

'Great:' Holiday buffet provides meals for needy

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

There were few empty seats at tables as an overflow crowd filled the Commons area of the William D. Ford Career Technical Center for the annual Thanksgiving buffet benefit for the Wayne-Westland Family Resource Center.

City and school officials as well as the public enjoyed a turkey dinner with all the trimmings, prepared and served by the center's culinary arts students.

"The food was great, and it was great service," said Rita Harmon of Westland. "I came last year and the fact it helps people is an extra reason to come again. It's a great idea and a good experience for the kids."

Great was a word used often to describe the event, started by Chef Anthony Paquette seven years ago as a way for students to practice their skills while helping others. Guests made a donation of \$10 for the meal, with the money raised used to provide Thanksgiving dinners to needy families in the school district.

Help needed

"Thank you for coming and thank you William D. Ford Center for hosting this event year after year and putting on this elaborate meal," said Amanda Faughnan, resource center director. "Chef Tony and the students do a fabulous job with the food."

She added that the need for assistance among residents in the school district continues to rise, and with the help of Paquette and the Career Technical Center, the response from the community to that need continues to grow.

"Year after year, attendance grows, I hope you will continue to come and make this grow," Faughnan said.

Some guests like 18th District Court Judge Sandra Ference Cicirelli have been attending the event since Pa-



Bre'Jon Moore carves turkey for the Thanksgiving buffet.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

quette sent out invitations seven years ago, while Keith DeMolay of Westland was a first timer.

"I was able to do this because I retired," DeMolay said. "It's a very good cause; there is a need in the community."

"It's a great opportunity to help people who need the help," Cicirelli said. "It's also a great opportunity for the students to be involved in a service program. This is really important even at this time of the year. People need the help."

'Excellent job'

Virginia Reid of Wayne also was new to the event after reading about it in the *Observer*. She was there with Denise Wright of Wayne, Sharon LaPorte of Romulus and 4-year-old Braylen Bowie who favored the turkey and mashed potatoes.

"This is nice, so nice," Wright said. "They've definitely done an excellent job."

"They're doing a wonderful job," LaPorte said. "Someone



Jasmyrn Adams sets up the dining room. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Carolee Mason washes baking trays. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Desserts ready for the banquet.

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has been here every few minutes, asking if we needed anything."

"We'll be back next year," Reid said.

Paul Motz, director do the

Westland Youth Assistance, also had compliments for Paquette and his students who "always does a wonderful job."

"It's a great way to help the Family Resource Center," Motz said. "And Amanda does a great job. This is a way to support her and the school district. I look forward to this."

Faughnan sees the event as a plus for Career Technical Center.

"It's a great time for the community to see the programs they have here," she said.

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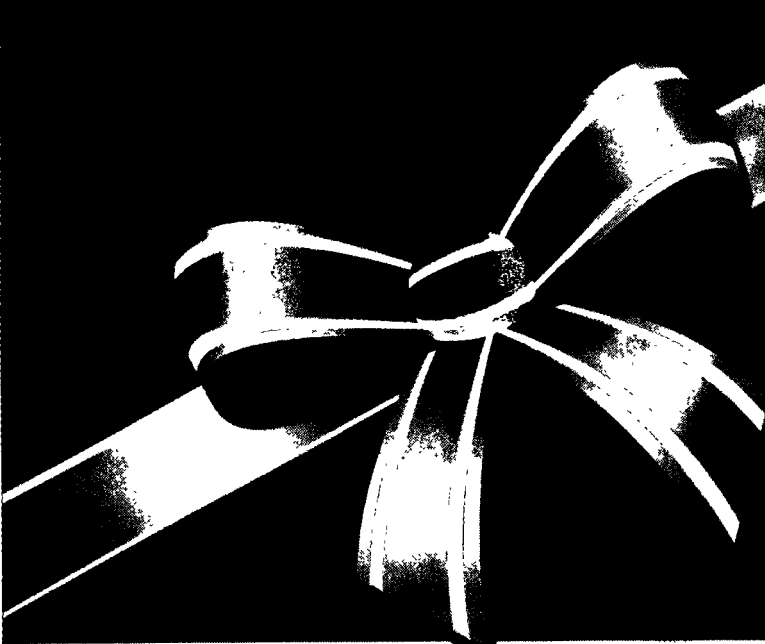
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Westland man charged in robbery at credit union

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

A Westland man has been charged with robbing a credit union Wednesday and is expected to face charges in several other bank robberies, police said.

Harold Livingston, 42, was arraigned Thursday in 18th District Court on charges of bank robbery and armed robbery.

The charges stem from the robbery of Credit Union One, 29450 Warren Road, west of Middlebelt just before 5 p.m. Wednesday. A man reportedly entered the bank, produced a note demanding money and fled with in excess of \$9,000.

Officers arrested Livingston on Wednesday evening driving around Norwayne, using



Livingston

a description of a vehicle provided by witnesses at an attempted bank robbery earlier in the day.

"He (the suspect) had made an attempt (to rob) at Bank of America at Wayne Road and Nankin Boulevard," Westland Police Lt. Todd Adams said. "They told him to remove his sunglasses and recognized him (as a suspect in previous bank robberies)."

The suspect was scared off and fled, Adams said.

Bank employees contacted police, providing a description of the suspect's vehicle, he said.

Being held in lieu of

\$750,000 cash/surety bond, Livingston has reportedly been identified as a suspect in additional Westland robberies: Chase Bank, 31311 Cherry Hill, on Aug. 27; Bank of America, 121 N. Wayne Road, on Sept. 24; and the TCF Bank, 360 S. Merriman, on Oct. 18.

Charges are pending for these robberies.

Taylor Police are also reportedly seeking charges against Livingston for the robbery of a Charter One bank Oct. 21 in that city.

A preliminary examination for Livingston has been set for Tuesday, Nov. 26 before Judge Sandra Ference Cicirelli.

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Memories linger in Verizon robbery

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

By the time three teens are sentenced in March for shooting their way into a Canton Verizon store to rob it, more than a year will have passed since the gunfire made employees and customers fear for their lives.



Facing sentencing are Dantez Lamar Boykin-Johnson, Antonio Jerome Porter and Eric James-Lee Wilkins.

Gerry Soubly, a former Navy man who had survived five heart bypass surgeries, was 72 years old and had stopped to look at phones when the incident unfolded the morning of Feb. 25 along Canton's prime retail corridor, on Ford east of Sheldon.

"Every time I go past that store, I think about it," Soubly said Friday. "It's an incident I wouldn't want anybody else to experience. It was an unfortunate incident."

Authorities say gunman Antonio Jerome Porter and accomplices Eric James-Lee Wilkins and Dantez Lamar Boykin-Johnson, all 19 years old, could face penalties ranging up to life in prison when their sentencing, now delayed until March 10, happens in Wayne

County Circuit Court.

Soubly regrets the incident has made him more suspicious when he is in public. He wasn't that way before.

Yet, within days of the incident, Soubly had said he hoped the defendants could somehow find a better path, could turn their lives around.

If so, that is likely to happen in prison.

Their fate now rests with Wayne County Circuit Judge Timothy Kenny, who is set to impose sentencing in March after Porter and Wilkins, both of Inkster, and Boykin-Johnson, of Westland, pleaded guilty to armed robbery, discharging a firearm into a building, felony firearms and breaking and entering a building with intent to commit a crime.

Canton police have said the teens shot their way inside the Verizon store after an employee, seeing the hooded men approaching with an AR-15 semiautomatic assault rifle, tried to foil the robbery by locking a sliding glass door.

The teens also had charges out of other communities. It was Canton police who caught them in a nearby residential neighborhood after they fled the scene in a car, then on foot.

In the end, no one was shot - not the employees, not the customers, not the suspects, not the police. Yet for people like Soubly, the memory of what happened hasn't faded.

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Four face trial for robbery at Canton party

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Four defendants are facing trial after courtroom testimony indicated they robbed two Westland teens who allegedly went to an apartment complex on Canton's north side to buy drugs.

The incident happened while a crowd had gathered for a party inside a residence at The Crossings, an apartment complex southeast of Joy Road and I-275, Detective Erik Kaledas said.

The defendants - Muhedin Danny Turkovic, 17, and Joseph Charles Holland, 18, both of Canton, Alexander James Shippey,



Facing trial for unarmed robbery are (from left) Muhedin Danny Turkovic, 17, of Canton, Alexander James Shippey, 22, of Livonia, Clary Dejuan Scott Jr., 17, of Detroit, and Joseph Charles Holland, 18, of Canton.

22, of Livonia, and Clary Dejuan Scott Jr., 17, of Detroit - had initially faced charges of armed robbery amid allegations that threats had been made involving a gun.

However, 35th District Judge Michael Gerou reduced the charges to unarmed robbery after testimony during a Nov.

15 preliminary hearing failed to directly implicate the defendants in statements made about a gun.

The hearing ended with Gerou ordering Turkovic, Holland, Shippey and Scott to face trial in Wayne County Circuit Court. If convicted as charged, they could face

penalties ranging up to 15 years in prison.

Turkovic and Holland have been released on bond. However, court records indicated Shippey and Scott remained jailed as of Thursday because \$1,000 hadn't been paid toward their \$10,000/10-percent bond. Not-guilty pleas have been placed on record for the four men.

Charges against them came from the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office following allegations two 18-year-old Westland men went to The Crossings to buy drugs, only to face a hostile situation by suspects accused of demanding money, wallets and a cellphone.

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St. John's Project brings holiday cheer to veterans

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

Kendra Schaffer is like the youngster in the TV ad who wants more. But her wanting more has nothing to do with her. It's all about the men and women who have been touched by the St. John's Veterans Project.

Forty-one homeless veterans have blankets to keep warm this year, but it's short of the 100 blankets and tarps she hoped the project could provide to the homeless through the VA Hospital in Ann Arbor.

"I'd like to add more blankets," said Schaffer who chairs the project. "We originally delivered coats, hats, scarves and gloves, but we added blankets this year and did 41. I'd like to have a blanket and a tarp in a bag, and I always want more."

The project started out as a way for adults and children at St. John's Lutheran Church and School in Westland to provide holiday packages for veterans at the hospital. Armed with \$780 in cash and donations, they made inpatient boxes that they delivered to the hospital where they visited with veterans and sang songs.

A grassroots effort started seven years ago, it has evolved into a 501(c)3 charity that distributes holiday packages to male and female patients at the hospital, food and clothing and, of course, the blankets, for homeless veterans and packages for military personnel in combat overseas.

By the numbers

What started out in 2006 as 200 gift wrapped boxes for male patients at the Ann Arbor VA Hospital and homeless veterans has grown to include the boxes as well as blankets and winter coats, hats, gloves and



This is the seventh year Kendra Schaffer of Westland and Trisha Dork of Novi have worked on the St. John's Veteran's Project, providing food and clothing for active duty soldiers, veterans at the Ann Arbor VA Hospital and homeless veterans.

scarves.

This year students will be packing and wrapping 140 boxes for male and female patients at the hospital and 125 boxes for homeless veterans. Another 25 boxes have already sent to a group of Marines on active duty in Afghanistan and 123 coats, hats scarves and gloves and the blankets have been distributed at veteran's homeless shelter.

"We've been able to touch over 2,400 lives since we started," said Schaffer, a Westland resident. "It's amazing what God can help us do through his guidance and help. We're just workers here."

The work is year-round and now comes from businesses and other churches and schools. Two big donations came from a business in Livonia that gave \$2,000 and the western Wayne County chapter of Thrivent Financial which has provided \$2,400 for the project this year.

"The businesses come from all over," said Trisha Dork of Novi who has worked with Schaffer on the project since it started. "Lafontaine in Dearborn, G & K Floor-

ing Covering in Ypsilanti which donates the truck, and Palace Supermarket which is always there to help with a donation."

Likewise Sarah Casi at the Kmart on Wayne Road in Westland has been "a huge assistance, calling when things are marked down or she sets things aside until we can get there," Schaffer said.

Family Video in Westland also provided 400 videos that were put in the troop boxes and given out at the VA Hospital.

"We try to deliver the coats before Veterans Day, so the day we delivered the coats, we went and thanked the people in continuing care unit," Schaffer said. "We gave them the videos, puzzle books and pens. We visited about 35 people. We thanked them and talked to them."

She added that the coats they delivered were a welcome sight at the hospital. They were so short on coats that people needing them have to bring in their old coat to be seen. If they're bad enough, they're given a new coat.

"They said this was a true blessing and would be handed out right away," Schaffer said.

Also on the project's sponsor list is The Laundry Stop which has donated the washing and dry cleaning and hangers for the coats this year.

"They've been a huge help, but due to health issues they won't be able to do it anymore," Schaffer said. "Our big thing now is we're looking for a Laundromat that will give us a break on the fees. We're looking at 7-8 bucks a load. That can get expensive."

More participation

Like the blankets, Schaffer also is looking for more churches to be a part of the project. Along with people from all over, a church in Ann Arbor has gotten involved as has St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School in Livonia. The school is holding a special Chapel prayer on Wednesday with children invited to bring a needed item to the front of the church for a special blessing. Dork's son Trent attends the school.

Donations are always accepted. On the list are lip balm, hand sanitizer, pocket size tissue, Life Savers or breath mints, pull tab canned meat and/or soup or meals,



Showing off the scarves they received from the St. John's Veterans Project are Lance Cpl. James Levins, Lance Cpl. Troy Redman, Lance Cpl. Tyler Powell, Cpl. Kurt Berry, Lance Cpl. Chad Tech, Lance Cpl. Alex Queen, Cpl. Travis Jacobs and Lance Cpl. Christopher Scott of the Marines' 1st CEB Bravo Co 2 PLT Unit 16071. PHOTO BY LANCE CPL. AUSTIN ROE

inexpensive raincoats or umbrellas, playing cards, combs, and easy puzzle (word searches or crossword) books. Dork stressed that the canned food should be pull tabs and not outdated.

"We don't want to make out veterans sick," she said.

Volunteers make up special bags for the female veterans, including a nice pair of pajamas, hair brush, comb, lotions and body spray. They also like to include books like journal books.

Donations are 100 percent tax deductible and 100 percent of the donations go to the project. They can be dropped off at the school at 2602 Wayne Road, north of Glenwood, or to Dork at Elite Reality, 31077 Schoolcraft east of Merriman in Livonia.

More information also can be found on the St. John's Veterans Project's Facebook page at facebook.com/stjohnsveteranproject.

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LPS finances receive 'clean opinion' from auditing firm

By Karen Smith
Staff Writer

Livonia Public Schools received a "clean opinion" from Plante Moran, the accounting firm that conducted an independent audit of the school district's finances for the 2012-13 school year.

Lisa Abbey, director of business services, told the school board Monday an "unmodified opinion," as a clean opinion is officially known, is the "highest level of assurance we could get from an auditor."

State law requires that an

outside independent audit of the school district's finances be conducted annually.

The audit shows the district had \$143.3 million in actual revenue, nearly \$145 million in actual expenditures and a fund balance of \$ 6.74 million at the close of the 2012-13 school year.

Expenditures came in \$1.17 million under budget, and revenues came in \$732,990 over budget.

"It's a good thing," school board president Mark Johnson said at Monday's meeting. "We did better on both the revenue and the expenditures."

Board Vice President Colleen Burton asked what percentage the fund balance should be at. Currently it is at 4.65 percent of expenditures.

Teresa L. Pollock, Plante Moran audit partner, said each district can set its own target but the non-profit Michigan School Business Officials recommends school districts maintain a fund balance of 15 percent to avoid having to borrow for cash flow. The state average is 11 percent. "Livonia has to borrow and incur interest costs," she said, citing declining enrollment as part of

the reason for Livonia's depleted fund balance.

School districts are funded by the state based on enrollment, and Livonia's enrollment has dropped at about 300 students per year.

Pollock encouraged the board to build up its fund balance, which has hovered between 4.54 percent and 5.96 percent since 2007. However, she said, in these economic times, it would take "dramatic changes" to get it back.

Superintendent Randy Liepa said what jumped out for him in the audit report was the

loss of revenue, down from nearly \$170 million in 2007 to a little more than \$140 million in 2013. "For us to be able to survive that period of time, and have programs in place, is a testament to a number of people," he said.

While using "a good chunk of fund balance" to help balance the budget may produce some anxiety, "we're pleased with where we're at when you look at the loss of revenue we've had."

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Invest maximum in 401(k) plan

Q: Dear Rick: I have worked for a publicly listed company for about 20 years. The bulk of my retirement savings is in my 401(k) plan. Typically, I keep about 50 percent of my money invested in company stock. The other 50 percent is spread out in other funds. I have been putting the max into the 401(k) plan. However, I wonder if I should continue to do so. The company has just stopped its matching program. Does it make sense to invest in the 401(k) plan even though the company is not matching? I am thinking about lowering the percentage of my company stock from 50 percent to 25 percent - what do you think?

A: If you have the opportunity to use a salary deferral program such as 401(k) or a 403(b) plan, it makes sense to invest the maximum, whether the company is matching or not.

When a company matches, it is a no-brainer, you have to take advantage of it. After all, it's sort of like getting free money. Even though you're not getting a match, it still makes sense to invest the maximum possible. Not only are there tax breaks associated with salary deferral programs, in addition, it is an easy and somewhat painless way to invest for your retirement.

You cannot have too much



Rick Bloom

MONEY MATTERS

money invested for retirement and that is why I encourage people to put the maximum in their 401(k) plan. As I've mentioned many times in the past, retirement is a

brand new concept in the history of mankind and in order to have a comfortable retirement you need resources. The only way most people are going to be able to obtain those resources is to invest on a regular basis and there's no easier way of doing it than with a salary deferral program.

If your company offers a Roth option, you may wish to use it. The downside of the Roth 401(k) is that you're putting after tax money into the plan vs. a traditional 401(k) plan where you invest pre-tax money. However, the benefits are that when you withdraw the money from the Roth 401(k) it is tax free.

When you withdraw money from a traditional 401(k) plan you're taxed at that point in time. In addition, money in a Roth 401(k) is not subject to the rules regarding required minimum distributions.

As to your allocation in company stock. I 50 percent is too high and I also think 25

percent is too high. In today's world, I prefer most employees not have any allocation to their company stock. It has nothing to do with the company or being a loyal employee.

My view is purely based on what's good for you as an investor. It's important to keep in mind that when you invest in company stock you are taking a greater risk. After all, if something went wrong with the company, not only would your investments be at risk, it is possible that your job could be impacted.

I prefer to keep one's investments and job separate. Therefore, when you look at reallocating your 401(k) plan, other than the amount that you may have to leave in company stock, I recommend zero allocation in company stock.

Look at the situation not too long ago with General Motors. If you were an employee and an investor in GM stock, you took a double whammy when it went into bankruptcy. There were many cases where not people lost their jobs and a substantial portion of their 401(k) plan evaporated.

