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WINTER CLASSIC:

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Detours ahead: 'Traffic artery' reconstruction looms



The ride home is about to get tougher for many commuters. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

COMMUTERS PREPARE FOR I-96 SHUTDOWN

By David Veselenak
Staff Writer

Plymouth Township resident Brian Doughty is no stranger to having a major freeway shut down and hinder his daily commute.

Doughty works in Southfield at a law office, and routinely takes I-96 to the Southfield Freeway to get to work. He had to do some creative commuting in 2011 when the Southfield Freeway was shut down for repairs through Detroit and Southfield, and he expects he'll do the same next year when I-96 is closed.

"It's obviously disappointing," he said. "You just find creative alternative routes. I can try to take I-275 to I-696. The traffic on there is the reason I take I-96."

For Doughty and thousands of others who use the freeway on a regular basis, an alternate route to work will be the norm for most of 2014 as the Michigan Department of Transportation shuts down and reconstructs seven miles of the freeway from Telegraph in Red-

ford to Newburgh in Livonia.

During that time, through traffic will be directed to several other freeways as a detour, which includes routes such as I-94, I-696, I-275, the Lodge Freeway and the Southfield Freeway. MDOT has also expanded the exit ramp to Six Mile from southbound I-275, adding an extra lane to accommodate the additional traffic expected to get off there.

While there has been some speculation as to when the freeway will shutdown, MDOT spokeswoman Diane Cross said no date has been pegged as the start date and the state continues to finalize the contract with the low-bidding company. It will not take place until after the North American International Auto Show wraps up in Detroit.

"We truly do not have a closure date," she said.

More surface road traffic

More traffic is expected on roads like Six Mile and Schoolcraft, which will be down to

See I-96, Page A3

Officials look for cause of fire at Garden City store

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

Garden City Fire Department got assistance from Inkster and Wayne-Westland in battling a fire at a retail store on Warren Road Monday morning.

Reports of smoking coming from the roof of the 5 Star Retail store were received at 8:34 a.m. from passers-by and residents of an adjacent neighborhood. Firefighters found the fire on the south side of the building, but had a difficult time entering because of excessive storage, according to Garden City Fire Chief Catherine Harman.

"We got into the building on the north and west sides and attempted on the east side, but that door was blocked," Harman said. "Nothing had indicated the blockage, and at each entry point the firefighter encountered a maze of stor-



A firefighter climbs a ladder to the roof to fight a fire at the 5 Star Retail in Garden City Monday morning. RICHARD STORY SFPI © 1990

age." The fire did get up into the roof of the building, and the firefighters had to chase it, according to Harman, who added that the wind contributed to its spreading.

"However, the firefighters, with the aid of the thermal imager, did a great job getting it out," she said.

She credited the Wayne-

See FIRE, Page A4



Cheryl Willett helps and inspires refugees at Freedom House in Detroit.

Freedom House inspires Farmington woman

By Aileen Wingblad
Staff Writer

They've endured unspeakable trauma and abuse, many brutally beaten or raped — or both.

They mourn the deaths of their murdered loved ones, and fear for the lives of those left behind. Their bodies are scarred, as are their souls. Yet their spirit and sense of hope remain strong.

They've come to Freedom House seeking political asylum, determined to build a life free from the unyielding fist of political persecution.

These are the people that inspire Cheryl Willette.

Since 2009, the 67-year-old Farmington resident has spent upward of 30 hours a week volunteering for Freedom House Detroit, a temporary home for refugees seeking legal asylum in the U.S. and Canada, as well as assisting victims of human trafficking.

"This is one of the best things that ever happened to me — I feel so fortunate work-

ing with these people. They are so courageous, in spite of the things that have happened to them," Willette said. "I think about what they've been through, and I can't imagine I could ever be that courageous."

People have suffered

The majority of Freedom House clients come from sub-Saharan Africa, she said, with a fair number from Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Syria and Central America.

"These people have suffered the worst possible things — torture, rape, just horrible things. Yet they have this incredible human spirit. Even totally separated from their families, they can laugh and sing, they learn English, they learn the ways of this country. There's the kind of spirit I wish I had," she said.

'The right thing'

Willette, a retired Garden City Public Schools adminis-

See FREEDOM, Page A2



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LO-00018940

Freedom House provides a refuge for asylum seekers

By Joanne Maliszewski
Staff Writer

The world famous poem engraved on the base of the Statue of Liberty that has long guided immigrants into New York Harbor is a guidepost for Deb Drennan.

"These are people who come here and are seeking asylum," said Drennan, executive director of Freedom House in Detroit.

Freedom House is in its 30th year of providing a temporary refuge and a host of services to people who have escaped torture, abuse, rape and other atrocities in their home countries. They are escaping political, religious, ethnic, racial or sexual intolerance and the accompanying threats and abuse at home.

In 2012, Freedom House also became a partner in the Northern Tier Anti-Trafficking Consortium servicing human trafficking victims.

"When an asylum seeker comes from another country, the U.S.



Deborah Drennan (left), executive director of Freedom House, with U.S. Attorney Barbara McQuade.

government is agreeing with them to seek asylum," Drennan said.

Refugees come from around the world — typically coming into Detroit by plane. A majority right now are coming from Sub-Saharan Africa, including the Congo, Cameroon, Togo, Uganda, Liberia, Ethiopia, the Central African Republic and Nigeria. Freedom House has also had refugees from Afghanistan, Honduras and Guatemala.

But Freedom House isn't just a place to escape. It is where refugees receive not only comfort and acknowl-

edgment, but help, including food and shelter, social and legal services, education and job training.

