



GADGETS FOR THE WEEKEND WARRIOR

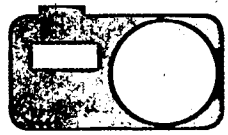
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The State Department recently certified the Wayne-Westland Fire Department to officially process U.S. Passports.

The Fire Administration Office at 3300 S. Wayne Road, Wayne, will accept passport applications 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. Residents can call (734) 467-3201 to schedule an appointment.

The costs are the standard fees set by the State Department — \$110 application fee, a \$25 execution fee, \$15 passport photo, (if purchased with the WWFD) as well as an \$18.95 to agency and \$12.72 for return mailing fee. Overnight delivery and expedited services are additional fees.

For questions or further information on obtaining a U.S. Passport, visit www.TravelState.gov. More information about the process is available by calling the fire department.

Annual meeting

The Westland Homeowners Committee for Environmental Conservation and Smart Growth, is inviting the public to its annual meeting 1:30-3:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 28, at Panera's Bread, 35300 Warren Road, at the Westland Shopping Center.

Residents can learn about the threats to the state's fresh water resources and other issues. For more information, call Lee Duffey at (734) 722-1184.

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Council OKs purchase of Circuit City building for new city hall

By LeAnne Rogers
Observer Staff Writer

Westland's planned acquisition of the former Circuit City building to become the new city hall could do more than solve the ongoing problem with the current municipal building.

The nearly 64,000-square foot building is located on Warren Road east of Central City Parkway. That's within the Tax Increment Financing Authority District and also Westland's Shop-

ping and Dining District. "We hope that we can leverage our investment with other stakeholders in the district," said Westland Mayor William Wild. "We'll be sitting down with the other property owners all the way down to Applebee's."

With a rehabilitated building and parking lot for city hall, Wild is hoping there will be a domino effect with surrounding businesses — some of which haven't upgraded their properties since they opened.

The city council authorized spending \$1.6 million to purchase the property. Costs to renovate the building for municipal use, including energy efficiencies, haven't been determined yet.

Funding for the property acquisition, as well as the retrofitting costs, will be paid through the TIFA. Earlier this year, the TIFA plan was amended to include a municipal building in the district.

The TIFA board had commis-

sioned a study in 2009 assessing which vacant commercial property within its district, which includes Westland Shopping Center, was best suited for a possible city hall.

The Circuit City building was recommended but other alternatives were studied when the property was taken off the market after a private purchase was in the works. Alternatives discussed during the past year

Please see CITY HALL, A2



Youngsters have very special wish lists

Editor's Note: When Santa approached us about printing some of the letters he received from boys and girls, he had one request — that we print as they were written. We agreed. Letters to Santa are written from the hearts of the children. Their thoughts, their creativity, their hints as to where they live are what makes this holiday a delightful time. We hope you will take the time to read these letters. We did and so did Santa.

Dear Santa,

I wanted a Xbox for Christmas and I want some Nerf guns 4 of them. Me and my brohter made a deal that he would ger the xbox and games so I could get the Nerf stuff adn the remote controts. My other brother made a deal with us to. That he would go on the computer and look it up of how much it causes all to gether. So thats my Christmas list it's cool right?

Isaiah Lawrance

I have been good this uear. I want a book about the northpole and a real puppy. I love you, Santa.

Carly Cunningham

I have been good because I make good choices. Can I please have television PSP big transformer Merry Christmas! I love Santa

Ajay Sandhu



Masen Liss

I'd rather read the Westland Observer, best paper in town. Santa, please send me a subscription for Christmas.

Masen Liss

(Submitted by his greatgrandparents, Bette and Bob Liss)

Please see DEAR SANTA, A6

Garden provides produce for food pantry

By LeAnne Rogers
Observer Staff Writer

Well over 200 people get food from Lighthouse Home Missions on a weekly basis. During much of 2012, the Westland food pantry was able to provide a wide range of fresh produce to their clients thanks to the local DTE Energy Community Garden.

Weather didn't effect results at Westland's Community Garden. See story on Page A2.

"DTE came to us and asked if we would be willing to take fresh vegetables and fruit," said Paola Kack, vegetable distribution coordinator for Lighthouse Home Missions. "We said yes. We got a lot

of produce this year. We're very happy. It's been awesome."

With a bumper crop from the garden, Kack said Lighthouse had enough produce to be able to distribute fresh vegetables to other area churches with food pantries. "We kept what we could

Please see GARDEN, A2

Hearing postponed in Wayne bar shooting

By LeAnne Rogers
Observer Staff Writer

The preliminary examination for two men charged with multiple felonies in an August shooting at a Wayne bar has been delayed until Jan. 8.

Devon Davis, 21, of Lansing and his cousin Nathaniel Davis, 23, of Melvindale, have both been charged with assault with intent to murder, assault with intent to do great bodily harm and two counts of felonious assault. Devon Davis is also charged with felony firearm.

The pair were scheduled for preliminary examination Tuesday before 29th District Court Judge Laura Mack.

The attorney representing Devon Davis had a scheduling conflict with a case in Wayne County Circuit Court and had also submitted an order for discovery relating to surveillance video from the U.S. 12 Bar and Grill.

Noting the prosecution was seeking the adjournment and had no witnesses present, Nathaniel Davis' attorney Gerald Karafa made a motion to have the charges against his client dismissed.

"I usually am willing for one prosecution adjournment," said Mack. "This case has not been languishing."

The incident occurred at about 1 a.m. on Aug. 19 at the U.S. 12 Bar and Grill, 34824 Michigan Ave. The shooting came after a fight in the bar involving approximately 20 people, according to police.

Some people were ejected from the bar; then shots were fired from outside into the bar. An Ypsilanti man, who police said was not involved in the fight, was shot in the upper body.

The night of the shooting the suspects had fled before police arrived.

As indicated by the felony firearm charge, Devon Davis is charged with firing shots into the bar. The charges against Nathaniel Davis are that he assaulted people with a blunt object.

Both defendants were arraigned in Wayne 29th District Court last week and no guilty pleas were entered. Both are free on bond.

Mack continued bond for the defendants with conditions including not returning to the U.S. 12 Bar, having no weapons and no contact with the victim.

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Westland community garden brings in bumper crop

By LeAnne Rogers
Observer Staff Writer

Weather conditions might have negatively impacted crops in parts of the country in 2012, but it was bumper crop for the Westland DTE Energy Garden.

Located behind the DTE facility on Cherry Hill, the garden produced 9,999 pounds of produce or almost 5 tons. That made the Westland garden the top producer among 10 DTE gardens in the metro area.

In total, the gardens produced 48,544 pounds of produce — 4,000 pounds more than last year.

Westland Mayor William Wild credited the efforts of Planning and Building Director Bruce Thompson and his wife Julie in making the garden a success. However, Thompson down played his role.

"The garden was very successful because of Rick Whitecotton — he's the gung ho," said Thompson. "He's kind of the head of this garden. And the success has a lot to do with a solid core group of volunteers. They take gardening very seriously."

Whitecotton, a DTE employee,

is credited with developing a set of plans for rotating crops, raised beds and rototilling.

"It's not just me, it's the team. I try to keep the team working together," said Whitecotton, a DTE joint safety program facilitator. "We have a core team of team people — three of them are Westland residents."

The Westland residents include Janet Sowards, her husband John Emmerd and Marvin Soleau. Sowards and Soleau are both master gardeners.

"I had just taken the master gardener class in April 2010 which was the first year for the DTE garden," said Sowards, who worked at Westland's William P. Faust Public Library before retiring. "We stopped by out of curiosity, went home to change clothes and then came back to help."

Except for some Westland Youth Assistance participants, Sowards said she, Emmerd and Soleau are really the only Westland residents volunteering at the garden. Other volunteers come from Redford, Plymouth and other communities.

"I wish more people thought there was a need for them to come out and help," said Sowards. "We'll

get one or two people from Gleaners (Community Food Bank) who help out on a regular basis. Rick is out there twice as much as we are rototilling and working things up all the time."

While she and Emmerd enjoy working at the garden, Sowards said the weeding chores on 180 four-foot by 20-foot beds can be overwhelming.

A change for 2013 will be to move to the evening from 4:30-7 p.m. Wednesday through Monday when volunteers can show up to help at the garden.

"With Wednesday evenings, we became concerned because our core group goes out Friday mornings," said Sowards. "Harvesting again on Friday doesn't really do the garden justice."

Groups or individuals who want to volunteer at the garden are welcome but need to wear proper shoes — no flip flops — and bring plenty of water. The garden is expected to open in mid-April.

For more information about helping at the garden, call Whitecotton at (313) 550-5013.

lr Rogers@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-5428

AROUND WAYNE AND WESTLAND

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.

Annual meeting

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Residents can learn about the threats to the state's fresh water resources and other issues. For more information, call Lee Duffey at (734) 722-1184.

Toastmasters

The Westland Easytalkers Toastmasters Club is now meeting at the Westland Friendship Center, 1119 N. Newburgh, south of Ford Road, Westland.

Toastmasters is a world leader dedicated to helping people develop their public speaking and leadership skills, in a mutually helpful and friendly atmosphere.

Westland Easytalkers meets 7-8:30 p.m. every Thursday. For information please call Luddie at (734) 414-0034 or Curt at (734) 525-8445 or go online to westlandeasytalkers.toastmastersclubs.org/.

Healing Hearts

Hope 4 Healing Hearts, a grief support group for adults who have lost a loved one to the prison system provides a safe environment allowing members to share in a non-judgmental atmosphere.

Meetings are 6:30-8:30 p.m. the second and fourth Monday of every month at the Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church, 36660 Cherry Hill, west of Wayne Road, Westland. Donations only.

For more information, contact Bonnie at (734) 646-2237.

Free workshop

Westland residents at risk of losing their homes can attend a free Loan Modification and Short Sale Workshop held 6-7 p.m. the fourth Tuesday of the month at the Dorsey Community Center, 32715 Dorsey, east of Venoy.

Annette Compo of WJR Real Estate 411 and Linda Miller, an MSHDA-certified foreclosure counselor with National Faith Homebuyers, will be on hand to meet with residents one-on-one to do an overview of the foreclosure process and present them with various options for their situation.

The city of Westland is working with developers to assist residents that lose their home to foreclosure to try to remain in the same neighborhood.

To register for the workshop, call (313) 378-5418 or send an e-mail to lindamiller@nationalfaith.org.

GARDEN

Continued from page A1

use and what we couldn't use, we gave to other churches that we help so it wouldn't be wasted," said Kack, a Lighthouse volunteer for more than seven years.

The crops from the garden included the usual tomatoes, corn, green beans, cucumbers and zucchini but also chard,

kale, collard greens, okra, multiples types of squash, hot and sweet peppers, beets, white and red radishes.

Since many clients might be unfamiliar with some of the vegetables, Kack said recipes using the produce are available for clients.

"These are people who have trouble getting fresh produce. We have people with income and people without income," said Kack. "Canned goods

and boxed foods have a lot of sodium."

In 2013, the gardeners will be working with Lighthouse to grow what is most needed by the food pantry.

"They asked us for a list of what we need so they can put that in the garden," said Kack. "It's wonderful. We are very pleased with that."

While working at the DTE Community Garden is good exercise and the volunteers are lots of fun,

Master Gardener Janet Sowards also enjoys the end results.

"(Her husband) John (Emmerd) and I dropped off food at Lighthouse many times," Sowards said. "They seem to be wonderful people. It makes you feel good to do something especially for others. We grow vegetables for people who are hungry."

lr Rogers@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-5428

CITY HALL

Continued from page A1

included building on city-owned land behind the William P. Faust Public Library, also located within the TIFA, and building on the current city hall property on Ford at Carlson, which would have required additional millage.

Wild and council members described the action as an historic moment for the city. Wild noted city hall, constructed in 1966 over an underground stream, has had problems for decades that have not been successfully addressed.

"I feel confident that over two years of due diligence and in light of the recent city hall survey that revealed a majority of respondents favored retrofitting a vacant commercial facility, the city's decision to purchase the closed Circuit City building was the best decision for the community at this time," said Wild.

The choice of the former Circuit City for a new City hall meets another priority for residents who responded to the survey — no new millage to fund the project.

Along with operation currently housed in city hall, Wild said a number

of city services would be consolidated in the new building, including the Building and Planning Department and WLND cable services.

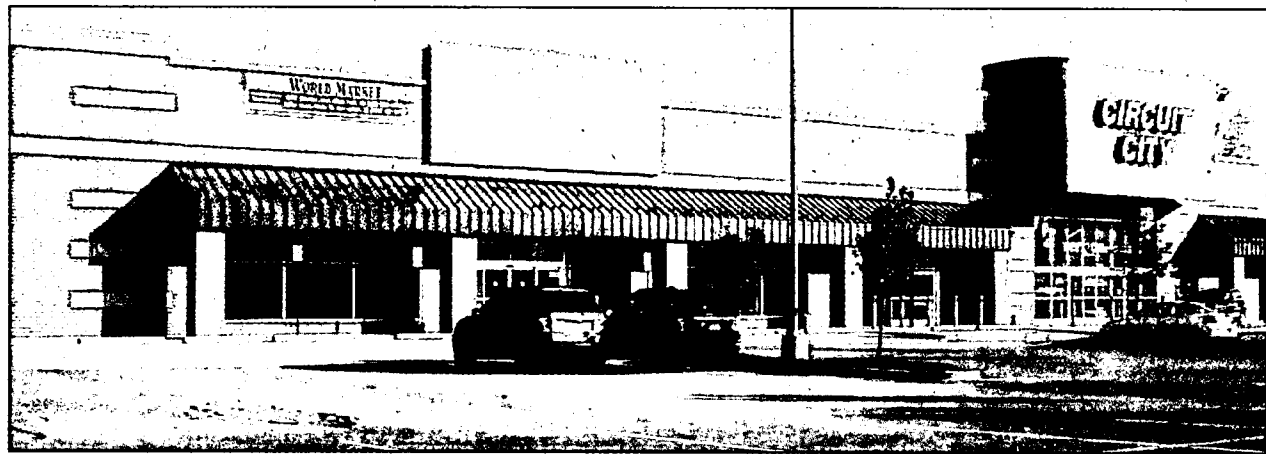
"The site will offer more public meeting space, flexible-use rooms that can be rented by residents, area civic and non-profit groups similar to what we had at the Bailey Center," said Wild.

The current city hall is located within the Downtown Development Authority district. DDA funding would be utilized to fund demolition of the current city hall, along with the closed Bailey Center and Fire Station 1.

"The intention will be to maintain control of the Ford Road property and to begin a visioning process on how the property can best be developed in a manner that enhances the quality of our community while embracing the recent recreational investments adjacent to the property," said Wild, referring to the restored Thomas Brown Central City Park and nearby Tattan Park, which includes Play Planet and the H2O Zone spray park.

It's not been determined where a new fire station would be located.

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Westland is looking to purchase longtime vacant Circuit City building on Warren Road east of Central City Parkway and renovate it at the new city hall.

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Church play puts focus on reason for Christmas

By Sue Mason
Observer Staff Writer

An artist who views Christmas as purely commercial has a change of heart in a Christmas play being presented by Merriman Road Baptist Church in Garden City this weekend.

Journey to the Manger, a semi-dramatic musical, will be presented at 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 22, and 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 23, at the church, located on Merriman just south of Ford in Garden City. Open to the public, the play recounts the artist's trip back through time as he learns about Christmas traditions and the true purpose of the celebration.

"We want to reach out to people and spread good news," said Russ Weathers who is directing the production. The church usually doesn't do an elaborate production at Christmas, but decided to do the show based on the suggestion of Dave Oswald, a former member of the First Baptist Church in Wayne, which had done the play several years ago. The Wayne church still had the props and Merriman Road was able to use some of them.

Weathers said the play had a good script with some serious and some funny parts. It takes the audience back from present time through the Depression, Victorian England, the renaissance and the Nativity in looking at the history of Christmas.

In the play, the pastor, played by Ray Gray of Westland, is looking for a nativity scene for his church and finds one at the artist's art gallery, but the exor-



Mark Beyers of Garden City plays the artist and Christine Hensley, also of Garden City, plays his wife in the Christmas play, "Journey to the Manger," at Merriman Road Baptist Church in Garden City.

Jennifer Bara of Dearborn Heights and Terry Crouson of Livonia have been cast as Mary and Joseph in the Christmas play, "Journey to the Manger."

Beyers of Garden City, tells his wife, played by Christine Hensley, also of Garden City, that Christmas is a commercial venture centered on a farfetched myth.

Somewhat reminiscent of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, Wise falls asleep in his studio and the pieces of the nativity scene come to life and transport him through time to the manger and back to the 21st century where he begins to understand the joy, hope and love of the first Christmas.

"He realizes that Christmas is about the birth of Jesus, not about presents," said Weath-

ers. "He gives the nativity scene to the pastor and sees that the couple reading the Christmas story was Mary and Joseph (played by Jennifer Bara of Dearborn Heights and Terry Crouson of Livonia) in his dream."

The production will feature the combined choirs of Merriman Road Baptist and Middlebelt Baptist Church in Inkster. The latter church was started by Merriman Road Baptist several years ago, according to Weathers.