If it could happen to General Motors it could happen to just about any other company.

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



Playing elves in the production are Gale Shrewsbury of Westland and Emma Mastny and Megan Johnson, both of Canton.

Spotlight on Youth present Christmas musical

Bring the whole family and get into the holiday spirit with *A Wonderful Worldful of Christmas*, Dec. 12-15, in the Biltmore Studio at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill in Canton.

The story involves Billy, who believes in Santa Claus but his sister doesn't. When a mysterious, magical postman shows up to personally deliver Billy's letter to the North Pole, he invites the siblings to go with him - although he has a few stops along the way in other countries! Song and story combine to teach the true meaning of Christmas. And the big bearded guy himself makes an appearance.

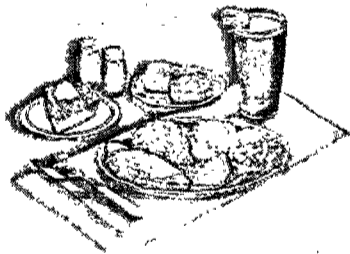
The audience will hear familiar Christmas songs with new words that help tell the

story. The audience will also hear traditional songs and even get a chance to sing along. The show is approximately one hour in length, plus an intermission, perfect for little ones who can't sit still long.

A Wonderful Worldful of Christmas will be presented at 7 p.m. Thursday-Sunday, Dec. 12-15. There also will be 2 p.m. matinees on Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 14-15. The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton, MI 48187.

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| Westland City Hall | 36601 Ford Rd., Westland |
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| Westland Library | 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland |
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| Westland Police Dept.-Lobby | 36701 Ford Rd., Westland |
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Wayne State, University of Toledo to offer programs at Schoolcraft

Schoolcraft College has created a new bachelor's and master's degree partnership program with Wayne State University and the University of Toledo that will begin in the fall of 2014. Degrees in business, nursing, engineering, criminal justice and more will soon be available at Schoolcraft's main campus in Livonia.

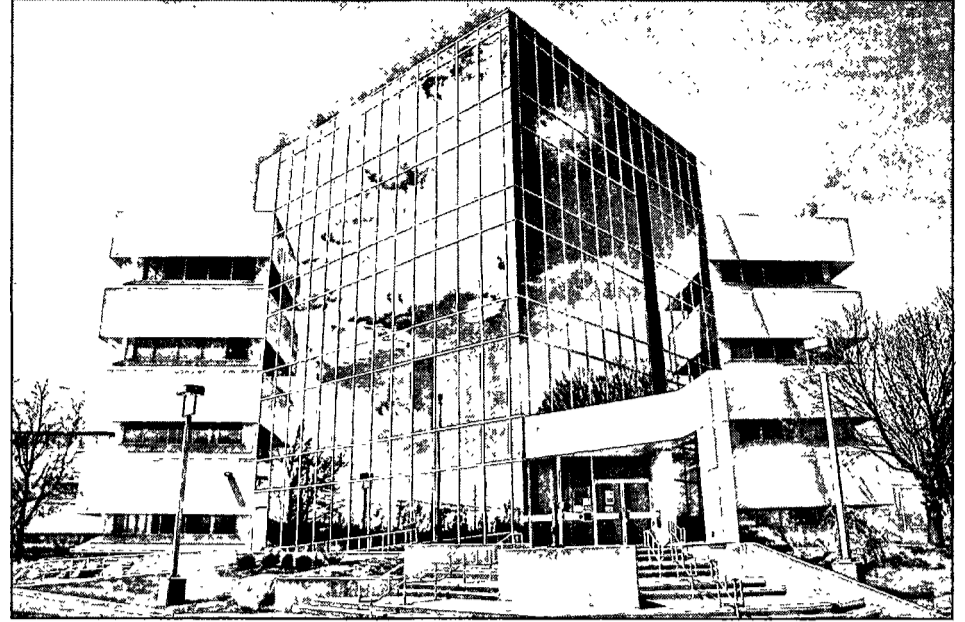
While many community colleges offer university completion programs, the new "Schoolcraft to U" partnership is more than what others have offered, officials said. Both universities will offer classes on Schoolcraft's main campus in Livonia and online.

The University of Toledo also will waive out-of-state tuition fees for students interested in its program offerings. The agreement also provides for seamless transitions from Schoolcraft College to one of the partner universities and collaborative student support programs.

"Schoolcraft College is much more focused on helping its students earn a bachelor's degree and beyond," Schoolcraft President Dr. Conway A. Jeffress said. "We selected Wayne State and the University of Toledo because we believe they have the programs that give our students their best chance of earning a

degree and bettering their lives."

"For several years, The University of Toledo has been committed to blurring the line between Michigan and Ohio to provide access to high-quality UT degree programs to Michigan students," said Dr. Lloyd A. Jacobs, president of the University of Toledo. "Coupled with our marketing efforts and creative scholarship models, this partnership with Schoolcraft College is symbolic of that commitment by seamlessly allowing Schoolcraft students to continue their academic careers and achieve the dream of a four-year degree."



The 110,000-square-foot American Community Mutual Insurance, located on the corner of Seven Mile and Haggerty roads in Livonia, was recently purchased by Schoolcraft for \$3.4 million. Most of UT's and WSU's classes will be held there.

Wayne State President M. Roy Wilson said, "At Wayne State, we want to offer classes when and where it's convenient for students. The new facility in Livonia will give us a presence in another part of metro Detroit and create an opportunity for

more people to earn degrees in the high demand fields of business and engineering."

While UT and WSU will offer classes throughout Schoolcraft College's main campus in Livonia, the majority of their class offerings and

business offices will be located in a new building that Schoolcraft College purchased about a year ago at the corner of Seven Mile and Haggerty roads.

Democrats applaud Schauer at local meet-and-greet

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

The lights were out at John and Mary Bartek's Plymouth Township home, courtesy of last Sunday's high winds and rains that hit southeast

Michigan.

But the power outage that turned off the lights did nothing to dim the enthusiasm of the 50 or so members and supporters of the Plymouth Democratic Club gathered for a meet-and-greet

with Mark Schauer.

The Democrat gubernatorial candidate, who plans to challenge Gov. Rick Snyder in the 2014 election, stopped by to talk to club members eager for a change in Lansing.

He gave them what they wanted to hear.

"I didn't vote for Rick Snyder, but I gave him the benefit of the doubt ... I thought he'd be this 'business' guy," Schauer told the gathered crowd. I thought we were getting sort of a Milliken, and we got more of a DeVos instead. I've talked with a lot of people around the state who are dissatisfied."

It was the kind of small-venue meeting Schauer has been doing since announcing his candidacy. It was the third of five similar events he did Sunday alone.

It's part of the strategy he's adopting in order to beat the perception that no one knows who he is. A poll done last year by Public Policy Polling, a Democratic polling group, showed some 72 percent of Michiganders had no idea who Schauer is. Ironically, the same poll showed him with a 44-36 lead in a hypothetical race against the incumbent governor.

Schauer said Sunday that polls show the race is a dead heat, with Snyder holding a within-the-margin-of-error 36-33 lead. He said groups like

the Plymouth Democratic Club are going to make the difference if he is to unseat Snyder.

"This campaign will be won by people in this room, the doors they knock on and the contacts they make," Schauer said. "If people vote to the level of 2006 rather than 2008, I'll be elected governor."

Schauer mingled with club members and supporters for about a half-hour, then talked for some 20 minutes about the ways he'll challenge Snyder's record. He was critical of the governor's handling of the right-to-work situation last year. He also criticized Snyder for "cutting \$1 billion from public education" and "a half-billion dollars from higher education."

He said Snyder has "raised taxes on retirees," "raised taxes on people with children (with the elimination of the child-care credit)" and "he's raised taxes on the working poor." According to Schauer, Michigan has the fourth-highest unemployment rate in the country and the "highest percentage of children living in poverty in the Great Lakes region."

"You raise taxes on the poor and give a \$2 billion tax break to corporations and it doesn't even create jobs," Schauer said. "Cutting education is mortgaging our future and it isn't working."

Mary Maguire, president of the Plymouth Democratic Club, said the event is an effort by the club to connect people in the local community with the folks who want to represent them.

"It's a wonderful opportunity for people to connect with (Schauer)," Maguire said. "His message is absolutely right on. He has the same core values as people around here and people in the state of Michigan."

The Barteks, who hadn't met Schauer before Sunday, were happy to open their home to him.

"A lot of people don't know a lot about him," John Bartek said.

"A lot of people are disappointed with (Snyder). It's not turning out the way they thought it would. This is about helping people get to know (Schauer)."

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ERB, BARBARA (MORLEY)

November 8, 2013. Age 89 of Birmingham, MI and Naples, Florida. Devoted wife, mother, and grandmother. Co-founder, along with her husband Fred, of the Fred A. & Barbara M. Erb Family Foundation. Beloved wife of the late Frederick A. Erb, 66 years. Loving mother of Rick Erb, Wendy Elaine Erb, Leslie Erb Liedtke, and John Erb (Debbie). Affectionate grandmother of Mimi, Lark, and J. Hugh Liedtke, and Elizabeth Erb. Dear sister of Patricia Cantrick (the late George). Memorial services were held at Christ Church Cranbrook, Bloomfield Hills. In lieu of flowers, family suggests memorial tributes to Christ Church Cranbrook, 470 Church Road, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304 or the charity of donor's choice. A.J. Desmond & Sons, 248-549-0500.

View obituary and share memories at
www.DesmondFuneralHome.com



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FONDA, MARY JANE

Longtime Birmingham/Bloomfield resident Mary Jane Quinby Fonda died September 29, 2013 after a long full life. She died in Cupertino, California, where she and her late husband, James R. Fonda, relocated in 2003. Mary Jane was born in Oklahoma City on November 15, 1917. She grew up primarily in Tulsa, before moving to Houston, where she graduated from San Jacinto High School and then Rice Institute. She worked for Burroughs Corporation in Houston, where she met her future husband who had recently moved from his native Troy, New York. Both families had moved to relatively prosperous Houston to escape the economic woes of the Depression in Oklahoma and upstate New York. Like so many members of the Greatest Generation they next proceeded to World War II. They were married January 10, 1943, and spent their first year of marriage migrating from one Army training base to the next. Mary Jane spent their second anniversary not knowing if her husband was alive, as he was MIA following the Battle of the Bulge. In Spring of 1945 she welcomed him home after his stint as a POW, and soon thereafter they moved to Detroit, the headquarters of Burroughs. Her husband worked for Burroughs his entire career until he retired in 1985. From the time their first son was born in 1948, they lived in the Birmingham/Bloomfield area the entire time, except for a 10 year residence in Akron while he served as Branch Manager. Even during those years she spent much of her time in this area, since both her sons attended Cranbrook. She was particularly devoted to Art, serving as a docent for the Akron Art Institute and then the Detroit Institute of Arts, where she was also long active in the Art to the Schools Program. She is survived by her two sons, James R. Fonda, Jr. of Cupertino, California and Rodney Q. Fonda of Issaquah, Washington, her daughter-in-law Laura Haddad, her beloved grandson Kyle Q. Haddad-Fonda, and eight nieces and nephews. As the last living family member of her generation, Mary Jane was predeceased by her husband (in 2003), her brother J. Rodney Quinby of Houston, and her sister Lucy Quinby Bricker of Bellaire, Texas. She was also predeceased by her daughter-in-law Mary-Ann Fonda. She would have welcomed any memorials in her name to the Detroit Institute of Art.

MARILLEY, REBECCA

Age 24, November 18, 2013. Rebecca was the beloved daughter of David Marilley and Dr. Cynthia Piko. Dear sister of Alexander, Sarah, Peter, Matthew, and Hannah. Beloved granddaughter of Renate Randall, Imre and Margit Piko and friend to many. Rebecca loved her dog Kasey. Visitation Friday, November 22 from 1-9 p.m. and Saturday, November 23 at 9 a.m. with Funeral Service to follow at 11 a.m. at Harry J. Will Funeral Home, 37000 Six Mile Rd., Livonia 48152. Share a memory at www.harryjwillfuneralhome.com Harry J Will Funeral Homes



MATINGLY, ALBERT "AL"

87, November 15, 2013. Beloved husband of the late Jean; devoted father of William "Bill" (Linda), Mary Ann (Art) Phillips, Susan (Steve) Collins and Beth (Christopher) Smith; cherished grandfather of Joe (Jessica), Katie, Sarah, Jessica, Matt, Christopher, Amanda and Jon; great-grandfather of William and Anna. Sadly, in addition to his wife, Al was preceded in death by his beloved granddaughter, Chelsea; and siblings, Joe, Carl Edward, Jack, Nola and Juanita. Visitation Tuesday, November 26, 2-9 p.m., with a 7 p.m. Rosary, at the Heeneey-Sundquist Funeral Home, 23720 Farmington Rd., (btw. 9-10 Mile Rds., just N of Grand River), downtown Farmington (248-474-5200). Funeral Mass Wednesday, November 27, 10 a.m. (in state 9:30 a.m.) at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church, 23815 Power Road, Farmington. Interment Great Lakes National Cemetery, Holly. Memorial tributes suggested to Salvation Army, salvationarmy.org or Society of St. Vincent de Paul at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish. heeneey-sundquist.com. HEENEY-SUNDQUIST FUNERAL HOME

MORT (GAGNON), FLORINE AGNES

Age 91, formerly of Garden City, passed away on Sunday November 17, 2013. Florine resided in Traverse City, MI. Please visit: www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com to share your memories of Florine.



ROCHETTE, ALICE MARIE

Age 87, passed away November 15, 2013. Beloved wife of the late Raymond. Loving mother of Nancy (Peter) Cucinella, Janis (Geoffrey) Stevens, and Lori. Cherished GG to Melissa (Stephen) Lang, Craig Cucinella, Tracey (Edward) Fleck, Brooke Cucinella and Marc Stevens. GG to Jay and Anna Marc and Alison Fleck. Survived by sister June Johnson and brother Earl Wiseman. Preceded in death by brother Richard Wiseman and sister Delores Wichowski. A Memorial Service will be held at St. Joseph Catholic Church in South Lyon, Michigan, on Saturday, Dec. 14th at 10 a.m. Memorials may be made to the Juvenile Diabetes Association or the Detroit Rescue Mission Ministry (DRMM).



Canton resident Aaron Shepherd (left) talks with Mark Schauer (center) and Michigan Democratic Party political director Stephanie White at Sunday's meet-and-greet.

Safety first: Gov. Snyder lauds Cyber Civilian Corps

Gov. Rick Snyder announced the Cyber Civilian Corps, a rapid response team that would assist the state and industries across Michigan during a major cyber incident, at the 2013 Michigan Cyber Summit recently at Novi's Suburban Collection Showplace.

Hosted by the Department of Technology, Management and Budget, the summit brought officials from the public and private sectors together to focus on the issue of cyber security.

"Michigan's leadership in the area of cyber security continues through this summit and our innovative action plan," Snyder said. "Cyber threats are real and we must stay vigilant and proactive to help protect Michigan families and businesses from those who would use technol-

ogy to do harm. By joining forces, public and private entities can address these threats and ensure a safer, stronger cyber environment."

According to state of Michigan Chief Information Officer David Behen, the Cyber Civilian Corps would include volunteers from government, education and business. Information technology professionals interested in participating would be able to improve their skills by taking advantage of training through the Michigan Cyber Range.

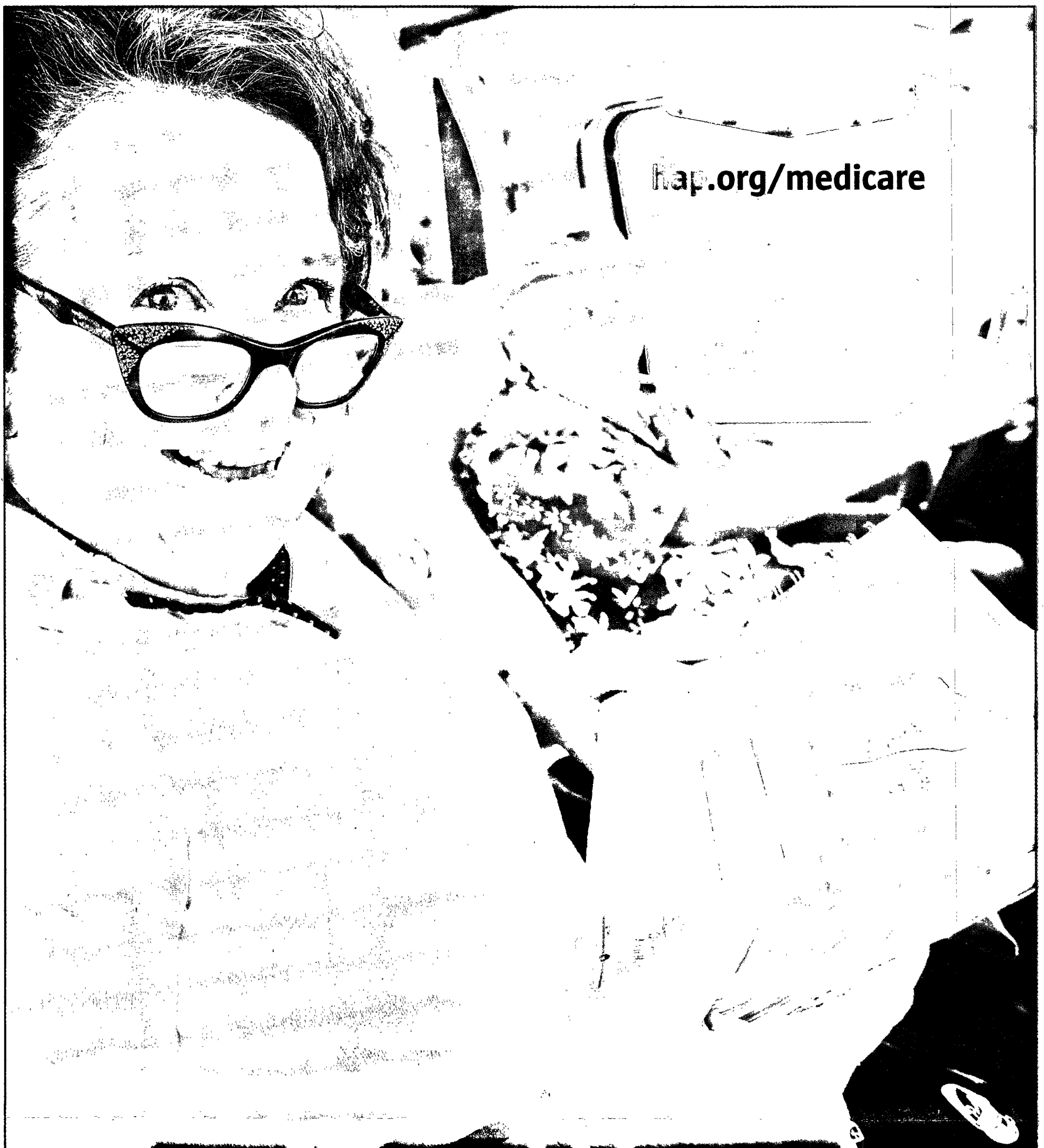
Michigan places a high emphasis on protecting the state's computer systems, networks and data. The state's centralized technology model places Michigan in a strong position to implement security efforts.

