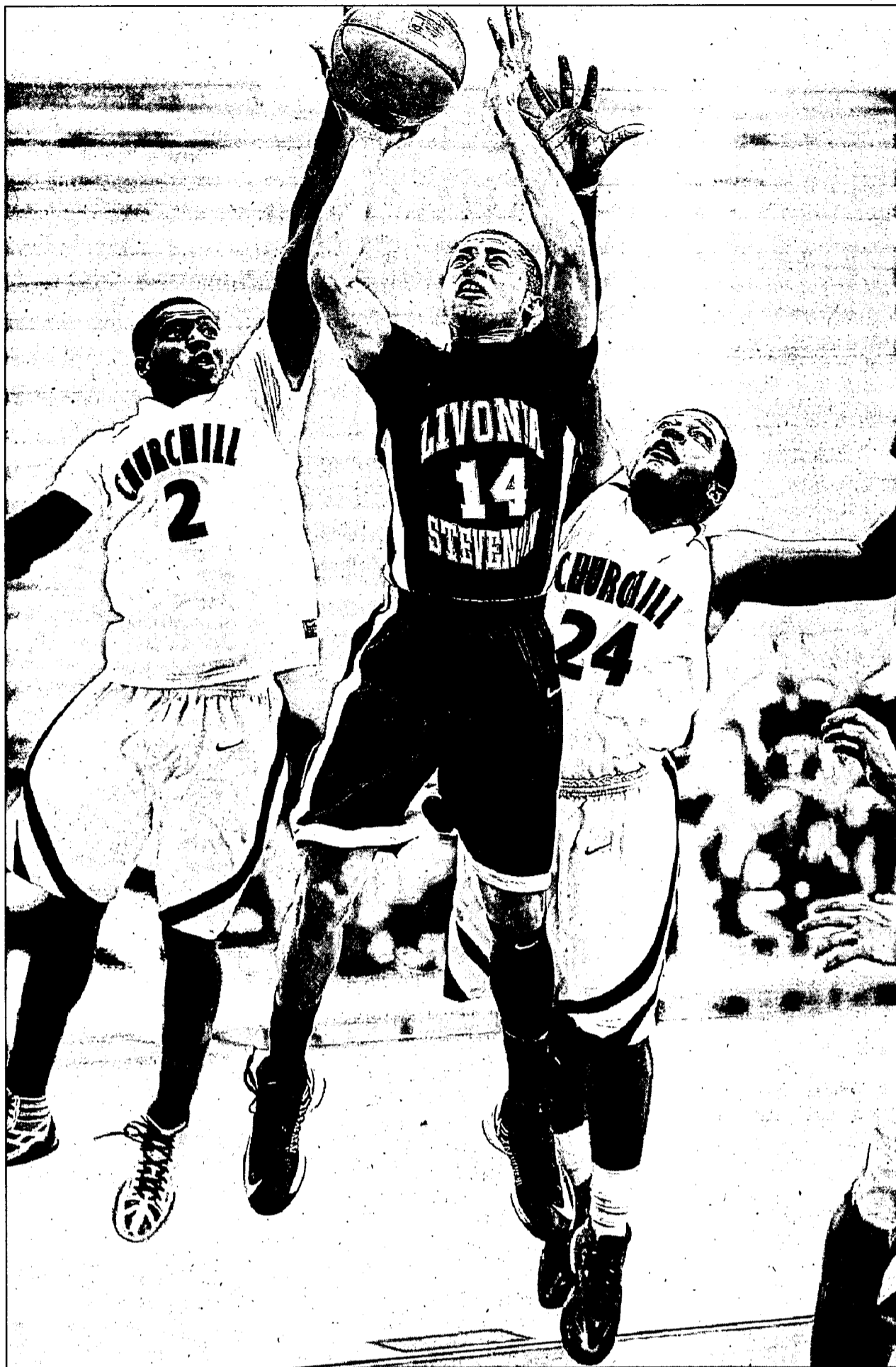
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Stevenson's Jailen Webber (14) slips inside against Churchill defenders Robert Foster Jr. (left) and Dwayne Scott (right) during Friday's boys hoop clash.

**STEVENSON**

Continued from page B1

over the game like we thought we did." Lewis led Churchill with a team-high 15 points, including five in the final quarter to spark an 18-8 Churchill run. "If we're in that situation 10 more times Jeremy Lewis is getting the ball," Churchill coach Jim Solak said. "He sprinted down the floor off a screen like he was supposed to. He jumped out, made the play ... still can't believe that ball didn't go in. "Jeremy played an incredible game tonight. He was the reason we were in that position. He

was the best athlete on the floor and he proved it."

Robert Foster Jr. and Scott added 14 and 10, respectively.

The Chargers shot only 18-of-55 from the floor (32.7 percent) and 11-of-16 from the foul line, while Stevenson hit 23-of-45 (51.1 percent) and 4-of-10 from the free-throw stripe.

"If we finish around the basket, a couple times ... we had many more opportunities," Solak said. "That easily could have been a 10-point game either way. We finish around the basket — they finish the game. It turned out to be an entertaining game, but we just fell short."

Junior forward Devin Kelly chipped in with 13 points for the Spartans, while sophomore guard Jailen Webber added 10. Despite being only 5-11, Kelly did a lot of dirty work inside.

"That's his job, he knows that," Sinawi said. "He plays a lot of tough minutes for us. Tough is a small word, but it means a lot. He does the little things and he got some garbage baskets. Defensively, he always gives the effort. He's somebody we can depend on and when he picked up his fourth foul, I was a little nervous. But we were able to get him back into the game."

Churchill, which trailed 11-7 after one quarter

and 27-23 at halftime, got back in the game with its quickest players.

"We tried to play them straight up a little bit with some traps here and there," Solak said. "We challenged ourselves. We tried to get our best athletes on the floor and said, 'Let's try and create some havoc and see if we can make things happen' because what we were doing in straight up defense wasn't working obviously."

"We tried to find five or seven guys and finish the fourth quarter and I'm proud of those kids who played in the fourth quarter."

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**Wayne pulls out victory in fourth**

Jackie Muhammad nailed a pair of clutch free throws with 30 seconds remaining Friday to give host Wayne Memorial a 56-51 boys basketball victory over visiting Novi.

The Zebras, who improved to 2-2 overall, got a team-high 14 points from Josh Lowry.

Duawn Snipes chipped in with 11 points, while Rio Washington contributed nine points and 12 rebounds.

Wayne outscored the Wildcats (2-2) by a 14-8 margin in the final period.

Tee Caldwell and Nelson Cagle tallied 15 and 14, respectively, for Novi.

Wayne made 14-of-24 free throws, while Novi connected on 15-of-22.

**JOHN GLENN 55, S.L. EAST 13:** Nick Daniels led a balanced scoring attack with 12 points Friday as host Westland John Glenn (2-1) routed South Lyon East (0-4) in a KLAAs Kensington Conference crossover.

Isaac Everette and Richard Roberts added 11 and nine, respectively, for the Rockets, who led 15-0 after one quarter and 34-3 at halftime.

East did not score its first basket until 6:18 of the second quarter.

Jack Leckner tallied five for the Cougars.

**BOYS BASKETBALL**

**SOUTH LYON 55, FRANKLIN 40:** Luke Short pumped in 22 points and Conner Weidmann added 11 Friday as the Lions (2-1) downed Livonia Franklin (1-2) in a KLAAs Kensington Conference crossover.

Franklin led 16-8 after one quarter, but South Lyon stormed back to take a 26-25 halftime lead and put it away with a 13-3 third-quarter run.

Adam Monroe led the Patriots, who shot only 14-of-46 from the field (30 percent), with 11 points.

Alex Armstrong and Tyrone Rayford added nine and eight points, respectively.

Olushakin Cole contributed a team-best 11 rebounds.

Franklin shot just 9-of-18 from the foul line.

**INTER-CITY 56, C'VILLE 43:** Evan Kraatz scored a game-high 23 points Friday to propel host Allen Park Inter-City Baptist (3-0) to a non-league victory over Livonia Clarenceville (0-5).

The Trojans trailed 26-13 at halftime before the Chargers went on a 24-9 third-quarter run to put the game away.

Austin Douglass scored seven in a losing cause.

**Buckley's 32 spurs Clarenceville**

Junior Ayanna Buckley stood tall Thursday night going for a career-high 32 points as host Livonia Clarenceville defeated Novi Franklin Road Christian, 69-54, in girls basketball.

The 6-foot-1 Buckley also grabbed 14 rebounds blocked five as Trojans, now 3-4 overall, snapped a three-game losing streak.

Other contributions came from Mikala Kieling, who added 13 points, including three triples, and Ashley Murphy, who added 10 points, 11 rebounds, four assists, three steals and three blocks.

Erica Katz also chipped in with eight points as the Trojans took control in the opening quarter with a 23-5 run.

Kristen Massey led the Warriors with a game-high 34 points.

Clarenceville made 14-of-26 free throws, while Franklin Road hit 18-of-26.

**LADYWOOD 59, GROSSE ILE 38:** Senior guard Shelby Walsh had another big night nailing six 3-pointers en route to a game-high 24 points Friday as Livonia Ladywood (4-1) downed the

**GIRLS BASKETBALL**

Red Devils (0-2) in a non-leaguer.

Walsh also had six rebounds, while senior guard Andie Anastos chipped in with 17 points, nine rebounds and nine assists.

The Blazers, who led 37-18 at halftime, also got a boost from Amber Riethmiller (eight points) and Sara Even (seven rebounds, seven assists).