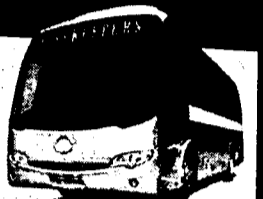
"They've been practicing with us and on their own," he added. The play comes just a

day before the congregation will gather for a candlelit Christmas Eve service at 6 p.m. Monday, Dec. 24, during which every participant will receive a candle which will be lit and the lights turned off in the church.

"It's pretty neat," said Weathers. "This is a busy time of the year, it's hard to focus on what it's truly about. We have to take the time to reflect on why we have Christmas."

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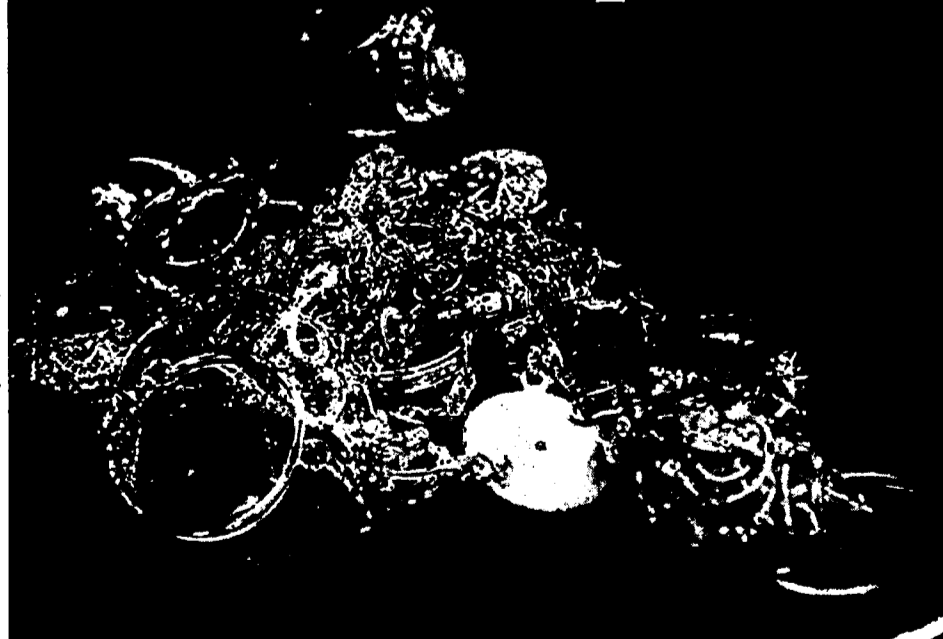
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Fencing products stolen from driveway of GC home

GARDEN CITY COP CALLS

Larceny

A Garden City man told police that someone that a roll of chain link fencing and a pallet of vinyl fencing with posts were taken from a home in the 32000 block of Florence Dec. 16.

The man said that Lowe's had delivered several loads of fencing to the home at 10 a.m. He discovered them missing at 6 p.m. There were drag marks on the driveway, indicating that something had been dragged something heavy across it.

The man said he had seen a red Ford F-250 construction-style vehicle driving at a low rate of speed on Florence and Craig.

Break-in

The residents of a home in the 32000 block of Balmoral told police that someone entered the house through a back window on Dec. 15 and stole a television, PlayStation 3 and laptop computer. There was no sign of forced entry and the resident told police the window may have been unlocked.

Larceny from vehicle

A Canton Township woman had the air bag stolen from her car while it was parked at Dewey's Transmission, 28059 Ford. Theft occurred sometime between Dec. 14 and Dec. 16.

The business owner told police the car had been parked at the shop for several weeks while the woman tried to get the money for a new transmission. The driver's side rear window had been smashed and the steering wheel air bag taken.

A woman told police that after hearing noises outside her bedroom window, she looked out to see two suspects removing tires from a vehicle parked at 30561 Krauter Dec. 15. The woman yelled at the suspects and they ran to vehicle and fled.

According to residents, the vehicle, which belonged to a deceased Belleville man, had been parked in the area for about three days. It was sitting on cement blocks and the rear passenger tire had been removed and was laying on the ground near the vehicle.

The rear driver's side window also was broken out, but nothing appeared missing from the interior.

Suspended license

A 43-year-old Detroit man was ticketed for failure to dim the headlights of his car and for having open intoxicants in the vehicle after being stopped on Ford at Hubbard Dec. 15.

The man had been driving with his high beams on, and failed to respond when the officer flicked his lights at him. The man admitted that he had been drinking in the parking lot of Cherry Hill Lanes, but wasn't drunk. An open bottle of beer was found behind the front passenger seat and an open bottle of vodka in the glove box.

The man was arrested and held on outstanding warrants in Ypsilanti, Woodhaven, St. Clair Shores, Dearborn and Madison Heights for driving with a suspended license

A 44-year-old Detroit woman was arrested for driving with a suspended license and obstructing police at Ford and Venoy on Dec. 15.

The woman told police she didn't have a driver's license and no identification because she had left the house without them. She also provided police with a wrong date of birth, telling police that she didn't want her girlfriend, the passenger in the car, to know her real age.

Police were able to determine that the woman had given a phony name and that she was the owner of the car after finding two Michigan identification cards inside a baseball cap she was wearing.

A 26-year-old Garden City woman was ticketed for driving with a suspended license Dec. 15 after she made an illegal turn out of the Kmart parking lot at Ford and Middlebelt Dec. 15. The woman had made a left turn out of the west driveway of Kmart which is posted for right turn only.

A 22-year-old Pontiac woman was ticketed for driving with a suspended license after being stopped by a Garden City police officer at Middlebelt at Block on Dec. 16. The officer stopped the car after a check showed that it was not registered with the Secretary of State.

The woman had six children in the car, included two young boys who were sitting on the floor in the backseat and four girls who were not wearing seat belts. They were

Please see GARDEN CITY, A5

Suspect attempts to return stolen tools to parts store

WESTLAND COP CALLS

Larceny from a vehicle

On Dec. 12, a resident in the 32000 block of Hazelwood told police he received a call from a co-worker at Advanced Auto Parts in Inkster about a man attempting to return mechanic tools using a receipt written to the Westland man.

The tools, valued at \$425, had been stolen from the man's 1996 Chevy Sierra pickup truck. The man also reported 30 CDs, valued at \$450, stolen.

The man told police the truck had been locked and it wasn't damaged to gain access, however, there was severe damage to the dashboard and wiring.

Larceny

On Dec. 15, a resident in the 29000 block of Brody told police that someone had stolen an air compressor, leaf blower, snow blower, pressure washer and a belt sander, valued at \$979, from his garage.

The man told police that on Nov. 25 someone had entered his unlocked car. He said some change and the garage door opener were taken.

Break-in

Just before midnight Dec. 11, a resident in the 1000 block of S. Venoy told police she arrived home to see a man run from the side door of her home. She said the door had been left unlocked and nothing appeared to have been taken.

Larceny

A Canton woman told police Dec. 15 that someone had stolen her tan Aeropostale tote bag, valued at \$150, from a shopping cart at Sears in the Westland Shopping Center, 35000 Warren Road. She said the bag contained her identification and credit cards.

Larceny from a vehicle

A resident in the 500 block of Apple told police Dec. 12 that someone had damaged the door handle on a 2003

Ford pickup truck. The stereo and a GPS unit were reported stolen. The owner later told police that the dashboard lights and power windows were not working following the theft.

Larceny

The washing machine, stove and a light fixture were reported stolen from a foreclosed home in the 35000 block of Bakewell Dec. 12. A contractor told police the items had been stolen Dec. 1-10.

Larceny from a vehicle

A resident in the 32000 block of Hazelwood told police Dec. 12 that someone had stolen the CD player from his 1994 Jeep Cherokee overnight.

Vandalism

On Dec. 12, a Belleville woman told police she was parked at Meijer, 37201 Warren Road, when someone knocked the passenger side mirror off her 2007 Ford Focus.

Larceny from a vehicle

A resident of the West Hamptons Apartments, 7448 Central, told police Dec. 14 that his Chevrolet Malibu sounded bad when he left home in the morning. He said he drove it to a mechanic and was told the catalytic converter had been sawed off.

Vandalism

On Dec. 14, a resident in the 31000 block of Antrim Court told police that someone had broken the locking device off of her mail box. It was unclear if any mail had been stolen.

Larceny from a vehicle

A resident in the 31000 block of Antrim told police Dec. 16 that when she got up that morning she found someone had broken into her 2002 Mercury Cougar.

She said the vehicle was lifted up on a car jack as if someone was trying to steal the tires. The passenger door handle was broken and an Acer

Please see WESTLAND, A5



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Support groups help families with members in prison

By Jill Halpin
Correspondent

Dealing with the death of a loved one is extremely hard during the holidays as memories of happier times flood back during gatherings with friends and family and empty chairs serve as a constant reminder of loss.

The painful feelings are just as strong for those dealing with another type of loss: families with loved ones behind bars within the prison system.

Those feelings are often intensified during the holiday season as families left behind also struggle silently with the shame of their loved one's crime, often making the feelings of grief even harder to bear.

"It is very similar to the feelings of a loss from death. However, it is even more painful because on top of the grief, you also have humiliation and embarrassment to go along with it," said Bonnie Hilberer, founder of Hope 4 Healing Hearts, a Westland-based support group for adults with incarcerated loved ones.

Hilberer understands these feelings well. She started the group in 2008 after her son-in-law's father was convicted of murder, devastating not only the family of the victim, but Hilberer's family as well.

"The trauma for my son-in-law and daughter was overwhelming. I searched for some type of support group that could provide an outlet for his emotions and could not find anything. There are groups out there for the children of prisoners, but really nothing to help the adults who are hurting as well. So I decided I had to start one myself in order to help him," she said.

Grief support is model

Hilberer had prior experience working with grief support groups following the loss of her own husband to a heart attack after 24½ years of marriage, and used these as a model for her own group, which meets bimonthly at Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church in Westland.

"When I contacted the state prison board and asked for sources for support, they sent me back a letter with three words: seek private counseling. There are help groups for smokers, drinkers and overeaters: but where does a family go for help when they have a loved one sent to prison? I knew I had to find a way to help the families through this



Group members meet bimonthly at Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church in Westland with Bonnie Hilberer (center).

trauma because it is not their fault and they are suffering, too," she said.

No doubt there was need for such as support group — a 2010 study by the Pew Research Trust indicated that there were 2.3 million Americans behind bars, equaling more than one in 100 adults with numbers expected to rise.

"Now we have a wonderful network of people who can help each other and help provide resources," she added.

The group was readying for their December Christmas potluck, an annual event to provide a lighter, festive mood during a tough time.

"We try and make our Christmas gathering a little more upbeat because there is no way to make the pain go away completely," she said.

"When someone goes to prison, their loved ones are left behind and it is the same grief — the same feelings of loss — but no one ever acknowledges it; no one ever says to them, 'I'm sorry for your loss.' It is almost like you are guilty by association," Hilberer said.

Forgotten ones

"The holidays are made harder by that fact that you suffer these emotions alone. The families left behind are the forgotten ones," she said.

It is a sentiment shared by Ora Williams of Detroit, president of Mothers of Inmates, a support group serving residents throughout the area, including Southfield.

"Having a loved one in prison is like a dirty little secret and you bear the pain alone — it's not something that you share with others, because of the stigma. Christmas is particularly difficult because you are not only lonely from missing the person in prison, you are also lonely because there is no one you can share your feelings with," said Williams.

Williams speaks from experience — she herself joined the group

nine years ago when her own son was incarcerated. Now that her son has been released from prison, she remains committed to the group in an effort to give back to others.

The group held its sixth annual party for children of inmates on Dec. 15 at Fellowship Chapel Church in Detroit.

Their "Angel Tree" party served more than 200 area children with parents currently in the prison system with the help of 100 additional volunteers.

The party featured a magic show, face painting and a light lunch, Williams said, as well as the distribution of books, stuffed toys and hats and mittens. The children received a gift from their incarcerated parent, made possible through the generous donations of individuals and charitable organizations alike.

"Having a loved one in jail affects children tremendously. For some children, the present they receive at Christmas is the only connection with their loved one. Even if they are too young to understand exactly where their special person is or what they did, they are never too young to understand that someone that they love very much is now gone. That is why this is so important," Williams said.

"When someone is sentenced to prison, the surviving family members receive the same sentence. We live by the Serenity Prayer. We can't fix it and make everything perfect but we can help try and heal a broken heart," she said, "Especially during the holidays."

Both of these nonprofit groups are welcoming new members and/or contributions. If you are interested in contacting Help 4 Healing Hearts, contact Bonnie Hilberer at (734) 646-2237 or at: prettymonarch@comcast.net. If you are interested in contacting Ora Williams, call her at (313) 531-2025.

Walmart suspect faces charges

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

A Westland man accused of brandishing a knife inside a Canton Walmart store and stealing two laptop computers has been charged with armed robbery.

Sean Thomas Boegler, 46, was charged over the weekend following allegations he wielded a knife when employees inside the Walmart store on Ford Road east of Lotz approached him shortly after 12:30 p.m. last Friday, Canton Detective Sgt. Dave Schreiner said.

Workers told police a man pulled a knife on loss prevention employees, fled the store and got into a getaway vehicle, but quick action by witnesses helped Canton police use a license plate number and trace the suspect to a Westland residence, Schreiner said.



Boegler

Authorities arrested Boegler and impounded the vehicle they believe was used during the Walmart incident.

"They did recover the stolen merchandise," Schreiner said.

It is believed the suspect acted alone. Police said the laptops taken during the incident were valued around \$500 each.

Boegler was arraigned Saturday in Romulus 34th District Court on one count of armed robbery; a not-guilty plea was entered for him.

The defendant was jailed with a \$25,000/10-percent cash bond, meaning he would have to post \$2,500 for his release. Early this week, he remained in the Wayne County Jail.

Boegler is facing a preliminary examination in Plymouth 35th District Court to determine whether he should stand trial in Wayne County Circuit Court.

If convicted, he could face penalties ranging up to life in prison.

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GARDEN CITY

Continued from page A4

turned over to her mother.

Larceny from a vehicle

A Garden City man told police that he discovered damage to his Dodge pickup truck caused by someone trying to get into it. The truck had been parked in the driveway of his home in the 31000 block of Kathryn around 2:30 a.m. Dec. 14. He didn't discover the damage until later that day.

It appears thieves were interested in the GPS unit in a Dodge pickup truck that was parked at Spark's Auto, 115 Merriman, Dec. 14. The shop's owner discovered the passenger side window shattered and there appeared to be pry marks on the window frame.

Larceny

A resident in the 6000 block of Golfview said someone removed the tires and rime from his Ford Edge Dec. 12 while it was parked in the driveway. The suspects were able to jack up the vehicle, remove the wheels and left it resting on landscaping blocks.

WESTLAND

Continued from page A4

tablet, valued at \$200, had been stolen.

Vandalism

On Dec. 16, a resident in the 2400 block of S. Brandon told police someone had keyed her 2006 Mitsubishi Raider pickup truck and let the air out of two tires.

Larceny from a vehicle

A Garden City woman told police Dec. 16 that someone had stolen her purse from the back seat of her while she was at the AmVets Hall, 1217 S. Merriman. A window had been broken to get inside the vehicle.

On Dec. 16, a Canton woman told police that someone had stolen her purse from her vehicle while it was parked behind Elle Nail N Spa, 37612 Ford. A rear window had been broken on the vehicle.

Stolen vehicles

On Dec. 17, a resident in the 8600 block of Randy reported a 2005 Chevy Impala stolen overnight. She said the vehicle had been paid for but the officer noted the registration showed a lien on the vehicle.

By LeAnne Rogers



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Winter fun at the Garden City Public Library

It is hard to believe that a new year is almost upon us. Winter is settling into the area and while we have not had any snow that has accumulated on the ground, the library has been decorated to celebrate snow and the winter season. Along with the decorations, we have two winter events we would like to invite you to in January.

The first event is entitled Art Scraps which will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 5, and is for students in kindergarten to fifth-grade. In this fun filled event, students will be making a craft project using recycled materials. In addition to that, the participants will also get an opportunity to go "shopping" on the Art Scraps bus and fill up a bag of additional craft materials to take home. Space is limited so be sure to register as soon as possible.

The second winter event we want to tell you about is the Recycled Snow Person or Pet contest. We are challenging the entire family to create a snow person or pet out of recycled materials. The key to this contest is your imagination! We want you to look around your house or come to the library between 1 and 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 5, to "shop" for materials that we will have available on a first come, first serve basis. The winners in the age categories will receive a surprise.

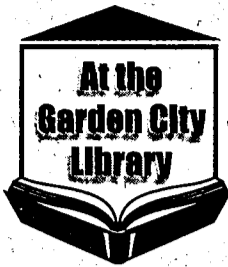
In addition to these exciting programs, we wanted to let you know about some of the new titles available at our library:

Adult Fiction

• *City of Magic* by Magnus Flyte - Once a city of enormous wealth and culture, Prague was home to emperors, alchemists, astronomers and, as it's whispered, hell portals. When music student Sarah Weston lands a summer job at Prague Castle cataloging Beethoven's manuscripts, she has no idea how dangerous her life is about to become.

• *Cold Days* by Jim Butcher - After being murdered by a mystery assailant, navigating his way through the realm between life and death, and being brought back to the mortal world, Harry realizes that maybe death wasn't all that bad.