"Michigan's cyber initiative is aimed at

defending the state against cyber attacks," Behen said. "Focusing on cyber security will help position Michigan to take advantage of opportunities in this growing and fast-paced industry."

Data theft and breaches from cyber crime can cost businesses as much as \$1 trillion globally. Government is no stranger to cyber attacks either. In fact, the state of Michigan blocked 568,724 cyber attacks daily from January to August this year.

The 2013 Summit was a followup to the sold-out 2011 event, which also served as the national launch for Cyber Awareness Month. The event also served as the second meeting of the National Governors Association Resource Center for State Cyber Security Advisory Council.



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BOYS HOCKEY

Chargers' late goal ties Romeo, 4-4

Puishes scores with only 9.5 seconds remaining

By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

Drew Puishes could have been labeled as the "prodigal son" following Livonia Churchill's season-opening 4-4 boys hockey draw with Romeo Wednesday night at Edgar Arena.

Churchill squandered a 2-0 second period lead before the Bulldogs roared back with four unanswered goals, only to have

the Chargers respond twice in the final period capped by Puishes' game-tying tally with only 9.5 seconds remaining.

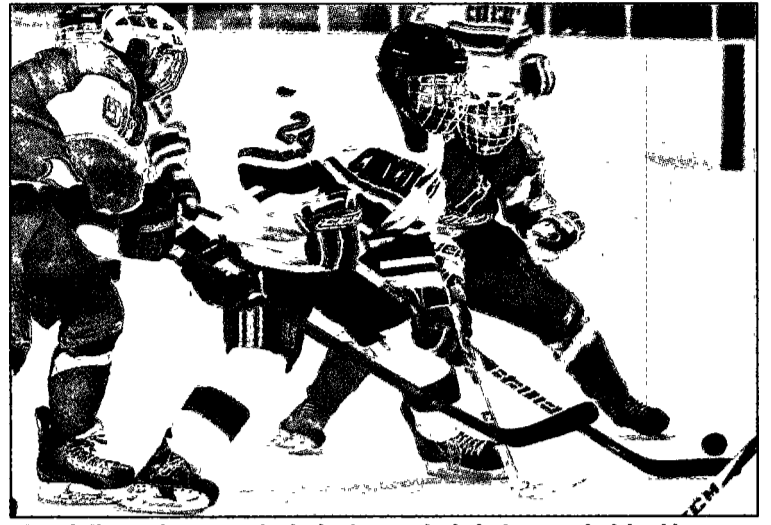
"Drew was spotty throughout the game," Churchill coach Jason Reynolds said. "He's our captain and plays with a lot of passion, but sometimes that passion pulls him in directions that it shouldn't. We had a long talk with him between the second and third period and I think he dialed his game back to where he needed to be. But luckily for him, he decided to jump again just at the right time at the end of the game

and we were able to get the tie today, and we're certainly excited about that."

Romeo, the Macomb Area Conference White Division champs who finished 19-5-1 a year ago, got a stellar goal-tending performance from Nick Santi, who turned away 37-of-41 shots.

"I don't know if you can call it greed, but you get excited and I think that we were so close to the victory that I know our boys are feeling pretty bad right now," Romeo coach John

See CHARGERS, Page B2



Churchill's Andrew Sparks (24) tries to elude being sandwiched by two Romeo skaters. DOUGLAS BARGERSTOCK



Toughest Mudder competitors climb up the Leap of Faith obstacle. HENRY MANNETTA

Down at the 11th hour

World's Toughest Mudder quite the challenge for Livonian

By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

Andrea Carlomusto wears the battle scars from what only be described as an extreme sport on steroids.

Just a week removed from World's Toughest Mudder, a 24-hour endurance event, the 35-year-old fitness trainer from Livonia wears a protective boot after three ligaments were torn following a fall on one of the 22 obstacles placed throughout the 5-mile course at Raceway Park in Englishtown, N.J.

The Churchill High grad, who was the lone female member of a four-person team, was in the 11th hour when she suffered a mishap on the obstacle called Mind the Gap, while trying to maneuver over angled plyometric boards.

"It was an American Ninja Warrior obstacle," Carlomusto said. "There were slats on each side and I thought I was doing it as safe as possible because I'm an injury prevention freak, but it was just too muddy and my ankle went out, felt a snap, ended up in the water and I thought I'd just shake it off. I just got scared and couldn't stand up. Then, that was a problem and it didn't dissipate."

Carlomusto was taken to the medical tent for attention.

Call it a day

"It swelled up, then they couldn't get the wet suit off because it was swollen," she said. "Then hypothermia set in. It was in the low 40s, but all the water obstacles



Livonian Andrea Carlomusto takes a fuel break in the Toughest Mudder. CINDY FURLONG

... if you fail at one there's a Plan B. If can't finish an obstacle you have to swim across the lake. And I just learned how to swim two months ago and that was interesting. But it's freezing. Gear is super, super important. There were a lot of people in the medical tent disqualified for hypothermia, knee injuries, broken ankles. I got the last crutches."

Carlomusto jumped at the chance when she was invited to join the GFF team,

which is an acronym for a company Get Fit Fast Supplements.

The four competed as a group, piggy-backing off each other throughout the day and into the night.

Justin Girard, 30, of Northville, played soccer and coached the sport at Redford Thurston and Riverview Gabriel Richard high schools, but gravitated toward the Tough Mudder and Warrior Dash type events.

Mike Manetta, a 31-year-old insurance salesman from Southfield, had experience as an ultra runner doing 50-milers.

And Dr. Ben Atkinson, the elder statesman at 36 from Spokane, Wash. and Manetta's brother-in-law, is employed in the military reserves and is an experienced Ironman triathlon competitor.

Next challenge

"Mike and I did the Muddy Buddy and a few years ago we did the Warrior Dash, the Tough Mudder," said Girard, who is currently enrolled in a program to become a certified fitness trainer. "The second time we did the Muddy Buddy we placed. We kind of decided to do the World's Toughest and just kind of push ourselves that way. We've always done 5Ks and he (Manetta) has done quite a few marathons."

"My background is more in strength and his is more in running. I like the endurance courses like this where it's a mixture of endurance and strength. He's more

See TOUGHEST, Page B7

PREVIEW

Girls cagers undergoing a makeover

New coaches for Ladywood, Glenn squads

By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

The area's two most successful girls basketball teams from a year ago - Westland John Glenn and Livonia Ladywood - will be undergoing a total makeover for the 2013-14 season.

And it may require breaking out the name tags for everybody to get acquainted with each other.

Glenn is coming off its most successful season in school history after going 24-2 and reaching the state



Buckley

Class A semifinals before losing to eventual state champion Grand Haven.

Slipping into the night after an abbreviated stint as varsity coach of the Rockets was Eric Kovatch, who went 44-5 in his only two seasons.

Glenn, which built its program on transfers, lost four of its five starters including the Bankston twins, Raven and Raine, both starting for Delaware State, along with Sha'Keya Graves, now at DePaul University.

Starting forward Kierra Jordan (Marygrove College) also graduated, but her father Derrick, who served as a Glenn's freshman coach and varsity assistant last season, takes over the reins for Kovatch.

The only remaining remnant of that 2012-13 team was starting guard Kaira Barnes, now a 5-foot-5 senior who missed the tail-end of Glenn's state tournament run with a knee injury.

Barnes reportedly is still suffering from knee issues and may not be ready for the season opener Tuesday, Dec. 3, at home against Dearborn Divine Child.

"We expect her (Barnes) to eventually cleared, but she hasn't been cleared as of yet," said Jordan, who also had assistant coach stints at Ann Arbor Skyline, Detroit Cooley and Detroit Redford.

Only two other varsity players remain from last year's team who saw action in the state semifinal - sen-

See PREVIEW, Page B3

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CHARGERS

Continued from Page B1

Minjoe said. "But I'll tell you what ... Churchill is a perennial strong team and I'm really proud of our kids coming out - first game on the road - and putting a performance like this. I'm sure we can build on it."

"I saw it as two really good teams that played hard right to the buzzer."

After Churchill pulled to within one at the 5:35 mark of the final period on junior Parker Hodges' wrist shot, his second goal of the night, Santi made two big saves with 7:37 left and also robbed Nick Misiak on a break-away with only 1:28 remaining.

"Nick Santi is an excellent goalie," Minjoe said. "He was second-team All-State last year, he's a senior and we expect big things every night from him. He's a fine goaltender."

Churchill grabbed a 1-0 first-period advantage on Hodges' tip-in goal from Misiak and Dan Hudy at 3:15.

Hodges, making his Churchill debut, played last season for the Midgett A Wayne Aeros.

"We love Parker," Reynolds said. "He's a beautiful skater and really gives us a lot of speed and aggressiveness in our forward line. We're anxious to see what's going to become of him the rest of the year ... a lot of potential."

The Chargers went up 2-0 at 7:33 of the second on Justin O'Brien's tap-in goal from Derek Klisz and Spencer Kovacs.

But Churchill couldn't stand prosperity as Romeo answered with a pair of even strength goals before the period ended - Luke Kaczor from Mitch Bidus and Logan Jenuwine on a two-on-none play at 8:56; followed by



Churchill senior Drew Puishes (2) scored the game-tying goal with only 9.5 seconds left. DOUGLAS BARGERSTOCK

Mitch Pacitti's tally from Jenuwine and Matteo Mazur at 14:13.

Pacitti scored again just 2:23 into the third from Jenuwine and Mazur to make it 3-2. The Bulldogs then went up 4-2 just 1:59 later on Bidus' goal from Jenuwine.

But the Chargers were able to regroup getting the early third-period goal by Parker followed by Puishes, who was assisted by Dylan Smith and Evan Gibboney.

"We set a lot of goals this year in terms of offensive pressure and we accomplished those goals with our shots 41-21," Reynolds said.

"We did a nice job of pressuring them for most of the game. Unfortunately we let up a little bit in the middle of the game and gave Romeo a chance to jump back in it. But give them (Romeo) credit. They have a couple of all-state

forwards and an all-stater in goal. That certainly helped them in the long run. It still shows that there's still a lot of work to be done. We have a lot of room for improvement and this will be a good lesson for us heading into the weekend."

Churchill goaltender David Turel, a senior, made 17 saves.

"We've been stressing from Day One that everything has to start in the defensive zone coverage and we have to pay attention to details throughout the game," Reynolds said. "If we lose sight of that, it's going to cost us and it did today."

"Fortunately, I'm proud of the boys for battling back. We would have preferred to get the victory, but a tie game gives us something to build on."

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BOYS HOCKEY

Spartans' late goal flurry cooks Rice

Lutz's 3 goals does the trick in 5-3 win

Livonia Stevenson broke loose during the final period and skated away with a season-opening 5-3 boys hockey victory Wednesday over host Birmingham Brother Rice at Oak Park's Honeybaked Arena.

Ray Chartier's goal to the short side from Cole Christie and Andrew Rozenbaum proved to be the game-winner with only 1:01 left for the defending Division 2 state champions.

Senior Dominic Lutz then completed his hat trick with an empty netter with only 26 seconds remaining from line-mates Tyler Irvine and Devin Kelly to complete the Spartans' five-goal third-period flurry.

"It was a great win to start the season for sure," Stevenson coach David Mitchell said. "We had a lot of guys step up tonight and Andrew Rozenbaum was outstanding in net, especially the first two periods when it took us awhile to get going."

Rozenbaum, a junior, made 31 saves in his Stevenson debut.

After a scoreless opening period, Rice got on the board in the second as Blake Bazzi scored the first of his three goals for the Warriors.

Stevenson then scored three times within a span of 2 minutes and 23 seconds of the third - Lutz

short-handed from Irvine; Lutz again from Irvine; and Kelly from Mick Sinclair and Irvine.

Bazzi's power play goal with 10:19 left made it 3-2 and his third of the game with only 1:55 remaining knotted the count at 3-3.

"Give Rice credit," Mitchell said. "They held our top guys scoreless the first two periods, but then Lutz, Irvine and Kelly - showing the players they are - broke through in the third."

"It was a good, solid win to start the season for sure."

Rice goaltender Jack Bowman made 17 saves in a losing cause.

Pats take opener

Dylan Smith notched a goal and two assists propelling Livonia Franklin to a season-opening 5-1 triumph Wednesday night over host Walled Lake Western at the Kensington Valley Ice House.

Western scored just 1:15 into the first period on Chris Donaldson's goal from Austin Morgan and Joe Cooper.

But the Patriots took the lead for keeps by scoring a pair of first period goals - Chase Wallis from Smith at 5:37 followed by Smith's goal from Josh Dudek at 7:19.

The Patriots went up 3-1 at 5:37 of the second period on Hunter Sellers' power play goal from Wallis.

Franklin then put it away with pair of third period tallies - Trevor Lassaline from Smith and

Dudek at 8:33; followed by Ryan Pace from Justin Makowski and goaltender Matt Monendo at 14:34.

Franklin outshot the Warriors, 33-26, as Monendo made 25 saves.

"I'm happy for my guys, we're excited," Franklin coach Dennis Gagnon said.

Chargers fall, 6-1

Kris Hamilton scored twice and Nick Heffron added a goal and two assists Friday as Farmington (1-0) routed Livonia Churchill (0-1-1) in its season opener at the Metro Invitational held at Novi Ice Arena.

Jordan Hoke, Joe Majoris and Jason Petras also scored goals for the Falcons, who led 2-0 after one period and 3-0 after two.

Drake Cole also chipped in with two assists, while Farmington goaltender John Lethemon had his shutout bid spoiled with 10:13 left in the third period on Dylan Smith's goal assisted by Jack Behan.

"It was a bad night for the Chargers," Churchill coach Jason Reynolds said. "Very low energy and we just never seemed to bounce back. Very uncharacteristic of our team."

David Turel went all the way in goal for the Chargers, who were scheduled to play North Farmington-Harrison Saturday in the Metro Invitational.

THE WEEK AHEAD

PREP HOCKEY
Monday, Nov. 25
Ladywood vs. A.A. Pioneer at Arctic Pond, 4:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Nov. 27
Churchill vs. Stevenson Franklin vs. Bentley at Edgar Arena, 6 & 8 p.m.
Friday, Nov. 29
(Cranbrook Tourney)
Stevenson vs. Rochester, 5 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 30
Cranbrook Tourney, TBA
MEN'S COLLEGE HOOPS

Tuesday, Nov. 26
Lourdes at Madonna, 8 p.m.
St. Clair (Ont.) at St. Clair (Ont.), 8 p.m.
Friday, Nov. 29
(Muskegon CC Classic)
Schoolcraft vs. Alma JV, 5 p.m.
(St. Xavier, Ill. Classic)
Madonna vs. St. Xavier, 7 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 30
(St. Xavier, Ill. Classic)
Madonna vs. Trinity (Ill.), 2 p.m.
(Muskegon CC Classic)
Schoolcraft vs. Muskegon, 7 p.m.
WOMEN'S COLLEGE HOOPS

Tuesday, Nov. 26
Lourdes at Madonna, 6 p.m.
St. Clair (Ont.) at St. Clair (Ont.), 6 p.m.
Friday, Nov. 29
(Muskegon CC Classic)
Schoolcraft vs. Alma JV, 1 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 30
(Muskegon CC Classic)
Schoolcraft vs. Muskegon, 5 p.m.
ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE
Wednesday, Nov. 27
Owen Sound vs. Whalers at Compuware Arena, 7 p.m.
TBA - time to be announced.

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PREVIEW

Continued from Page B1

ior guard India Glaspie-Perdue and junior center Diamond Jordan.

Another player who got meaningful minutes in the semifinal against Grand Haven, Kayla Horn, transferred to Romulus.

But unlike Glenn's situation, there is some continuity that remains at Ladywood despite the loss of all five starters, including first-team All-Observer point guard Andie Anastos (playing hockey at Boston College), and second-team All-Area guard Shelby Walsh.

Coach Anthony Coratti, who guided Ladywood to a 17-8 record and its first Class B regional crown in 20 years, stepped down after three seasons.

Assistant coach Amber Culloty, a 2004 Ladywood grad, takes over the job.

The Blazers do not have a senior on their varsity roster and Culloty is learning on the fly as a new head coach.

"It's completely different and obviously there's a lot more on my plate," Culloty said. "It's been a fun start and I've really enjoyed getting with the girls and learning a lot of different aspects of what goes into coaching and the planning that goes into it, which I didn't have a lot of experience with before. But I'm really taking it to heart and putting everything into it."

The former Amber Willoughby played at Ladywood under Andrea Gorski, now an assistant coach at Southern Illinois. Gorski coached at Ladywood for 11 years before going on to a successful four-year stint at Concordia University.

"I'm taking a lot of the things she did and putting my own twist on them," said Culloty, who also played for Gorski at Concordia. "But I'm basing a lot of what she taught me, and discipline-wise, what she did, and a lot of things stemming from the Gorski age."

Meanwhile, Livonia Stevenson (12-11) hopes to build off last year's Class A district title and a respectable showing in the regional semifinal against De-



Westland John Glenn senior Kaira Barnes (11), when healthy, is one of the top guards in the area. OBSERVER FILE PHOTO

troit King.

The Spartans, who hope to be a factor in the KLAAs Central Division race, have the firepower up front led by third-team All-Observer pick Rachel Wilkinson, a senior guard who average 10 points per game and shot 76 percent from the foul line.

Wilkinson is joined 6-foot senior center Charlesann Roy, a fourth-year varsity player who averaged eight points and five rebounds per game.

Roy recently signed a letter-of-intent with Grand Valley State.

In the KLAAs South Division, Glenn, Livonia Churchill (8-12), Livonia Franklin (9-12) and Wayne Memorial (1-19) will be chasing favorite Canton.

Churchill returns two starters from a year ago, 5-11 junior forward Hannah Pummill and 5-7 junior guard Natalie Spala.

Franklin second-year coach Jim Milican must replace top scorer Kate-lynn Devers, but 5-8 senior center Julie Magdowski returns.

Wayne's roster will also look totally different, but 5-7 senior guard Ashley Bland, a double-digit scorer, returns and hopes to regain the form that earned her second-team All-Area honors as a sophomore.

One of the area's best kept secrets is Clarenceville's 6-1 senior center Ayan-na Buckley, a highly athletic player who posted big numbers last year as a junior averaging 19.8 points and 11.2 rebounds per game.