Alex Carney led Grosse Ile with 16 points.

Ladywood was just 2-of-2 from the foul line, while Grosse Ile made 9-of-14.

**INTER-CITY 44, LUTH. WESTLAND 28:** On Thursday, Lutheran High Westland (0-5) couldn't overcome a 24-11 halftime deficit in a loss to host Allen Park Inter-City Baptist (2-3).

Chandler Davenport had 11 points in a losing cause, while Aldreanna Fikes grabbed a team-high 11 rebounds.

Alissa Flury chipped in with six points as the Warriors shot only 8-of-46 from the field (17.4 percent) and committed 25 turnovers.

The Chargers got a game-high 19 points from Rachel Muscat.

**SPORTS ROUNDUP**

**Closest-to-the-pin**

A free closest-to-the-pin contest will be held from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 16 at High Velocity Sports, located at 46245 Michigan Avenue, between Beck and Canton Center roads, in Canton.

Prizes include 18 holes of golf for two (with cart) at Pheasant Run Golf Course; \$50 gift cards to Dick's Sporting Goods; or a High Velocity Virtual Golf Simulator gift certificate.

Tami Bealert, PGA professional, will also offer free 10-minute tune-up lessons from 2-4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 16 at High Velocity.

On more upcoming clinics and events, visit [www.TrainWithTami.com](http://www.TrainWithTami.com); or call (734) 731-0238.

**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,

**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](http://www.MadonnaCrusaders.com).

**Pitching clinic**

Detroit Tigers pitching coach Jeff Jones, along with the Livonia Stevenson baseball coaching staff, will stage two sessions of pitching clinics on Sunday, Jan. 20, at the high school fieldhouse.

Session 1 (ages 9-12) will be from 10 a.m. until noon, followed by Session 2 (ages 13-18) 12:30-2:30 p.m.

Former pro pitcher Dave Marcon, a member of the Stevenson coaching staff and owner/scout for Indy Pro Showcase, will also assist Jones in covering the proper throwing mechanics, fielding, warmup and drills for pitchers.

The cost is \$40 person.

For more information, call Stevenson head baseball coach Rick Berryman at (734) 455-8623; or e-mail [Berry3724@aol.com](mailto:Berry3724@aol.com).

**Foul shot contest**

The Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship for boys and girls ages 9-14 will be at 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 20, at St. Thomas a'Becket Church, 555 S. Lilley Road, Canton.

Registration begins at 1:30 p.m. with all age-group contestants recognized for their participation in the event, which will progress through local, district and state competition.

Participants are required to furnish proof of age and written parental consent.

For more information, call Dave Lengel at (734) 516-4930 or email [dlengel2@yahoo.com](mailto:dlengel2@yahoo.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](http://www.parkrun.com) or [www.park-run.us](http://www.park-run.us).

**THE WEEK AHEAD**

- BOYS BASKETBALL**  
Monday, Dec. 17  
Franklin Rd. at L. W'sld, 7 p.m.  
Tuesday, Dec. 18  
Churchill at S.L. East, 7 p.m.  
Franklin at Stevenson, 7 p.m.  
John Glenn at Novi, 7 p.m.  
Wayne at South Lyon  
Shrine at Clarenceville, 7 p.m.  
Thursday, Dec. 20  
Churchill at Howell, 7 p.m.  
Stevenson at Edsel Ford, 7 p.m.  
C'ville at Annapolis, 7 p.m.
- GIRLS BASKETBALL**  
Monday, Dec. 17  
L. W'sld at Oak. Christ., 7 p.m.  
Tuesday, Dec. 18  
S.L. East at Churchill, 7 p.m.  
Stevenson at Franklin, 7 p.m.  
Novi at John Glenn, 7 p.m.  
South Lyon at Wayne, 7 p.m.  
Thursday, Dec. 20  
Thurston at Churchill, 7 p.m.  
Franklin at Wayne, 7 p.m.  
Stevenson at Marian, 7 p.m.  
C'ville at Cranbrook, 7 p.m.  
Friday, Dec. 21  
C'ville at W.L. Western, 7 p.m.
- PREP HOCKEY**  
Wednesday, Dec. 19  
Franklin vs. Salem, Churchill vs. Novi, at Edgar Arena, 6 & 8 p.m.  
Friday, Dec. 21  
Churchill vs. Northville at Novi Ice Arena, 7 p.m.  
Stevenson vs. South Lyon at Joe Louis Arena, 7 p.m.
- PREP WRESTLING**  
Wednesday, Dec. 19  
C'ville at Dearborn, 5:30 p.m.  
Northville Quad, 5:30 p.m.  
Friday, Dec. 21  
Oakland County Tourney at Southfield H.S., 4 p.m.  
Saturday, Dec. 22  
Oakland County Tourney at Southfield H.S., 10 a.m.
- BOYS SWIMMING**  
Tuesday, Dec. 18  
W.L.C. at Churchill, 6:30 p.m.  
Saturday, Dec. 22  
Stevenson, Rice, Detroit CC at Saline H.S. noon.
- GIRLS GYMNASTICS**  
Monday, Dec. 17  
Livonia Red, Groves at W.L. Maroon, 6:30 p.m.  
Livonia Blue vs. Canton at Churchill H.S., 6:30 p.m.
- PREP BOWLING**  
Monday, Dec. 17  
Clarenceville vs. Robichaud at Indian Lanes, 3:30 p.m.  
(at Super Bowl Lanes)  
Glenn vs. Plymouth, 3:30 p.m.  
Wayne vs. Novi, 3:30 p.m.  
Tuesday, Dec. 18  
(at Super Bowl Lanes)  
Glenn vs. Canton, 3:30 p.m.  
Wayne vs. Plymouth, 3:30 p.m.
- WOMEN'S COLLEGE HOOPS**  
Saturday, Dec. 22  
Madonna at U-D Mercy, 1 p.m.

# Stall tactics executed

## Charger girls cagers clip Spartans, 13-1

By Brad Emons  
Observer Staff Writer

### KLAA GIRLS HOOPS

It's the final outcome of a girls basketball game that needs a double-take — Livonia Churchill 13, Livonia Stevenson 1.

And it's not a misprint as the Chargers used stall tactics Friday night to pull off a bizarre victory against host Stevenson.

For three quarters, Churchill senior forward Sydney Anderson had the game's only basket and in the fourth quarter the Chargers knocked home 11 free throws to improve their overall record to 3-0.

"We thought the best chance we had to win was take the air out of the ball," Churchill coach Matt McCowan said. "We played really disciplined. We thought that we had the advantage by slowing the game down."

"We only put this in for two days. The first day on Wednesday it was a real struggle at practice. We had a really hard time. But it really shows the character of the girls to overcome that and come in on Thursday with a great attitude. The difference between Wednesday's and Thursday's practice was 100 percent different."

Anderson finished with five points, while Natalie Spala added four.

Julia Szuba and Michelle Azar completed the scoring with

three and one, respectively, for the Chargers.

"They came in and believed, and they played great disciplined basketball," McCowan said. "Defensively, it was a team effort. We knew the only shot we had with stalling was to get them, to when they were on offense, to get one shot and done, and no easy baskets."

"Molly Jarvis played an amazing game rebounding and also playing defense. But for the most part it was a team effort. And everyone bought into it and played their hearts out. I give them all the credit in the world. It's good win for us, especially being a crosstown rivalry. We haven't beaten Stevenson in so long."

Stevenson (2-1) had plenty of possessions to score, but the Spartans missed 21 shots from the floor and could not take advantage of 18 Churchill turnovers.

"We're were pretty much one-and-done," Stevenson coach Jen Knoph said. "We didn't get offensive rebounds. The first quarter I still thought we were O.K. I was telling them, 'Don't worry about it, the ball is going to fall. We just got to run our offense.' We were working so hard on the defensive end. And they were holding the ball at times for a minute-and-a-half to two minutes. And they were just working their tails off on

defense. Then we get the ball on the offensive end and it was panic-mode. When we got into the second quarter I could read it on all their faces. Everytime they got an opportunity, it was the fear of missing like: 'This shot is so important,' which is wasn't at that time."

"I tried to explain to them, 'We've got a whole game to play.' Ironically, the Spartans got their only point with three minutes to play on a free throw by junior forward Charlesann Roy. But by that time Stevenson was trailing 9-1."

"I don't think I've ever been a part of something like that," Knoph said. "I felt for the girls because the defensive part was not a problem. Churchill made one hoop. The second half we got into foul trouble because they were getting tired and chasing. Once they got into the bonus ... it's just so frustrating."

Knoph did not criticize Churchill's stall tactics. "It's genius," she said. "I don't fault Churchill's game plan. We've got to move on. We're going to see Churchill two more times. If that stats are even close we have an opportunity to score 40 points. We did not execute. I've got a great team, but they feel terrible tonight. We just got to let it go."

**JOHN GLENN 66, S.L. EAST 34:** On Friday, host Westland John Glenn (3-0) got rolling in the sec-

ond period and went on to rout South Lyon East (4-1) in a KLAA Kensington Conference crossover.

Senior guard ShaKeya Graves, headed to DePaul University, led the way with 14 points, while Kaira Barnes and Raven Bankston added 11 apiece. Raine Bankston also chipped in with 10 points.

Gabi Bird tallied 16 for the Cougars, who made 10-of-18 foul shots.

"Everyone played a lot and did really well," said Glenn coach Eric Kovatch. "All the girls played hard and we were able to limit the minutes because we have a game on Saturday (vs. Flint Powers Catholic in the Robichaud Classic)."