• *Threat Vector* by Tom Clancy - Jack Ryan has only just moved back into the Oval Office when he is faced with a new international threat. An aborted coup in the People's Republic of China has left President Wei Zhen Lin with no choice but to agree with the expansion-



ist policies of General Su Ke Qiang. They have declared the South China Sea a protectorate and are planning an invasion of Taiwan.

• *1775: A Good Year for a Revolution* by Kevin Phillips - In 1775, iconoclastic historian and best-selling author Kevin Phillips punctures the myth that 1776 was the watershed year of the American Revolution. He suggests that the great events and confrontations of 1775 achieved a sweeping Patriot control of territory and local government that Britain was never able to overcome. (Adult Fiction synopsis provided by library Director Lawrence Marble)

• *The FitzOsbornes at War* by Michelle Cooper - In this third book, the FitzOsbornes family have escaped their home in Montmaray just in time as the Nazis have taken hold of it. They find themselves in London, presuming they are safe, until the war follows them there. Sophie desperately tries to hold her life together as she anxiously awaits news on her brother Toby, last seen flying over enemy territory. Cooper expertly blends history with fiction in this wonderfully fascinating tale.

Adult Nonfiction

• *Detroit City is the Place to Be* by Mark Binelli - What can be done with the city of Detroit? Mark Binelli's fascinating new book tries to find an answer to that question by dividing his book into the following three parts:

1) how Detroit arrived in its current condition; 2) the current issues facing its citizens; and 3) the signs of progress that shows Detroit will overcome these issues. After reading this book, I felt hopeful that the City of Detroit will find a way to prosper despite the many obstacles it currently faces. (Daniel Lodge, adult librarian)

• *Confessions of a Murder Suspect* by James Patterson - What would you do if you woke up and found out your parents are dead and you are the prime suspect? That is exactly what happens to Tandy Angel in Patterson's newest series for teens. As Tandy tries to remember what happened that fatal night, things go from bad to worse. This mystery is sure to have you on the edge of your seats as the confessions start to happen.

• *Ask the Passengers* by A.S. King - What would you do if you could not tell your secrets to anyone? Or if you had no one to talk to as you are struggling to figure out who you are and come to grips with it? Astrid Jones wishes she could confide in her parents or friends, but instead she

imagines telling the passengers in the planes that fly overhead of her backyard. King asks readers to delve into themselves and question everything they believe.

• *Finale* by Becca Fitzpatrick - In the final installment of the *Hush*, *Hush* saga, Nora and Patch try to move on with their lives now that Hank is gone but run into obstacles as Nora is challenged to finish what Hank started — destroying the fallen angels. Knowing she cannot do this, Nora and Patch try to find a way to final bring the war to an end. Will true love endure?

• *The Further Tales of Peter Rabbit* by Emma Thompson - Fans of Beatrix Potter's *Peter Rabbit* will not want to miss this delightful addition to the franchise. Thompson has captured the warmth and adventure of *Peter Rabbit*. The pictures are just lovely and included with this book is the Oscar-winning actress reading the tale.

As always, these and many other new titles are available at the Garden City Public Library. If you are interested in one of them and would like to put it on hold, call the Library at 773 793-1830 and we would be happy to help you.

The library is located at 31735 Maplewood in Garden City. The best entrance to get into the library is off of Bal-moral, one block south of Maplewood. Hours are 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday and Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday and 11 to 4 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Be sure to check out our website at www.garden-city.lib.mi.us to check out more new titles, upcoming programs and much more.

to solve the case in time for the hostess to get it back?

• *Big Nate: All Work and No Play* by Lincoln Peirce - This wonderful work contains two years' worth of Sunday newspaper's cartoons. They are brought to life in the gorgeous color renditions, bringing to life Big Nate's escapades. This book is sure to delight fans of Peirce's *Big Nate* series.

• *The Further Tales of Peter Rabbit* by Emma Thompson - Fans of Beatrix Potter's *Peter Rabbit* will not want to miss this delightful addition to the franchise. Thompson has captured the warmth and adventure of *Peter Rabbit*. The pictures are just lovely and included with this book is the Oscar-winning actress reading the tale.

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At the Garden City Library was written by Stephanie Charlefour, youth and teen librarian. Contact her at scharlefour@garden-city.lib.mi.us or call (734) 793-1837.

Youth Fiction Titles

• *Divide and Conquer* by Carrie Ryan - This is the second installment of *Infinity Ring* series. Dak, Sera, and Riq are trying to stop the Viking invasion from happening in Paris. Unfortunately, Dak has been captured and is being forced to work on the side of the Vikings. Will Sera and Riq be able to save him? Fans of the *39 Clues* Franchise will be sure to want to swipe up this action pack series. The first in the series, *Mutiny in Time* by James Dashner, is also available.

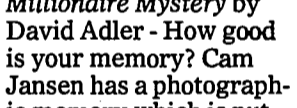
• *Cam Jansen and the Millionaire Mystery* by David Adler - How good is your memory? Cam Jansen has a photographic memory which is put to the test trying to solve who stole a pearl necklace at a charity brunch. Will Cam Jansen be able

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Anderson pledges to work to keep schools safe

When the new session of the State Legislature convenes in January, State Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, plans "to work with his colleagues to offer common sense legislation that will keep children safe at school."

Anderson joined with religious leaders from across the state Tuesday for a prayer vigil in front of the Governor's office Tuesday in remembrance of the victims of the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary school in Newtown, Conn.

The vigil came just after the Gov. Rick Snyder let it be known he was vetoing Senate Bill 59. The bill was passed last week eliminating "Gun Free Zones." Those locations previously included hospitals, government offices, and schools.

"I am a gun owner, myself, and a strong supporter of the Second Amendment rights of responsible Americans, but there is a clear line that must be drawn as a part of ensuring the protection of our children," said Senator Anderson. "I have always felt that guns do not have a place in our churches, in our hospitals, in our libraries or in our schools."

"We need to protect our children and our most vulnerable from gun violence to the best of our ability," he added. "That means reviewing gun control laws, school safety procedures, but it begins with the Gov-

ernor vetoing this legislation which would allow adults to carry concealed weapons into schools as well as these other places currently off limits."

Anderson sent a letter to Governor Snyder last Friday, the day after the bill's passage, urging him to veto the legislation and asking that discussion begin on Michigan's "Open Carry" law.

"It's time that someone stood up to the special interest lobbyists who pursue a policy of guns everywhere with no restrictions and demand meaningful conversation about how to do everything within our power to protect our citizens from future shootings," he said. "Increasing the number of guns by eliminating 'Gun Free Zones' is not a solution. We must also examine how best to help those with mental illness, who need intervention before another tragedy happens and making sure weapons don't fall into their hands."

"Opening our schools up for more individuals to bring weapons in will in no way make our schools safer and that's exactly what Senate Bill 59 would have done, if it had been signed into law," he added.

Anderson commend the Governor for vetoing this bill, adding that "we owe it to the memories of the victims to do everything possible to prevent such a horrific tragedy from occurring again."

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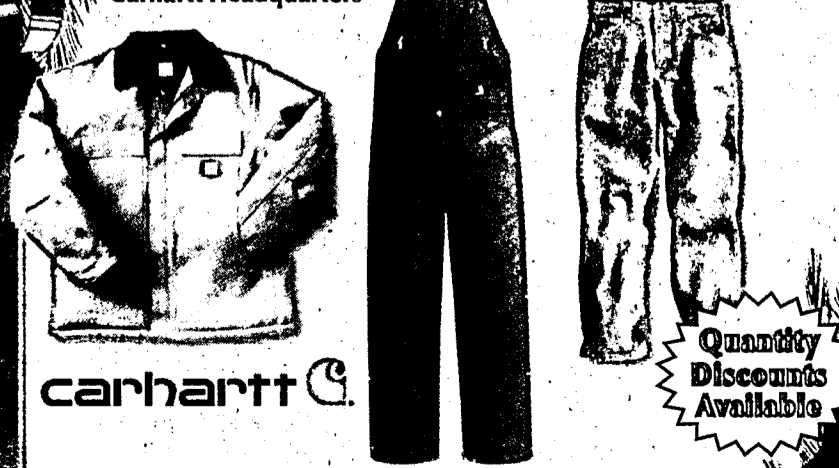
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Last-minute help for your holiday shopping

By Jon Gunnells
Guest Columnist

You waited until the last minute to do your holiday shopping, didn't you? Otherwise you wouldn't continue reading. Fortunately, there are plenty of app developers, retailers and online stores that are prepared for this exact dilemma: the last-minute holiday rush.

Here are some shopping tips and advice to help you finish your shopping with time to spare.

Take advantage of your Smartphone or tablet by downloading any number of free apps that will help you through this hectic time. The Black Friday Survival Guide app, for example, allows shoppers to view leaked and verified deals in real time and create personal shopping lists.

There's also the Shopp Savvy app, which can be downloaded, on your Verizon Smartphone. This app lets shoppers scan bar codes on items to check prices and compare the best in-store and online deals. It is available on Android and Apple devices.

If you need to crunch numbers, consider downloading a discount and tax calculator from your Smartphone's app store. Using an app like this will allow you to estimate how much items will cost and how much a sale will actually save.

There are also apps such as the "Find My Car" app that can help you when you get outside of the store. The "Find My Car" app was named one of the "Top Ten Apps That Will Change Your Life" by the *Wall Street Journal*. It uses location services to help you find your car in a crowded lot.

You can also jot down a note in your phone's notepad, or record a voice

memo to help you remember what lot you parked in.

Even if you don't know what to buy for the person on your list, there are websites that can help. If the recipient is on Pinterest, visit their page and take a look at what items they are "pinning" or commenting about.

Websites such as Amazon.com and Sharperimage.com have comprehensive gift guides for anyone on your list. Gifts.com even has a personality test that buyers can fill out to help narrow down the options by age, gender, interest and hobbies.

Once you find the right gift, you might get lucky and not have to visit the store. Many large retailers such as Nordstrom.com and Zappos.com, and Sunglasshut.com offer free shipping and free exchanges every day. Amazon provides free shipping on orders over \$25.

The eBay site, which also offers free shipping on certain purchases may even have gifts that are sold out elsewhere. It may cost a premium price, but if you're looking to snag a last-minute video game system or other such coveted gift, eBay will have it.

When dealing online, remember there are plenty of safe ways to pay. Use your online payment system such as PayPal, Square, or a gift certificate. You can even have your credit card company produce a one-time-use number to avoid fraudulent purchases in the future.

Just be sure not to use your debit card as the fraud protection generally isn't as solid on those types of cards.

Lastly, if the holiday stress really hits you hard before, during or after your shopping is completed visit drinkmixer.com and find the quickest recipe for adult eggnog. If you've waited this long, you might need it.

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



Tech Savvy

Jon Gunnells



Forty-two percent of Christmas tree fires occur on the 12 days from Dec. 23 through Jan. 3. Jeffrey Whitmarsh of SERVPRO® of Dearborn Heights North/East Garden City recommends keeping live trees well watered to reduce the chance of a fire.

Holidays a high risk time for fires at home

The holiday season brings traditions, parties, shopping, entertaining – and potential danger, according to Jeffrey Whitmarsh of SERVPRO® of Dearborn Heights North/East Garden City.

The latest statistics available from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) show the holidays are a high risk time for home fires. Christmas trees are responsible for 240 home fires each year, and other holiday decorations are the cause of another 1,170 fires. Cooking fires are almost twice as likely to happen on Christmas Day as on non-holidays.

"No one wants to think about the possibility of losing their home, and even more tragically, lives because of a fire during the holidays," said Whitmarsh. "But statistics show, it's important to be aware of the increased risk seasonal decorating, entertaining and cooking can cause during the holidays."

Whitmarsh reminds residents that prevention and common sense can help keep homes and families safe during the holidays and throughout the year.

Here are some sobering facts about holiday fires and tips to help keep your home, friends and family safe throughout the holiday season:

Christmas trees

• 33 percent of tree fires are caused by electrical problems; 13 percent involve decorative lights. Check wiring on lights for breaks and wear. Replace worn strings and don't exceed manufacturer guidelines for connecting multiple strands of lights.

Don't leave tree lights plugged in when you are away from home or when you go to bed.

• 42 percent occur on the 12 days from Dec. 23 through Jan. 3. Keep live trees well watered to reduce the chance of a fire.

Holiday decorations

• 45 percent of all holiday fires involve candles; that number rises to 56 percent in December. Use flameless candles. If you do use traditional candles, burn them in sturdy candleholders, well away from drapes and other flammable materials, and never leave them unattended or allow them to burn down to less than one inch in length.

• 48 percent of all decoration fires start because the decoration is too close to a heat source. Keep all decorations away from heat sources like radiators, portable heaters, fireplaces, etc.

Cooking fires

• 58 percent of kitchen fires involve ranges; homes with electric cooktops have a higher risk of fire than homes with gas cooktops.

• Cooking fires on Christmas Day and Christmas Eve exceed the daily average by 96 percent and 89 percent respectively. Keep flammable items – potholders, packaging, wrapping, wooden utensils, loose clothing – away from the stovetop. And, don't let lack of sleep or alcohol consumption affect your ability to concentrate on preparing the meal.

"It only takes a moment's distraction or carelessness to turn a holiday celebration into a catastrophe," said Whitmarsh. "We hope these tips will be a reminder to families to make fire prevention a priority in their holiday preparations, so they can spend the season enjoying family and friends, not dealing with the aftermath of a fire."

For more fire prevention tips and information about fire and water damage restoration services, contact Jeffrey Whitmarsh with SERVPRO® of Dearborn Heights North/East Garden City at (313) 228-5134 or servpro9764@aol.com.

For more information about SERVPRO®, visit www.servpro.com.

GC business offers therapeutic massages

There is a new business in Garden City is helping customers take their cares away, feel relaxed and revitalized.

Licensed for massage, Dan Yu and Lili Zhu have opened Therapeutic Relax Massage at 30032 Ford between Middlebelt and Merriman. Hours are 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday. They accept appointments or walk-ins.

Massage has many beneficial properties. Massage relaxes the body muscles, increases and aids in blood circulation, helps get rid of headaches, and is helpful in a feeling of overall well being.

Yu, a Canton resident, attended Shan Dong University in Shan Dong, China. Married and the father of one child, he has been in the United States for more than 12 years. In China, he was a chef in

the restaurant business.

He has his Michigan state license for massage and worked at another facility before venturing out on his own.

Zhu is from Tianjin, China's third largest city. She retired after being a registered nurse at Tianjin Children's Hospital. Trained in both massage and acupuncture in China, she is Michigan state licensed in massage. Zhu had worked for 2½ years at another facility in massage before going out on her own.

She lives with her husband in Taylor, Michigan and has one daughter she is putting through college at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles.

For more information or an appointment, call Therapeutic Relax Massage at (734) 237-4978.

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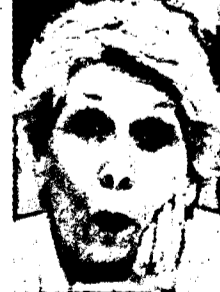
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Listings for the Community Calendar can be submitted by e-mail at smason@hometownlife.com. They also can be mailed to Sue Mason at 615 W. Lafayette - Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226, or faxed to her attention at fax at (313) 223-3318. For more information,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

Upcoming Events

NEW YEAR'S EVE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Location: American Legion Post 32, 9318 Newburgh, Livonia

Details: Celebrate New Year's Eve at the American Legion. Doors open at 6 p.m. There will party favors, hors d'oeuvres, dinner at 7:30 p.m., music and dancing, champagne at midnight and pizza.

The party is open to the public. Tickets are \$50 per person and are available at the post. They must be purchased by Thursday, Dec. 27.

Contact: For more information, call (734) 427-5630.

WIDOWED FRIENDS

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

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

Details: Widowed men and women are invited to attend a social hour at 5 p.m. (cash bar) and a dinner buffet served promptly at 6 p.m. Cost is \$18 and includes meal, beverage, dessert, tax and tip. Pay at the door (cash only) with the exact amount. Stay for cards, games and conversation until 9 p.m. Reservations required by Jan. 11.

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

MMAP counseling

Date: Wednesday, Jan. 2, and Wednesday, Feb. 6

Location: United Home Health Services, 2200 Canton Center Road, Suite 250, Canton

Details: United Home Health Services, a local home care company, is offering offer the community free counseling with a certified Medicare Medicaid Assistance Program counselor. Jan. 1 through Fe. 14 is the Medicare Advantage disenrollment period when seniors are able to change to a Medicare D plan, if desired. This process can be confusing so the MMAP counselor can help seniors review Medicare and Medicaid eligibility and the various plans, apply for Medicaid, research and enroll in Medicare Part D drug insurance, assist with Medicare supplemental plans, find pharmaceutical assistance programs, identify and report Medi-



Wish You Were Here

Mike and Carol Garrett of Garden City took a recent weekend get-away to Niagara Falls. While eating lunch, they enjoyed a spectacular view of the falls from the Skylon Tower. Carol also posed with President and Mrs. Barack Obama at the Wax Museum. "For the most part, the weather cooperated with us," said Carol. "Overall we had a wonderful time and thoroughly enjoyed our trip." If you go on vacation, be sure to take a picture with your Observer and send it to Sue Mason as a jpg at smason@hometownlife.com or by mail to her attention at 615 W. Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226. Be sure to include your name and information about your photo.



Carol Garrett introduces the First Couple to her hometown newspaper.

care/Medicaid fraud and abuse issues, and explore long term care insurance options.