Buckley, a second-team All-Observer choice, is one of three returnees for the Trojans (10-12), who enter the Red Division of the Western Wayne Athletic Conference for the first time.

Name tags, however, won't be necessary for Westland Huron Valley Lutheran (8-11), which hopes to make some noise in the Red Division of the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference.

Coach Kris Ruth, now in her 13th year, welcomes back five seniors and one junior with three-year varsity experience.

Junior forward Julie St. John averaged 9.9 points and 11.6 rebounds as a sophomore, while senior forward Day-na Schroeder hopes to improve her averages of 7.8 points, 8.3 rebounds, 4.2 assists and 3.4 steals per game.

Fellow MIAC Red Division member and HVL's next door neighbor Lutheran High Westland (12-11) lost all five starters to graduation with seniors Leah Refenes and Julia Yancy hoping to pick up the slack.

See capsule outlook of area girls basketball teams.

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GIRLS BASKETBALL CAPSULE OUTLOOK

LIVONIA CHURCHILL
Head coach: Matt McCowan, third year.
League affiliation: KLAAs Kensington Conference (South Division).
Last year's overall record: 8-12.
Notable losses to graduation: Sydney Anderson, Julia Szuba, Michelle Azar.
Leading returnees: Hannah Pummill, 5-11 Jr. F.; Natalie Spala, 5-7 Jr. G.; Stephanie Polkowski, 5-10 Sr. F.
Promising newcomers: Annie Yost, 6-2 Fr. C.; Alivia Kondrath, 5-4 Soph. PG.; Megan Crocker, 5-7 Jr. G.; Molly Pummill, 5-8 Soph. G.
McCowan's 2013-14 season outlook: "The outlook is good, but we're very young with only one senior. Hannah (Pummill) and Natalie (Spala) got a lot of minutes last year. Hannah is going to be very tough to guard down low. And with Natalie being able to shoot from the outside, they should work really well together. Alivia (Kondrath) should be able to control our offense like a point-guard should."

LIVONIA FRANKLIN
Head coach: Jim Milican, second year.
League affiliation: KLAAs Kensington (South Division).
Last year's overall record: 9-12.
Notable losses to graduation: Katelynn Devers (fourth-team All-Area); Caitlin Milican, Natalie Modes, Natalie Desautel.
Leading returnees: Julie Magdowski, 5-8 Sr. C.; Colleen Mandrnik 5-3 Sr. G.; Amanda Sanders, 5-7 Sr. F.; Stephanie Evans, 5-8 Sr. F.; Sarah Cramton, 5-9 Jr. F.; Jessica McNally, 5-10 Jr. C.; Erin McNally, 5-10 Jr. F.
Promising newcomers: Traviona Callaway, 5-2 Sr. G.; Katelyn Kovach, 5-2 Jr. G.; Sade Gore, 5-2 Jr. G.; Tyonna Tare, 5-8 Jr. F.; Sophia Modes, 5-9 Jr. C.
Milican's 2013-14 season outlook: "We have a good foundation of returning players that we will be building off of. We are adding a group of newcomers who are already blending in with the returning players and our game plan. We are looking forward a successful season."

LIVONIA STEVENSON
Head coach: Jon Knoph, fifth year.
League affiliation: KLAAs Kensington (Central Division).
Last year's overall record: 12-11.
Titles won last year: Class A district champs.
Notable losses to graduation: Uzoma Nwankwo, Mara Murray.
Leading returnees: Rachel Wilkinson, 5-9 Sr. G (10 ppg).

(MVP); Charlesann Roy, 6 Sr. C-F (8 ppg, 5 rebs.); Krya Johnson, 5-7 Sr. F.; Abby Knoph, 5-6 Sr. G.; Amy Freed, 5-7 Sr. G.; Livy Wright, 5-5 Sr. G.; Chi Chi Nwankwo, 5-6 Sr. F.; Rosie Morse, 5-7 Sr. F.
Promising newcomer: Oly Nwankwo, 5-8 Jr. F.
Knoph's 2013-14 season outlook: "We will be led this season by eight seniors, who we expect will offer experience and leadership for our entire program. Where we struggled last year offensively, we hope to show much improvement. This year's Spartans are very hard workers who have set their expectations high. If their success on the floor matches their attitude and desire as we begin the season, it will be a great year."

WESTLAND JOHN GLENN
Head coach: Derrick Jordan, first year.
League affiliation: KLAAs Kensington (South Division).
Last year's overall record: 24-2.
Titles won last year: KLAAs South Division, Kensington Conference, KLAAs Association, Class A district and regional champions.
Notable losses to graduation: Raven Bankston (first-team All-Area); ShaKeya Graves (first-team All-Area); Raine Bankston (second-team All-Area); Kierra Jordan.
Leading returnees: Kaira Barnes, 5-5 Sr. G (third-team All-Area, 12 ppg); India Glaspie-Perdue, 5-5 Sr. G.; Diamond Jordan, 6-4 Jr. C.
Promising newcomers: Armani Garrard, 5-10 Sr. F.; Victoria McCloud, 5-5 Sr. G.
Jordan's 2013-14 season outlook: "The roster is pretty much gutted. We've got a lot younger players trying to step up and play. We're looking to be a strong defensive team. Of course, we don't have the offensive firepower, nor the experience that we had last year. But we've got girls that are willing to work hard and willing to play hard. They're going to go out there and give it their all."

WAYNE MEMORIAL
Head coach: Joyce Massey, second year.
League affiliation: KLAAs Kensington (South Division).
Last year's overall record: 1-19.
Notable losses to graduation: Bailey Hart, Angelia Baker.
Leading returnees: Ashley Bland, 5-6 Sr. G.; Cierra Weaver, 5-8 Sr. G.; Honia Williams, 5-5 Sr. G.
Promising newcomers: Tanjiqua Mankins, 5-6 Soph. F.; Shukeina Willis, 5-4 Jr. G.; Tonya Lewis, 5-7 Sr. F.; Alexis Coleman-Gates, 5-4 Soph. G.; Diamond Davidson, 5-7 Sr. F.
Massey's 2013-14 season outlook: "We have a lot of talent this year. It's going to be different than last year. The dedica-

tion level is a little higher. If we work hard in practice we could end up surprising a lot of people. We're going to play small ball, pressure the ball and running the floor. We're going to push until teams have nothing left to give in the second half."

LIVONIA LADYWOOD
Head coach: Amber Culloty, first year.
League affiliation: Catholic League (Central Division).
Last year's overall record: 17-8.
Titles won last year: Class B district and regional champions.
Notable losses to graduation: Andie Anastos (first-team All-Area); Shelby Walsh (second-team All-Area); Sara Even, Andria Gietl, Kiley Gorski, Sara Wojnarowski, Courtney Mercier.
Leading returnees: Amber Riehmiller, 5-9 Jr. G.; Cheryl Setlock, 5-6 Soph. G.; Jessica Hasenau, 6-1 Jr. C.; Molly McCloye, 6-1 Jr. C-F.
Promising newcomers: Erika Selakowski, 5-8 Soph. G-F; Morgan Larkin, 5-10 Jr. F (transfer from Livonia Franklin); Janelle Erlingis, 5-7 Jr. G-F; Maggie Shirk, 5-8 Fr. G.; Katie Mater, 5-4 Jr. G.; Conner Huggins, 5-6 Soph. G.; Rozlyn Price, 5-7 Soph. G.
Culloty's 2013-14 season outlook: "We're very young this year, so we're focusing on defense turning into points. It's going to be a rebuilding year from last year. I fully expect to have to girls come out and play their hearts out. We've got a really good group of girls together. We only have 11 on the team and they always give 110 percent, so I know what I'm getting from them. They're going to play hard every day."

LIVONIA CLARENCEVILLE
Head coach: Brady Gustafson, third year.
League affiliation: Western Wayne Athletic Conference (Red Division).
Last year's overall record: 10-12.
Notable losses to graduation: Ashley Murphy, Jodi Ankiel, Christina Gould.
Leading returnees: Ayanna Buckley, 6-1 Sr. C (second-team All-Area, 19.8 ppg, 11.2 rebs.); Mikala Kielling, 5-6 Sr. G.; Erica Katz, 5-11 Sr. F.
Promising newcomers: A'isha Whittaker, 5-6 Soph. G.; Alicia Souther, 5-8 Jr. F.; Mia Sampson, 5-4 Jr. G.
Gustafson's 2013-14 outlook: "The Lady Trojans have big shoes to fill losing three key seniors from last years squad. Ayanna (Buckley) returns as the team's leading scorer and rebounder and is a tremendous presence on defense. She earned All-Observer honors last year and looks to be even stronger. Mikala (Kielling) is our lone returning guard, but is also our best outside threat. She has been a starter for three years and a top scorer each of the three. Our last

returner, Erica (Katz), was a strong presence on last year's team as a sixth man. Her ability to score inside and out along with her physical play on defense will help us compete for a division title. Outside of our three returners, we are a young basketball team with a very good attitude and great work ethic. As a team we will look to get better with experience and hopefully play our best ball at the end of the year when it counts."

LUTHERAN WESTLAND
Head coach: Sandi Wade, fourth year.
League affiliation: Michigan Independent Athletic Conference (Red Division).
Last year's overall record: 12-11.
Notable losses to graduation: Aldreanna Fikes, Allisa Flury, Shannon Abbott, Chandler Davenport, Marcella Flury.
Leading returnees: Julia Yancy, 5-4 Sr. PG; Leah Refenes, 5-10 Sr. C; Bethany Hoehne, 5-8 Soph. G.; Madison Conley, 5-2 Sr. G.
Promising newcomers: Sabrina Morrison, 5-4 Jr. G.; Vivian Quitmeyer, 5-9 Jr. C.
Wade's 2013-14 season outlook: "After graduating seven members from my team last year, I knew coming into this season it was going to be a slow start. I'm looking to my four returning players to set the stage for how my program is run. We have young and inexperienced players at the varsity level, but I'm very hopeful that we will merge as a team and improve as the season goes forward."

HURON VALLEY LUTHERAN
Head coach: Kris Ruth, 13th year.
League affiliation: MIAC (Red Division).
Last year's overall record: 8-11.
Notable losses to graduation: Megan Prieskorn, Ana Gutierrez.
Leading returnees: Julie St. John, 5-8 Jr. F (9.9 ppg, 11.6 rebs.); Dayna Schroeder, 5-9 Sr. F (7.8 ppg, 8.3 rebs., 4.2 assists); Brooke Kuehn, 5-5 Sr. G; Sarah Settan, 5-5 Sr. G; Ashley Hever, 5-8 Sr. F; Emma Bogenschutz, 5-8 Sr. F.
Promising newcomers: Taylor Rea, 5-6 Jr. F; Jessie Strauch, 5-6 Jr. G; Samantha Golchuk, 5-3 Fr. G; Sam Shelton, 5-7 Jr. G.
Ruth's 2013-14 season outlook: "We've got some experience under our belts with six three-year varsity players. We do not have a lot of height, but we hope to build upon the experience from our senior leadership."

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COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Schoolcraft runs afoul at Mid-Michigan

By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

There was a foul odor to Schoolcraft College's 91-78 men's basketball loss Friday to host Mid-Michigan Community College in Mount Pleasant.

Erick Layton scored a game-high 33 points and the host Lakers made 34-of-37 free throws (91.9 percent) to average Wednesday's 78-69 setback to the Ocelots.

Layton connected on 17-of-19 free throws to lead four Mid-Michigan players in double figures.

Trevor Gernaat added 17 points, while Cody Johnson and Kyle Shomin (off the bench) each contributed 16 as the Lakers, now 2-6 overall, shot 24-of-47 from the floor (51.1 percent) and 9-of-18 from three-point range.

Terrence Coles (Redford Thurston) paced Schoolcraft with 22 points, while Andrew Mapley

added 19 points and 10 rebounds.

Nathan Kamal and Basel Ibrahim contributed 12 and 10 points, respectively, while Devonta Riley dished out 10 assists.

Schoolcraft (3-3) trailed 40-33 at the half and made just 11-of-18 free throws.

On Wednesday, Mapley continued his strong play with 24 points and 15 rebounds leading host Schoolcraft to a 78-69 win over the Lakers.

The Ocelots outscored Mid-Michigan 39-27 in the second half to overcome a 42-39 halftime deficit.

Coles added 14 points, 11 rebounds and seven assists. Terrell Sewell (Canton) and Kamal chipped in with 12 and 11 points, respectively.

Schoolcraft shot 28-of-56 from the floor, including 7-of-16 from beyond the arc.

Mid-Michigan got 23 points from Layton, while Johnson (14), Gernaat (12)

and Tanner Vida (10) also scored in double figures.

Lady Ocelots prevail

Sophomore Alexis Smith (Livonia Franklin) scored a game-high 21 points and added seven rebounds to spark Schoolcraft College (2-3) to a women's basketball win Wednesday night over the Marygrove College JV.

Teniece Roberts added 10 points and 12 rebounds, while Jessica Parry chipped in with eight points and 10 boards as the Lady Ocelots outscored the Mustangs 31-23 in the second half.

Asia Cooks paced Marygrove with 16 points, while Lashanda Mack added 14. Theresa Dray pulled down 12 rebounds.

Marygrove shot only 18-of-70 from the floor (25.7 percent) and committed 29 turnovers.

Schoolcraft shot 35.5 percent from the field (22-of-62).

CLASS A GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Marian returns to state title game

By Marty Budner
Staff Writer

It didn't take long for Angela Kalczynski to get Birmingham Marian's volleyball program back to the ultimate stage.

In just her first season as head coach, Kalczynski's Mustangs advanced to the Class A state championship game.

It marks the first time in three seasons that Marian, a state championship game participant for four years from 2007-10, has made it to the season's final game.

Marian assured itself a spot in the title game Thursday evening with a hard-fought five-set victory over Temperance Bedford in a highly-entertaining state semifinal battle. The Mustangs won after dropping two of the first three sets by scores of 26-28, 25-14, 19-25, 25-23, 15-11.

Marian, which defeated Bedford in an early-season tournament, was scheduled to play East Grand Rapids in the championship match Saturday afternoon.

The Mustangs took a 50-15 record into that match. EGR, which defeated Northville in three sets in the other semifinal was 49-5-3.

Marian, which lost to East Grand Rapids earlier this season, was seeking its third state title in program history.

Bedford, which lost in last year's state championship game to Macomb Dakota, took an early 5-1 lead in the opening set. Marian fought back and eventually went ahead 20-18. From that point on, the teams merely traded points and were tied at 24-24, 25-25 and 26-26.

The Kicking Mules then scored two straight points for the win.



Marian senior Paige Carey (No. 18) had 16 kills against Bedford to help lift Marian into the Class A state championship game for the first time in three years.

JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Junior Morgan Garmo served six straight points to turn a close second set into a seven-point Marian lead. Garmo eventually served the winning point, which came on a kill by senior Paige Carey.

Bedford took control about midway through the third set to eventually score the six-point triumph.

Marian then won the next two sets to earn its state final trip.

The teams were tied 19-19 in the fourth set before Marian scored six of the next 10 points for the win. Senior Jessie Koppmeyer finished it with a kill set up by

Meghan Cotant.

The Mustangs took a 3-0 lead in the fifth set and never trailed.

Koppmeyer finished with a team-high 25 kills and 18 digs. Carey had 16 kills and junior Alannah Barash added 13 kills.

Cotant dished out 57 assist-to-kills and 15 digs, while Delaney Backonen contributed 13 digs.

Garmo posted four of Marian's 10 aces in the match.

Marian, coached by Irick Gardner, captured Class A titles in 2010 (over Farmington Hills Mercy) and 2009 (over Portage Central).

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*Source: Monthly unique visitors, comScore Multi-Platform Report, March 2013

SPORTS ROUNDUP

C'ville's Hogan All-GLIAC

Grand Valley State University sophomore defensive end De'Ondre Hogan (Livonia Clarenceville) recently earned second-team All-Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference honors in football.

The 6-foot-2, 245-pound Hogan became a fixture in the lineup midway through the year and earned GLIAC Defensive Player of the Week honors in consecutive weeks.

He is second among defensive linemen in tackles with 41, while leading the squad in quarterback sacks with 5.5 (minus-27 yards) and second in tackles for loss with 8.5 (minus 34 yards).

Hogan recorded six tackles (one solo) in Grand Valley's 49-34 victory last week over GLIAC North Division champ Saginaw Valley State.

The Lakers (9-2, 7-2) and Saginaw Valley (9-2, 9-1) met in a rematch Saturday in the first round of the NCAA Division II

playoffs.

Hole-in-one club

Roger Pattee, 65, of Livonia used an 8-iron to ace the 116-yard, No. 7 hole Wednesday at Livonia's Whispering Willows Golf Course.

Pattee, who carded an 87 for 18 holes, recorded his first ace in 50 plus years of golf.

MU volleyball tryouts

An open tryout for the Madonna University women's volleyball team will be 10 a.m. to noon Nov. 24 at the MU Activities Center. It's open to any high school senior or college transfer interested in Madonna University and competing for a spot on the volleyball team for the 2014 season.

For more information, contact assistant volleyball coach Brian McClain at 248-495-5307 or bgmccclain@aol.com.

WYAA volleyball

Registration for Westland Youth Athletic Association

girls volleyball (ages 9-17) is underway.

Games and practices will occur mainly at Marshall Upper Elementary School. League age-groups include 9-11, 12-14 and 15-17.

To register, visit wyaa.org. For further information, email wyaa.volleyball2013@comcast.net.

Churchill softball camp

The Livonia Churchill Chargers holiday hitting camp for girls in grades 3-8 will be from 9 a.m. until noon, Saturday, Dec. 21 at the high school field-house.

Pre-registration is required. The cost is \$25.

For more information, email Churchill varsity girls softball coach Steve Gentilia at Churchillsoftball@gmail.com or call 734-776-1716.

Pompon workshop

The annual Livonia Churchill varsity pompon workshop (ages 6-14) will be from 10 a.m.

until 10 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7 at the high school gym, located at 8900 Newburgh Road (between Joy Road and Ann Arbor Trail).

Registration starts at 9:30 a.m. The cost is \$30 per person (includes T-shirt, music C.D. and snack).

Workshop participants will be invited to perform at half-time of a Churchill varsity boys basketball game, which will begin at 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 9. (Admission is \$5 for spectators.)

For more information, email Denise Antongiorgi at ada525@aol.com; or call 734-788-9861.

Baseball skills camp

Eastern Michigan University coach Jay Alexander will put on a Thanksgiving baseball skills camp focusing on hitting and defense from 9 a.m. until noon (ages 8-14) and 1-4 p.m. (all high school ages) Friday-Saturday, Nov. 29-30 at Precision Baseball, 7835 Market Street, Canton.

The pre-registration cost is \$75 or \$85 at the door (includes camp T-shirt).