**SOUTH LYON 50, FRANKLIN 39:** Jessica Mehr scored a game-high 21 points Friday, including 15-of-16 from the foul line, to lift the Lions (3-1) past Livonia Franklin (3-1) in a Kensington Conference crossover.

South Lyon won it at the foul line, hitting 21-of-28 compared with Franklin's 7-of-10.

The Patriots picked up 23 fouls to South Lyon's 10.

Breanna Bias added 10 points for the Lions, who led 25-22 at halftime.

Sarah Cramton scored eight for Franklin, while Morgan Larkin added seven. Katelynn Devers and Natalie Modes each chipped in with six.

# Rival pin pals

## Glenn boys, girls win tiebreak vs. Wayne

By Brad Emons  
Observer Staff Writer

### PREP BOWLING

There was plenty of high drama to go around Friday afternoon at Town 'N Country Lanes.

The boys and girls showdown between rivals Westland John Glenn and Wayne Memorial ended in a tiebreaker at 15-all with Glenn emerging the victory in both matches to improve to 4-0 overall and 2-0 in the KLAA's Central Division. In the boys match, Wayne won the Baker posted a 279-236-505 to take six points in the Baker set, while Glenn was not far behind with a 280-203-483.

But the Rockets won with an overall total of 1,021-1,064-2,085, while Wayne (2-1, 0-1) shot 1,075-1,059.

Top scorers for Glenn included Steven White, 247-226-473; Mark Kassab, 236-205-441; and Daniel Ammons, 236-202-438.

Bill Wicker also came through with a 217 individual game.

Wayne's top shooters were John Willet (212-225-437) and Darriek Craig (257-180-437), along with Connor Weber (212-214-426).

The Glenn girls also rallied late after losing the Baker sets.

Wayne took six points with a 148-197-345, while the Rockets finished just two pins back at 162-181-343.

Glenn rolled 784-898 in match play for a total of 2,025, while Wayne had 812-826 for a 1,983.

Top scorers for Glenn included Ashley Kolb, who had a two-game set of 372 including a 213 game. Julia Huren added a 364 two-game set, while Caity Lenard had a 211 in a 357 set.

Tiffany Markham led the Zebras (2-1, 0-1) with a 373, while Christina O'Harris shot a 356.

tral Division opener.

"All scores were low tonight, but it was really great to see how the girls handled very tough lane conditions," Cabilido said. "It was actually a great team effort."

**Rocket boys romp**

The Glenn boys also improved to 3-0 and 1-0 in the Central with a 30-0 win Wednesday over the Novi at Super Bowl.

Mark Kassab led the way with a 197-193-390 two-game set followed by Steve Brusseau (178-194-372) and Steve White (184-187-371).

Dan Ammons contributed a 193 individual game in the second match, while Ryan McCarthy rolled a 174.

"Super Bowl moved the oil and conditions were different than what we have been bowling on," Glenn boys first-year coach Ron Staples said. "This was a match of adjustments. We did a good job of moving to where we could get some carry. After we made a few adjustments we starting rolling the ball much better in our second game."

The Rockets' Mark Kassab, Steve White, Dan Ammons, Ryan McCarthy and Steve Brusseau came up big in the tenth frame in both match games to seal the victory.

"We ended games very well today it was a good team effort," Staples said. "Total pin count was the key today. When you win the battle of total pin count, you are hard to beat."

# Thurston cagers win Red Division opener

By Ed Wright  
Observer Staff Writer

Wayne Athletic Conference Red Division opener for both teams.

Thurston is now 3-0 overall while the Chargers slipped to 1-1.

Junior Otis Kemutambah's free throw with 18 seconds left gave the Eagles a three-point cushion.

As Crestwood worked

the ball around in search of a potential game-tying triple, Thurston's Chris Broxton knocked the ball out of bounds with five ticks left.

"They in-bounded the ball to around half court and the player took about two dribbles and shot a three, but it was short," recounted Thur-

ston head coach Brian Bates. "I thought we played really well defensively tonight. We did a nice job rebounding, too."

Junior Rayvlon Croon led all scorers with 16 points. Senior guard Xzavier Bowen chipped in with 13 while Kemutambah added 12.

Powered by a stellar defensive effort and solid work around on the boards, Redford Thurston's boys basketball team posted a 53-50 victory over host Dearborn Heights Crestwood Friday night in the Western

**C'ville boys win**

Ricky Rutenbar rolled a 182-226-408 two-game set Wednesday to lead the Livonia Clarenceville boys team to a 17-13 win over host Trenton at Skore Lanes.

Kaylup Richards and Kyle Kissandi added individual games of 223 and 206 to push the Trojans' record to 2-1 overall.

On Dec. 10, Tyler Fox shot 214-205-419, while Richards added a 192-214-406 as the Trojans downed host Woodhaven at Ford Lanes, 17-13.

On the girls side, Clarenceville fell to Woodhaven, 22-8, as freshman Erin Walters led the Trojans with a 148-156-304 two-game set.

On Dec. 5, Walters rolled a 134-127-261 two-game set in a 29-1 Western Wayne Bowling League setback against Wyandotte at Cherry Hill Lanes.

### Glenn girls cruise

Chalk up another victory Wednesday for the Westland John Glenn girls bowling team.

The Rockets improved to 3-0 overall with 29-1 triumph over Novi at the Super Bowl Lanes in Canton.

"Today the girls got to experience 'middle road' oil pattern," Glenn girls first-year coach Ralph Cabilido said. "That will be the same shot which they will see at the MHSAA tournament. I am really proud how our team bowled tonight."

Julia Huren posted a high two-game series with a 383, while Yvette Ayers chipped in with a 320 for Glenn, which captured its KLAA Cen-

### CRUSADERS

Continued from page B1

ball to the place that they (Davenport) were trying to get it to. Our communication was great. Our effort was great and that really sparked our opportunities offensively.

"Making shots and getting shots — the combination of those two things — helped us in that stretch the second half."

MU also snapped a two-game losing skid in the WHAC.

"Those losses helped us grow and have helped us become the team that we are today," Emehiser said. "I think we're a better team because of those. Even though we would have liked to avoid them, we've shown some growth and maturity and learning from those difficult losses."

**GRACE (IND.) 80, MADONNA 76:** Greg Miller poured in a game-high 27 points and grabbed 10 rebounds to propel No. 9-ranked Grace College (8-2) to a victory over host Madonna University (8-5) in Friday's Hines Park Crusader Classic.

Bruce Grimm Jr. added 19 points, while Elliot Smith contributed 10 for the Pilots, who outscored MU 34-24 in the paint.

Bobby Naubert led the Crusaders with 21 points and nine assists, while junior forward Fred Williams added 12 points.

MU shot only 41.5 percent from the field (27-of-65) and only 26.9 percent from 3-point range (7-of-26).

Grace trailed 38-37 at halftime, but took the lead for keeps just 17 seconds into the second half on layup by Miller.

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## Local moms wish military troops a Merry Christmas

By Sharon Dargay  
O&E Staff Writer

Lorraine Diegel of Livonia celebrated Christmas early this year.

Her youngest son, Seth, was in town last week, on leave with his wife and their two children, from Fort Campbell, a U.S. Army base in Tennessee near the Kentucky line, northwest of Nashville.

Last month, Diegel and her husband also got a chance to count their blessings with the young family.

"The Army just moved them from Alaska to Fort Campbell. We were able to go down for Thanksgiving," Diegel said. "It was great. It was the first Thanksgiving we had in six years with our son."

The Thanksgiving and Christmas reunions have been a treat for Diegel, but she understands that other moms won't be able to spend time with their children who are in the service this holiday season.

Through Military Moms United, Diegel and other members offer their support.

### Heart of the family

"We all get together and share stories about our kids, things that families are going through," said Diegel, president of the nonprofit organization. "The moms support each other and also support our veterans and do community work. We support moms whose children are going into the military.

We also serve mothers whose children have gotten out of the military and are home now. We're united for all the moms.

"The mother is the heart of the family. She is mostly the main support to that family, the core," she said, adding that moms often help the rest of the family cope when a son or daughter joins the military service. "They say that when a child goes into the military, you all go into the military."

Diegel sought the support of other military moms after Seth, then a junior in college, decided to enter the service.

"I was looking for some encouragement because it was a difficult time for myself, realizing my youngest son was going. It is a daily up and down roller coaster ride," she recalled.

When he was deployed to Iraq and to Afghanistan, Diegel avoided national news broadcasts and became more aware of her surroundings.

"We talk about our children diffidently when they are in the service. For security, we have to be very careful and mindful of what we say," she noted. "It's not that we get rid of our friends who are not involved in the military, but we switch topics, depending on who we are socializing with."

She discovered that other military moms shared her experience.

### New organization

Military Moms Unit-



Military Moms United members Carol Moxlow (left), treasurer; Minerva Draper, packaging coordinator; and Lorraine Diegel, president; are all smiles at a recent gift packaging session for the military. Pat Enderle, secretary, is seated in the background.



Volunteers select personal care items for packages that will help give overseas military troops a merry Christmas.

ed formed in 2007 when several members of the Dearborn-based Michigan Military Moms broke ranks to create a separate group in west-

ern Wayne County.

"We had a member in Ann Arbor and one Downriver and we wanted something centrally located," Diegel explained.

General meetings are held the first and third Thursday of the month at the American Legion in Taylor. But Diegel said prospective new members should call first. The number is (855) 868-6483.

"We move around," she said, adding that the group also can tailor sessions and phone outreach to meet members' needs.