Contact: For more information, contact United Home Health Services at (734) 981-8820 or access the MMAP website at www.mmapinc.org/pages/about.html

BURROUGHS OLD TIMERS

Time/Date: 11:30 a.m. on the last Friday of the month.

Location: Plymouth Elks Club, 41700 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth

Details: Any former employees of Burroughs/Unisys are welcome to join us to socialize or renew acquaintances. There is no cost to join or to attend. A cash bar and a fish buffet is available but not mandatory.

Contact: John Kusch 734-751-9765 or kuschjt@yahoo.com

For Seniors

FRIENDSHIP CENTER

Location: 1119 N. Newburgh, Westland

Details: The Senior Resources Department (Friendship Center) offers a variety of programs for older adults.

Contact: (734) 722-7632, www.ci.westland.mi.us

DYER CENTER

Location: 36745 Marquette, between Wayne Road and Marquette, Westland

Details: Offers activities Monday-Friday at the center.

Contact: (734) 419-2020

SENIOR FITNESS

Location: Maplewood Senior Center, Maplewood west of Merriman, Garden City

Details: The Senior Fitness Room is available to those age 50 and older. There's an annual membership is \$55 per year or get a daily pass for \$1. Senior aerobic classes are held 8:45-9:45 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday. Drop in for \$3 per day.

Contact: (734) 793-1870

Volunteers

FIRST STEP

Details: First Step, which has been active in the effort to end domestic violence and sexual assault in western Wayne County and Downriver communities for more than 20 years, is looking for volunteers. Interested people must be at least 18, willing and able to travel to the Downriver area and complete a 55-hour training program.

Contact: (734) 416-1111; Ext. 223

VNA HOSPICE

Details: Visiting Nurse Association of Southeast

Michigan's (VNA) hospice program needs volunteers to comfort and support patients at the end of life. Volunteers can provide companionship, write a memoir, provide respite for family or work as office support. A free 18-hour training program is provided at the VNA headquarters, 25900 Greenfield Road, Suite 600. Registration is required.

Contact: (248) 967-8361, www.vna.org

SEASONS HOSPICE

Details: Seasons Hospice and Palliative Care is looking for volunteers to provide companionship to patients dealing with life limiting illness. No special skills, other than objectivity and compassion, are needed. Training provided. Volunteers are matched with patients in their own community.

Contact: (800) 370-8592

LITERACY COUNCIL

Details: The Community

Literacy Council (CLC) is looking for volunteer tutors in Western Wayne County to help adults improve their reading, writing and communication skills. The CLC will provide training to interested volunteers. Previous experience or a bachelor's degree is not required. The council will provide free training and materials, and then match you with an adult student in your area.

Contact: (734) 416-4906

HEARTLAND HOSPICE

Details: Heartland Hospice is looking for caring and dedicated people with an interest in serving terminally ill patients and their families in Washtenaw, western Wayne, Monroe and Livingston counties. Volunteers provide a variety of services including companionship, light housekeeping, errand running, grief support and clerical services.

Contact: (888) 973-1145

SUPPORT GROUP

Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. the third Thursday of the month

Location: American House III, 35700 Hunter, Westland

Details: Adult Well-Being Services through The Senior Alliance is sponsoring a support group that provides support and guidance for families caring for an older person.

Contact: Chris Goldberg at (734) 629-5004. Call to confirm meeting, if coming for the first time.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT

Time/Date: 7 p.m. third Thursday of the month

Location: American House III, 35700 Hunter, Westland

Details: A support & education group for family caregivers is available for residents of southern and western Wayne County. The group, for people who are caring for family members 60 and older, or who are 60

years and older themselves, is offered by Adult Well-Being Services through The Senior Alliance and funded by The Senior Alliance and United Way.

Contact: Call Helen Streett at (734) 629-5004 to confirm time and date, if attending for the first time.

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT

Time/Date: 7 p.m. second Wednesday of the month

Location: Lower level Classroom 2 of the Allan Breakie Medical Office Building at Garden City Hospital, 6245 Inkster Road, Garden City

Details: Sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association, family members, friends and caregivers of persons afflicted with Alzheimer's Disease or related disorders are invited to join the free monthly support group. The group will provide mutual aid, support and the opportunity to share problems and concerns.

Contact: Call (734) 58-4330 for more information.

For Your Health

W-W NAMI

Time/Date: 7 p.m. the first and third Thursday of the month

Location: St. Johns Episcopal Church, 555 S. Wayne Road, Westland

Details: The Wayne-Westland affiliate of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) provides support and information for individuals and families dealing with mental illness.

SAFE PLACE

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursdays

Location: Fellowship Hall at Merriman Road Baptist Church, 2055 Merriman, Garden City.

Details: A SAFE PLACE is based on the Alcoholics for Christ program.

Contact: Russ Weathers at (734) 422-1995

NOTICE OF SCHEDULE OF REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE WESTLAND CITY COUNCIL

TO BE HELD DURING THE 2013 CALENDAR YEAR

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the City Council of Westland, Michigan will hold its regular meetings on the following dates during the calendar year of 2013, in the Council Chambers of the Westland City Hall, 36601 Ford Road, at 7:00 p.m. All meetings are held on the first and third Mondays of the month, except when a holiday falls on that Monday, in which case the meeting will be held on the next secular day that is not a holiday.

Scheduled Meeting	Mon. Cut-Off Date	Scheduled Meeting	Mon. Cut-Off Date
January 7, 2013	Dec. 28 (Fri)	July 1, 2013	June 24
January 22, 2013	(Tues)	Jan. 14	July 15, 2013
February 4, 2013	Jan. 28	August 5, 2013	July 29
February 19, 2013	(Tues)	Feb. 11	August 19, 2013
March 4, 2013	Feb. 25	September 3, 2013	Aug. 26
March 18, 2013	March 11	September 16, 2013	Sept. 9
April 1, 2013	March 25	October 7, 2013	Sept. 30
April 15, 2013	April 8	October 21, 2013	Oct. 11 (Fri)
May 6, 2013	April 29	November 4, 2013	Oct. 28
May 20, 2013	May 13	November 18, 2013	Nov. 8 (Fri)
June 3, 2013	May 24 (Fri)	December 2, 2013	Nov. 25
June 17, 2013	June 10	December 16, 2013	Dec. 9
January 6, 2014	Dec. 20, 2013		

Proposed minutes of the meeting will be available for public inspection during regular business hours at the Westland City Hall, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan, not more than eight business days after the date of said meeting and approved minutes will be available for public inspection during regular business hours, at the same location, not more than five business days after the meeting at which the minutes are approved. This notice is given in compliance with Act. 267 of Public Acts of Michigan, 1976.

EILEEN DEHART
WESTLAND CITY CLERK-CMC

2013 FIRE AND POLICE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION MEETING DATES

NOTICE OF SCHEDULE OF REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE WESTLAND FIRE AND POLICE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION TO BE HELD DURING THE CALENDAR YEAR COMMENCING JANUARY 9, 2013 AND ENDING DECEMBER 11, 2013:

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE MEETINGS OF THE WESTLAND FIRE AND POLICE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF WESTLAND:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT THE WESTLAND FIRE AND POLICE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF WESTLAND, 36601 FORD ROAD, WESTLAND, MICHIGAN, (734) 467-3190, WILL HOLD REGULAR MEETINGS AT THE FOLLOWING DATES, TIMES AND PLACES DURING THE 2013 YEAR.

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
01/09/13	8:00 A.M.	WESTLAND CITY HALL, 36601 FORD ROAD
02/13/13	8:00 A.M.	WESTLAND CITY HALL, 36601 FORD ROAD
03/13/13	8:00 A.M.	WESTLAND CITY HALL, 36601 FORD ROAD
04/10/13	8:00 A.M.	WESTLAND CITY HALL, 36601 FORD ROAD
05/08/13	8:00 A.M.	WESTLAND CITY HALL, 36601 FORD ROAD
06/12/13	8:00 A.M.	WESTLAND CITY HALL, 36601 FORD ROAD
07/10/13	8:00 A.M.	WESTLAND CITY HALL, 36601 FORD ROAD
08/14/13	8:00 A.M.	WESTLAND CITY HALL, 36601 FORD ROAD
09/11/13	8:00 A.M.	WESTLAND CITY HALL, 36601 FORD ROAD
10/09/13	8:00 A.M.	WESTLAND CITY HALL, 36601 FORD ROAD
11/13/13	8:00 A.M.	WESTLAND CITY HALL, 36601 FORD ROAD
12/11/13	8:00 A.M.	WESTLAND CITY HALL, 36601 FORD ROAD

PROPOSED MINUTES OF EACH OF THE MEETINGS LISTED ABOVE WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION DURING REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS AT WESTLAND CITY HALL, 36601 FORD ROAD, WESTLAND, MICHIGAN, NOT MORE THAN EIGHT BUSINESS DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SAID MEETING, AND APPROVED MINUTES OF EACH MEETING WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION DURING REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS, AT THE SAME LOCATION, NOT MORE THAN FIVE BUSINESS DAYS AFTER THE MEETING AT WHICH THE MINUTES ARE APPROVED.

THIS NOTICE IS GIVEN IN COMPLIANCE WITH ACT NO. 267 OF THE PUBLIC ACTS OF MICHIGAN, 1976.

EILEEN DeHART-SCHOOF, CMC
WESTLAND CITY CLERK

THINKING ABOUT... A NEW FURNACE?

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Blue Care Network of Michigan announces open enrollment for its non group product:

NON GROUP

Open enrollment dates are January 1 - January 31, 2013 for a February 1, 2013 effective date.

Please contact Blue Care Network's Customer Service department at 1-800-662-6667 for additional information.

Blue Care Network of Michigan

A nonprofit corporation and independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

OUR VIEWS

Holiday spirit More important to hold family close

As we celebrate another Christmas and holiday season, it is our nature to want our families gathered around us, like a warm blanket of love.

However, not everyone has that luxury. Because of a gunman in Newtown, Conn., the families of some 26 victims — including 20 first-graders from Sandy Hook Elementary School — are spending the holiday season grieving, planning and attending funerals. They're not opening presents or attending religious services or sitting down to the family meal.

And it isn't only victims of violence who don't have their families with them at this special time of year, a season built around family and love and understanding and peace.

Many people, for reasons as varied as medical and financial, don't have families around them with whom to spend the holidays. They crowd into our food pantries and soup kitchens, our churches and our shelters. Or, even worse, have no place at all to go.

Thankfully, there are heroes determined to ease the pain and suffering. There are people reaching out to the survivors in Connecticut, showing support in any small way possible. There are people standing at Salvation Army Kettles, ringing bells, and, of course there are those responding to the bells by dropping in their donations.

Countless stories crop up every year of these good-deed doers. And there are countless more about whom stories never see the light of day, folks who help simply because they want to, and can.

This is also not the season to focus solely on the down side, because there is so much good to go with it. The Newtown massacre is about the victims, but also about the heroes. The principal who flung herself at the gunman in an attempt to stop him. The teacher who shielded her students with her own body, and paid the price for her protection with her life. The students themselves, who found their way out of darkness and into the arms of those who love them the most.

Each year, we rouse ourselves during the holiday season to listen to the better angels of our nature. It doesn't always take a tragedy of the proportions of Newtown to make us feel the love.

But in the wake of that tragedy, it seems even more important than ever to remember what this season is all about.

Give the gift of information

Time is running out. Christmas is right around the corner. If you are like us, you probably have a bit of shopping left to do. You'll likely be scrambling over the next couple days, trying to get something for those few people on your list who might be difficult to buy for. You know, the ones who already have everything, or the ones for whom you're not quite sure what to get.

We have a suggestion for you if one or more of those people live locally. Give them the gift that will keep on giving for the rest of the year. A gift that — week in and week out — will inform them about what's happening in their town. What the city council or township board is up to. What policies are being put into place by the local school board. How the high school sports teams are doing. Where and what crimes are happening in their community. Why construction barrels are popping up down their street. Who their neighbors are and what they're up to. What kinds of businesses are in town, and what kind of deals they are offering.

That and much more is exactly what they'll get with a gift subscription to this newspaper.

O&E Media newspapers have been covering western Wayne County and portions of Oakland County for generations. We know our towns — Berkley, Beverly Hills, Birmingham, Bloomfield, Canton, Clawson, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Garden City, Huntington Woods, Livonia, Milford, Northville, Novi, New Hudson, Pleasant Ridge, Redford, Royal Oak, Southfield, South Lyon, Wayne, Westland. In fact, we know our towns as well as anyone, and we're dedicated to making sure our readers know them, too.

We are dedicated to helping our towns thrive and remain great places to live and work. Not only do we continue to produce quality print products that are delivered to our subscribers, but we also have a growing presence on the Web at www.hometownlife.com. Our journalists are out on the street, using technology and social media to report the news that's important to our readers, and making we're doing it on a daily basis.

However, we also need the support of the community. Purchasing a gift subscription for a special person in your life helps us continue our mission. And, unlike a tie or pair of socks that might get tossed in a drawer and forgotten, a gift subscription to this newspaper will be delivered to their homes every week for the rest of the year.

A subscription costs just a few bucks a month and for new subscribers we'll throw in a \$10 gift card to a local store, which might just help with the rest of your shopping list. And you can even do it over the phone by calling (866) 887-2737.

The entire O&E Media organization wishes everyone a wonderful Christmas and a happy New Year. We are proud to serve this community, and are privileged to have you as a reader in print and on the web.



COMMUNITY VOICE

What do you want for Christmas?

We asked this of children in Redford, Westland and Garden City.



"I want snap-back hats, clothes and money and a phone, a better one than I have now."

Zack Orsette
 Garden City



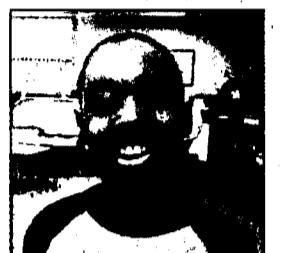
"I want a tablet, just a tablet, and some clothes from Aeropostle, Justice and Holister."

Hannah Bolton
 Garden City



"I want ice skates so I can go skating and I need tickets to go to the indoor rink."

Nina Tilley
 Westland



"I want a Wii U system and a 3DXL. These are awesome games that you can play whenever and wherever you want."

Jael Snowden



"Ice skates and roller skates mostly. That's all I want."

Mason Tilley
 Westland



"I want an Air Hogs Hover Assault. It's a very cool airplane with wheels and little balls that shoot out."

Justin McCullough



"I want an Xbox 360 from Santa. I also want Blades Blades; it's a battle toy. I have been a good boy. I can't wait for Santa!"

Jeremiah Robinson



"I want a laptop because my computer at home does not work. I really want a computer to play music, play IXL math, Raz Kids, and play games over break."

Asia Waters



What is the best Christmas present you ever received?

This question was asked at the Livonia Civic Center Library, the Canton Public Library and the Plymouth District Library.



"A Kindle. I like the fact that I can take it with me when I want to read."

Tom Ziober
 Livonia



"About four years ago, my mother was ill with a serious illness, but it turned out well and she got healthy. She was really weak, but she recovered."

Mark Gorey
 Livonia



"My first bicycle. It was fun and I used it to travel."

Walter Lyzohub
 Livonia



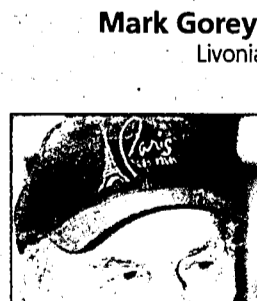
"When I was a little kid it was a little stove and refrigerator set, and the dishes that went with it."

Phyllis Moran
 Canton



"A trip to swim with the dolphins in the Bahamas that I got from my parents when I was in fourth grade."

Natalie Morello
 Plymouth



"Probably a watch. It has a calendar and it's still working fine."

Al Radze
 Florida



"I got a new BMW as a birthday and Christmas present from my husband this year."

Erin Brockenshire
 Plymouth



"I can't narrow it down to just one. Every year is good."

Nancy Smith
 Canton



"My engagement ring."

Donna Fairley
 Plymouth



"My wife knitted me a blanket."

Mike Callahan
 Canton



"My husband got me a trip to the Bahamas. We left on Christmas morning."

Barbara Nichols
 Canton



"We're going to Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, and our parents bought our tickets home."

Logan and Heidi Lewis
 Canton

ACO Home, Garden & HARDWARE

LAST MINUTE Gift Ideas SAVINGS!

Sale Thurs. Dec-20 thru Christmas Eve!

A Must For Christmas Morning!

IRONBUILT Trash Bags

- 100-Ct, 30-Gallon
- 150-Ct, 13-Gallon

\$5

Reg. to \$9.99

WOW WHAT A PRICE!

ACO Home Black 20-Gallon Storage Tote

3.99

Reg. \$4.99

- Snap locking lid
- Affordable storage!

HOT BUY!



Great Gift Idea!

SAVE 50% after Mail In Rebate



PEAK 600 Peak Amp Jump Starter

- Rechargeable, cordless
- Up to 300 instant starting amps

Sale Price **34.99**
Mail-In Rebate **- \$10**
24.99 Reg. \$49.99

PEAK Automotive Electronics

Up To **40% OFF**

Our Everyday Low Prices



A HOLIDAY FAVORITE!

Bumpy Cake

Devil's food cake with ribbons of creme, covered in rich chocolate icing.