For more information, email info@precisionbaseballone.com or coachtomd@comcast.net. You can also call 734-459-5921.

Pitchers-catchers camp

The Hawks Camps for Champs, a five-week pitcher and catcher progression camp will be from 1-2 p.m. (ages 6-12) and 2-3 p.m. (ages 13 and up) each Sunday beginning Dec. 1 at the Henry Ford Community College Athletic Memorial Building.

Camp dates include Dec. 1, 8, 15; Jan. 12, 19, 26; Feb. 2, 9, 16 and 23.

The cost is \$30 for each session or \$100 for five pitching or catching sessions.

To register online, visit www.henryfordcamps.com. For more information, call Steve Brown at 313-657-3200 or email sjbrown@hfcc.edu.



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CITY OF GARDEN CITY NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
December 16, 2013

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Garden City Council will hold a Public Hearing at the Civic Center, 6000 Middlebelt Road, Garden City, Michigan on December 16, 2013 at 6:56 p.m. regarding the proposed use of U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to consider the reprogramming / transfer of the following funds and the creation of a new project to replace a portion of the roof at Maplewood Center (31735 Maplewood, Garden City, Michigan).

Qualifying the Project
The Maplewood Roof replacement project would meet the qualifying standards for CDBG projects as follows:

- National Objective - LM/C, Limited Clientele
- Eligible Activity - Public Facilities and Improvements (HUD Matrix Code 03)

The City will comply with all CDBG regulations pertaining LM/C project qualification, including documenting usage by eligible persons.

Proposed Funding Sources
The cost of the roof replacement is estimated at \$136,100. The City proposes to use the following estimated funding:

- Reprogram (transfer) 2010 balances:
 - Activity #10-07-04, Demolition - \$66,040.88
 - Activity #10-07-14A01, Countywide Housing Rehabilitation - \$1,113.22
- Reprogram (transfer) 2011 balances:
 - Activity #11-07-10, Removal of Architectural Barriers - \$53,220.00

TOTAL \$120,374.10

Everyone is encouraged to provide input regarding the proposed re-allocations of these CDBG funds. Documentation regarding the proposed actions is available at the Community Development Department, 6000 Middlebelt, Garden City, Michigan 48135, (734)793-1663.

ALLYSON M. BETTIS
City Clerk / Treasurer

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Corporate Manufacturing Engineering Manager
Piston Automotive, LLC has an opening for the Corporate Manufacturing Engineering Manager at its facility in Redford, Michigan. This position is responsible for: Managing corporate Manufacturing and Packaging Engineers; including project planning, staffing requirements and project delivery commitments (technical, quality, cost and timing); Establishing and managing annual Capital Expenditure Budget; Providing IE and ME expertise and performing all engineering functions as needed; Establishing all project specifications, subcontract requirements, facility requirements, capital equipment and tooling needs; Reviewing and approving process documentation through SOP (Process Flow, Cycle Time Analysis, PFMEA and Work Instructions); Evaluating new equipment suppliers, products, and technologies to maintain a competitive advantage; Driving standardization and lean concepts (OEE, SS, Visual Factory, TPM); Supporting current production issue resolution at all plant locations as needed.

POSITION REQUIREMENTS:
Bachelor's Degree in Industrial Engineering, Manufacturing Engineering or Mechanical Engineering, or foreign equivalent education, and a total of 5 years of post secondary progressive experience in the automotive manufacturing and industrial engineering fields combined. Experience must include:

- Automotive module assembly built to sequence
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- Completing broadcast analysis and planning from point of customer trigger through customer installation
- Process design, work cell layout, ergonomic workstation design, line balancing, and complete plant floor layout development and planning
- Suspension, chassis, powertrain and interior automotive assembly
- Manual and automated assembly systems and technologies, including both mechanical and controls systems
- Programming Atlas Copco or Stanley torque control systems
- Developing and maintaining PFLOW, PFMEA and control plans
- AUTOCAD and plan layout design using PFEF using blocks, layers and xrefs
- Managing entire programs as a stand-alone engineer.

Applicants should send their resumes to: Piston Automotive, LLC, 12723 Telegraph Road, Redford, MI 48239. ATTN: Angela Harvey. resume@pistongroup.com

Auto Account Executive

The Observer and Eccentric is looking for an Auto Account Executive to cover the suburban Detroit area. This position will work out of the Sterling Heights, MI location.

his position is responsible for all sales and related activities to advertisers within an assigned geographic territory. Will mainly be servicing auto businesses with the opportunity to sell into the Observer & Eccentric publications and DMP products. Primary responsibility is managing the territory to achieve sales quotas and developing new auto business. The Auto Account Executive will develop strategies, make presentations to new and existing advertisers and be responsive to customer needs. Sales orders, reports and documentation are prepared for management's review.

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TOUGHEST

Continued from Page B1

the running side. My forte is the plyometric aspect of it."

The event, held one-hour outside New York City, attracted 43 teams and 1,100 individual competitors.

"There's a lot of elite athletes," Carlomusto said. "It's a test of everything. You have to be good at everything - your cardio, your strength, your mental. And like for me - big faith. And you have to have a good team if you're going to do a team because I couldn't ask for more there. Once you're disqualified, you're all disqualified because all the time, the money, the training is all chalked up to experience. But you have a team behind you saying, 'No, you start as a team and you end as a team.' That's always nice to hear. It was a great experience."

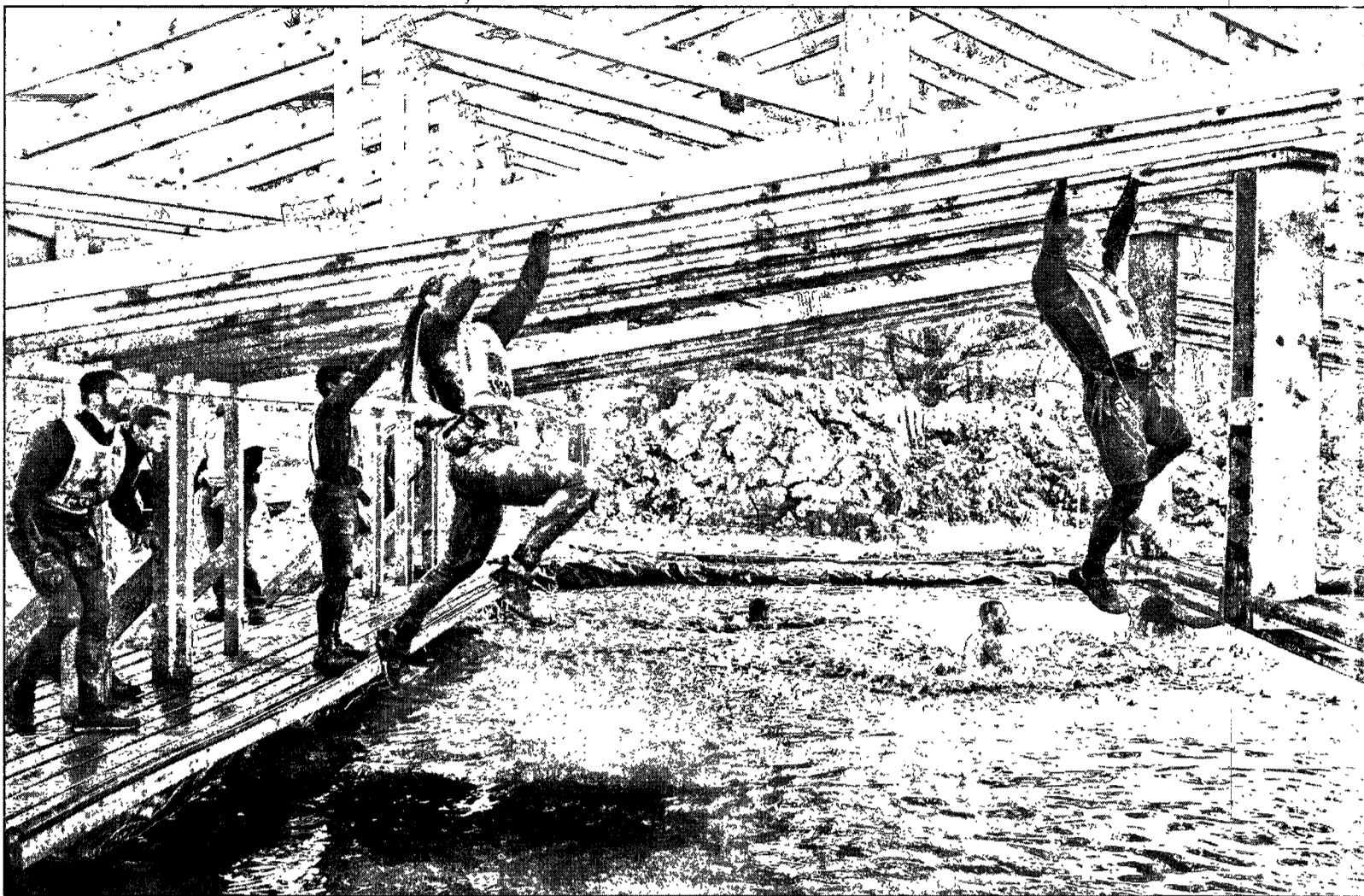
Carlomusto, a fitness trainer who owns Rx-Training, LLC, felt the GFF team was totally on schedule before her mishap.

Solid game plan

"We were on pace, that's what it's so disheartening because we were prepared for it and so ready," she said. "No cramping. Nothing that everybody else was suffering with because we did it smart and had a game plan. It's just a shame. I figured it wasn't the year for it. We have more time to prep next year."

The obstacle course list includes such names as Cliffhanger, Boa Constrictor, Spider Man, Devil's Beard, Funky Monkey, Kiss of Mud and Everest.

"Leap of Faith was the most terrifying one," Girard said. "You're on a 14-foot platform, and you have to run and jump 15 feet or so in the air to clear a gap of water. Then you land on netting and padding, then you have to crawl up the netting."



Toughest Mudder competitors maneuver through the Funky Monkey obstacle. CINDY FURLONG

"As far as the most difficult, it was probably Everest, which is about a 14 or 15 foot wall. Almost like a half pipe, very slick, and angled upwards where you have to run and use everything you have to get up there, then grab onto a ledge and kind of pull yourself up. Some that our team kind of struggled with, but also we did pretty well as far as the team aspect of it because I got up first and we all kind of helped each other get up after that. It was a good bonding."

Although GFF team wasn't able to complete the 24 hours of torture, their attempt was certainly admirable.

Sound preparation

"It was a great experience, different than I expected," Girard said. "I thought we were well prepared as far as nutrition and things like that. Our strategy going in

was slow and steady. From the start we did that physically, but fatigue was setting in a bit once we got to that point. But we were kind of prepped for that and pushed forward. It was just a freak accident that happened."

The World's Toughest Mudder also donated a sizable amount of money toward the Wounded Warrior Project.

"They push that camaraderie," Girard said. "We kind of joked about it, 'No man left behind,' just kind of helping everyone through the obstacle course. Even Junyong Pak, the guy who

won it the last couple years. He's fighting for the third time trying to get that top spot, but he's right next to us on Everest helping other people get up before he went on with his race, too. The atmosphere there is one that's really competitive. And it's a lot of elite athletes, but it's also people trying to help each other and get the most out of the experience."

Once anorexic, Carlomusto said she fell in love with the gym and began to work out. She had done body building and run marathons before taking on the World's Toughest Mud-

der.

Getting stronger

"I decided I never wanted to be weak again," said Carlomusto, who said she will be out six to eight weeks with her ankle injury.

She is now on the mend, but can only think about next year.

"If I'm careful, I won't need surgery," she said. "I'm trying to strengthen everything else. I flew home before I got it checked out. It was pretty large. We were all feeling good. The energy was up. There were no leg cramps. There were people in the medical

tents that were elite athletes."

Carlomusto calls the World's Toughest Mudder "American Ninja Warriors meets military training on crack pretty much."

"It's a lot of endurance, a lot of mental," she added. "I'm sure a lot of people set out thinking they could conquer it. Like I know I did in my head."

"And you just can't plan for injuries, but it's daunting and I can't wait to get back next and kick it in the pants for sure."

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GFF team includes (from left) Mike Manetta, Southfield; Justin Girard, Northville; Andrea Carlomusto, Livonia; and Dr. Ben Atkinson, Spokane, Wash. HENRY MANNETTA

Waza Flo secures indoor soccer win

Not even a broken-down bus could keep the Detroit Waza Flo from turning it up last Saturday night in Harrisburg, Pa.

The team was forced to rent cars just to make it to the match on time, but managed to rally for a 8-5 Professional Arena Soccer League Eastern Division win over the host Heat.

Waza Flo is now 1-1 in the division, while Harrisburg is 1-2.

After a slow start, Waza Flo went down 2-0 on a pair of goals by Kenneth Fultz.

This fueled the team to get back in the game and Miki Djerisilo scored two unassisted goals in the first quarter, while Nik Djokic (Livonia Stevenson) and Costea Decu each added second quarter goals for a 4-2 half-time advantage.

The second half started with each team getting a goal.

The Heat's Tyler Witmer scored short-handed, but Waza Flo had a quick answer by Djokic.

Fultz added one more for the Heat to make it 4-4 at the end of the third

quarter.

Zachary Sell gave the Heat the go-ahead goal at the start of the fourth, but Waza Flo found an extra gear and scored three times during in the final six minutes thanks to goals by Mirsad Halep, Zane Pollack and Victor Otieno (Madonna University).

"I was very proud of my team effort after experiencing some frustration with the bus breaking down," said Waza Flo coach Dominic Scicluna, whose team avenged an 8-7 season-opening loss at home to Harrisburg. "My team bounced back and responded to my requests. They were able to overcome adversity and win a challenging game on the road."

Djerisilo was named man of the two goals and three assists.

Waza Flo's next PASL match is 7:05 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 30, against Cleveland at the 1,200-seat Melvindale Civic Arena, which is located 4300 S. Dearborn St., Melvindale.

For ticket information, visit www.detroit-waza.com.

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NEW FACES

Stephen M. Tait, M.D., Ph.D., has joined the medical staff at Botsford Hospital in Farmington Hills.

Tait is a board-certified ophthalmologist who practices at Bergman



Tait

correction and medical treatment of eye diseases, including cataracts, refractive surgeries — LASIK, LASEK, epi-LASIK, iLASIK — wet macular degeneration, glaucoma, and diabetic retinopathy.

He earned a Ph.D. in physiology from Michigan State University and a medical degree from Michigan State University's College of Human Medicine. His Ph.D. research focused on the precursors of drugs currently used to treat wet macular degeneration. The research earned Tait the Young Investigator's Award from a leading research society and publication in the American Journal of Physiology. During medical school, he was awarded the Paul C. Linnell, M.D. Scholarship for his capacity to achieve educational and professional goals. Tait completed his post-graduate clinical training at William Beaumont Hospital-Royal Oak.

He is a fellow in the American Academy of Ophthalmology and the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery

For more information about his practice, go to <http://www.bergman-porretta.com/>.

Women are 37 percent more likely to have chronic obstructive pulmonary disease than men and now account for more than half of all deaths attributed to COPD in the nation. November is COPD Awareness Month, a perfect time to take a look at some of the findings in the American Lung Association's latest report, "Taking Her Breath Away: The Rise of COPD in Women."

It explores how COPD, once thought of as a disease of older white men, has become a major and increasing health threat for women. More than seven million women in the United States currently have COPD, and millions more have symptoms but have yet to be diagnosed. The number of deaths among women from COPD has more than quadrupled since 1980, and the disease has claimed the lives of more women than men in this

country each year since 2000.

"It's time for the millions of women like me who are living with COPD to break their silence and speak out about the toll that COPD is taking on our lives," said Grace Anne Dorney Koppel, patient and national spokeswoman for COPD awareness. "We need to lead the charge for access to adequate disease management services and social support that will empower us to treat the disease as early as possible and improve the quality of our lives."

Breathing difficulty

COPD is a progressive lung disease with no known cure that slowly robs its sufferers of the ability to breathe. Only heart disease and cancer kill more Americans than COPD does. Smoking is the primary cause of COPD, but there are other important causes such as

air pollution.

The report identifies an interplay of risk-factor exposures, biological susceptibility and sociocultural factors contributing to COPD's disproportionate burden on women.

The rise of COPD in women is closely tied to the success of tobacco industry marketing. Cigarette smoking was rare among women in the early 20th century, but started increasing in the late 1960s after the tobacco industry began aggressively targeting women. While nationwide anti-tobacco campaigns and policy changes have successfully decreased smoking rates for both women and men in the recent past, the tobacco industry's success in addicting women smokers long ago is still resulting in new cases of COPD and other tobacco-related illness in those women as they have aged.

More findings

» Since COPD has historically been thought of as a "man's disease," women are underdiagnosed and undertreated for COPD.

» Women are more vulnerable than men to lung damage from cigarette smoke and other pollutants.

» Women with COPD have more frequent disease flare-ups, a sudden worsening of COPD symptoms that is often caused by a cold or other lung infection.

» Effective treatment of COPD is complicated, and women don't always get the kind of care that meets their needs.

The report, part of the Lung Association's Disparities in Lung Health Series, is available for download at www.lung.org/copinwomen.

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

NOVEMBER

ADDICTION & RECOVERY

Herbert Malinoff, M.D., president and founder of Pain Recovery Solutions, will present "The Doctor's Opinion on Alcoholism" 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 26. This free program will describe a physician's view of alcoholism, as presented in the literature of Alcoholics Anonymous and updated with the modern neurobiology of addictive illness.

The program is, sponsored by Dawn Farm, and will be held at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center Auditorium, 5305 Elliott Drive, Ypsilanti. For more information, call Dawn Farm at 734-485-8725 or visit dawnfarm.org.

DECEMBER

HOSPICE SEMINAR

Hospice and palliative care expert Dominic F. Glorioso Jr., D.O., will present a free community lecture, 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 2, at Botsford Hospital's Education and Administration Center, Classroom C, 28050 Grand River Ave., Farmington Hills. Glorioso, director of palliative care at Gettysburg Hospital in Gettysburg, Pa., and a hospice physician at York Hospital, York, Pa., will discuss death and dying and the importance of family support. For more

information, call 248-442-7986.

KIDNEY BALL

The National Kidney Foundation of Michigan will hold its ninth annual Kidney Ball beginning with cocktails at 6 p.m. and dinner served at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7, at the MGM Grand in Detroit. The event, which features the theme "A Midwinter Night's Dream," will include a night of live music, dancing, a live auction, silent auction, food, cocktails, and even a candy "bar" to top off the evening. Tickets are \$250 per person, available at www.nkfm.org/events or by calling 800-482-1455.