Meetings offer a

chance to socialize, network, and hear guest speakers. The group sends gift packages at least quarterly to their children and other men and women in the military.

Recently Military Moms United joined forces with volunteers from Walmart and Chase Bank to send Christmas packages overseas.

"That went to a large group all over from all branches overseas. We try to send them as much as we can to give them a taste of home," she said. "Fourth graders from a school in Chelsea made cards to put on the packaging. We included a snippet of a holiday wreath in each package to remind the troops of their moms back home who are thinking of them."

They sent approximately 70 boxes. The group also recently prepared personal care items for troops returning to the U.S. from Afghanistan next year. Plans also are underway to send packages to military canines and their handlers in February.

The organization accepts donations of good and money. Call first to find out what items it needs. Monetary donations are accepted at Military Moms United, P.O. Box 39208, Redford, MI 48239-0208.

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**Livonia Garden Club**

Vince Kogo, an urban chicken farmer, will talk about raising chickens, 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 8, at the Livonia Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia. For more information visit [www.orgsites.com/ml/livoniagardenclub/](http://www.orgsites.com/ml/livoniagardenclub/).

**English Gardens**

The store is accepting donations to provide fresh-cut Christmas trees to U.S. troops and military families. For each \$30 donation, English Gardens will give one tree to a military base in the U.S. or overseas.

Area stores are at 155 N. Maple, Ann Arbor, (734) 332-7900; 22650 Ford Road in Dearborn Heights, (313) 278-4433; 4901 Coolidge Highway, Royal Oak, (248) 280-9500; and 6370 Orchard Lake Road, in West Bloomfield, (248) 851-7506.

**LEARN HOW TO RESEARCH ANCESTRY**

The Plymouth Historical Museum is selling tickets for a genealogy seminar planned for Saturday, March 23, 2013.

Cost is \$45 through Dec. 31. The price goes up to \$50 on Jan. 1, 2013.

The workshop, sponsored by Ancestry.com, features the mother and daughter duo, Loretto Szucs and Juliana Szucs Smith.

Szucs has worked for Ancestry.com for 20 years. She also was employed by the National Archives in Chicago, Ill., served on national and state advisory boards and boards of five genealogical societies, including the Federation of Genealogical Societies. She has authored or edited more than a dozen books.

She'll talk about "Hidden Treasures at Ancestry.com" and "Beyond The Federal Census: Using Non-Population and State Censuses to Find Your People."

Smith has worked for Ancestry.com for more than 14 years and began investigating her family history by trolling through microfilms at age of 11 with her mother. She has written many articles for online and print genealogical publications.

Smith will talk about "Common Surnames" and "What to Do With Your Discoveries."

The seminar will run from 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. It will include the four lectures, lunch, and the option of touring the Museum's special exhibit, "Made in America," during lunch and the afternoon break.

Buy tickets at the Plymouth Historical Museum or on the Museum's website at [http://www.plymouth-history.org/events/Genealogy-Seminar\\_ET119.html?SortBox=201303](http://www.plymouth-history.org/events/Genealogy-Seminar_ET119.html?SortBox=201303).

The Plymouth Historical Museum is located at 155 S. Main, one block north of downtown Plymouth. For more information, call the Museum at (734) 455-8940.

# In this special season, give the best gift — hope

By **L. J. McCulloch**  
Guest columnist

As it happens, this installation of my monthly column, "Our Mental Health" coincides with our holiday season of gift giving. We, "give thanks"



**Our Mental Health**

Len McCulloch

on Thanksgiving day. We exchange gifts at Christmas and Hanukkah. Our children give Santa Claus lists of hoped-for presents. We receive many requests to give donations to our hopeful, less fortunate folks. We give resolutions of change at the New Year and hope we can stick to them.

We give and receive a multitude of "well wishes" such as "Merry Christmas," "Happy New Year," "Have a Happy Yuletide," and so forth.

I think that a common element of these holiday traditions is hope. Hope comes about by mixing

a sufficient quantity of faith with an abundant serving of love.

"Hope springs eternal," said one philosopher. And another said, "The greatest virtues are faith, hope and love." Yet another said, "Hope depends on faith and the outcome of both is love."

While hope is a small word, it is a big antidote for despair. The importance of hope in recovery from despair is no more or less important, regardless of the source of suffering. Without hope there is despair. Despair is the submission to loss. It is giving up. It is concluding there is no way out. It is despondency and it accomplishes nothing. It is suicide of the soul.

Swaddling Clothes  
The dichotomy of hope vs. despair (life vs. death?) seems, to me, beautifully depicted by the explanation of what swaddling clothes are. The Christmas account of the birth of Jesus Christ in a manger in Bethlehem, tells us that the newborn Jesus was, "wrapped in swaddling clothes" by his mother, Mary, as Joseph looked on. So, what are swaddling clothes? You see,

in those times, travel from one city to another was by foot or on a donkey. It would take a long time. Some folks died along the way. It was customary to wear an undergarment which would be suitable to be buried in, if need be. So, it is said that Mary wrapped the newborn Jesus in her swaddling clothes. Thus, life and death, (hope and despair) were immediately linked, consistent with the prophecy that this baby was born in order to die, for us, 33 years later. And then, to rise again after three days so as to offer us eternal life. Hope vs. despair... hope wins!

Hope requires faith in optimism and in one's self. And hope, usually requires interaction with another person. Despairing people usually cannot discover hope on their own. They need another person who is able to enter their world of despair and offer them a deal. The deal, psychologically, is a "working alliance."

This is a technical term usually reserved for the positive relationship developed between a psychotherapist and

a patient. But, it can occur between any two people wherein one has hope to offer to the other in a realistic manner. This working alliance amounts to two or more people agreeing to be optimistic in their combined efforts to deal with, overcome, or put up with and tolerate major personal distress. Some people are trained professional "therapists" who can offer hope. Some are ordinary people with an extraordinary life experience or natural endowment of resilience, so as to be able to offer hope to others. Hope motivates one to act with the belief that there will be a positive outcome from optimism, hard work, and perseverance.

**Wishing**

Hope differs from a wish. Wishing for a solution to a life problem is a passive event. It can be done in solitude and does not always come true. Hope, on the other hand, is an active event and implies a willingness to work towards a solution or an ability to tolerate seemingly insurmountable problems, known as suffering.

So, I encourage hope. If you are struggling with trauma or despair from any source, find another person, group, cause, or organization with which to establish a working alliance pursuant to an optimistic, overcoming of sorrow. Join up with another in any small or big way and reap the benefits of hope, which are movement onward and forward, despite the cost. Have hopeful holidays!

**Len McCulloch**, a Farmington Hills resident for 20 years, is a Diplomat of The American Psychotherapy Association and is board certified in traumatic stress. He is credentialed in mental health, brain injury, social work and addictions. He is a psychotherapist of 35 years and president of The Therapy Choirs of Michigan, (TCM), a non-profit organization which develops therapy choirs for special people with special needs and challenges. Their Tour Of Hope has given nearly 200 free "Concerts Of Inspiration" throughout Michigan for the past decade. See the TCM website at: [www.therapychoirs.org](http://www.therapychoirs.org). McCulloch can be reached at (248) 476-9329.

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# Share your Christmas traditions with other readers

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. Whatever your holiday tradition is, we'd love to find out more. Tell us about your Christmas

tradition — and New Year's if you've got one to share for that as well — include a photo if you'd like and tell us why it's a mainstay in your holi-

day celebrating. We'll share it with readers in an upcoming *Observer* edition. Include your name, phone number, e-mail, and city of

residence. E-mailed photos should be jpg attachments. E-mail to Sharon Dargay by Thursday, Dec. 20, at sdargay@hometownlife.com.



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 (At the Plymouth Community Arts Council)  
**December 19**  
 Candle Lighting 7 p.m.  
**December 23**  
 Advent of Joy & Wonder 10 a.m.  
**December 30**  
 Burning Bowl 10 a.m.



**Holy Trinity Lutheran Church**  
 39020 Five Mile Road, Livonia  
 734.464.0211 [www.holytrinitylivonia.org](http://www.holytrinitylivonia.org)  
**Christmas Eve**  
 Holy Communion offered at all Services  
 5:00 pm Family Worship  
 7:00 pm Candlelight Worship  
 10:30 pm Festival Prelude of Christmas Music  
 11:00 pm Candlelight Worship  
**Christmas Day**  
 10:00 am Holy Communion

# CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

Enjoy these holiday services with your family and friends.