5.99

Reg. \$9.99

Dessert Topping

Assorted flavors, 20-Oz.

Your Choice **4.99**

Reg. \$5.99

While quantities last. Sorry, no rain checks.

RAYOVAC 30-Pk. AA/AAA Batteries

9.99

Reg. \$14.99

SAVE \$5



Stafford Men's Underwear

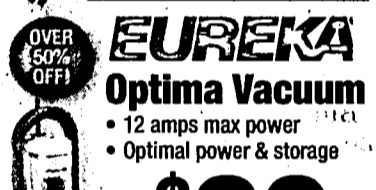
Your Choice

- Undershirts
- Boxers
- Briefs

\$4

Reg. to \$9.99

Selection varies by store. While quantities last. Sorry, no rain checks.



OVER 50% OFF!

EUREKA Optima Vacuum

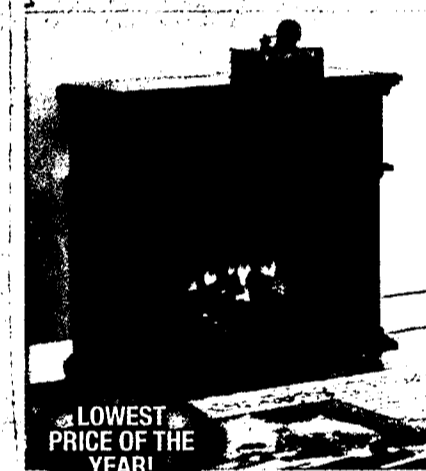
- 12 amps max power
- Optimal power & storage

\$30

Reg. \$69.99

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ACO GIFT CARDS...THE PERFECT GIFT!



1,500-Watt Infrared Rolling Mantel

- Realistic electric fireplace with brightness settings
- Fully-assembled & ready-to-heat
- Solid woods, real wood veneers and metal housing

\$277

SAVE \$72.99

Reg. \$349.99

LOWEST PRICE OF THE YEAR!



Stunt Buggy

- Remote control
- High speed!

16.99

Reg. \$29.99

WOW WHAT A PRICE!



Alert Works Severe Weather Radio

29.99 Reg. \$39.99

Gives updates & info when severe weather is in the area.



Realtone Retro Alarm Clock/Radio

- Dual alarm settings
- Auto updates for daylight savings time

18.99

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All Other Timex Alarm Clocks Are Also On Sale!



Wooden Folding Chairs

Your Choice **28.88**

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Folds Easily!



Ladies Snuggle Socks

- Extra long, non skid
- Assorted colors

3.99

ACO COUPON 6293-0001 Expires 12/24/12



Plush or Faux Fur Throw Blankets

Big 50" x 60" Size!

Your Choice **7.77**

ACO COUPON 6293-0002 Expires 12/24/12



Oversized Memory Foam Bath Mat

Compare at \$29.99

8.88

Size: 32" x 24"

ACO COUPON 6293-0003 Expires 12/24/12



Women's Tank Sleep Dress or Shower Wrap

With headband

Your Choice **8.99**

ACO COUPON 6293-0004 Expires 12/24/12



2-Liter Bottle

Assorted flavors Plus deposit

80¢

ACO COUPON 6293-0005 Expires 12/24/12



Butane BBQ Lighter

- Child resistant
- Refillable

99¢

ACO COUPON 6293-0006 Expires 12/24/12



Uncle Rays Potato Chips

8.5 to 9-Oz.

5/\$5

ACO COUPON 6293-0007 Expires 12/24/12



8-Pack Basic Paper Towel

SAVE!

5.99

ACO COUPON 6293-0008 Expires 12/24/12



HILLS BROS Coffee

33-Oz. Can

6.55

ACO COUPON 6293-0009 Expires 12/24/12



Laundry Detergent

150-Oz. Jug

7.99

ACO COUPON 6293-0010 Expires 12/24/12



Blue Heat 12-lb. Ice Melt

Melts snow & ice to -25° F

8.55

ACO COUPON 6293-0011 Expires 12/24/12



Duraflame Fire Logs

6-Pack, 3-lb.

9.99

ACO COUPON 6293-0012 Expires 12/24/12

ACO Home, Garden & HARDWARE

Sale Prices Effective Thurs. Dec. 20 through Mon. Dec. 24. Open Christmas Eve 9 to 5. Closed Christmas Day.

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See store for details. Not responsible for printer errors. Quantities limited on some items. Selection may vary. Some items not always as pictured. No rain checks. © 2012 ACO Hardware, Inc.

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\$3.99
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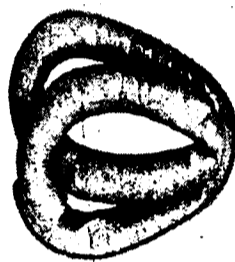


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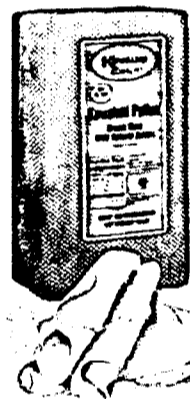
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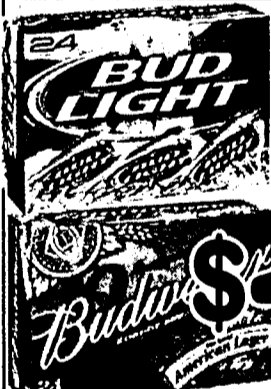
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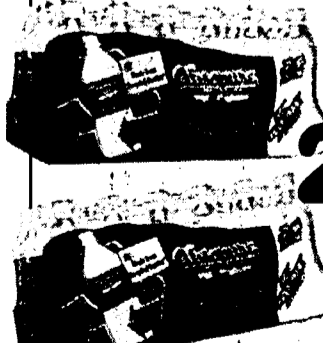
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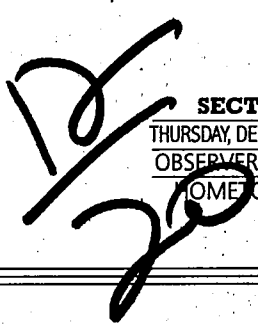
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SPORTS

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Glenn girls beat the buzzer

Graves' bank shot clocks Novi, 56-55

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

Christmas came a week early for Westland John Glenn senior guard ShaKeya Graves.

With the Rockets trailing Novi 56-55 following Kerri McMahan's clutch basket Tuesday night, Glenn coach Eric Kovatch called a timeout with 6.42 seconds left.

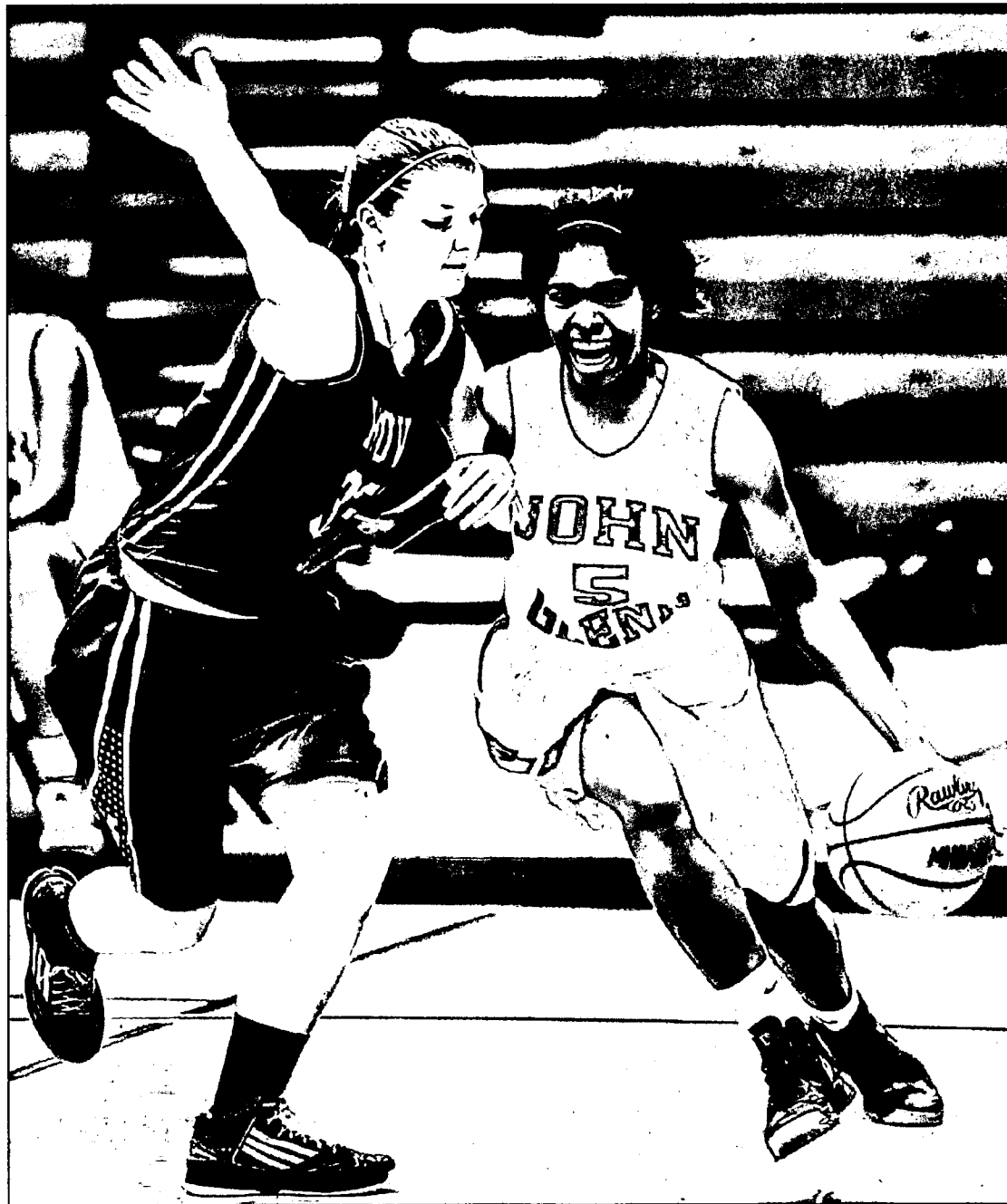
After taking a handoff on the inbounds play and forced to go the length of the court, the 5-foot-8 Graves zig-zagged with her dribble, stopped at the top of the key and banked home the game-winning shot just as the buzzer sounded to give host Glenn the dramatic 57-56 win in a battle of unbeaten teams.

"My mindset was to get to the basket originally," said Graves, a DePaul University signee. "But when I looked up there, it was like one second left and I was at the 3-point line, so I had to shoot it because I couldn't dribble it anymore because the time would have run out. "So I just shot the ball."

And Graves, who finished with a game-high 24 points, was going to use the backboard.

"My intention was glass and that's what it did, it went off the glass," she said. "I was so focused getting to the rim. There was a timeout and that was my focus was — get to the rim. Basically that's what I was trying to do and when I looked up we had one second, shot the ball, hit the glass and went in."

Please see **GLENN, B2**



Glenn senior guard ShaKeya Graves (right), who made the game-winning shot at the buzzer, makes the drive on Novi defender Alex Felice during Tuesday's game.

DOUGLAS BARGERSTOCK

Cecile earns WSU honor

Wayne State University senior defensive lineman Pat Cecile (Livonia Franklin) was the recipient of the Ron Solack Memorial '35' Memorial Award



during the team's 2012 banquet Sunday afternoon at the Detroit Yacht Club.

Cecile, a native of Westland, made 21 starts in 48 career games. He started nine games his senior year and was a four-time Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference All-Academic selection in six of his eight semesters.

Solack died of post-surgery complications in 1968, on the eve of the opening of the new Wayne State University Stadium.

Solack would have been a senior member of the 1969 team. An award was instituted in his name in 1969 and has been presented every year since.

Barber top CCHA rookie

Miami University freshman right winger Riley Barber (Livonia) was named Central Collegiate Hockey Association Rookie of the Week for the third time

this season.

Barber, who leads the CCHA midway through the season with 22 points, notched a goal and assist in Saturday's 3-1 win over the Buckeyes.

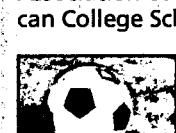
He also set up the game-tying goal in Friday's 1-1 shootout triumph over OSU.

Barber is currently in Tarrytown, N.Y. participating at the U.S. National Junior Team training camp, where he is looking to earn a final roster spot for the 2013 World Junior Championships, Dec. 26 through Jan. 5, in Ufa, Russia

The camp moved to Finland on Wednesday, while the final roster will be announced Dec. 23.

Mira named All-Academic

Grand Valley State University midfielder Alyssa Mira (Livonia Churchill) was recently named to the 2012 National Soccer Coaches Association of American College Scholar All-



America team. Mira is an NSCAA All-America third-team honoree after helping GVSU to a 20-2-3 record.

She was named to the NSCAA and Daktronics, Inc. All-Region first team, while also earning first-team All-Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference honors.

The biomedical sciences major owns a 3.39 GPA and plans to attend graduate school.

Mira picked up CoSIDA Capital One Academic All-District honors this season and ranked 30th in the country with nine assists.

Im-press-ive Spartans' full-court defense sinks Pats

Livonia Stevenson turned on the second-half afterburners, heating up for 45 points en route to a 65-48 boys basketball win Tuesday night over visiting Livonia Franklin.

The Spartans, who improved to 2-1 overall, got a game-high 19 points from senior guard Josh Campbell. Three others scored in double figures, including Devin Kelly (12), Zach Atwood (10) and Jailen Webber (10).

The Patriots (1-3), who got 13 points apiece from Tyrone Rayford and Olushakin Cole, led 23-20 at halftime.

"Franklin did a nice job in their 1-3-1 half-court zone defense and did a good job slowing the game down," Stevenson coach Brandon Sinawi said. "We had some late turnovers and they made a run at the end of the half."

But the third quar-

BOYS BASKETBALL

ter was a different story as Stevenson outscored Franklin 20-10 and then put it away with a 25-15 run in the decisive fourth quarter.

"The full-court press changed the whole tempo," Sinawi said. "They only had eight players dressed and we tried to tire them out. We got some easy baskets off steals."

Michael Gluth contributed nine points, while Andrew Lebbos had eight points and six assists for the Patriots, who shot 16-of-26 from the foul line (61 percent) and 15-of-44 from the field (34 percent).

"We played our best with seven players," said Franklin coach Jeremy Rheault, whose team committed 27 turnovers. "We had to deal with an ineligible player and another with an inju-

ry. We physically match up well with them. The team played to their expectation and we will soon exceed that expectation."

JOHN GLENN 56, NOVI 52: Junior forward James Pruitt scored 10 of his team-high 21 points in the final quarter Tuesday as Westland John Glenn (3-1) held off a fourth-quarter surge by the host Wildcats (2-3).

Senior guards Richard Roberts and Nick Daniels added 10 points apiece for the Rockets, who led 41-28 after three quarters.

Novi, which rallied with a 24-15 run during the final eight minutes, got a game-high 22 points from Nelson Cagle, who connected on six 3-pointers.

Charles McKinney added 13 points as the Wildcats made 15-of-21 foul shots.

Please see **SPARTANS, B3**

Warriors let one get away, 53-51

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

The Lutheran High Westland boys basketball team will have plenty of time to think about Monday night's fourth-quarter collapse against visiting Novi Franklin Road Christian.

The Warriors led by 11 in the first half and started the third quarter with another basket to build a 13-point advantage, only to watch visiting Franklin Road storm back and pull out a 53-51 MIAC Red Division victory.

The loss leaves Lutheran Westland at 1-3 overall and 0-1 in the MIAC Red, while Franklin Road improved to 3-1 and 1-1.

"Turnovers cost us," said Lutheran Westland first-year coach Jim Hoeft, whose team was outscored 16-7 in the final quarter. "It was kind of a different team in the fourth quarter then in the

first half. I think we got complacent. I think we got a little careless with the ball and that eventually cost us. Some guys are thinking that it's their fault, blaming themselves, but it's a team game, team effort. Those things happen."

Franklin Road led 16-13 after one quarter thanks to 10 points from 6-foot-6 junior Scott McSweeney, but the center left the game and never returned after going down late in the same quarter with a sprained ankle.

That opened up the floodgates for the host Warriors, who went on a second-quarter 24-10 scoring surge to lead 37-26 at intermission.

But Lutheran Westland couldn't stand prosperity, committing 11 second-half turnovers after having just six in the opening half.

Please see **WARRIORS, B3**

Franklin grapplers repeat at County



Franklin's individual weight class winners at Saturday's Wayne County Championship included (from left) upper weights MVP Jordan Atienza (160 pounds), Allen Steele (189) and Danny Martinez (130).

Three individuals capture a crown

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

The Livonia Franklin wrestling team went for quality over quantity Saturday as they successfully defended their Wayne County Championship at the HYPE Recreation Center in Dearborn Heights.

Franklin scored a team-high 180 points, followed by runner-up Canton (158), Plymouth (156), Westland John Glenn (143) and Trenton (124) rounded out the top five in the 28-school field.

The Patriots came in with 10 wrestlers, but managed to get seven in the semifinals (five in the finals) and produced three champions, led by upper

weights MVP Jordan Atienza, who pinned his way through the 160-pound bracket.

"As the week progressed, I wasn't sure we were going to have enough guys to make a run at this again," Franklin coach Dave Chiola said. "We had some injuries where kids could only run all week, but they healed in time to help us out."