ONGOING

AQUATIC CLASSES

The YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit and the Arthritis Foundation have partnered to offer aquatic classes designed to ease the pain of arthritis. Classes are held 11 a.m. to noon Tuesday and Thursday at the Farmington branch and 1-1:45 p.m. Monday and Wednesday at the Livonia branch. To join or for more information, visit www.ymcadowetroit.org.

BREAST CANCER SUPPORT

Meets from 6:30-8 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month in the Atrium of Our Lady of Hope Cancer Center, St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile (use south

entrance off Levan), Livonia. Call 734-655-1100 or visit www.stmarymercy.org.

BLOOD PRESSURE

Garden City Hospital offers free blood pressure testing, cholesterol (\$5), and lipid panel (\$10) testing, 10 a.m. to noon the first Tuesday of each month in the main lobby of the hospital, 6245 Inkster Road, Garden City. No registration is required. Senior citizens can have their blood pressure tested monthly, free of charge, at 8:30 a.m. the first and third Tuesday and second and fourth Thursdays of each month at Westland Shopping Center, 35000 Warren Road, at Wayne Road in Westland; 10:15 a.m. every other Wednesday at Maplewood Community Center, 31735 Maplewood, Garden City; and every second Tuesday at the Redford Community Center, 12121 Hemingway, Redford Township. For more information, call 734-458-4330.

CHOIR THERAPY

The Therapy Choirs of Michigan extend an invitation to individuals with any kind of special needs or disabilities and their able-bodied family and friends, to participate in singing. Call Len McCulloch at 248-474-2763, Ext. 22, or visit www.therapychoirs.org for additional information.

Have A Happier New Year ...by enjoying a healthier holiday season!

Ask A Garden City Hospital Health Expert



Dr. Christina Blevins
Internal Medicine

Your New Year's resolutions don't have to be drastic, if you end your year on a healthy note. GCH Health Expert and Internal Medicine physician, Dr. Christina Blevins, offers up this perfect portion of holiday wellness advice.

Q: What foods should I avoid this Thanksgiving?

A: I say stay away from the ones you don't like. Other than that, eat what you love and what makes you feel as though you're really celebrating. Just keep your portions small and enjoy every single bite.

Q: How many calories are in the traditional Thanksgiving dinner?

A: If you believe the American Council on Exercise, and I do, it's 3,000 calories, and 229 grams of fat. Ouch. But so much of that comes down to preparation and portion size. Certainly you can still eat turkey, mashed potatoes, LOADS of veggies and a slice of pie and come in way below that.

Q: Are the sleepy effects of tryptophan something to really worry about after eating turkey?

A: Tryptophan may contribute to making you sleepy, but it's not the same as taking a sleeping pill. You can overcome the lethargy by getting up and moving after your meal. Even a walk around the block will help perk you back up.

Q: Do you have any advice on the best way to stay healthy over the entire holiday season?

A: Here are a few important tips I share with my patients, which is good advice all year round:

- **Wash hands often** to keep yourself from spreading germs and getting sick. Wash your hands with soap and warm running water for at least 20 seconds.
- **Manage your stress.** Don't over commit yourself and prevent holiday anxiety and pressure. Get enough sleep.
- **Bundle up** to stay warm and dry. Wear appropriate outdoor clothing like mittens, hats, scarves, and insulated waterproof boots.
- **Get your family vaccinated.** If you haven't gotten a flu vaccine, it's not too late.
- **Fasten seat belts while driving.** Always buckle your child in the car using a child safety seat, booster seat, or seat belt according to his/her height, weight, and age. Use a seat belt every time, no matter how short the trip.
- **Don't drink and drive or let others drink and drive.** It's a simple rule that keeps everyone safe.
- **Be smoke-free.** Avoid smoking and secondhand smoke. There is NO safe amount of tobacco or secondhand smoke. Breathing even a little secondhand smoke can be dangerous.
- **Prepare food safely.** Remember these simple steps: wash hands and surfaces often, avoid cross-contamination, cook foods to proper temperatures, and refrigerate promptly.

Get more great advice from the GCH Health Experts by reading the latest issue of our Healthy Generations Magazine online at GCH.org.

Have a health or medical question for the GCH Health Experts? Visit us at GCH.org. If you need a doctor, call the GCH Physician Referral Line at 877.717.WELL.

Be well and happy holidays!

VETERANS' COFFEE HOUR Q&A



Schoolcraft
College

Enjoy free coffee and donuts and get answers to your questions about the benefits, services and resources available to military veterans, including:

- ★ Medical benefits
- ★ Employment benefits
- ★ Special benefits for disabled veterans
- ★ State and local benefits available for veterans
- ★ Educational benefits

Four consecutive Mondays:

November 18 & 25 ★★ December 2 & 9

8:30-10:30 a.m.

**Schoolcraft College Livonia Campus
18600 Haggerty Road between Six and Seven Mile Roads
McDowell Center Room 205, Veterans Services/Career Services Suite**

Q&A WITH:

Department Service Officer Toni Moses,
Disabled American Veterans (DAV)
DAV is a veterans' advocacy and assistance group. DSO Moses will answer questions about a wide range of benefits, services and resources available to veterans. Learn more at www.dav.org

Veterans Services Coordinator Pam Paxton-Keekner,
Schoolcraft College

Ms. Paxton-Keekner will answer questions about how veterans can use their educational benefits to pursue a college education. Learn more at www.schoolcraft.edu/veterans or 734-462-4400, x5346.

*This event is free and open to all veterans
and those who care for and support them.*



Get More Holiday Decorations!

Sale prices valid now through Wednesday, November 27, 2013.

For inside...

Lifelike Silk Florals

Assorted varieties available. Make a perfect holiday centerpiece.

\$1

Each



Cinnamon Scented Pine Cones

250

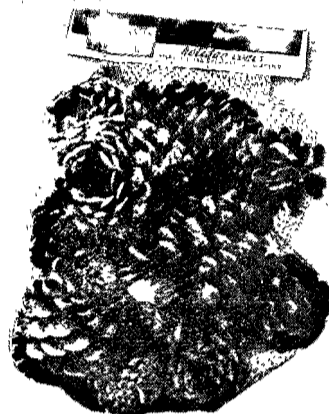
Reg. \$4.99

Fill your home with the aroma of the holidays.

6" Live Poinsettia

Available in assorted colors.

699

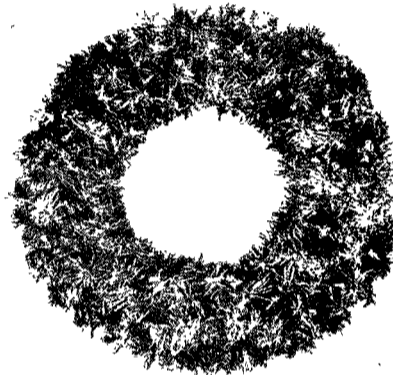


...and outside the home.

5' 2-D Wire Forms Christmas Tree or Snowman

They hang or stand-up.

2499



24" Lighted Wreath

- 140 branch tips
- Clear lights

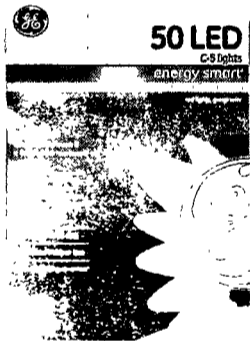
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Reg. \$14.99

All-Lifelike Christmas Trees

30% OFF

Our Everyday Low Prices



GE 50 Ct. LED Energy Smart C5 Lights

Red, Blue or Green

1199

Reg. \$14.99

Discount prices courtesy of the following: Save energy. Save money. We will.

3 HUGE SALES COMING THIS WEEK!

Week Long Sale, Nov. 25 - Dec. 1

Wacky Wednesday Sale, Nov. 27, 4pm- 9pm

Black-Friday Weekend Sale Nov. 29 - Dec. 1

Dear ACO Guests,

With over 900 employees, ACO believes that Thanksgiving is for football, parades and great food enjoyed with loved ones.

We will keep our normal hours this week and CLOSE Thanksgiving Day so you, and our store associates, can celebrate this holiday.

We'll reopen at 9 am Friday, so you can enjoy all of our great values this weekend.

Happy Thanksgiving to all from ACO Home, Garden & Hardware!

Quantities limited on seasonal items. Store selection may vary. No rain checks.

Coupon Good At Any ACO Home, Garden & Hardware!

\$5 Your Next Purchase of **\$25** Or More

Cashier: Use Tender Code #86
Valid: 11/24 to 11/27/13

Limit 1 coupon per customer, per purchase Cannot be applied to prior purchase.

Coupon Good At Any ACO Home, Garden & Hardware!

Extra **20% off** Any One Outdoor Xmas Decor Item (Excludes 2D Decor)

Cashier: Use Reason Code #59
Valid: 11/24 to 11/27/13

Limit 1 coupon per customer, per purchase Cannot be applied to prior purchase.

Rediscover...

ACO Home, Garden & HARDWARE

Get More For Life!

For store locations visit us online: acohardware.com



BLACK FRIDAY

SALES EVENT

Lease a 2014 Ford Focus SE FWD for
\$159 For 24 months for current
 PER MONTH A/Z plan lessees¹
 \$869 Cash Due at Signing

EPA-estimated rating of
26 city / 36 highway MPG²

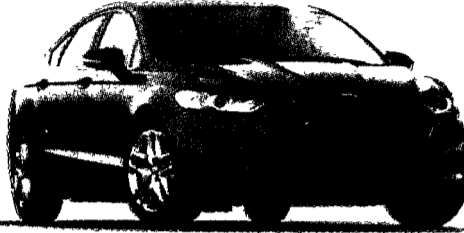


**PLUS
 RECEIVE A SYNC
 AND SOUND PACKAGE
 WITH LEATHER
 WORTH \$1,190 AT
 NO CHARGE!⁴**

- This Vehicle Features:**
- 2.0L Ti-VCT Direct-Injection Flex-Fuel I-4 Engine • Ambient Lighting
 - Leather-Wrapped Steering Wheel & Shifter
 - Leather-Trimmed Seats with Six-Way Power Driver's Seat
 - SiriusXM Satellite Radio with Six-Month Subscription
 - SelectShift[®] Six-Speed Automatic Transmission

Lease a 2014 Ford Fusion SE FWD for
\$199 For 24 months
 PER MONTH **FOR EVERYONE!⁵**
 \$2,538 Cash Due at Signing

EPA-estimated rating of
22 city / 34 highway MPG²



- This Vehicle Features:**
- 2.5L Duratec[®] I-4 engine
 - AdvanceTrac[®] with Electronic Stability Control
 - SYNC[®] with MyFord[®] Voice-Activated Communications and Entertainment System³
 - SecuriCode[™] Keyless-Entry Keypad
 - SiriusXM Satellite Radio
 - Upgraded Heated Exterior Mirrors with Signal Indicator and Puddle Lamps

Lease a 2014 Ford Escape SE FWD for
\$199 For 24 months for current
 PER MONTH A/Z plan lessees¹
 \$1,012 Cash Due at Signing

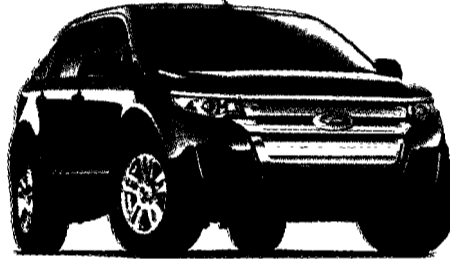
EPA-estimated rating of
23 city / 32 highway MPG²



- This Vehicle Features:**
- 1.6L GTDI EcoBoost[®] Engine
 - 6-Speed SelectShift[®] Automatic Transmission
 - SecuriCode[™] Keyless-Entry Keypad
 - SiriusXM Satellite Radio with 6-month Prepaid Subscription • SYNC[®] with MyFord[®] Voice-Activated Communications & Entertainment System³
 - SecuriLock[®] Passive Anti-Theft System

Lease a 2013 Ford Edge SE FWD for
\$209 For 24 months for current
 PER MONTH A/Z plan lessees¹
 \$1,329 Cash Due at Signing

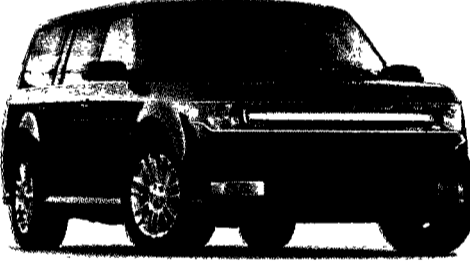
EPA-estimated rating of
19 city / 27 highway MPG²



- This Vehicle Features:**
- 3.5L Ti-VCT V-6 Engine
 - Reverse Sensing System
 - AdvanceTrac[®] with Roll Stability Control[™]
 - SecuriCode[™] Keyless Entry Keypad
 - SiriusXM Satellite Radio
 - Voice-Activated SYNC[®]

Lease a 2013 Ford FLEX SEL FWD for
\$249 For 24 months for current
 PER MONTH A/Z plan lessees¹
 \$1,139 Cash Due at Signing

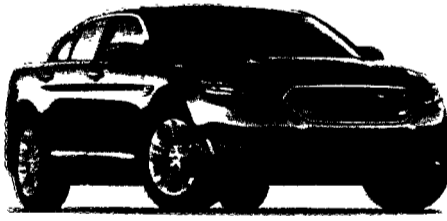
EPA-estimated rating of
18 city / 25 highway MPG²



- This Vehicle Features:**
- 3.5L Ti-VCT V6 Engine
 - 6-Speed SelectShift[®] Automatic Transmission with Shifter Button Activation
 - AdvanceTrac[®] with Roll Stability Control[™]
 - SiriusXM Satellite Radio
 - Power Liftgate • Rear View Camera
 - SYNC[®] with MyFord Touch[®]

Lease a 2014 Ford Taurus SEL FWD for
\$259 For 24 months for current
 PER MONTH A/Z plan lessees¹
 \$1,004 Cash Due at Signing

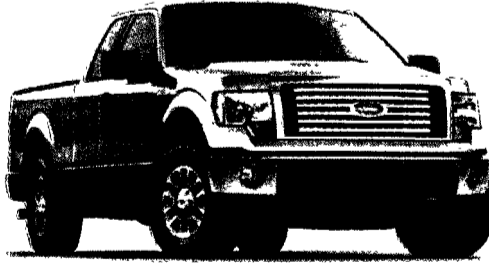
EPA-estimated rating of
19 city / 29 highway MPG²



- This Vehicle Features:**
- 3.5L 24-valve DOHC Ti-VCT V6 Engine
 - SYNC[®] with MyFord Touch[®]
 - AdvanceTrac[®] Electronic Stability Control (ESC)
 - Reverse Sensing System • Rear view camera
 - SecuriCode[™] Invisible Keyless Entry Keypad
 - SecuriLock[®] Passive Anti-Theft System (PATS)

Lease a 2013 Ford F-150 XLT 4x4
\$279 For 24 months for current
 PER MONTH A/Z plan lessees¹
 \$919 Cash Due at Signing

EPA-estimated rating of
14 city / 19 highway MPG²



- This Vehicle Features:**
- 5.0L V8 Ti-VCT V-8 Engine
 - 6-speed SelectShift[®] Automatic Transmission
 - AdvanceTrac[®] with Roll Stability Control[™]
 - Reverse Sensing System
 - Trailer Hitch and 7-Pin Wiring Harness
 - SiriusXM Satellite Radio
 - Sync[®] with MyFord[®]

**OR IF YOU WANT TO BUY A SELECT NEW FORD VEHICLE,
 RECEIVE A FORD BLACK FRIDAY AWARD PRE-PAID MASTERCARD[®]
 WORTH UP TO \$1,000⁶ ONLY AT YOUR SOUTHEAST
 MICHIGAN FORD DEALERS NOW THROUGH DECEMBER 2ND!**



Southeast Michigan Ford Dealers



(1) Not all customers qualify for Ford Credit Red Carpet low-mileage lease. Some payments higher; some lower. Residency restrictions apply. Payment includes \$500 Renewal Bonus Cash for RCL/RCO customers who currently lease a Ford product and lease again through Ford Credit. Take new retail delivery from dealer stock by 12/2/13 on the Focus, Edge, Taurus, Explorer, F-150 and Flex and 1/2/14 on the Escape. See dealer for details. (2) EPA-estimate based on 2014 Focus SE FWD 2.0L Ti-VCT direct-injection I-4 engine 26 city/36 hwy/30 combined MPG; 2014 Fusion SE FWD 2.5L Duratec I-4 engine 22 city/34 highway/26 combined MPG; 2014 Escape SE FWD 1.6L EcoBoost[®] I-4 engine EPA estimated rating of 23 city/32 hwy/26 combined MPG; 2013 Edge SE FWD 3.5L Ti-VCT V6 engine 19 city/27 hwy/22 combined MPG; 2013 Flex SEL FWD 3.5L Ti-VCT V6 engine EPA estimated rating of 18 city/25 highway/20 combined MPG; 2014 Taurus SEL FWD 3.5L Ti-VCT V6 engine 19 city/29 hwy/23 combined MPG and 2013 F-150 XLT 5.0L Ti-VCT V8 FFV engine EPA estimated rating of 14 city/19 hwy/16 combined MPG. Actual mileages will vary. (3) Driving while distracted can result in loss of vehicle control. Only use mobile phones and other devices, even with voice commands, when it is safe to do so. (4) Sound and Sync Package with leather seating valued at \$1,190 on package 201A. Sound & Sync discount excludes "S" model. See dealer for details. (5) Not all lessees will qualify for Ford Credit Red Carpet low-mileage lease. Must lease through Ford Credit. Some payments higher; some lower. Residency restrictions apply. Take new retail delivery from dealer stock by 1/2/14. See dealer for details. (6) Customer can elect to apply award amount to transaction or receive cash in lieu of the Ford Black Friday Award prepaid MasterCard[®]. \$500 on '13 Escape, '14 Fusion Energi and Hybrid, '14 F-150 Regular Cab and '14 Transit Connect. Not available on '13 Fiesta S, '13/'14 Focus Electric, C-MAX Energi and '14 C-MAX Hybrid. The Ford Black Friday Award Prepaid MasterCard[®] card is issued by Comerica Bank pursuant to a license by MasterCard[®] International Incorporated. MasterCard[®] is a registered trademark of MasterCard[®] International Incorporated. Card will be mailed after purchase of the vehicle and can be used to make purchases through June 30, 2014. There is no cash or ATM access with this card. Award amount will vary based on vehicle selected. Take new retail delivery from dealer stock by 12/2/13. See dealer for complete details.



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JOBS

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A GANNETT COMPANY

Important keys to researching your next employer



How to play detective

The "tools" Rulis is referring to are all the different ways a job seeker can find information. Abby M. Locke, master resume writer and personal brand strategist for Premier Writing Solutions in Seattle, offers these suggestions:

- Review the company's website.
- Read press releases.
- Pay attention to industry publications.
- Use Google alerts to stay on top of current company news.
- Do an informational interview with past or current employees.
- Talk to a representative at a career fair or trade show.
- Follow key decision-makers on Twitter.
- Use LinkedIn groups and other online social media tools.