**Christmas Eve, December 24**  
 Candlelight, Carols & Celebrated Message  
 Family Service: 5 PM  
 Children's Program  
 Traditional: 7 PM  
 Chancel Choir  
 Come Celebrate the Birth of the Lord!  
**FRANKLIN COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
 26425 Wellington Road, Franklin, MI  
 (248) 626-6606 [www.franklinchurch.us](http://www.franklinchurch.us)



**Covenant Community Church**  
 25800 Student Redford, MI 48239  
 313-535-3100  
 (1 block north of Five Mile on Beech Daly)  
[www.covenantredford.com](http://www.covenantredford.com)  
**Christmas Service Schedule**  
 Sunday, December 23, 2012 - 11 a.m.  
 Morning Worship  
 Monday, December 24, 2012 - 6 p.m.  
 Christmas Eve Service

**St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church (WELS)**  
 17810 Farmington Road ~ Livonia, Michigan  
 734-261-1360 ~ website: [stpaulslivonia.org](http://stpaulslivonia.org)  
 Christmas Worship at St. Paul's  
 Christmas Eve Worship ..... 6:30 p.m.  
 Christmas Day Worship ..... 10:00 a.m.  
 New Year's Eve ..... 6:30 p.m.  
 Come and worship with us!  
 Pastor James Hoff Pastor Eric Steinbrunner

**Christmas at the Kirk**  
 December 16  
 4:00 PM Service of Lessons and Carols  
 December 24 - Christmas Eve  
 11:00 AM Young Family Service  
 Dr. Norman Pritchard  
 4:00 PM Family Service  
 Rev. William Adams III  
 6:00 PM Family Service  
 Rev. Carol Tate  
 8:30 PM Holy Night Service  
 Dr. Norman Pritchard  
 11:00 PM Holy Night Service  
 Dr. Norman Pritchard  
**Kirk in the Hills**  
 1340 West Long Lake Road • Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48302 • (248) 626-2515  
[kirkinthehills.org](http://kirkinthehills.org)

**Christmas Celebration**  
 Sunday, December 16 9 & 10:30am  
**Christmas Eve: A Night in Bethlehem**  
 4 & 6pm Service with Bethlehem Petting Stable  
 11pm Candlelight Service  
**Trinity Church** 10101 Ann Arbor Road W. | Plymouth, MI 48178  
 734.459.9550 | [www.trinitychurchofplymouth.org](http://www.trinitychurchofplymouth.org)

**TIMOTHY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
 8820 Wayne Rd. (at Joy Rd.) Livonia, MI 48150  
 Invites you to attend  
**Monday, December 24 At 7:00 PM**  
**ALL ARE WELCOME**  
 734 427-2290  
[www.timothychurch.com](http://www.timothychurch.com)

*Christmas Services at*  
**NORTHRIDGE**  
 PLYMOUTH  
 Saturday, December 22 at 5:00P & 7:00P  
 Sunday, December 23 at 9:00A & 11:00A  
 4000 Territorial Rd., Plymouth, MI 48170  
 BRIGHTON-HOWELL  
 Sunday, December 23 at 11:00A  
 10000 Brighton Rd., Brighton, MI 48843  
 ANN ARBOR-SALINE  
 Sunday, December 23 at 11:00A  
 1700 N. Maple Rd., Saline, MI 48176  
[NorthRidgeChurch.com](http://NorthRidgeChurch.com)

**ROSEDALE GARDENS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
 ~ Christmas Eve Services ~  
**Monday, December 24, 2012**  
 5:00 p.m. - Family Service  
 Featuring Children's Choir and Youth Handbells  
 10:00 p.m. - Candlelight Communion Service  
 Featuring Adult Chancel Choir and Handbell Choir  
 Rev. Steve Clark, Pastor - Rev. Kellie Whitlock, Pastor  
**Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church, USA** 9601 Hubbard at West Chicago Livonia, MI 48150  
 734-422-0494  
[www.rosedalegardens.org](http://www.rosedalegardens.org)  
 Wheelchair Accessible

# Bake for your dog, but don't over-treat beloved Fido

## Holiday treats

Skip the turkey and ham table scraps this holiday season, put chocolates — toxic to dogs — well out of reach and try these bake-it-yourself treats from the American Kennel Club:

### Pumpkin Peanut Butter Biscuits

- 2 ½ cups whole wheat or barley flour
  - 2 eggs
  - 1 cup canned pumpkin
  - 3 tablespoons peanut butter
  - ½ teaspoon cinnamon
1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees
  2. Stir dry ingredi-

ents in medium bowl. In separate bowl, whisk together eggs, pumpkin, and peanut butter. Add egg mixture to flour mixture and knead thoroughly. Dough should be dry and stiff; add small amounts of water as needed to make it workable. If dough is too sticky, add small amounts of flour. Roll dough into half-inch thickness and cut into half-inch pieces, using knife or cookie cutters

3. Bake about 40 minutes, or until hard and dry.

Serve and watch tails wag



## Watch their weight

The National Association of Professional Pet Sitters (NAPPS) suggests that pet parents resolve in the New Year to improve their cat's or dog's health.

The group, citing a study by the Association for Pet Obesity Prevention, says that approximately 53 percent of cats and 55 percent of dogs are overweight or obese. "To help keep pets healthy, it's important to stick to a schedule and create a daily routine for both you and your animal," says John D'Ariano, NAPPS president. "Consistency is key when it comes to caring for animals. Allow your pet to know what to expect each day — whether it's time to eat or time for exercise, help your pet adjust to a

schedule that will benefit his health and overall wellbeing."

The organization suggests that pet parents resist begging from animals, take time for morning exercise, explore new walking routes with their dogs, and consider hiring someone to walk or play with their pets when they are away from home.

## Wellness services

Tail Wagger's 1990 is scheduling appointments for wellness services on Friday, Dec. 21. The organization offers rabies, distem-

per and bordetella vaccinations for dogs for \$30. Vaccinations also are offered individually for \$12. Cats and kittens can receive distemper and rabies vaccines for \$12 each. Heartworm testing is available, with results on the spot, and microchips cost \$30. Tail Wagger's 1990 doesn't charge an office fee and consultations or second opinions are free, although donations are accepted. Call (734) 855-4077 for an appointment. Tail Wagger's is located at 28402 Five Mile, Livonia.

# CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

Enjoy these holiday services with your family and friends.



**North Congregational Church**  
36520 W. Twelve Mile Road, Farmington Hills, MI  
248/848-1750 northcongregationalchurch.org

Sunday, December 23, 2012, 10:30 a.m.  
Worship, Special Music: "Lessons and Carols"

Monday, December 24, 2012, 7:30 p.m.  
**CHRISTMAS EVE  
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE**  
"The Light Shines in the Darkness"

*Celebrate Christmas!*  
**Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church**  
14175 Farmington Rd, Livonia  
(Just north of I-96)

Christmas Eve:  
5pm Family Service  
11pm Candlelight Service

Christmas Day:  
10am Worship  
(734) 522-6830  
www.christsaviors.org

**Christ the King Lutheran Church**  
9300 Farmington Rd. - Livonia, MI 48150  
(734) 421-0749  
www.christthekinglivonia.com  
The Rev. James L. Fogle, Pastor

**Christmas Eve Candlelight**  
Worship with Communion  
5:00 & 11:00 p.m.

**Starr Presbyterian Church**  
Christmas Service Schedule  
Sunday, December 23 at 10:30 a.m.

**Christmas Eve**  
Monday, December 24 **Join us!**  
at 7 p.m.

Starr Presbyterian Church  
1717 W. 13 Mile at Crooks • Royal Oak  
248-288-3230  
www.starrchurch.org

**NEWBURG UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH**  
36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia, MI  
Rev. Marsha M. Woolley, Lead Pastor  
Rev. Paul Perez, Deacon

**CHRISTMAS EVE**  
5:00 p.m. Children/Family Friendly Service  
7:00 p.m. Festival Worship and Candlelight  
11:00 p.m. Lessons, Carols, & Candlelight

December 30 - Family Worship Service for all ages at 10 am

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH-DETROIT**  
21200 Southfield Rd., Southfield  
(248) 569-2972 www.fbc-detroit.org

**ADVENT WORSHIP SCHEDULE**  
December 16th - Third Sunday of Advent  
11:00 a.m. Worship - Special Christmas Cantata

December 23rd - Fourth Sunday of Advent  
11:00 a.m. Worship: Christmas Pageant

Monday, December 24th - Christmas Eve  
7:00 p.m. "Candlelight Communion Service"

**ST. ANNE'S ROMAN  
CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
Tridentine Latin Rite Mass 734-462-3200  
38100 Five Mile Road Livonia, MI 48154  
One quarter mile West of Newburgh Road

**Christmas Mass Schedule**

Christmas Eve	Confessions	11:00-11:50 pm
Christmas Day	Midnight Mass	12:00 am
	Morning Mass	10:00 am
	Confessions	9:30 am

**Resurrection Parish**  
48755 Warren Rd., Canton, MI 48187  
734-451-0444  
www.resurrectionparish.net

Monday, December 24th: Christmas Eve: 4 PM, 6 PM, 10 PM  
Tuesday, December 25th: Christmas Day: 10:30 AM

Monday, December 31st:  
Solemnity of Mary Mother of God: 4:30 PM  
Tuesday, January 1st:  
Solemnity of Mary Mother of God: 10:30 PM

PLEASE NOTE: New Mass Times - All in the Church!  
PLEASE JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE THE SAVIOR'S BIRTH!

**First United  
Methodist Church  
of Birmingham**  
*Christmas Worship*  
Christmas Eve, Dec. 24

2:00 p.m.  
Traditional sanctuary service including lessons, carols, Holy Communion, a hymn

7:00 p.m. & 9:00 p.m.  
& 11:00 p.m.  
Traditional services in the sanctuary, featuring beautiful music and Christmas Eve stories. All 7:00 PM services are available for children younger than kindergarten age.

1389 West Maple Road  
Birmingham, AL  
(248) 644-1300  
www.birminghamfirst.org

**Historic Mariners' Church**  
*Traditional Anglican Worship - Since 1842*

Monday, December 24 - Christmas Eve  
7:30 and 11:00 p.m. - Duplicate Services with Festival Choral Communion  
No Services on Christmas Day

Sunday, December 30 - First Sunday after Christmas  
8:30 a.m. - The Holy Communion  
11:00 a.m. - The Festival of Lessons and Carols with The Holy Communion  
Regular Services of Holy Communion  
Sundays at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. ~ Thursdays at 12:10 p.m.