Other Franklin individual champions included Danny Martinez (130) and Allen Steele (189), who along with Atienza remained undefeated on the season.

"We start a few freshmen normally

Please see **FRANKLIN, B3**

GLENN

Continued from page B1

McMahan, the standout junior point guard for the Wildcats (5-1), gave her team a 56-55 advantage when she drove down the lane and scored almost uncontested with 5.28 seconds left to put Novi ahead by one.

But game officials decided to put 1.14 seconds back on the clock.

"The explanation was that when (the official) blew the whistle, she looked at the clock and there was an extra second on there," Novi coach Bill Kelp said. "That was it. I wasn't staring at the clock. I looked at it when the whistle blew and the clock was stopped. We came out of the timeout and there was a second added."

Kelp then used the Glenn timeout to set up a last-ditch stop.

"The defensive set-up was to pick them up and not let anybody get behind us, and make them turn," the Novi coach said. "I think we turned (Graves) a couple of times ... you've got to give her credit. It was a tough shot — two or three kids around her — and she banked it in. And obviously that last second helped."

Senior guard Raven Bankston, who added 16 points, broke a 54-54 tie with only 16.82 seconds left by splitting a pair of free throws, but Novi answered on McMahan's basket to go back on top by one.

Taylor Pavlika paced a balanced Novi scoring attack with 15 points, while Amanda Geiger added 13 and McMahan 11. Dina Fawiz also contributed eight.

Novi shot a blistering 19-of-34 (55.8 percent) from the field, including nine 3-pointers.

"I knew they shoot it," Kovatch said. "We

were't getting through the screens and they had wide-open shots and they were nailing them.

"That's an excellent, excellent basketball team. They're undefeated, getting victories by 30 and 40 points all season. We've played three undefeated teams so far and this was by far the best one. They're well-coached, their girls play hard and they're talented."

Novi, however, turned the ball over 19 times, including six in the decisive fourth quarter.

"I think our pick-and-roll defense is what hurt us in the first half," said Kelp, whose team was tied 28-28 and up 42-38 after three quarters. "They got half their points on pick-and-roll defense and then they didn't miss their free throws. I think those were the two things and we had a couple of unforced turnovers."

Glenn made only 12 turnovers and hit 18-of-44 shots from the floor (40.9 percent), but the Rockets nailed 16-of-19 free throws, including 7-of-8 in the final quarter.

"I think our girls might have underestimated Novi," Kovatch said. "It's a shame somebody had to lose this game — one of the few games you'll see two game-winning shots because, Kerri's shot easily could have won it for them, then ShaKeya, a big-time player, makes a big-time play and seals the victory for us. That was a dogfight and it's a shame anybody had to lose that one."

Kovatch said Graves was the first option on the final play.

"We basically just said, 'Get the ball to ShaKeya and stay wide, and ShaKeya look for your shot, kick it if you see an open girl,'" Kovatch said. "But I have the confidence she's going to make the right decision. She's



John Glenn's Kierra Jordan (24) launches a shot over Novi defender Keri McMahan during Tuesday clash of Kensington Conference powers.

going DePaul, a Division I player, one of the best in the state. Who else would you want the ball in your hand than her? I've got a couple of other girls I'm comfortable in with the twins (Raven and Raine Bankston) and Kaira Barnes. We're very blessed to have a bunch of good kids that are ball-

players."

Despite the loss, Kelp said the one-point setback can only be a benefit.

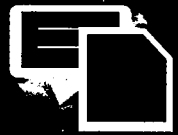
"We told them that this game, this loss, is only going to make us better," he said. "They had goals before the season and I don't think any of them wrote a goal to beat John Glenn on December 18. It was to win our division and win districts. I think this game will hopefully help us achieve those things."

But the holiday cheer belonged to Graves, who bought herself an early yuletide present.

"That was a big win for us," she said. "I guess we have to practice and work a little bit harder for games like this because there are better games down road. We just have to learn each other's game and play together."

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VOICES & VIEWS:
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Spartan effort

Stevenson doubles up Patriots

The Livonia Stevenson girls basketball team was ready to make amends Tuesday night in their encounter with visiting Livonia Franklin.

After losing 13-1 in Friday's game against rival Livonia Churchill, the Spartans jumped out to a 24-14 halftime lead and put it away with a 14-3 third-quarter run to beat the Patriots, 48-24.

"The girls wanted to come out and make a statement," said Stevenson coach Jen Knoph, whose team is 3-1 overall. "I'm happy with the character that they showed."

Junior center Charlesann Roy led the Spartans with 12 points, while Rachel Wilkinson, Mara Murray and Yuzoma Nwankwo each contributed six.

The Patriots (3-2), who shot just 7-of-55 from the field (12.7 percent) got four points apiece from Natalie Modes and Amanda Sanders.

"Those were not bad shot, but the last two games nothing has been falling for us," Franklin first-year coach Jim Milican said. "Stevenson played well. They moved the ball quickly and hit their inside shots."

Stevenson made 13-of-24 free throws on the night (54.1 percent), while Franklin was only 9-of-19 (47.3 percent).

S.L. EAST 36, CHURCHILL 30: Gabi Bird scored a game-high 16 points Tuesday to lead South Lyon East (4-1) to a Kensington Conference crossover win at Livonia Churchill (3-1).

The Chargers, who couldn't overcome an 11-3 first quarter deficit, got 15 points from Natalie Spala and 12 from Sydney Anderson.

"We came out really flat and we've had that problem in the first and third quarters," Churchill coach Matt McCowan said. "We had to come out ready and you could see it in their faces that they were not ready."

"We've got to expect to win and not to lose games. In the first and third quarters we got out-rebounded and outshutled. And we couldn't stop Bird from doing anything."

Churchill was 4-of-8 from the foul line, while East made 9-of-14.

SOUTH LYON 52, WAYNE 48: Jessica Mehr tallied a game-high 21 points Tuesday as the Lions (4-1) turned back host Wayne Memorial (1-4) in a crossover between Kensington conference teams.

Emily Heinrich added eight for South Lyon, which overcame a 25-22

GIRLS BASKETBALL

halftime deficit by out-scoring the Zebras 14-5 in the third period.

Junior guard Ashley Bland led Wayne with 23 points, including 7-of-8 from the foul line, while Honia Williams and Quandra Nichols chipped in with 12 and eight, respectively.

The Zebras were 11-of-14 total from the foul line.

OAKLAND CHRISTIAN 36, LUTH. WESTLAND 27: It's been a tough start to the 2012-13 season Lutheran High Westland (0-6), which fell Monday at Auburn Hills Oakland Christian (4-1) as Becky VanSloten led the victorious Lancers with a game-high 14 points.

Alissa Flury, going 4-for-4 from the floor, paced Lutheran Westland with eight points and six rebounds.

Aldreanna Fikes and Chandler Davenport added five points apiece as the Warriors shot only 36.7 percent from the floor (11-of-30) and 29 turnovers.

Lutheran Westland doesn't return to action until Tuesday, Jan. 8 MIAC Red Division opener at home against Rochester Hills Lutheran Northwest.

"This was our last game before break, and even though we lost, it was a well played game," Lutheran Westland coach Sandi Wade said. "We improved on areas we've been working on and will work hard over break on the fundamentals. We look forward to starting conference play after break."

JOHN GLENN 57, FLINT POWERS 40: Raven Bankston and ShaKeya Graves each tallied 16 points Saturday to lead Westland John Glenn (4-0) to a victory over Flint Powers Catholic (2-3) in the Dearborn Heights Robichaud Holiday Classic.

Glenn led 13-10 after one quarter before out-scoring the Chargers 21-6 in the second quarter to take control.

Kim Berry and Ally Haran tallied 11 and 10 points, respectively, for Powers.

The Rockets made 12-of-15 free throws, while Powers threw 4-for-8.

NOVI 66, WAYNE 26: On Friday, Amanda Geiger and Dina Fawiz each tallied 12 points as the host Wildcats (5-0) routed Wayne Memorial (1-3).

Kerri McMahan contributed 10 points for Novi, which led 28-4 after one quarter and 48-11 at halftime.

Junior guard Ashley Bland paced the Zebras with a game-high 15 points.

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TREAT YOURSELF TO AN EARLY HOLIDAY GIFT



Franklin wrestling coach Dave Chiola (front) and his team captured their second straight Wayne County Championship Saturday at the HYPE Recreation Center in Dearborn Heights.

WARRIORS

Continued from page B1

Franklin Road cut the deficit to 44-37 at the end of three quarters and took the lead 48-47, on a steal and layup by Gavin Harris with 3:26 to play.

Lutheran Westland's Ernie Babon then scored with 1:50 to go to put his team back on top, 49-48, but Quinn D'Ascenzo's 3-pointer with just 1:29 left and Phillip Isbell's running one-hander in the lane with 56.1 seconds made it a four-point cushion, 53-49.

Lutheran Westland, however, refused to fold, thanks to a basket by A.J. Seltz with only 42.1 seconds, but despite two more possessions and three straight missed free throws by Franklin Road during the final 21 seconds, the Warriors were unable to score the equalizer or go-ahead 3-pointer.

"What turned things around in the second half was our turnovers," Franklin Road coach Chico Hamilton said. "We had 17 in the first half and ended up with nine in the second (half). That helped us with good ball-handling and passing the ball around instead of just taking shots and trying to force it through the defense."

D'Ascenzo paced all scorers with 19 points, while Harris and McSweeney each added 10 as Franklin Road shot 24-of-57 from the floor (42.1 percent).

Seltz, a junior, led Lutheran Westland with 12 points, while junior Nick Flanery and senior

Ernie Babon contributed 10 and nine, respectively. Babon also grabbed a team-high 10 rebounds and had five steals, while junior P.J. Gusè also came off the bench to score seven and add six boards.

The Warriors made 12-of-37 first-half shots, but went stone cold over the final 16 minutes, going 3-for-24.

So now Hoefft and his squad have a total of 23 days to reflect before facing neighbor Westland Huron Valley Lutheran on Friday, Jan. 11, at home.

"Number one ... it's movement, movement without the ball," Hoefft said. "On offense we kind of got stagnant there. It started to break down because we didn't have cutters, people moving through the zone (defense). Penetration kind of stopped in the third and fourth quarters. It was really good in the first and second quarters. That first half ... we were really working those seams. It just kind of quit — the movement again, it's the clacency. We got a little lazy. Those are things we can work on."

Meanwhile, Franklin Road's Hamilton felt fortunate to get out of Westland with a victory.

"It was a good game, considering what happened," he said. "It was a good win and guys showed great character to come back from 11 points down and maintain a good press and not turn the ball over. It got us back in the game."

bemons@hometownlife.com
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FRANKLIN

Continued from page B1

on the varsity team, but we made a coach's decision early in the week that we would send them to the freshman tournament at Wayne Memorial and just do our best with the guys we had," Chiola said. "Actually, only eight of the 10 we brought scored points, but we had a few guys step up. Danny, Jordan, and Allen were number one seeds, but it took some of the unheralded guys to win this."

Jack Nawa (103) and Nick Robertson (112) both garnered a second-place finish to help the Patriots cause.

"Nick and Jack have improved a lot since last year and were able to get into the finals," Chiola said. "Nick Frazier (152) was hurt all week, but was able to suck it up and take a fourth place. Tyler Solnikowski (145) had some good matches to place sixth."

Franklin also got a boost from 171-pounder Bret Thrushman.

"Bret has been on the

team for four years and came in unseeded, but had a couple of big upsets to get into the semis," Chiola said. "I don't think the team thought we could win it earlier in the week because of all the holes we had, but toward the end of the week I told them we had a good chance as long as we wrestled well. It worked out."

Glenn boasted three individual champions, with Kyle Gillies (103), Brandon Jordan (215) and Dylan Morantes (285) all bringing home a title.

The Kensington Lakes Activities Association boasted 10 of the 14 individual weight class champions.

"Our league is very competitive, as you can tell by the top four teams being from the KLAA South," Chiola said. "It should mean that we'll have some exciting meets this year. I really thought we were going to be rebuilding more this year, but I'm starting to see some real improvement."

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PREP WRESTLING RESULTS

WAYNE COUNTY WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS

Dec. 15 at HYPE REC. CENTER

TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Livonia Franklin, 180 points; 2. Canton, 158; 3. Plymouth, 156; 4. Westland John Glenn, 143; 5. Trenton, 124; 6. Wyandotte, 118; 7. Brownstown Woodhaven, 113.5; 8. Dearborn Fordson, 102; 9. Wayne Memorial, 98.5; 10. Belleville, 92.5; 11. Dearborn Heights Annapolis, 84; 12. Riverview, 70; 13. Northville, 68; 14. Dearborn Heights Crestwood, 56.5; 15. Romulus, 49; 16. Garden City, 45.5; 17. Lincoln Park, 39; 18. (tie) Livonia Clarenceville and Salem, 37.5; each; 20. Dearborn Divine Child, 30.5; 21. Grosse Pointe North, 30; 22. Livonia Stevenson, 29; 23. (tie) Dearborn Heights Robichaud and Highland Park, 23 each; 25. Grosse Ile, 19; 26. Romulus Summit Academy North, 18; 27. Grosse Pointe South, 7; 28. Dearborn, 1.

CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS

103 pounds: Mohamad Youssef (Ply.) won by major decision over Jack Nawa (LF), 17-5; **3rd place:** Lamont Cannon (HP) won by major dec. over Moody Nasser (DHC), 16-1; **5th place:** David Knapp (DHA) pinned Jim Behe (N'ville), 1:40; **7th:** Marina Goocher (Riv.) p. Jake Kurkowski (DDC), 3:27.

112: Kyle Gillies (WJG) won by technical fall over Nick Robertson (LF), 16-1; **3rd:** Austin Rice (Wyan.) won by major dec. over Shawn Cohan (DHA), 8-0; **5th:** Matt Horne (Wood.) p. Aly El Kalouby (DHC), 0:59; **7th:**

Dominic Sanders (WM) dec. Ian Collier (Trenton), 6-4.

119: Richard DeMarois (Canton) dec. Trey Berry (Ply.), 2-0; **3rd:** Maverick Johnson (Trenton) dec. Austin Koehler (Belleville), 7-6; **5th:** Dylan McLeod (LP) dec. Tim Way (WM), 7-1; **7th:** Devin McClain (Wood.) p. Will Dunn (DDC), 2:06.

125: Ben Griffin (Canton) p. Austin Hussing (DHA), 0:21; **3rd:** Quinn Dupraw (WJG) dec. Joshua Vandayar (Bell.), 7-6; **5th:** Myles Burrage (Rom.) dec. James Rodgers (LP), 5-1; **7th:** Sean Chrislip (Wyan.) dec. Tyler Mulligan (WM), 5-4.

130: Dan Martinez (LF) won by major dec. over Hassam Ajami (DF), 18-7; **3rd:** Teddy Lossing (Riv.) won by default over Sejad Al-Hussain (DHC); **5th:** Ryan Siegler (Canton) dec. Jamonty Houze (Bell.), 5-4; **7th:** Brett Quinn (WJG) dec. Spencer Compo (N'ville), 5-0.

135: Quentin Santiago (Wyan.) won by major dec. over Jon Conn (Ply.), 13-2; **3rd:** Marc Przyblyski (Canton) won by tech. fall over Mikey Weiss (C'ville), 15-0; **5th:** Eddie Alcodray (DHC) dec. Kawan Lawrence (DHR), 11-5; **7th:** Quinn Chapman (LP) p. Mai MacDonald (DDC), 5:14.

140: Alec Breckenridge (Ply.) dec. Brandon Garcia (Riv.), 7-2; **3rd:** Moe Salame (DHC) dec. Kevin Hart (DDC), 5-4; **5th:** Tim Adkins (Wyan.) p. Joe Pila (DHA), 0:39; **7th:** Marcus Jordan (WM) p. Hunter Manke (Bell.), 4:56.

145: Alec Pantaleo (Canton) won by major dec. over Al-

len Parker (WM), 19-6; **3rd:** victor Lindsey (DF) p. Paul Menth (GPN), 4:56; **5th:** Hussein Youssef (Ply.) dec. Tyler Solnikowski (LF), 7-2; **7th:** Tarek Bazzi (DHC) dec. Dakotah Martin (Riv.), 7-5.

152: Josh Wooten (Bell.) dec. Gabe Wykle (Trenton), 8-4; **3rd:** Fernando Marquez (Wyan.) won by injury default over Nick Frazier (LF); **5th:** Alex Coe (N'ville) dec. Andrew Lock (GPN), 4-2; **7th:** Ali Rashard (HP) p. Hassan Habboud (DF), 4:23.

160: Jordan Atienza (LF) p. Yayha Talab (DF), 4:42; **3rd:** Mickey Sutteen (Wood.) dec. Aaron Bibik (C'ville), 10-5; **5th:** Shane Danyko (Trenton) p. Will Herring (Bell.), 2:20; **7th:** Matt Wisniewski (GC) dec. Wilbur Mason (DHR), 9-8.

171: Derrick Hillman (Wood.) dec. Tyler Gross (Salem), 8-5; **3rd:** Sam Ekanem (WM) p. Bret Thrushman (LF), 1:54; **5th:** Hasam Ateyia (DF) p. Jevon Hill (Canton), 0:50; **7th:** Patrick Harbin (HP) p. Matt Cylla (N'ville), 0:24.