Online directories such as Bloomberg and Standard & Poor's also give information on many businesses. For additional help in finding appropriate databases, job seekers may want to consult their local library or the college career center of their alma mater.

Show what you know

Finally, while you don't need to be a walking fact book, be ready to incorporate your knowledge of the company into correspondence and conversation when opportunities arise.

"I ask job candidates questions like what they know about the company beyond what's on the website, how they feel they fit in with our overall values and corporate culture, or what they found out about the company in their research that they didn't know before," Rulis says. "This is a great opportunity to show off your preparation -- talk about our competitors or the fact that you read that we're entering an entirely new business segment."

Beth Braccio Hering
CareerBuilder Writer

"I know when a candidate doesn't know the current news about our company," says Chris Brabec, director of leadership talent acquisition for Western Union. "If you don't know the CEO is retiring, or if a company made a big acquisition recently, that's not a good sign. If a candidate can't tell me what the company does (or thinks Western Union still does telegrams), that's another sign she hasn't done her homework."

In a job market where applicants frequently cast a wide net with the hope that anybody will respond, job seekers sometimes cut corners by not thoroughly checking out potential employers. But failure to know about the place you claim you want

to work at can make you seem unprepared and disinterested and cost you a job offer.

Here, experts weigh in on things you should learn before seeking employment and how to find that information.

What to know

"Companies have told us that one of the things they use to weed out candidates is that the student didn't know anything about the company," says John M. Thompson, executive director of career services at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, Texas.

Among the things Thompson encourages his students to find out are:

- What does the company do?
- What are its products?
- What is the company's mission?

- Where are its offices?
- How big is the company in terms of employees/revenue?
- How is it positioned in its industry?

"Everyone, but particularly for more senior-level roles, should know our stock price," says Yolanda Bush, director of human resources for Western Union. "Research the company's leadership team and the company's efforts around corporate social responsibility. This will help candidates position themselves to discuss how their skills and experience will help us succeed in the marketplace."

Julie Rulis, a senior recruiter for Western Union's talent acquisition team, agrees with her colleague's advice and adds, "If you are doing an interview

at a company, find out if it's in the Fortune 500 and where it is on that list. Even better: Find out where it was a year ago, and if it's different, maybe ask why. It shows you've done your homework. A job candidate should know our products and services beyond just the basics. With all the tools available nowadays, there's no excuse not to know."

Get to know your potential employers, and chances are they will want to get to know you.

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ALARM TECH
Established Company in Plymouth. Experience needed. Benefits and company vehicle. Fax resume to 248-735-1654. Email: consesys@yahoo.com

Help Wanted - General

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Mercedes Benz of Novi is looking for a SERVICE PORTER/CAR WASHER. Must have good driving record. Full & Part-Time. Apply within to: Service Dept. 39500 Grand River, Corner of Grand River & Haggerty, or email: tony@novibenz.com, No calls

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Help Wanted - General

Corporate Manufacturing Engineering Manager
Piston Automotive, LLC has an opening for the Corporate Manufacturing Engineering Manager at its facility in Redford, Michigan. This position is responsible for:
• Managing corporate Manufacturing and Packaging Engineers; including project planning, staffing requirements and project delivery commitments (technical, quality, cost and timing).
• Establishing and managing annual Capital Expenditure Budget
• Providing IE and ME expertise and performing all engineering functions as needed;
• Establishing all project specifications, subcontract requirements, facility requirements, capital equipment and tooling needs;
• Reviewing and approving process documentation through SOP (Process Flow, Cycle Time Analysis, PFMEA and Work Instructions).
• Evaluating new equipment suppliers, products, and technologies to maintain a competitive advantage.
• Driving standardization and lean concepts (OEE, 5S, Visual Factory, TPM);
• Supporting current production issue resolution at all plant locations as needed.

POSITION REQUIRES:
Bachelor's Degree in Industrial Engineering, Manufacturing Engineering or Mechanical Engineering, or foreign equivalent education, and a total of 5 years of post baccalaureate progressive experience in the automotive manufacturing and industrial engineering fields combined. Experience must include:
1. Automotive module assembly built to sequence
2. Designing assembly systems to support SPD and JIT delivery environments
3. Completing broadcast analysis and planning through customer installation
4. Process design, work cell layout, ergonomic workstation design, line balancing, and complete plant floor layout development and planning
5. Suspension, chassis, powertrain and interior automotive assembly
6. Manual and automated assembly systems and technologies, including both mechanical and controls systems
7. Programming Atlas Copco or Stanley torque control systems
8. Developing and maintaining PFLOW, PFMEA and control plans
9. AUTOCAD and plant layout design using PFEPP, using blocks, layers and xrefs
10. Managing entire programs as a stand-alone engineer.

Applicants should send their resumes to: Piston Automotive, LLC, 12723 Telegraph Road, Redford, MI 48239
ATTN: Angela Harvey.
resume@pistongroup.com

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EARN \$900-\$1200/WK
Major Benefits Available
Class A CDL & 6 Mo Exp. Req.
No Canada, HAZMAT or NYC!
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Part-Time Delivery Driver Must be flexible. Able to work weekends & holidays as needed. Must have great customer skills & clean driving record. Perfect for the one who just wants to keep busy a few hours a week!
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DRIVER - WRECKER
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FORM TOOL SURFACE GRINDER
10+ yrs exp.
2 positions, high speed & carbide capabilities preferred. Tolerance +/- .0001. Immediate start. Family owned, stable, Garden City company.
Call 734-261-1640

Help Wanted - General

HVAC SERVICE TECHNICIAN
To serve Oakland & Wayne counties. Min. 5 yrs exp. Knowledge of boilers preferred. Good pay for good people. Full time w/benefits. Resume: jhariman@harimanheating.com

Help Wanted - General

METRO DETROIT AREA GOURMET MARKET
Accepting applications for:
• Deli Manager
Experience required in large volume deli including ordering, scheduling, budgets, and merchandising. Send resume, salary history to: livoniamarket@yahoo.com

Help Wanted - General

METRO DETROIT AREA GOURMET MARKET
Accepting applications for:
• Executive Chef
Catering and production experience, preferably in a gourmet market setting. Send resume, salary history to: livoniamarket@yahoo.com

Help Wanted - General

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Westland co, min 3 yrs. exp, clean driving record, chauffeur's license. 734-891-8984

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Teacher PRESCHOOL TEACHERS / ASSISTANTS
Year-round, private Montessori Preschool & Elementary school in Farmington Hills seeking teachers and assistants to start immediately. Exp. preferred. Email resume & cover letter to: administrator@montessoricenterth.com

Help Wanted - General

COOK: Full time. Afternoons, nights, weekends. Exp with Italian food and banquet preferred. Apply 1-4pm Corsis Italian Restaurant & Banquet Center 27810 Seven Mile Rd, Livonia

Help Wanted - General

PLUMBER - JOURNEY
FT, \$40-\$50K Residential & commercial. Must be licensed. plumbcomm@gmail.com

Help Wanted - General

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hiring for Snow Removal. Must have reliable transportation. 734-316-2611

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Education & Instruction

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'The Pie Lady's' skills benefit Thanksgiving Day church dinner

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Rose Gibbs has earned her nickname over decades of rolling, crimping, slicing and filling.

She is known as "The Pie Lady" to her neighbors in Plymouth and her fellow congregants at Newburg United Methodist Church in Livonia.

Gibbs, 90, has baked countless pies for church bake sales and events, including Newburg's annual community Thanksgiving Day Dinner. Last week, she supervised production of 50 crusts for pre-ordered pumpkin pies that will be baked Tuesday, Nov. 26 and sold the next day to help fund Thursday's church dinner.

The dinner is free and open to the public. Seating times are 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. Reserve a spot by calling the church at 734-422-0149. The church is located at 36500 Ann Arbor Trail.

Gibbs attended the church's Thanksgiving Day dinner two years ago. She also made pies for the gathering.

"It is a delicious dinner. They have everything," Gibbs said. "I made all of the shells last year. Then all the other ladies, we met at the church and put them together, we made pies together. We served them at Thanksgiving."

"Now what we're going to do this year is sell the pies to pay for the food for the dinner."

Young cook

The fourth oldest of 12 children, Gibbs got to know her way around the kitchen as a youngster. The family lived on a farm in Missouri and produced its own vegetables and butchered its own hogs. Gibbs recalled that as a teen, she and an older sister canned more than 1,000 quarts of produce one summer.

"On our birthdays, we'd have cake. But we had more pies, because pies seemed to go farther with that many children," she said. "We didn't have bread. She (her mother) made biscuits all the time."

Her father smoked hams and once sent one through the mail to her after she had married and moved to Washington, D.C.

"The mailman had a fit over it because it smelled so good," she said. "The hams were my father's pride and joy ... they were so good."

Gibbs and her first husband raised three children in Livonia. After he died, she married her second husband, who also had three children. They combined their families, initially living in Highland and, later, Plymouth. She remained in Plymouth after his death and continued to attend Newburg United Methodist in



Rose Gibbs, "The Pie Lady," presents her latest masterpiece, an apple pie. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



A light egg wash tops off a mincemeat pie before it goes into the freezer, for baking at a later date. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Livonia, where her pies are in demand.

"They always seek out my pies when we have something at church. They always ask me to bring dessert, because I usually make pies. I enjoy making them," she said.

Recipe book

Gibbs said her pie crust evolved and improved after

she started adding egg and vinegar to the mix, but most of her recipes have remained unchanged over the years.

Her daughter, Julie Baumkel, of Bloomfield Hills, compiled many of her recipes into a 77-page binder-style book, *The Pie Lady's Favorite Desserts Cookbook*, which has been sold at church events throughout the year.



Dion Burke (left) and Mike Fillion carve turkeys at Newburg United Methodist Church's annual Thanksgiving Dinner. A pie sale this year will help fund the food. NEWBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"It's not all my recipes," Gibbs said. "I have many more pie recipes. (Baumkel) said, well, we can always make another book."

Volunteers make Redford dinner a Thanksgiving tradition

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

The participation guidelines for Our Lady of Loretto's 13th annual Thanksgiving dinner are simple.

"It's open to anyone who needs to be with community, with family," said Sister Margretta Wojcik, pastoral associate at the Redford church. "They know who they are. There are some folks whose families may not live in this state anymore. Or it may be someone who has lost their spouse. Also, there are those who are needy."

Last year, the church served approximately 250 Thanksgiving meals. Karen and Don McCuen, the parishioners who coordinate the annual gathering, are well into planning for this year's event. The turkeys have arrived and will be prepped and ready for the oven early Thursday, Nov. 28, Thanksgiving Day morning. Volunteers will begin peeling potatoes and making side dishes and relish trays by 9 a.m. When the doors open at 2 p.m., the greeters, servers and cleaning crew will be on the job.

"It's always good. Everyone loves it. It's really enjoyable and the people who volunteer come from all over," Karen McCuen said. "People really appreciate it. They tell you how good the food is and some of them have tears in their eyes. They say, 'I'd never be able to have anything like this if it wasn't for Our Lady of Loretto.' Nothing is processed or canned. They get a good meal."

The dinner is free, although donations are accepted. It will run 2-5 p.m. Thursday in the family center at the church, 17116 Olympia. Diners may drop in any time during those hours. Some carry-outs are available, but require an RSVP at 313-534-9000.

McCuen and her husband started the dinner in 2001 and have watched it grow each year.

"We get a lot of different people," she said. "Some are alone. Some are handicapped or walking with walkers and canes. Some can't cook for themselves. Some were supposed to be out of town and (their trip) was canceled. I had a family that had a death in their family. They dropped in and had Thanksgiving dinner and then went about their business."

"It's different for everyone," she added. "Everyone has their own reason."

Rare confluence of holidays sparks inspiration in the kitchen

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Latkes or mashed potatoes?

Brisket or turkey? Kugel or pumpkin pie?

The overlap of two holidays this year — the second night of Hanukkah coincides Thursday, Nov. 28, with Thanksgiving — may have some Jewish cooks pondering which cuisine they'll serve.

Melissa Ser, director of congregational learning for Adat Shalom Synagogue in Farmington Hills, sees some similarity, at least in the spirit of the two celebrations.

"The meaning of Hanukkah is more connected to Thanksgiving than when it occurs at the same time as Christmas," Ser said. "Hanukkah has more of a connection to the idea of Thanksgiving than Christmas."

The foods? Not so much.

But the challenge inspired Lorraine Plat-

man to combine Thanksgiving flavors with a Hanukkah favorite. The result: Sweet Lorraine's Fabulous Macaroni & Cheese Pumpkin Kugel.

"I just developed it," said Platman, chef and owner of Sweet Lorraine's Cafe & Bar in Livonia and Southfield and Sweet Lorraine's Fabulous Mac 'n' Cheese in Troy and Auburn Hills. "I made a big batch and said (to her mother) this is based on your wonderful noodle kugel."

"She phoned me up at 10 at night and said, 'Lorraine, this has to become a tradition.' She loved it."

Platman experimented with the recipe, baking it in both a lasagna dish and in individual muffin tins.

"Every year I nearly always experiment with types of latkes," she added. "My mother does one in a blender. Last year I did it as a waffle."

The waffle idea struck and this year she'll bring a rustic garlic-mashed



Sweet Lorraine's Fabulous Macaroni & Cheese Pumpkin Kugel

potato waffle, topped with smoked salmon, diced onion and capers, to Thanksgiving dinner.

"We have two wonderful holidays with food ... and I am a compete foodie," she said. "I dream food. And I'm waffle crazy. This is fun because you can mix the different holidays. Hanukkah is eight days, so you can add on leftovers from Thanksgiving and turn them into a Hanukkah meal. You could

make the stuffing into waffles.

"I love to experiment and, when you can mix Thanksgiving and Hanukkah, that experimenting can be rewarding."

Home cooks who feel uneasy about experimenting in the kitchen at the holidays, might be better off following their favorite recipes.

"Why add more stress to yourself?" Platman said.

SWEET LORRAINE'S FABULOUS MACARONI & CHEESE PUMPKIN KUGEL

Baked fresh pumpkin, ricotta cheese, eggs, milk, noodles, vanilla & fruit zest all baked and either served in individual muffin tins or lasagna pan...topped with fresh Michigan apples and cinnamon

8 ounces Cavatelli pasta cooked as per instructions and cooled and set aside

Custard:

4 egg
2 cups roasted pumpkin puree
8 ounces cream cheese, room temperature
1 cup ricotta cheese, room temperature
1 cup half-and-half cream
1 tablespoon pure vanilla extract
1 cup cane sugar
½ orange zest (approximately 2 teaspoons)

Preheat oven 325

Spray either one cup individual muffin pans (approximately 12) or lasagna dish with vegetable spray. Combine all of the above in a mixing bowl and beat until combined mix in pasta. Pour into prepared pan(s) making sure to divide pasta and custard evenly into pan.

Topping:

3-4 Michigan apples, cored and sliced
2 tablespoons melted unsalted butter
1-2 teaspoons ground cinnamon mixed with 1 cup cane sugar

Fan apples over pasta custard and drizzle butter over apples. Finish with sprinkling cinnamon sugar and blend over entire dish. Bake until set approximately 1 hour for lasagna pan or 30 minutes for smaller muffin size. Cool. You can serve either warm or chilled.



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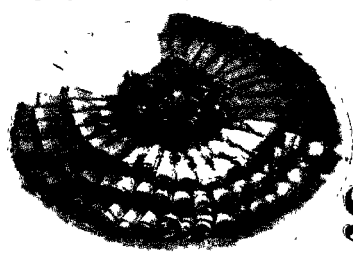
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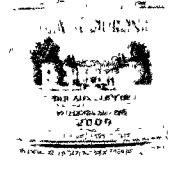
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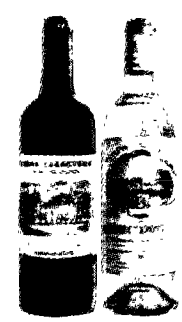
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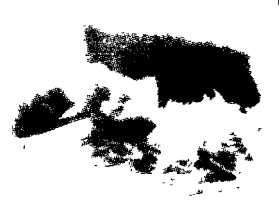
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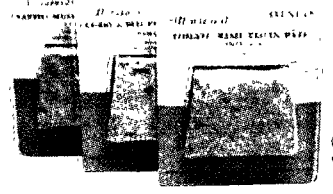


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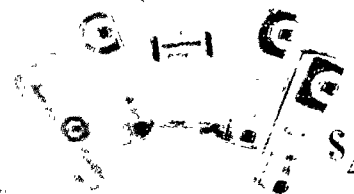
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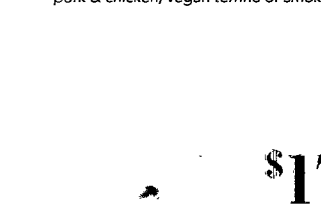
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Take a holiday decorating cue from local museums, curators

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Kim Marquette will decorate twice this holiday season.

Marquette, a volunteer at the Garden City Historical Museum, has been busy the past few weeks unboxing, unwrapping and carefully placing a private collection of Santa Claus figurines throughout the Straight Farmhouse.

"We have a beautiful collection," she said. "They are gorgeous Santas. They'll be in the main level of the home. There are well over 200 Santa Clauses. They run in different sizes, from a few small Santas to five-foot Santas."

Marquette, who curates many of the exhibits at the museum, plans to have the exhibit ready by Friday, Dec. 6, when Dan Dare, the former Garden City resident who loaned his collection to the museum, will speak to museum members at a wine and cheese reception. The exhibit will be open to the public from noon to 3 p.m. the following day and each Wednesday and Saturday through Dec. 28.

As soon Marquette puts finishing touches on the museum exhibit, she'll start her own decorating at home.

"I take after my mother," she said. "Every nook and cranny has something. My neighbor came over once and said, 'It looks like Christmas threw up in your house.' It's gorgeous, but everywhere you turn there is Christmas stuff."

Marquette will unpack some 56 boxes of decorations at home: "It's a whole variety. I collect nativity sets and I have over 200. I collect tree toppers. I have 22 tree toppers that go across the mantle."

Holiday decorating

Marquette is among museum curators and volunteers who are busy decking the halls at local historical buildings, as well as at their own homes.

Need some decorating inspiration? Take a walk through the Simmons/Hill House at Greenmead in Livonia. Linda Wiacek, Greenmead director, invited Quester groups to interpret this year's theme, "Christmas Dreams" throughout the first floor of the house.