(313) 259-2206  
Free Secured Parking in Ford Underground Garage with entrance in the median strip of Jefferson at Woodward  
On Hart Plaza at the Tunnel

**ST. GENEVIEVE-ST. MAURICE PARISH**  
29015 Jamison St., Livonia  
East of Middlebelt Rd. between Five Mile Rd. & the Jeffries Fwy.

December 24...**Christmas Eve Masses**  
4:00p Children's Mass...10:00p [Midnight Mass]

December 25...**Christmas Day Masses**  
9:00a...11:00a

December 31...**New Year's Eve Mass**  
4:00p

December 31-January 1...**Holy Hour**  
11:30p Exposition...12:30a Reposition & Benediction

January 1...**New Year's Day Masses**  
9:00a...11:00a





Sumner-Salvia

Nicole Sumner and John Salvia announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Janet Beauvais of Plymouth and Thomas Sumner of Canton, earned a bachelor of social work from Loyola University, Chicago and a master of social work from New York University. She is employed at Easter Seals Michigan.

Her fiancé, son of John and Kathleen Salvia of Northville, earned a bachelor of science degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Michigan-Dearborn. He's employed by Toyota.

A July 2013 wedding is planned in Saline.

Milestones



Riley-Walczyk

Cassandra Riley and Mark Edward Walczyk, both of Westland, announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Neelam and Dave Allen of Orlando, Fla., attended Franklin High School in Livonia.

Her fiancé, son of Lawrence and Christine Walczyk of Rochester Hills, attended Churchill High School in Livonia and is employed by United Resource LLC.

An August 2013 wedding is planned in Rochester Hills.



Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

View Online  
www.hometownlife.com

How to reach us:  
1-800-579-7355 • fax 313-496-4968 • oebits@hometownlife.com

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



**CARGILL, MARTHA SKINNER**

March 19, 1922 - Dec. 5, 2012  
Martha passed away peacefully on December 5th, with her family around her. She left this life the way she lived, in control and the way she wanted it. She was born in New Britain CT to Sherrod Emerson Skinner and Abigail Elizabeth (Leete) Skinner, where her family had roots going back to Colonial days. She moved to Michigan, with her sister Shirley and her twin brothers, Rod and Dave, in 1930 when her father accepted a position at General Motors, where he eventually rose to Executive Vice-President. In line with the women on her mothers' side going back to 1840, she attended Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley MA, graduating with a degree in Fine Arts in 1943. She worked on her Master's Degree in Education at the University of Michigan and at Merrill Palmer Institute in Detroit. She married Don Ashton Cargill on January 4, 1946 and they shared a long happy marriage until his death in 2000. Her lifelong passions were education, international exchange, fine arts and community service. She went to Peru in the summer of 1942, on a banana boat through the Panama Canal on the Experiment in International Living. She was a member of the Board of Trustees at Merrill Palmer and at Mount Holyoke. Living first in Seaside OR after her marriage, she returned to Michigan where Don founded the Cargill-Detroit Corporation, a custom engineering firm that remained in business until 2003. In Birmingham MI she was a member of Sigma Gamma (a volunteer auxiliary for the Detroit Children's Orthopedic Hospital), the Junior League of Birmingham, the Village Women's Club, and St. Elizabeth's Guild at St. James Episcopal Church. She supported many museums and foundations, sponsoring several educational scholarships and hosting many international exchange students. She is survived by her daughter Sue Bradley (Scott), her son John (Karen), her Bradley grandchildren Chris, Nate (Jessica), and Matt (Lindsay), her Cargill grandchildren John Jr (Nicole), Jeffrey, and Jessie. She also has two great granddaughters, Emerson and Ashton Cargill. Thanks to Jan and the wonderful caregivers Pat, Lorinda, Theresa, Vicki, Kerry, Courtney, Chrissy, Becca and all of the other wonderful people at Clarebridge who made her last years so comfortable. A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, December 15, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. at Hennessey-Smith Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the Clarebridge Holiday Fund.



**CONRAD, NORMA E.**

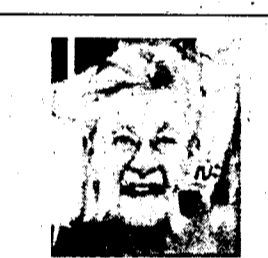
1926-2012. Age 86, died Saturday, December 8, 2012 after a long battle with Alzheimer's. Norma was born August 20, 1926 to Tina (Kempf) and Dutch Parisian in Muskegon. The family moved to Lansing in 1936. She graduated from high school after which she worked for a year in the Oldsmobile Defense Plant to earn money for college. She attended MSU where she graduated with a degree in sociology. She moved to New York City where she worked for Bankers Trust on Wall Street in the brokers loan department for several years. She returned to Michigan and was employed by IBM where she met her future husband, Voris. She worked in several positions including Executive Secretary from which she retired after 15 years. She married Voris in 1963 and they moved to Livonia. They moved to Spring Lake in 1989. She is survived by her daughter, Kris Conrad of Livonia (Richard Genik II); her stepdaughters, Karen Conrad (Kathy Przybylski) and Linda Young (Joe Young), both of VA; her brother-in-law, Keith Conrad (Barb Muller) of New York; and several special cousins. She was preceded in death by both of her parents, her brother Stan who was killed in the Battle of the Bulge during WWII, and both her father-in-law as well as her mother-in-law. Norma enjoyed spending time with her family, collecting Swarovski crystals, miniature boxes and reading. Her family will miss her but is thankful that her passing was as peaceful as possible. Interment will take place 1:00 PM Thursday, December 13, 2012 at Spring Lake Cemetery, followed by a memorial service at 2:00 PM Thursday at VanZantwick Bartels Kammeraad Funeral Home in Grand Haven. Memorial contributions in memory of Norma may be given to USO (www.uso.org), Fisher House Foundation (fisherhouse.org), or Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund www.fallenheroesfund.org. Please sign the family's online guestbook: vbkfuneralhome.com. The family is being served by VanZantwick Bartels Kammeraad Funeral Home of Grand Haven.



**HOWELL, BONNYE (NEE: DUNLOP)**

Age 97, died peacefully December 12, 2012. She was predeceased by husband George in 1985 and survived by daughter Susan Howell Brubaker. Born and raised in New York City, Bonnie graduated from Oberlin College and received a master's degree from Columbia. Married in 1946, they moved to Birmingham where Bonnie lived for more than 50 years. She was a gifted pianist and artist. She enjoyed activities with AAUW and the Village Club. Services will be in New Jersey at a later date.

Share a memory at:  
Sullivanfuneraldirectors.com



**LINDERMAN, DONNA CAROLINE (HINDERER)**

Age 77, died Saturday, December 8, 2012. Donna was born in Chelsea, Michigan on May 17, 1935 to the late Wilbur and Matilda Hinderer. Ms. Linderman is survived by her 3 children Nancy (John) Kudlawiec, Thomas (MaryAnne) Linderman, and Diane (Michael) Honeycutt. She is also survived by 6 grandchildren Andrea and Eric Kudlawiec, Kelsi and Michael Linderman, and Bryan and Stephanie Honeycutt and preceded in death by grandsons Justin Linderman and Derek Honeycutt. She worked as a secretary for the Wayne-Westland School District and retired in 1996. She enjoyed spending time with family and was a caring, loving, loyal, and devoted mother and grandmother. At Donnas' request there are no services planned. A gathering of her family will occur in the spring at Cavanaugh Lake where she had many fond memories. Her family would like to thank Hospice of Helping Hands, in particular Cathy B. and Dave, for their kindness, compassion, and competence making it possible for us to keep our mom at home during her illness per her wishes. Memorial contributions can be made to Hospice of Helping Hands, American Cancer Society, or the Alzheimer's Association. She will be dearly missed by all that knew her.



**POLLACK, PETER D.**

December 8, 2012, age 66. Following his military service in the United States Marine Corps which included a thirteen month tour of duty in Vietnam, Peter returned to Michigan and started college completing degrees from Wayne State University, the University of Detroit and the University of Michigan. Peter had a rewarding forty year career as a clinical social worker that culminated in a successful private practice in Plymouth where he was able to work close to home, set his own hours and share an office with his son Tyler. His work had a lasting and positive impact on countless individuals and families in the community. Peter was an avid walker, a music lover and enjoyed caring for many special dogs over the years. He was a long time Plymouth resident and felt strongly about supporting local businesses. He could be seen every day of the week walking his dog downtown. He enjoyed spending time outdoors, especially in hot weather and took pride in maintaining his home and yard. He also loved sports cars, watching football and chocolate. Above all, Peter loved spending time with his wife Shirley of 43 years, their children and their children's families. The family enjoyed many vacations, including a memorable cruise in 2008. Mostly they enjoyed spending time together doing everyday things like barbecues, taking walks, watching the grand kids play and party of ten dinners at Buddy's. Peter was famous with his grandkids for walks to "the bumpy road playground" and trips for ice cream. Peter is survived by his wife Shirley, children Amy (Patrick) Ross and Tyler (Trisha) Pollack. Also surviving are grandchildren Zachary and Rachel Ross and Miles and Maddox Pollack. Beloved son of the late Ernest and Charlotte Pollack. A Memorial visitation will be held on Saturday, December 15, 2012 from 2pm until the time of the Memorial Service at 4pm at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, 280 South Main Street, Plymouth. Contributions are suggested to the Michigan Humane Society or the American Heart Association. Share your special thoughts and memories at: www.schrader-howell.com



**PREVO, NORMA E.**

Williamston, Michigan; formerly of Wayne, Michigan. Born November 2, 1925, the daughter of John and Agnes (Sheff) Sullivan. Norma passed away on December 11, 2012, at age 87. Norma was preceded in death by her husband, Oliver Edward, December 7th 1986. She is survived by her five daughters and three sons; Connie Seise (Joseph) of Wayne, MI, Linda (Bennett) Kincer of Manitou Beach, MI, Deborah (Dennis) Conrad of Williamston, MI, Mark (Sandra) Prevo of Belleville, MI, Therese (Mark) Monaghan of Howell, MI, Perry (Shelly) Prevo of Grass Lake, MI, Melissa Prevo (Raymond Smick) of Williamston, MI, Paul (Paula) Prevo of Canton, MI, 26 grandchildren, 41 great grandchildren, 4 great-great grandchildren, and sister-in-law Kathleen Colleen of Flint, MI. Funeral service was held Saturday, December 15th at Faith Lutheran Church in Okemos, MI. Graveside services will be held Monday December 17th at 1pm at Glenwood Cemetery, Wayne, MI. Those desiring may make contributions to The Alzheimer's Association; Michigan Great Lakes Chapter, 310 N. Main, Suite 100 Chelsea, MI 48118.