189: Allen Steele (LF) won by major dec. over Joseph Chatman (Rom.), 12-1; **3rd:** Adam Druz (GC) dec. Chris Trombley (GI), 4-1; **5th:** Mitchell Gross (Salem) p. Tyler Purcell (Trenton), 4:42; **7th:** Shehab Natour (DF) won by major dec. over Allan Beckman (Canton), 8-0.

215: Jordan Brandon (WJG) p. Chris Gutmann (Wood.), 2:50; **3rd:** Donald Giese (GC) p. K.J. Wooley (Canton), 0:30; **5th:** Tyler Casteels (WM) p. Jakob Cain (DHA), 5:39; **7th:** Ryan

Groves (C'ville) dec. Alex James (DHR), 8-2.

285: Dylan Morantes (WJG) p. Vincent Pizzo (Wyan.), 1:36; **3rd:** Tom Stackpoole (Trenton) dec. John Logan (Riv.), 4-3; **5th:** Aaron Mauldin (WM) dec. Jon Wines (N'ville), 8-3; **7th:** Mo Bazzi (DF) p. Nick Edney (GC), 3:45.

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SPARTANS

Continued from page B1

Glenn went 9-of-16 from the free-throw line.

CHURCHILL 61, S.L.

EAST 39: Robert Foster Jr. scored 16 points and freshman Jon Hovermale chipped in with 14 to spark Livonia Churchill (2-2) to a triumph Tuesday at South Lyon East (0-5).

Foster and Hovermale also combined for 10 rebounds, while Hovermale dished out a team-high five assists.

The Chargers jumped out to a 28-15 halftime lead

and never looked back.

"We got up early in the game, but they (East) made a couple of runs and we were able to answer and close out the game," Churchill coach Jim Solak said. "We've got to have a lot more energy Thursday for a good Howell team."

SOUTH LYON 63, WAYNE 37: On Tuesday, the host Lions (4-1) opened the game with an 18-0 run and Wayne Memorial (2-3) never recovered in a KLAA Kensington Conference crossover meeting.

Luke Short and Connor Weidman paced

South Lyon with 16 and 12 points, respectively.

Junior Carlos Pernell and senior Josh Lowry tallied 12 and 10, respectively, for the Zebras.

South Lyon made 10-of-16 free throws, while Wayne hit 7-of-8.

SHRINE 50, C'VILLE 37: Cameron Cavazos scored a game-high 17 points Tuesday to lift Royal Oak Shrine (3-1) to a victory over host Livonia Clarenceville (0-6).

Jake Kubiak and Jawan Nelson each tallied 11 points for the Trojans, who trailed 28-15 at halftime and 41-25 after three quarters.

THE WEEK AHEAD

BOYS BASKETBALL
Thursday, Dec. 20
Churchill at Howell, 7 p.m.
Edsel Ford at Stevenson, 7 p.m.
C'ville at Annapolis, 7 p.m.
GIRLS BASKETBALL
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
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
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
Saturday, Dec. 22
Stevenson, Rice, Detroit CC at Saline H.S. noon
WOMEN'S COLLEGE HOOPS
Saturday, Dec. 22
Madonna at U-D Mercy, 1 p.m.

By Sharon Dargay
O&E Staff Writer

Teri Fry will be lucky if she avoids writer's cramp this week.

She's been signing and selling Plymouth Chamber of Commerce gift certificates for shoppers who want to give their recipients a choice of Christmas presents.

"It's a good thing I don't have much to do this time of year," quipped Fry, Chamber events director. "It's all I've been doing."

Earlier this week she predicted certificate sales would "be non-stop" through Friday, Dec. 21, the last day before the Chamber closes for Christmas.

The gift certificates are so popular, the Chamber sold more than \$60,000 worth last year. Customers like them because they can be used for participating shops, restaurants, bakeries, candy stores, a variety of services, entertainment and the arts.

"Because it's paper and not a debit card, anything over \$50 we suggest breaking into multiples of \$10," Fry noted. "It's easy to spend \$50 or more at a restaurant, but not at Panera."

Shoppers can buy gift certificates in any amount, for use at more than 100 participating locations, including the Plymouth Community Arts Council, (PCAC) Creatopia Paint It Yourself Pottery studio and the Plymouth Historical Museum. Certificates can be used for art classes or camps at the PCAC.

Chamber hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 21, at 850 W. Ann Arbor Trail.

Gift of history

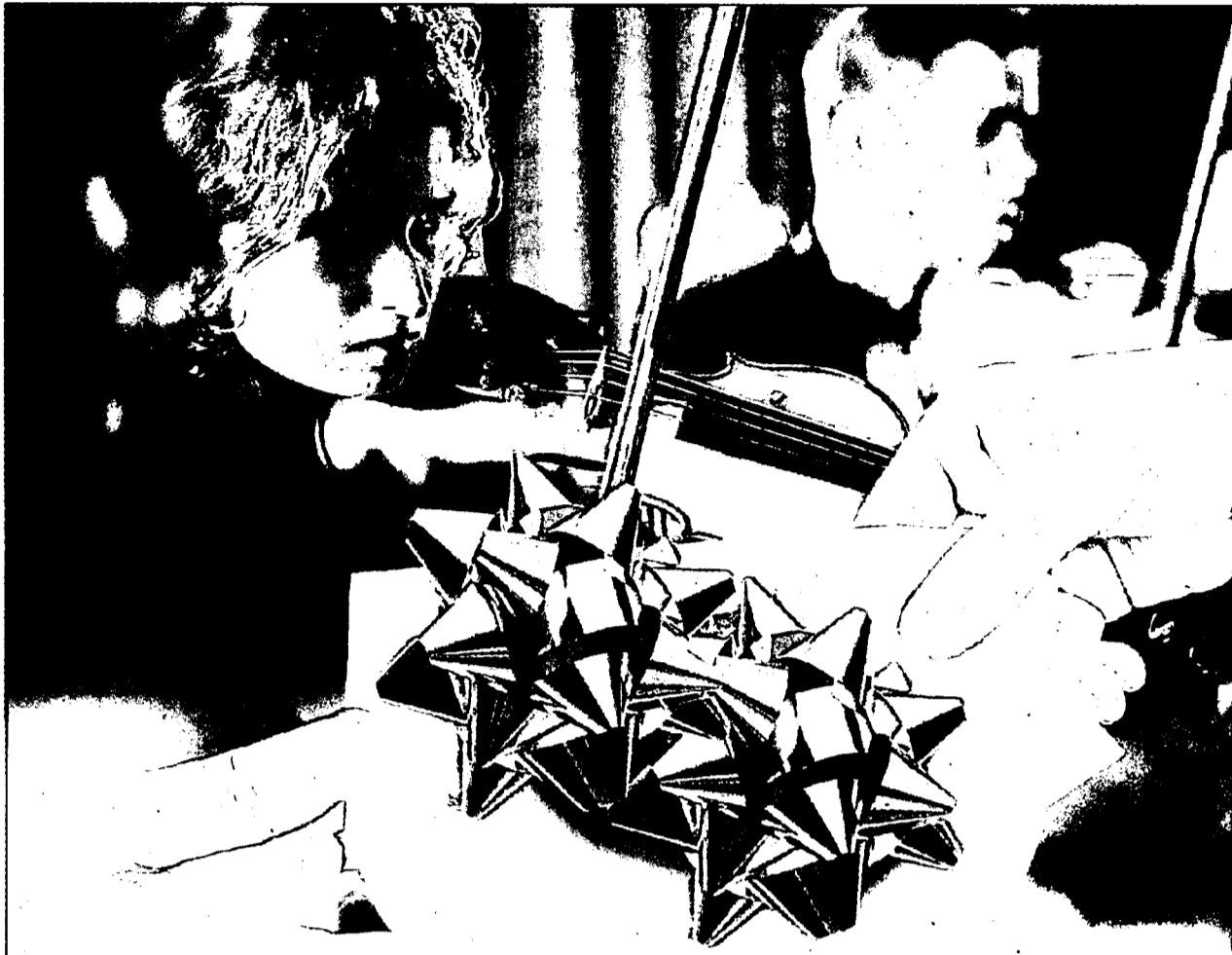
Elizabeth Kerstens, executive director of the Plymouth Historical Museum, is sold on the Chamber gift certificates.

"It's fantastic. So many places take it — stores, restaurants and we take it," she said.

The Museum sells gift certificates, too. They can be used in the Museum shop — where best-selling items include Daly's Drive-in Burger Sauce and a poster of U.S. presidents — and for Museum admission. Annual gift memberships in the Friends of the Plymouth Historical Museum offer free admission for a year along with a variety of other perks. Memberships for kids, under 18, are \$15. A single membership is \$25. Members

Gift-giving solved

Let Santa bring arts and entertainment for Christmas



Nan Washburn conducts the Michigan Philharmonic. Gift certificates are available for concerts.



Brittany Davenport (left) of Ann Arbor, Grace Muawad of Grosse Pointe, Taylor Alfano of Livonia, and Amy Lauter of Farmington Hills are in the comedy "1940's Radio Hour," through Saturday, Dec. 22 at the Farmington Players Barn.

day you want to come."

Patrons can buy online or by phone and the certificate will be mailed. Or they can visit the box office, which opens one hour before performances, and take home the gift certificate the same night. The theater wraps up its current production, 1940's *Radio Hour* on Saturday, Dec. 22. Show times are 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Dec. 20-22. The box office will open at 7 p.m. The Farmington Players Barn Theater is located at 32332 12 Mile, in Farmington Hills.

Beautiful music

Beth Stewart, executive director of the Michigan Philharmonic, says a gift certificate or tickets to any of the symphony's upcoming shows would make a perfect stocking stuffer. Student tickets cost \$10 for each of the first three concerts of 2013 — "Miniature Masterpieces on Jan. 12, 2013, "The French Connection," on Feb. 10, 2013, and "A Beatles Blast," March 9, 2013. Senior citizen (62 and older) tickets are \$25 and general admission is \$30.

Stewart said gift certificates can be used for any concert, although tickets for the Beatles Blast in March are selling fast.

"I don't have many tickets left for that. If you know someone is a Beatles fan, get them right away and in that case, purchase the tickets," she advised.

To buy a gift certificate, call the symphony office at (734) 451-2112 or e-mail to info@michiganphil.org.

Here's a sampling of other gift ideas:

• **The Village Theater at Cherry Hill** in Canton offers gift certificates in any amount for any performance at the theater. They're good for one year and are available by calling (734) 394-5460, ext. 0, visiting the theater box office, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, or at Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway, in Canton.

• **The Civic Theatre**, 33332 Grand River Ave., Farmington, sells gift certificates for a movie and popcorn (\$8) and movie only (\$3.50). Check out its movie schedule at www.thefct.com.

• Buy a gift card from the bookstore at Schoolcraft College in Livonia and suggest your recipient use it for the American Harvest Restaurant on campus. Pair the dinner with a concert or play on campus for a complete night out.

who pay \$30 annually may take one guest to the Museum for free. The \$50 annual plan includes free admission for the member and three guests. Other membership categories range from \$75-\$300. Gift certificates are good for one year.

"There are a number of people who buy them, mostly members giving gifts to family members," Kerstens said.

Gift certificates and memberships will be available from the Museum office Friday, Dec. 21. Patrons can view the

current "A Dickens of a Christmas" exhibit 1-4 p.m. Friday-Sunday, Dec. 21-23.

Give live theater
Mary Ann Tweedie, treasurer of the Farmington Players, says the group sells "quite a few" gift certificates for at Christmas.

"I do get a lot of folks from out of town buying for their parents who still live here," she said. "We can sell them any amount. Plays are \$16 and musicals are \$18. If you've got a gift certificate you can exchange it for whatever

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GET OUT

Arts Crafts

DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS

Time/Dates: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday-Thursday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday

Location: 5200 Woodward, Detroit

Family Sundays: 2 p.m. Sundays; storytelling, performances; free with admission

Exhibits: Picasso & Matisse exhibits all of the museum's drawings and prints by the two artists, through Jan. 6, 2013; Faberge: The Rise and Fall, The Collection of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, through Jan. 21, 2013; Hidden Treasures: An Experiment, through March 3, 2013

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

PLYMOUTH COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL

Time/Dates: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Thursday and during public events, through Jan. 2, 2013

Location: Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth

Details: An exhibit of paintings and drawing by Jean-Paul Abou-Dib, a graduate

of the College for Creative Studies, with a master's degree in painting from Wayne State University
Contact: (734) 416-4278

Film

FARMINGTON CIVIC THEATRE

Time/Dates: "Red Dawn," screens at 7:15 p.m. and 9:10 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 20 and "Argo" screens at 7 p.m. and 9:20 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 20

Location: 33332 Grand River Ave., Farmington
Details: \$3.50 admission
Contact: (248) 474-1951

PENN THEATRE

Time/Dates: 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 21, and 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 22-23

Location: 760 Penniman Ave., Plymouth
Details: "The Polar Express," \$3

Coming up: "Argo," 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 27 and Jan. 3, 2013; 7 p.m. and 9:15 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 28-29; and 4:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 30; "Wreck It Ralph," 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 4 and 10, 2013,

Please see GET OUT!, B7

GET OUT!

Continued from page B6

and 4:45 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Jan. 5-6, 2013; "Cloud Atlas," 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 11 and 3:45 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Jan. 12-13

Contact: (734) 453-0870; www.penntheatre.com

REDFORD THEATRE

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Jan. 4, 2013 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Jan. 5, 2013

Location: 17350 Lahser, Detroit

Details: "Strangers on a Train," \$4

Coming up: "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes," 8 p.m. Jan. 18, 2013 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Jan. 19, 2013; prizes will be awarded to all Marilyn Monroe look-alikes

Contact: (313) 537-2560; www.redfordtheatre.com

Music

BASELINE FOLK SOCIETY

Time/Date: Sign up for open mic, 6:15-6:45 p.m.; performances, 7 p.m., the third Saturday of the month

Location: The JWH Center for the Arts, Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth

Details: The next performance on Jan. 19, 2013, will feature John Nativ. Tricia Lloyd will serve as host. Admission is \$5. Individual and family annual memberships also are available

Contact: Scott Ludwig at BFSpresident@aol.com or call (734) 453-0869

BERMAN CENTER FOR PERFORMING ARTS

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 31, 2013

Location: 6600 W. Maple, West Bloomfield

Details: The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center performs; tickets are \$46 for adults and \$36 for Jewish Community Center members

Contact: (248) 661-1900; www.theberman.org

CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY OF DETROIT

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 15

Location: Seligman Performing Arts Center, located on the campus of Detroit Country Day School, 22305 W. 13 Mile, at Lahser, Beverly Hills

Details: Tenor Christoph Pre-gardien and pianist Menahem Pressler perform Franz Schubert's song cycle "Die Winterreise" in its entirety. Tickets range from \$30-\$60; student tickets are available at half price in selected sections of the hall, and \$10 student rush tickets are available at the box office one hour prior to performance

Contact: (248) 855-6070 or visit www.ChamberMusicDetroit.org

JAZZ AT THE ELKS

Time/Date: 7-10 p.m. last Tuesday of the month — except December

Location: Plymouth Elks Lodge #1780, 41700 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth

Details: There is a \$10 donation at the door which includes hors d'oeuvres. Proceeds from Jazz Elks goes toward special needs and disadvantaged children and veterans



A cartonnage mummy mask undergoes conservation treatment in the Kelsey Museum of Archaeology, Ann Arbor. The museum's new exhibit is "Conserving Antiquity."

Contact: (734) 453-1780 or e-mail to plymoutheleks1780@yahoo.com

TRINITY HOUSE THEATRE

Time/Date: Most shows start at 8 p.m., doors open at 7:30 p.m.

Location: 38840 W. Six Mile, Livonia

Details: Harper and the Midwest Kind Acoustic Show, Jan. 5, 2013; Floyd King and the Bushwackers with the Campfire Compa-

dres, Jan. 11, 2013; Empty Chair Night with Annie and Rod Capps, Joel Palmer and The Potter's Field, Jan. 13, 2013; Songwriters Anonymous Showcase, Jan. 18, 2013; David Nefesh and Jef Reynolds with Anthony Retka, Jan. 19, 2013; Lindsay Lou and the Flatbellies, Jan. 25, 2013; Billy McLaughlin, Jan. 26, 2013. Most shows tickets are \$15, and \$12 for subscribers. Only cash and checks are accepted

Contact: (734) 464-6302

WOODWARD CORRIDOR MUSICIANS

Time/Date: 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 13

Location: Congregational Church of Birmingham, 1000 Cranbrook Road, Bloomfield Hills

Details: Chamber music concert features "Site for Flute and Jazz Piano Trio" by Claude Bolling and "Trio in E-flat major, Opus 27," by Frantisek Skroup. Admission is \$10 for adults. Students in K-12th grade are admitted free

Contact: WoodwardCM.org; (248) 546-5818 or LFDean@aol.com

Something different

DETROIT ZOO

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily

Location: I-696 service drive and Woodward, Royal Oak

Details: Admission is \$11 for adults 15 to 61, \$9 for senior citizens 62 and older, and \$7 for children ages 2 to 14; children under 2 are free.