"This house, because it's so big and was lived in by the Hill family up until the mid-1970s, went through a long period of private residency," Wiacek said. "This is a house museum that shows the evolution of the home dating back to 1841 to when it was sold to the city of Livonia in 1976. We have the flexibility to show a variety of peri-



One of several Christmas trees at Greenmead, this one is off the dining room in Simmons/Hill House. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

ods. You have a lot of leeway in decorating."

Book collection

Sheer white fabrics, lots of sparkles, angels and snowflakes create a setting for Christmas dreaming throughout the house. Homemade ornaments made from copies of 'Twas the Night Before Christmas book covers drape a tree in the house library. Gloria Hull, a Quester member, created the ornaments based on her 'Twas the Night Before Christmas book collection.

"I have around 70 books. I put them in the trees and some of them under the trees at home," Hull said. "I put up several Christmas trees."

While Hull exhibits her book collection only at the holidays, Elizabeth Kerstens, Plymouth Historical Museum director, leaves her Santa figurines out year-round in her kitchen at home.

"I have pencil Santas, the tall ones. I have about 40 or 50," Kerstens said.

At the museum, she brought back a favorite exhibit, "A Red Ryder Christmas Story," with a few updates this year. The exhibit is based on the

popular film *A Christmas Story*.

"We have a new mannequin with Ralphie's clothing on when he was doing a dream sequence and was duded up in a cowboy outfit," Kerstens said. "We've been able to recreate that. Another thing we've added is motion-activated sound."

The Garden City Museum at the Straight Farmhouse is located at 6221 Merriman. View the Santa collection from noon to 3 p.m. each Wednesday and Saturday through December. Groups may make arrangements by calling 734-838-0650.

The Plymouth Museum is at 155 S. Main. It's open 1-4 p.m. Wednesday and Friday through Sunday. The "A Red Ryder Christmas Story" exhibit runs through Jan. 19, 2014. Admission is \$5. 734-455-8940.

Greenmead's historic buildings, including the Simmons/Hill House, will be open for tours 1-4 p.m. Dec. 1, 8 and 15 at 20501 Newburgh. A visit with Santa is planned for 1-4 p.m. Dec. 8. Admission for the visit is \$3 for adults and \$2 for children. Free Christmas concerts will be held Dec. 1, 8 and 15 at the church in the village. 248-477-7375.



Sue Poster (from left), Gloria Hull and Betty Evenden decorate the windows of the Simmons/Hill House at Greenmead in Livonia. They belong to the Sauk Trail Questers. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



The decorating theme at Simons/Hill House this year is Christmas Dreams. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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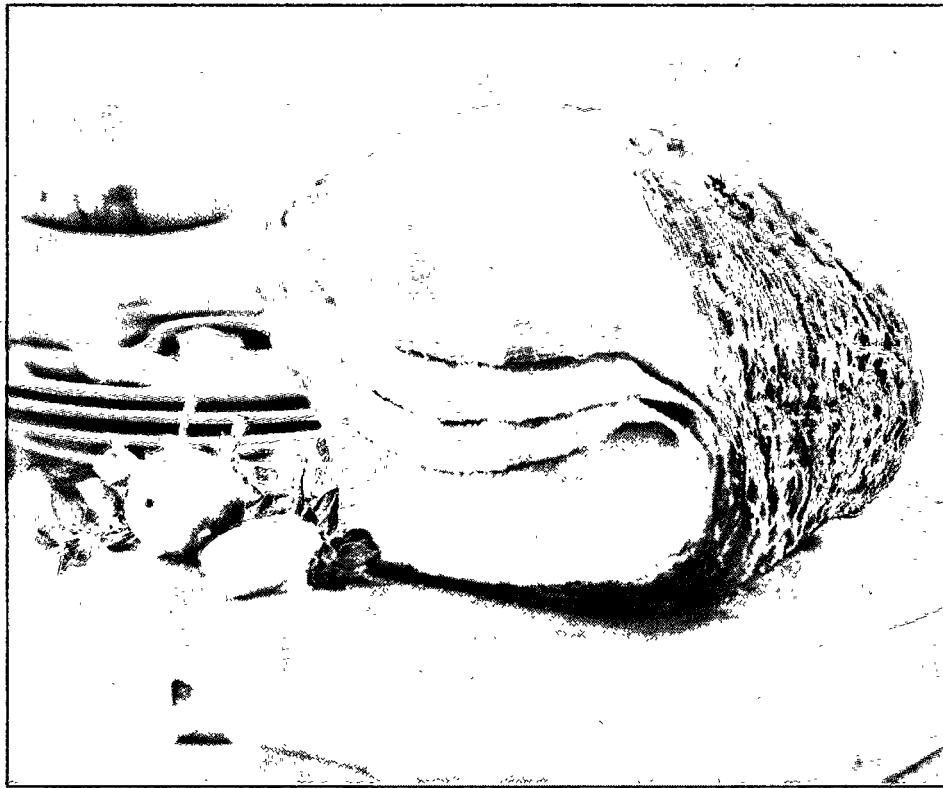
Holidays are a time filled with family, friends and — perhaps, most importantly — feasts. Traditional holiday menu items have the power to evoke warm memories of holidays past while continuing to bring people together year after year. For many, the center of that coveted holiday table would not be complete without a sweet and savory spiral-sliced ham.

But what kind of holiday spread would it be without a plethora of delicious side dishes to accompany and complement the meal? Whether you prefer ham with notes of honey, nuts or fruit, make sure your dinner table boasts a variety of options that enhance its delectable flavor. Look for recipes that incorporate both traditional and unexpected ingredients for a holiday menu makeover. Doing so will keep guests pleased with familiar favorites, yet pleasantly surprised with the new variations.

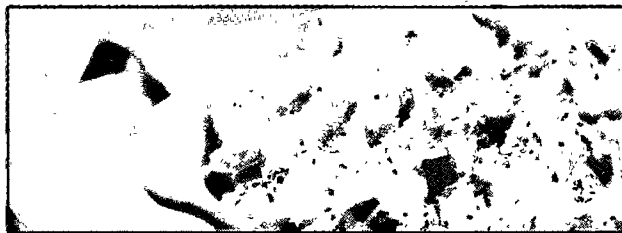
Savory side selections

If you're looking for a savory side that spotlights the distinct flavors of the season, butternut squash is an excellent choice. White Beans with Bacon and Butternut Squash is a perfect blend of savory, sweet and salty. Serve it alongside ham for a true taste of tradition. For more great recipes, visit www.smithfield.com.

A potato dish is also a must for many holiday spreads. Break away from mundane mashed potatoes and gravy with this recipe for Smashed Bacon Ranch Potatoes. Family and friends will line up for seconds when they get a taste of the ranch dressing and smoky bacon combination. Or try Green Bean Corn Casserole for another new twist on a classic



Holiday Spiral Sliced Ham with Honey Glaze



Smashed Bacon Ranch Potatoes

holiday favorite.

Ham leftovers

For many, the best part of the holiday meal awaits them in the fridge the next day. If you find yourself with a kitchen still stocked for a holiday feast, here are some easy ways to turn delicious ham into a flavorful meal with just a few extra ingredients:

» **Pizza:** Nothing pleases a child — or a parent for that matter — more than pizza. Simply place marinara sauce, cheese and cubed ham atop broiled French bread or English muffins for a crunchy post-holiday lunch.

» **Pasta salad:** Whip up a cool classic you can

nibble on all week long. Prepare your favorite whole-wheat noodles, then mix in cubed ham, your favorite cheeses, diced tomatoes, spinach and a generous pour of creamy Italian dressing. It's an easy meal in just minutes.

» **Sandwiches:** Take standard ham and cheese sandwiches to new levels with uneaten goodies from your cheese platter. Fill leftover artisan rolls from your holiday fare with sliced ham. Experiment with your favorite cheeses — Gouda, Gruyere or Roquefort — and place on the grill for a gooey, crunchy bite.

— Courtesy of Family Features

HOLIDAY SPIRAL SLICED HAM WITH HONEY GLAZE

Cook time: 10 to 12 minutes per pound
Yield: 14 servings

1 Smithfield Spiral Sliced Ham with Honey Glaze

Preheat oven to 325°F. Remove packaging; reserve liquid. Place ham cut-side down on large sheet of foil in roasting pan, pour reserved liquid over ham and wrap completely with foil. Warm ham in oven for 10 to 12 minutes per pound. Do not overheat. After removing from oven, let sit for 5 minutes before glazing. Heat glaze packet for 15 seconds in microwave. Glaze is hot, so be careful when opening packet. Holding packet with towel or oven mitt, cut corner off packet and pour glaze into bowl. Stir well and spoon over ham. Let glazed ham sit for 5 minutes before serving to allow glaze to melt over ham.

WHITE BEANS WITH BACON AND BUTTERNUT SQUASH

Cook time: 30 minutes
Yield: 4 servings

2 tablespoons olive oil
4 slices bacon, chopped
1 pound diced butternut squash
½ cup onion, chopped
1 teaspoon kosher salt
¼ teaspoon pepper
¼ teaspoon nutmeg
¼ teaspoon curry powder
½ cup chicken stock
2 cans cannellini beans, drained and rinsed
2 cups fresh spinach, stems removed and chopped

Heat olive oil in large skillet over medium heat. Add bacon to skillet and cook for 5 to 7 minutes or until crumbly; remove from skillet, drain on paper towels and reserve 2 tablespoons of drippings in skillet. Add butternut squash, onion, salt, pepper, nutmeg and curry powder to the skillet; saute for 5 minutes; add chicken broth to the skillet, reduce heat to medium low, cover and cook for 5 additional minutes or until butternut squash is tender. Add beans and spinach to the skillet and cook for 3 minutes or until all vegetables are heated through. Sprinkle with reserved bacon.

GREEN BEAN CORN CASSEROLE

Cook time: 50 minutes
Yield: 8 servings

1 bag frozen French-style green beans
1 cup celery, chopped
½ cup sour cream
1 can cream of celery soup
1 can corn, drained
1 green pepper, chopped
½ cup cheddar cheese, grated (or more)
1 sleeve butter crackers, finely crushed
3 tablespoons melted butter

Preheat oven to 350°F. In large mixing bowl, combine first 7 ingredients and place in prepared 13-inch by 9-inch casserole dish. Combine crushed butter crackers and melted butter and spread over top of casserole. Bake for 45 minutes or until hot and bubbly. Note: Add 1 cup diced ham and 1 cup shredded cooked chicken to this recipe to make it a main dish.

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Avoid holiday stress by getting organized

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

What's the best gift you can give yourself this holiday season?

Less stress through better organizational skills.

"I think it's a series of everything (at the holidays) that stresses people out. You've got family stress and financial stress, balancing time constraints with commitments and food stress," said Debi Weinstein, founder of I've Gotta Get Organized in Farmington Hills. "It adds up."

Making even a few changes — keeping track of year-to-year gift-giving, purging old decorations and learning to say no — can help keep your blood pressure down.

"I find that women, we are so good at doing so much, but sometimes being so good at doing so much is a detriment, it's taking on too much," she

said. "You have to say no graciously."

Weinstein started her business 16 years ago, but has had a flair for organization since childhood. As a youngster, she labeled the feet of her dolls



Weinstein

with pertinent information about the who, when and why she received them. As an adult, she has kept a spreadsheet for all of her gift-giving and receiving. When her niece began collecting American Girl dolls, an annual updated list ensured no repeat dolls would be given as gifts.

"I'm not an accumulator or a saver," Weinstein said. "I keep what I need to keep. I have sentimental items I keep in an organized way. I'm not a shopper and I don't buy things I don't need."

Her company does everything from paying clients' bills and organizing paperwork to packing and unpacking boxes during a move. "If anything needs to be done, we do it," she said.

Here are a few of her tips to get you headed toward stress-free holidays:

Lists

Put items in an order that follows the layout of the grocery store you frequent. Shopping at a grocery store you know well saves time since you know where to locate everything.

"For the holidays, I gather all of my recipes and put the ingredients needed on a spreadsheet organized by the headings: produce, pasta/rice, condiments, baking, cereals/snacking, beverages, frozen, deli, dairy. Under these headings I type in each item I need to purchase, print out the list

and take it with me to the store."

Decorating

Don't try to be the perfect decorator — the holidays are about spending time with family and friends. Purge while sorting through holiday decorations. Toss or donate any item you haven't used in a few years. If a piece has sentimental value, consider passing it along to your children.

Gifts

Don't hang onto something because it was a gift. If you have no use for it, sell it, re-gift it or donate it. "Keep spreadsheets listing names of family and friends and the gifts you have given and received. It will be beneficial to save this from year to year on your computer so you can refer back to it when the next holiday season rolls around."

Budget your time

Start gift and grocery shopping early so you can enjoy your time with friends and family. If you are entertaining, create a calendar leading up to the event and work your way backwards budgeting your time and tasks.

Be pleasant

Don't let your good sense go out the window during the holidays. Stick to your good habits and eliminate bad ones. Don't overeat and don't sweat the small stuff. Smile and be a good guest and host. Be prepared for travel delays. If you organize ahead of time, you can plan some down time for relaxing, putting your feet up and enjoying the holidays with a smile.

For more tips on how to get organized for the new year, visit www.ivegottagetorganized.com.

Frugal holiday gift-wrapping alternatives

Holiday shoppers spend billions of dollars each year on gifts for friends, family and co-workers. But holiday shoppers also spend substantial amounts of money dressing up those gifts with bows and wrapping paper. Shoppers may not want to spend much more on wrapping paper, bags and other ways to dress up their gifts and by employing a few tricks of the gift-wrapping trade, they may not have to. The following are some frugal, yet flashy, ways to wrap presents this holiday season.

» **Children's artwork:** Over the course of a school year, parents can accumulate dozens of original pieces of art

from their children's time in the classroom. Instead of relegating those pictures to a memory box or temporary glory on the refrigerator, turn them into unique gift wrap. Pair these pieces of art with colored ribbon and everyone who gets a unique masterpiece will feel special.

» **Newspaper:** Recycle newsprint and comics into wrapping paper. Encourage everyone to wrap in newspaper for a cohesive look come Christmas morning.

» **Cloth:** Leftover cloth from Halloween or cloth purchased to create homemade curtains can be turned into gift wrap for awkward-shaped gifts. Use decorative



Baskets can be an inexpensive alternative to wrapping paper.

ribbon to seal the bundle shut.

» **Brown paper:** Brown paper tied with twine or ribbon is inexpensive and can easily be recycled after use. Use a marker to put the names of gift recipients on each package to save on gift tags as well.

» **Glass jars:** Use mason jars when wrapping smaller gifts, including gift cards, to give them an arts-and-crafts feel.

» **Fabric gift bags:** If you're handy with a needle and thread, sew sacks out of leftover fabric to make gift bags of various sizes.

» **Cookie tins:** Find unique cookie tins from yard sales or leftover tins from holidays past and use them as gift boxes.

» **Recipes:** If you plan to give a cookbook or food-themed gifts, print recipes that can be used as gift wrap.

» **Baby linens:** From

blankets to wash cloths, use baby linens to wrap infant-themed gifts for new parents.

» **Baskets:** Wicker baskets are available in various shapes and sizes. They can be used to make a gift collection and then reused over and over again.

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Family gatherings spark talk about elder care

Holidays are a time for families to gather together for celebrating, reminiscing and sharing the joys of the season. It's also a time when out-of-town family members may suddenly be confronted with the declining health of a loved one.

Those taking care of aging family members are often unable to fully convey to those living far away the true needs of an elderly parent. So family gatherings are a good time to start the conversation about handling long-term health care needs.

The first step should be gathering together all involved family members, including the person needing care. It's important to take the time, while you have it, to develop a strategy for how things should be handled when a loved one eventually needs care.

Create a checklist of topics to discuss by visiting www.longtermcare.gov. Click on the "LTC Pathfinder" link, answer simple questions and this valuable tool will generate a list of topics to consider when planning for care. It is also a great resource for finding national and local resources.

Where can you receive care?

Most people prefer to stay in their home or apartment for as long as possible. If this is your plan, it is important to step back and consider if modifications would allow you to remain at home longer. The goal of home modifications is to maximize your ability to safely care for yourself. Examples of home modifications include roll-in showers, stair lifts and grab bars. These kinds of modifications can be done well before they are needed and may help to avoid or delay the need for long-term care by



Family gatherings are a perfect time to talk about housing and health care options for aging loved ones. GETTY IMAGES

helping to avoid a fall. For things you can no longer do for yourself, there are a number of other needed services available in most communities.

Should care outside the home become necessary, several types of housing come with support services for people who cannot fully take care of themselves because of aging and/or disability. Public housing is available for low- to moderate-income elderly and persons with disabilities. Assisted living or "board and care" homes are group living settings that offer housing in addition to assistance with daily living activities and other services, such as meals. Generally, they do not provide medical care. Continuing care retire-

ment communities provide a range of housing options, including independent living units, assisted living and nursing homes, all on the same campus. Nursing facilities, or nursing homes, are the most service-intensive housing option, providing skilled nursing services and therapies as needed.

Who pays for care?

Long-term care is more expensive than most people realize. Many people believe wrongly the Medicare, Medicaid, medical insurance or disability insurance they currently have will pay for all or much of their long-term care. In general, health insurance covers only very limited and specific types of long-term care. Disability policies don't cover

any at all. In fact, the cost of care is usually paid for out of personal savings and income.

For those who qualify, long-term care insurance is available to cover long-term services and supports. Medicare only covers medically necessary care and focuses on medical acute care, such as doctor visits, drugs and hospital stays. If very specific conditions are met, Medicare will help pay for all or a portion of a short stay in a skilled nursing facility, hospice care or home health care. Medicaid helps people with low income and assets pay for some or all of their health care bills. It covers medical care, long-term care services in nursing homes, and long-term care services provided at home.

For more information about additional Medicare, Medicaid and paying privately for long-term care, visit www.longtermcare.gov.

What resources are available?

The most common source of long-term care help is often unpaid family members. However, they may not always be available to provide the care a declining elderly loved one needs. Look for care-giving services in your area, including in-home care providers and elder day care centers. Find out about home-delivered meals and other services offered in your community.

It's also important to consult an attorney to make sure your loved one has appointed one or more individuals to make

health care and financial decisions for them. An attorney can also prepare an advance care directive, which is a set of written instructions detailing what medical care your loved one wishes to receive.

About 70 percent of people turning 65 can expect to need some kind of medical or personal care services for months or years as they age. Planning for the care that a loved one may need one day is an important gift family members can give each other during the holiday season. The conversations can be difficult but are an important step to gaining valuable time to research options, prepare for the future and make the best decisions possible.

— Courtesy of Family Features

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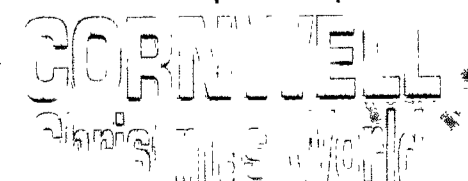
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