She was many things to many people, but she never ever judged anyone -  
Memories and condolences may be shared with the family at  
www.grwilliamston.com



**SAAM, MARILYN J.**

December 11, 2012, age 81 (Kotlarczyk - see Saam). Beloved wife of Frank. Previously married to the late Edward Kotlarczyk. Loving mother of John Kotlarczyk, Karen Hamilton, Tracey Powers (James) and the late Craig Kotlarczyk. Dearest grandmother of Cassandra, Joe and Kameryn. Marilyn taught in the Dearborn Public Schools for 12 years, graduate of Michigan State 1953. Mom was the most optimistic person we knew, always seeing the good in people. Her many interests included extensive travel, gardening, music and of course Five O'clock cocktail hour. She also was a huge MSU Fan, enjoying many good times with her Alpha Gamma Delta sisters. She touched our lives deeply and will be truly missed by all. Funeral Service was Saturday 11:00 am at the Dearborn Chapel of the Howe-Peterson Funeral Home, 22546 Michigan Ave. Visitation was Thursday 5-9 pm and Friday 9-11 pm. Interment Parkview Memorial Cemetery. Memorials to American Cancer.

www.howepeterson.com

**SWARTZ, MARK A.**  
Of Troy, Nov. 10, 2012, Age 57. Father of Aaron (Joel) Swartz. Son of Phyllis (Jamey) DeWitt. SimpleFuneralsInMichigan.com

**THOMAS, NANCY GREINER**  
Age 79, of McCormick, South Carolina. Formerly of Farmington and Cheboygan, Michigan. Died December 8, 2012. Nancy is the beloved wife of the late Stanley Ward Thomas, married for 53 years. Dear mother of Gayle (Dano) Love, Patricia Thomas and Suzanne (Keith) Shiven. Loving grandmother of Christopher and Suzanne Harris, Kristin Tonkovich, Jennifer and Steven Shiven. Best friend and loving sister-in-law of Emily Thomas Bayer. She was preceded in death by her parents Edwin and Betty Greiner and her brother Ned Greiner. Nancy was a charter member of the Lutheran Church by the Lake in McCormick. A Memorial Service to be held at Lutheran Church by the Lake, 100 Twelve Oaks Drive, McCormick, SC 29835 on Friday, December 21st at 11 AM. Officiated by Rev. James F. Kinsler, Pastor. Memorials may be directed to the Lutheran Church by the Lake, Church Choir, attn: Jim Klausman, 100 Twelve Oaks Dr., McCormick, SC 29835.

www.thayer-rock.com

**WARNER, BARBARA**  
Bloomfield, Dec 1, 2012, Age 74. Wife of the late Charles. Mother of three and Grandmother of ten. SimpleFuneralsInMichigan.com



**ROOT, DORIS JEWELL**

Died October 27th, 2012, in Ithaca NY. Born in 1912 to Ralph Wesley and Mabel May Jewell, Doris came of age during the Great Depression. In 1933 she and Charles A. Root Jr. drove a Model A from Plymouth, MI to Great Bend, IN and were married in a judge's living room with only the judge's family to witness. They honeymooned at the Chicago World's Fair. In 1936 their only son, Richard Bruce (Dick) was born. They settled in Plymouth, MI where Doris waited tables while Charles worked on the family farm. They became active in the Democratic party and she was appointed branch manager for the Michigan State Department, issuing titles and license plates while Charles got a job at Ford Motors and became an active member of the newly formed UAW. They retired to Venice, FL and spent many happy years together. After Charles' death in 2000, Doris continued to live in their Florida home until 2012. Then she moved to Ithaca, NY to be near her son, Dick, her grandchildren, Jenny McGuire and Bryan Root, four great grandchildren and two great-great grandchildren. Doris was only 4'10", but she had a very big personality, a deep curiosity and a piercing intelligence, which she never lost. She faced hardship and death with laughter and leaves a trail of light behind her. For additional information please contact Ness-Sibley Funeral Home 1-888-534-5446; or to leave an online condolence please visit www.ness-sibley.com

www.ness-sibley.com

**SOLOMON, ANNA B.**

December 7, 2012, Age 83 of Westland. Loving wife of the late Willis "Jack" Solomon. Dear mother of Sedana "Sandy" (Gerald) Clavier and the late Gary Solomon. Proud grandmother of Katie & Kelli. Also survived by many great grandchildren. Memorial Service to be held Sunday 5 PM Canton Calvary Church, 7963 North Sheldon Rd, Canton, MI 48187. To share a memory, please visit: vermeulenfuneralhome.com



**SMITH, GLADYS S. (nee Myers)**

Age 94, a longtime resident of Livonia, passed away December 12, 2012. She was born August 1, 1918 in Hillsdale, Michigan; daughter of Frank and Chloe (nee Baxter) Myers. She was united in marriage to William B. Smith on January 12, 1940; they spent over 63 loving years together until his death in 2003. Gladys graduated from Northville High School, class of 1936. She was a very devoted homemaker. She loved to read and enjoyed listening to music. She was an excellent cook who also liked to bake and decorate cakes. Gladys was a doting grandmother and great grandmother. Family was her everything. She is survived by her daughters, Marlene (Donald) Gray of Leslie and Pamela (Scott) Lodge of Livonia; her grandchildren, Randall Hart of CA, Michele (Dr. Stephen) Ford of VA, and Melissa (Dr. Shane) Weatherwax of NE; and her great-grandchildren, Travis, Jacob, and Laura Ford, and Trinity, Sage, Chloe, and Ryann Weatherwax. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, and 9 siblings. A private burial was held at Oakland Hills Memorial Gardens. Memorial contributions would be appreciated to Angela Hospice, 14100 Newburgh Road, Livonia, MI 48154. Online condolences can be shared at: www.casterlinefuneralhome.com



**PINO, SUE R.**

of Livonia, Age 92, December 8, 2012. Beloved wife of the late Casper. Loving mother of Michael (Susan), Carol (James) Pixley & Albert. Dear grandmother of 9 and great grandmother of 14. Sister of Edward (Dorothy) Servati, Gloria (Peter) Cutrie. Sister-In-Law of Julia & Bernadette Servati. A Gathering will be held at Church of the Holy Spirit, 3700 Harvey Lake Rd., Highland, Friday, December 14th from 9 a.m. until Memorial Mass at 10 a.m. Memorials may be directed to the church. Please share a memory at: www.rggharris.com.

**SKIVERS, JOYCE (VANCE)**

Feb. 9, 1959 - Dec. 5, 2012. Survived by son Edward Vance Victor, sister Bobbie (Vance) Dvine Rambow, & partner James Sparkman. Preceded in death by parents Norma & Robert Vance, and brother Rick Vance. Service 12/14/12, 9:30am. St. Aidans Church, 17500 Farmington Rd., Livonia.



**CYROL, MICHAEL**

December 9, 2012 at the age of 76. Beloved husband of the late Dorothy; and the dear father of Deanna (Scott) Mayo, Michelle (Peter) Meinhart. Grandfather of Eric, Braden, Kole, Wolfie. He was preceded in death by his sister, Irene Cyrol. Visitation Manns-Ferguson Funeral Home 17000 Middlebelt (S. of 6 Mile) Friday, December 14th from 4 p.m. until 8 p.m.; Services, Saturday 11 a.m. at the funeral home. Memorials are suggested to Oakland Community College or Alzheimer's Association. Share a memory www.mannsfuneralhome.com

**HOLLAND, DURE, RITA**

Age 90, of Bloomfield Hills and formerly of Hillsdale, passed away Sat., December 8, 2012 eaglefuneralhomes.com

**SMALLEY, KENNETH E.**

Age 59, of Garden City formerly of Farmington Hills, passed away after a three year battle with cancer November 15, 2012. Husband of Gail, brother of Nancy (John) Rambow, uncle to Christopher (Lora) and Sandra Rambow, great uncle to Brooke Rambow. Son of the late Edward and Mildred (Brown) Smalley. A memorial service was on December 15, 2012 at Garden City Presbyterian Church, Garden City.