Contact: (248) 541-5717

FISHING SHOW

Time/Date: 3-9:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 10, 2013; 11 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 11, 2013; 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 12, 2013; and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 13, 2013

Location: Suburban Collection Showplace, 46100 Grand River Ave., Novi

Details: Vendors, demonstrations, hands-on fun with fishing. Family activities include a casting contest,

fishing from a trout pond, a virtual fishing simulator, and much more. Admission is free on Thursday only for those who bring six cans/boxes or four pounds of non-perishable food items to donate to the annual Michigan Sportsmen Against Hunger food drive. The food will be donated to the American Red Cross and area food banks. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$4 for children, 6-14; under 6 is free. On-site parking is \$5

Contact: (800) 328-6550; www.ultimatefishingshow.com

KELSEY MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY

Time/Date: 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, through Feb. 10, 2013

Location: 434 S. State, Ann Arbor

Details: "Conserving Antiquity" focuses on the essential but often hidden work of preserving art and artifacts. Visitors will step behind the scenes and experience the work of conservators, which blends scientific research and hands-on treatment with the study of art, archaeology and history.

Contact: (734) 764-9304; www.lsa.umich.edu/kelsey

MAGIC SHOW

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 29

Location: The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill, Canton

Details: Aaron Radatz presents his one-man show of magic and comedy, geared to the family. Tickets range from \$18-\$24

Contact: (734) 394-5460 or www.cantonvillagetheater.org



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Entertaining Tips

• **Prep the night before** — Save time by chopping vegetables or prepping glazes the day before. For example, prepare the spread for Goat Cheese Bruschetta with Berry-Thyme Spread the night before. The day of the party, toast baguette slices 10 minutes before guests arrive, and the delicious appetizer will come together in minutes.

• **Allow for creativity** — Allow guests to put their own finishing touches on their dishes by setting out a variety of toppings. Raspberry Almond Waffles provide a base for your friends and family to get creative.

• **Make it a group effort** — Ask guests to bring their favorite holiday side dishes or desserts to complement

the main course to encourage a wide variety. If you're making Red Tart Cherry Glazed Ham as the centerpiece of the meal, let guests know so they can plan accordingly.

Each of these suggestions incorporates a delicious recipe using Smucker's Orchard's Finest Preserves, a gourmet line of preserves made with the best fruit from the best places. The preserves contain only four ingredients, and add rich flavor to both sweet and savory holiday dishes. From classic Pacific Mountain Strawberry Preserves to the new Lakeside Raspberry Cranberry Preserves, there's a flavor that's sure to be a hit with each guest. These holiday recipes are wonderful options to share with family and friends at your next gathering because, during the holidays, only the finest will do.

For more recipes to round out your holiday menu, visit www.smuckers.com.

DRESS IT UP

Here are four delicious ways to dress up your holiday salads. Just start with this basic vinaigrette recipe, and mix in your favorite Smucker's Orchard's Finest Preserves flavor and one other simple ingredient.

Basic Vinaigrette — Mix 2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar, 1 tablespoon water, 1½ teaspoons Dijon mustard, ½ teaspoon minced garlic, ¼ teaspoon black pepper, and ½ teaspoon salt. Whisk in ¼ cup canola oil.

• **Strawberry Basil Vinaigrette** — Add ½ cup Smucker's Orchard's Finest Pacific Mountain Strawberry Preserves and 2 teaspoons finely minced basil.

• **Raspberry Cranberry and Rosemary Vinaigrette** — Add ½ cup Smucker's Orchard's Finest Lakeside Raspberry Cranberry Preserves and 1 teaspoon finely minced fresh rosemary.

• **Citrus Ginger Vinaigrette** — Add ½ cup Smucker's Orchard's Finest Pacific Grove Orange Marmalade Medley and 1 teaspoon finely grated fresh ginger root.

• **Apricot Ginger Vinaigrette** — Add ½ cup Smucker's Orchard's Finest Coastal Valley Peach Apricot Preserves and 1 teaspoon finely grated fresh ginger root.

Red Tart Cherry Glazed Ham

Makes: 16 servings
Prep Time: 10 minutes
Cook Time: 50 minutes

1 4 to 5-pound fully cooked boneless ham, sliced ¼ inch thick
1 12-ounce jar Smucker's Orchard's Finest Michigan Red Tart Cherry Preserves

1 tablespoon apple cider vinegar
¼ teaspoon ground cinnamon
¼ teaspoon ground nutmeg
Dash ground cloves, if desired
2 tablespoons raisins, if desired

1. Heat oven to 325°F. Overlap slices of ham in shallow baking pan; cover with aluminum foil. Bake 50 to 60 minutes, or until internal temperature reaches 140°F.

2. Combine preserves, vinegar, cinnamon, nutmeg and cloves in a small microwave safe bowl. Microwave on high for 2 minutes.

3. Arrange ham slices on serving platter. Spoon ¼ cup glaze over center of ham. Serve with remaining warm glaze.

Goat Cheese Bruschetta with Berry-Thyme Spread

Makes: 12 slices
Prep Time: 15 minutes
Cook Time: 6 minutes

¼ cup Smucker's Orchard's Finest Northwest Triple Berry Preserves
1 tablespoon minced shallot
1 teaspoon balsamic vinegar
1 teaspoon minced fresh thyme, plus additional for garnish
¼ teaspoon salt
¼ teaspoon black pepper
1 8-ounce baguette
1 tablespoon extra virgin olive oil
4 ounces goat cheese
Fresh thyme leaves (optional), for garnish

1. Combine preserves, shallots, balsamic vinegar, thyme, salt and pepper in small bowl.

2. Slice baguette into ½-inch slices. Brush both sides of each slice lightly with olive oil. Heat skillet or griddle over medium-high heat. Grill baguette slices, 4 at a time, 2 to 3 minutes per side or until lightly browned. Place on serving platter.

3. Spread about 2 teaspoons goat cheese over each baguette slice. Top each slice with 1 teaspoon preserves mixture. Garnish with additional fresh thyme, if desired. Serve immediately.

Tip: Triple Berry-Thyme Spread can be prepared up to two days ahead. Cover and chill.

Raspberry Almond Waffles

Makes: 10 (6-inch) waffles
Prep Time: 10 minutes
Cook Time: 5 minutes

Waffles:

1 14-ounce can sweetened condensed milk, divided
3 large eggs
2 cups all purpose flour
¾ cup water
½ cup vegetable oil
4 teaspoons baking powder
½ teaspoon salt
½ teaspoon almond extract
½ cup sliced almonds, chopped
No-stick cooking spray

Topping:

1 cup heavy cream
¼ teaspoon almond extract
½ cup Smucker's Orchard's Finest Lakeside Raspberry Cranberry Preserves or ⅓ cup Smucker's Red Raspberry Preserves
½ cup sliced almonds, toasted
30 fresh red raspberries

For waffles:

1. Coat waffle iron with no-stick cooking spray. Heat waffle iron according to manufacturer's directions. Reserve 2 tablespoons sweetened condensed milk for topping.

2. Whisk eggs in large bowl until fluffy. Blend in remaining sweetened condensed milk, flour, water, oil, baking powder, salt and almond extract just until batter is smooth. Stir in chopped almonds.

3. Pour a scant 2/3 cup of batter onto center of hot waffle iron and close lid. Bake about 3 to 4 minutes or until steaming stops. Use a fork to remove waffle. Repeat with remaining batter.

For topping:

1. Beat cream in medium bowl with electric mixer on high speed until stiff peaks form. Add reserved 2 tablespoons sweetened condensed milk and almond extract. Beat until smooth.

2. Spread each waffle with 1 tablespoon preserves. Top with whipped cream, toasted almonds and fresh raspberries.

To toast almonds: Place almonds in dry non-stick skillet. Cook over medium heat, shaking pan until nuts are lightly browned. Remove from pan immediately to avoid over-browning.



Raspberry Almond Waffles



Goat Cheese Bruschetta with Berry Thyme Spread

Plymouth Realtor fights good fight against diabetes, raises awareness

By Julie Brown
O&E Staff Writer

Tony Schippa, a Realtor with Coldwell Banker Preferred, Plymouth, has pretty much controlled his diabetes.

Schippa, 47, a Plymouth resident hasn't cured the disease for all but has controlled his own Type II diabetes.

Schippa came down with what he thought was a cold in December 2011. "I thought it was just a typical cold," he recalled. "I wasn't getting any better."

His wife had lost her job and the family health insurance, but Tony saw the doctor and had blood work done. "He said, 'Congratulations and welcome to the club.' It was a rough time. I took it seriously."

Schippa rode last year in a benefit for the American Diabetes Association on Team Red, and this year has set a goal of \$5,000 for himself on Team Schippa. This year's ADA benefit will be June 15 at Brighton High School, and is known as the Tour deCure, with other related events elsewhere in the country.

The American Diabetes Association has an office in Southfield which coordinates the local benefit.

"It inspired me so I've got my own team together. We're going to be doing a lot of fundraising between now and June."

Within the year, Schippa has dropped 53 pounds through good food habits and exercise.

"I wanted to get off the medicine. That was my goal." It wasn't insulin, but he didn't like the side effects.

"I still monitor my blood sugar twice a day." He's no longer taking medication.

"We'll see what happens when I go back in for my blood work."

He usually walks around Plymouth in the evenings. "If I can't get out and ride, I'll walk." One night, his blood sugar had dropped down too low.

With Team Schippa, he will do a 100-mile leg with a friend.



Realtor Tony Schippa of Plymouth, a diabetic, is proud to be raising money for the American Diabetes Association.

He and friends will probably do other rides, as they did for a friend's mom with Alzheimer's.

For the Tour deCure, the goal is to have 354 participants by the end of this year.

In 2009, the event had 910 riders on 115 teams. For 2011, there were 1,025 riders with 128 teams, and in 2012, 1,057 riders on 130 teams.

"I do it just to give back. I've had a lot of people help me through this," Schippa said. Close friends, especially one who's a massage therapist, have been a big help.

"When I bike ride around town I wear my Diabetes shirt." It's a big silent killer of his generation, he noted.

"If I can help one person, that's huge."

One friend said you need to control disease. "And I decided to control it. I feel great. It's a completely different change. I'm eating healthier. I'm starting to involve myself with people who have it."

Some people didn't know he was

diabetic. Schippa knows people who've died or had amputations as a result of diabetes. "I was in the early days of denial, it can't happen to me."

Diabetics can't just take medicine, he said, they also have to eat right.

He'll be starting to give Jan. 1 10 percent of his real estate commissions for those who sign exclusively to the ADA. Visit <http://main.diabetes.org/goto/tonyschippa> and www.adiabeticstory.com for more information.

Schippa's finishing up his term as president of the Greater Metropolitan Association of Realtors, formed through the merger of the Western Wayne Oakland County Association of Realtors and the Metropolitan Consolidated Association of Realtors. It's been good to take in new members in merger, he said.

"We're going great. If you don't set high goals to reach, you don't get anywhere."

When he asked people for charitable donations, he heard times are tough. "We have to deal with

those issues as Realtors every day. It's basically lead by example."

Schippa's wife and son have been with him on the journey.

"She's proud of me. She's starting to get healthier." Their son, 14, isn't overweight but learning good health habits.

"Teaching that younger generation is what's key," Tony Schippa said.

He grew up in the country and was active, noting fewer young people are physically active now.

"I can't remember the last time I had a pop." He uses apps to monitor food he eats.

He still gets out a few times a week for shorter rides.

"You do go at your own pace" for the benefit. "It's just a matter of going." His wife and son will do the 10-mile, he said, adding he made his own pace last year on the 25-mile.

"I was just hustling to see how quickly I could go." On his mountain bike, he averages about 13 miles an hour, and will work on speed.

Limit committee authority

By Robert Meisner
Guest Columnist

Q: I am the president of the association and I want to form some committees. Is there anything specific that I should do?

A: Generally speaking, a committee can exercise all power delegated to it, including powers otherwise belonging to the Board of Directors. There is not a general presumption that the committee will merely be advisory, so if that is how the board wants the committee to function, a board resolution needs to say so. Bylaws often contain provisions that either



Robert Meisner

establish procedures to be followed by committees in the absence of other guidance or incorporate by reference some of the procedural provisions that are applicable to the board itself and make those applicable to committees. However, I generally recommend to our association clients that the committee decisions merely be advisory and that the Board of Directors always retain the right to make the final decision. The scope of the board's powers should be spelled out in the resolution establishing the committee as well as the parameters under which the committee is to operate.

Q: I am on a board that is dealing with a disgruntled condominium unit owner who believes that the association has somehow committed fraud on the books, which is not true, and regularly distributes unsigned letters slipped under doormats asking for donations towards attorney fees to start a lawsuit against the association. He is also spreading unfounded fear about the condition of the buildings and other conspiracy theories. He also meets regularly with those who will talk about his concerns and threatens to hold a press conference.

A: You cannot bar an owner from complaining about or criticizing the board or the association, regardless of whether the criticism is unjustified. In terms of potential defamation, because he is a member of the association, he may have qualified immunity. Threatening him may only feed his suspicions and probably cause an increase in his attacks unless the association is willing to go to court. The association cannot prevent other homeowners from meeting with him or organizing to oppose or question the association and board policies and practices. The way to respond is to communicate with all members in writing, particularly in response to his written complaints to them, setting forth the facts and informing the members that they inspect the books themselves, etc. You may even wish to call a membership meeting to enable all members, including the dissidents, to ask questions and obtain answers, possibly with the association's attorney, accountant and any other staff necessary to deal with these complaints.

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and author of *Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track*, second edition, available for \$9.95 plus \$1 shipping/handling. He also wrote *Condo Living: A Survival Guide to Buying, Owning and Selling a Condominium*, \$24.95 plus \$5 shipping/handling. Call (248) 644-4433 or visit bmeisner@meisner-law.com.

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-WAYNE COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Sept. 10-14, 2012, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

CANTON	
7010 Ardley Dr	\$160,000
748 Burlington Rd	\$140,000
42148 Cherrylawn Ct	\$171,000
7615 Corbin Dr	\$185,000
4089 Cornerstone Dr	\$91,000
44574 Danbury Rd	\$287,000
2875 Doncaster Dr	\$181,000
190 E Canford Park	\$65,000
44700 Heather Ln	\$199,000
1426 Heritage Dr	\$115,000
42674 Keystone Ln	\$217,000
7260 Kingsbridge Ct	\$168,000
43609 Lancelot Dr	\$136,000
43175 Londonderry Ct	\$183,000
45358 Lothrop Rd	\$310,000
1459 Morrison Blvd	\$152,000
407 N Willard Rd	\$130,000
1769 Orchard Dr	\$24,000
42225 Saratoga Cir	\$137,000
47000 Southgate Dr	\$243,000
2852 Stanton St	\$215,000
43357 Stonington Ct	\$187,000
44260 Suffolk Ct	\$157,000
6698 Whitehurst St	\$232,000

7016 Belton St	\$96,000
5824 Deering St	\$34,000
420 E Rose Ave	\$40,000
6901 Hubbard St	\$47,000
33156 John Hawk St	\$78,000
30550 Pierce St	\$74,000
32146 Rosslyn Ave	\$35,000
33411 Rosslyn Ave	\$82,000

NORTHVILLE	
17041 Algonquin Dr	\$362,000
19612 Aqueduct Ct	\$85,000
16055 Homestead Cir	\$290,000
17664 Lake View Cir	\$300,000
19366 Malvern Ct	\$100,000
8700 Napier Rd	\$310,000
19694 Scenic Harbour Dr	\$239,000
19768 Scenic Harbour Dr	\$245,000
17676 Stonebrook Ct	\$540,000

16110 Kinloch	\$46,000
9224 Lucerne	\$75,000
18339 Macarthur	\$42,000
9348 Marion Cres	\$73,000
16035 Negaunee	\$50,000
11489 Rockland	\$65,000
11411 Royal Grand	\$49,000
13550 Royal Grand	\$68,000
19786 Seminole	\$34,000
27050 W Six Mile Rd	\$19,000
11365 Winston	\$41,000
19495 Woodworth	\$30,000

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-OAKLAND COUNTY

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

BEVERLY HILLS	
16170 Beverly Rd	\$178,000
15625 Birchwood Ave	\$119,000
18160 Buckingham Ave	\$280,000
31065 Old Stage Rd	\$377,000

4517 Broughton Dr	\$300,000
172 E Hickory Grove Rd	\$193,000
2737 Hunters Way	\$415,000
4840 Wye Oak Rd	\$238,000

28740 Kendallwood Dr	\$158,000
29648 Lochmoor St	\$140,000
24169 Lori Ct	\$196,000
30085 Minglewood Ln	\$185,000
35355 Muer Cv	\$155,000

45767 Sheffield Dr	\$305,000
45673 South Lake Dr	\$355,000
22726 Summer Ln	\$490,000
46893 Sunnybrook Ln	\$440,000
49669 Timber Trl	\$330,000

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Homes For Rent
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WINSTER: 3 bdrm ranch with bsmt, 1,000 sq. ft. New bath, kitchen & carpet, \$750/mo.

LIVONIA: Beautiful 3 bdrm, updated, new kit, hardwood floors, 2 car att gar, fenced.

REDFORD: 1/2 off 1st Month's Rent
Large 1 bdrm. C/A, storage. Tons of closet space

WAYNE: 3 bdrm, bsmt, 2 car garage, fenced, new carpet, no pets/appliances. \$300/mo.

WESTLAND: 3 bdrm duplex, very clean, carpet, fenced, \$675/mo.

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