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**ROSE, JAMES URBAN**

Age 90, December 9, 2012. Beloved husband of Janet for 67 years. Loving father of James C. (Sharon), Cynthia (Robert) Sherman, Stuart (Jean), Timothy (Joy), Nancy, Robert (Joan), Mary (Patrick) Bonk and Peter (Teresa). Dear grandfather of 16. Great grandfather of 4. Brother of The Most Reverend Robert J. Rose, Bishop Emeritus of Grand Rapids and the late June Wittenbach. Beloved brother-in-law of Marjorie Julian and dear uncle to many nieces and nephews. Visitation was Wednesday 5-8pm with a vigil service at 7pm at the Harry J. Will Funeral Home in Livonia. Funeral Thursday, in state 9:30am until time of Mass at 10am at St. Colette Catholic Church, 17600 Newburgh Rd., Livonia. Memorial contributions may be made to Angela Hospice of Livonia.

## Grant funds arthritis, acupressure study

The Arthritis Foundation has awarded Lydia Li, an associate professor of social work at the University of Michigan a \$100,000 two-year Innovative Research Grant to study "Acupressure for Older Adults with Symptomatic Knee Arthritis."

Li, who holds a Ph.D. in social welfare from the University of Wisconsin, will try to determine if self-administered acupressure is effective and feasible treatment strategy for older adults with knee osteoarthritis.

During the eight-week study, participants will be randomly assigned to three treatment groups: pain-relief acupressure, sham acupressure and usual care. During the eight-week



intervention, participants in the pain-relief and sham acupressure groups will be taught the assigned treatment by a trained research assistant. They'll also receive a DVD to help them practice at home. The research assistant will make weekly phone

calls to help participants adhere to the treatment. Individuals in the usual care group also will receive weekly phone calls offering emotional support, but no additional intervention. Data will be collected at the beginning, at the four-week point and at the end of the study.

Results are expected to help assess the effectiveness of pain-relief acupressure on knee pain and will help plan for a future study involving a larger, more diverse sample of older adults with osteoarthritis.

There are no other studies of older adults in self-administered acupressure.

Li said the study will target community-liv-

ing older adults age 65 or older with symptomatic knee osteoarthritis and with a moderate to severe level of pain.

Why study acupressure? It may be an effective alternative to drug treatment for pain in the elderly, who Li says have "a greater likelihood of having conditions like drug-drug interactions and drug-induced diseases."

"I have been doing research related to the physical and mental health of home-care elders for many years. Arthritis is very prevalent and arthritis-related pain is a major complaint in this population," Li says. "Pain, when severe and being felt as out-of-control,

is a strong predictor of depression.

"These findings motivated me to develop effective and affordable pain intervention, particularly one that increases a sense of control for older adults with arthritis."

Li plans to recruit senior citizens for the study by posting flyers at the U-M Health System clinics, senior centers, senior housing and churches in Washtenaw and Wayne counties. She'll also mail letters to a list of previous research participants with knee osteoarthritis who agreed to be contacted for future studies.

The goals of the Arthritis Foundation's

Innovative Research Grant Awards are:

- Promote development of personalized medicine for individuals with rheumatoid arthritis and juvenile arthritis

- Encourage discovery and development of new interventions for osteoarthritis

- Ensure applicability of research to humans with arthritis

Striking one in every five adults and 300,000 children, arthritis is the nation's leading cause of disability. The Arthritis Foundation is committed to raising awareness and reducing the impact of this serious and painful disease. Visit the Foundation's website at [www.arthritis.org](http://www.arthritis.org).

## Blood drive set at St. Mary Mercy Dec. 27

St. Mary Mercy Hospital and the American Red Cross present their final collaborative blood drive of the year, 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 27, in the North Auditorium at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile, at Levan, in Livonia.

The past six blood drives during 2012 have collected 422 pints of blood, close to a 450-pint goal. The American Red Cross encourages local residents to join St. Mary Mercy Hospital employees and volunteers to donate blood and help meet or exceed the goal.

To schedule an appointment call (800) GIVE-LIFE or visit [redcross-blood.org](http://redcross-blood.org).

Appointment sign-up schedules also are available in the hospital cafeteria. Walk-ins are accepted, but appointments are preferred.

For directions or additional information, visit [www.stmarymercy.org](http://www.stmarymercy.org) and click on "classes and events."

## Make nutritious substitutions to holiday menu

If pie, mashed potatoes, and cookies are on your holiday menu, a little recipe tweaking can keep them from sabotaging healthy menu planning. Katie Ferraro, a registered dietician and nutrition expert for Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) Club, Inc., the nonprofit weight-loss support group, says the holidays don't have to expand your waistline.

"Use parties and family get-togethers as an opportunity to try out new, healthy recipes and incorporate several of the following tips into your upcoming celebrations," Ferraro says. "Special holiday recipes prepared healthier with simple substitutions can add nutrition and won't break the calorie bank."

Her suggestions:

- Mash cauliflower instead of potatoes. One cup of mashed potatoes made with skim milk and no butter has 150 calories, while one cup of mashed cauliflower made with skim milk and no butter has one third of the calories, according to the U.S. Department of Agricul-

ture (USDA) — and tastes nearly identical. For the pickiest eaters, mix half mashed cauliflower, half mashed potato. "Add fresh herbs in place of salt for zesty flavor," Ferraro says.

- Unsweetened applesauce instead of sugar, oil, or butter

Cut calories in baked goods while providing a hint of sweetness with this substitute. According to the USDA, a cup of sugar contains 775 calories, while a cup of unsweetened applesauce contains only about 100 calories.

- Nutrient-rich leafy greens instead of iceberg lettuce

For an added boost of vitamins, minerals and antioxidants, consider dark, leafy vegetables like arugula, chichory, kale, mustard greens, or spinach in place of iceberg lettuce for your salad. "Generally, the deeper the color of vegetable, the better the nutrition," Ferraro notes.

- Air-cured or other smoked meats instead of bacon

Substitute bacon with lower-fat and

higher-protein Canadian bacon, turkey bacon, or prosciutto. According to Ferraro, one slice of bacon has 45 calories, while turkey bacon contains roughly half that amount. Use these meats in limited quantities — they can contain significant amounts of sodium.

- Finely-chopped prunes instead of butter in dark breads

Swap finely-chopped prunes or baby food prunes for oil, butter, or margarine in quick breads or other dark baked goods, like brownies. Cut calories and fat in half without compromising on sweetness or moisture.

- Steam in canned broth instead of sautéing in oil

For a tasty, low-calorie and fat-free alternative to oil sautéing, Ferraro recommends steaming meats and vegetables in a half cup of reduced-sodium canned chicken or beef broth. Steaming vegetables in broth helps retain their nutrients and enhances flavor.

- Fresh fruit instead of fruit canned in heavy syrup

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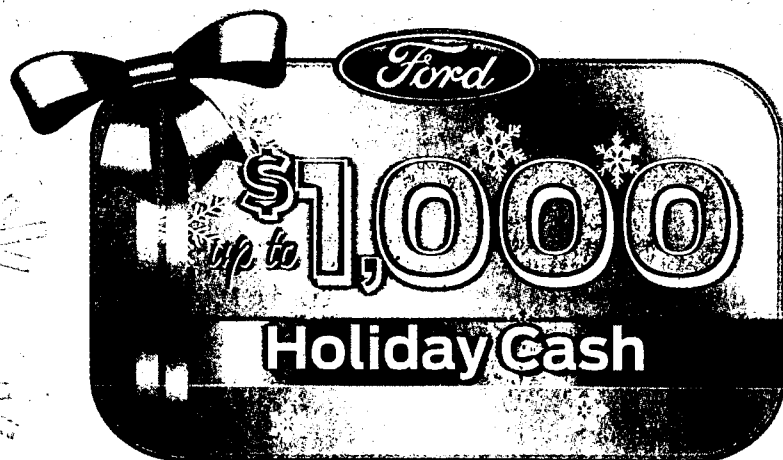
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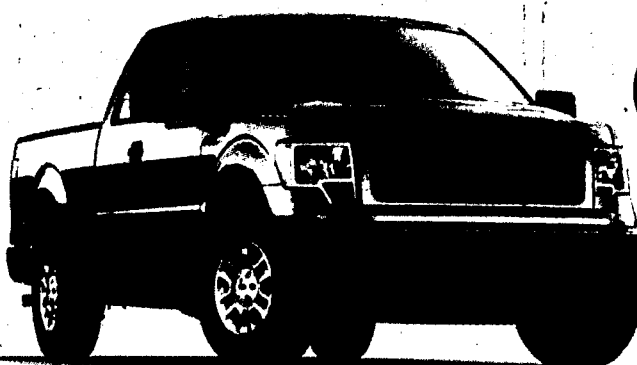
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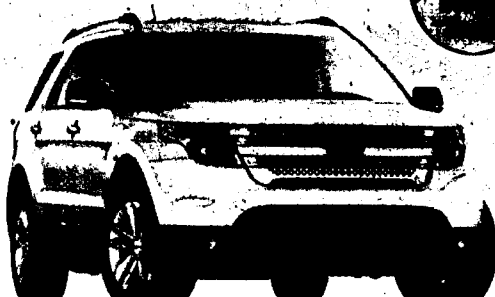
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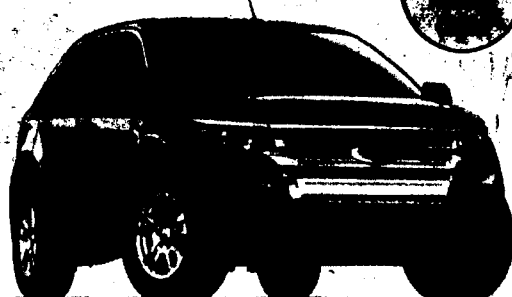
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