"We are the only organization in the nation that provides comprehensive services under one roof," Drennan said. Freedom House, with a staff of seven, exists through government funding, grants, fundraising and donations. The refugees represent a plethora of professions, including medical personnel, religious leaders, architects, teachers, engineers and artists. In addition to food and clothing, asylum seekers

receive medical and physical services. Women who were raped in their home country and are pregnant receive prenatal care, for example.

Paperwork

Freedom House also works with the asylum seekers to get their required paperwork in order and provide evidence of the need for permanent asylum. That includes medical affidavits of torture and persecution. An attorney, who offers her services free and who specializes in providing aid for tortured people, works with the asylum seekers to prepare their case for permanent asylum in the United States.

"They have to write up a story about what happened to them," Drennan said, adding that asylum seekers have a one-year window in which to complete the required evidence and paperwork to seek approval to stay in the U.S.

The asylum seeker has left his or her family back in their home country because they are the

ones who are under scrutiny and are being targeted, typically by the government or other factions, Drennan said.

"They cannot communicate back home because of their families and keeping them safe. By coming here they are saving the lives of the people they left behind. They flee because it is the safest thing for their family," Drennan said.

Freedom House, however, does not work in resettlement — bringing in the rest of the refugee's family. Freedom House and asylum seekers prepare all required paperwork and evidence for the U.S. Customs Enforcement and then the court system. There are nine regions under the federal organization. For Detroit, Chicago is the headquarters.

"We drive them to Chicago. Our lawyer accompanies them," Drennan said, adding that sometimes the court system denies a refugee permanent asylum.

Freedom House serves approximately 300 asylum seekers annually. Of that total, some

150-200 people will live in the Freedom House shelter. But the organization's legal office also helps those who are not staying in the shelter.

Holistic approach

Freedom House staff and volunteers also work to acclimate the refugees to the U.S. That means learning English and working on job skills. "We take a holistic approach. These are people who have been tortured."

Asylum seekers are traumatized and under great emotional stress. They are included in classes offered by Yoga by Design and receive massages for up to four weeks.

With a grant from the U.S. Housing and Urban Development, Freedom House also offers supportive housing once refugees leave the center. When the refugees begin working, they manage to give back financially to help others, Drennan said.

"The integrity of these people is amazing," she said. "They value and respect what they are getting."

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FREEDOM

Continued from Page A1

trator, said she had been searching for a place to donate her time and talents when she learned about Freedom House.

"I wanted to volunteer, but it had to be the right thing," she said. Freedom House grabbed her attention immediately, and once she found out more about it, she decided to volunteer "a couple hours a week."

"And that changed dramatically," she said, noting she puts in nearly as much time at Freedom House as one would working a full-time job. Some days she's coordinating clothing drives

and fundraisers, other times she's working on the Freedom House newsletter, helping clients with English or getting businesses involved. And once or twice a month, she brings Freedom House clients to her home for dinner.

"I serve American food — it's a fun thing," she said.

An amazing woman is how Willette is described by Deborah Drennan, Freedom House executive director. "What's she so good at is kindness. She looks for ways to enrich their sense of self. People trust her and look into her spirit."

Drennan credits Willette for helping bring in clothing, food and anything else that is needed

to help the refugees. It was Willette, for example, who managed to bring in \$40,000 of help from sponsors — they cleared \$35,000 — with a Freedom House annual report. "She really has just jumped into this organization."

Something special

Yet for all she does for Freedom House, Willette said it is she who continues to come away with something special.

"Now, I think I know kindness and gentleness," she said. "What I find is I want to be kinder and gentler in this world."

Willette said she can't bear to think what would become of the men, women and children who

come to Freedom House if it didn't exist — and encourages people to consider supporting it through donations, volunteering or otherwise getting involved.

"Freedom House is a very special place, an extraordinary place. I can't stress that enough," she said, adding that Americans tend to take their freedom for granted. "We talk a lot in this country about being Christian, living our faith. But we need to do it, to walk it — not just talk it. These people are our brothers and sisters, and it's our responsibility to help them."

More information on Freedom House is at www.freedomhouse-detroit.org.

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Church services to be held at Farmington Civic Theater

By Aileen Wingblad
Staff Writer

The Farmington Civic Theater will be a source of additional revenue for the city of Farmington beginning next month, with the lower level rented out each Sunday for religious services.

Scott Freeman, general manager of the city-owned theater, recently negotiated a one-year rental agreement with the Third New Hope Baptist

Church, from Jan. 5 to Dec. 28, 2014. The church will pay \$350 per week to use the theater from 8 a.m. to noon.

"It's a pretty significant rental for us," said City Manager Vince Pastue. "It will generate just under \$100 an hour."

City Attorney Tom Schultz is preparing a lease agreement, following the City Council approving the plan during last Monday's meeting.

While council member Greg Cowley didn't

attend the meeting, the proposal got a unanimous thumbs up from the rest of the council.

Pastue said the church's fee will cover utilities and the cost of staffing an employee to assist and make sure the theater is cleaned up following the services.

The city had a similar arrangement with another church in the past, which ended about three years ago, Pastue said. That lease included both levels of the theater for \$500 per week.

Staff members make zoo their home for the holidays

By Sandra Armbruster
Staff Writer

There typically isn't the rustling of wrapping paper for Ashley Richmond on Christmas morning.

But it is a busy morning for her nonetheless with things hopping all around her.

Richmond, mammal zookeeper and Livonia resident, was scheduled to spend a typical Wednesday, feeding and caring for the kangaroos and wallabies at the Detroit Zoo in Royal Oak.

A holiday celebration had to wait until her eight-hour shift, which started at 7 a.m., was over.

"My family waits. They've learned," she said. Richmond says she doesn't mind working on the holidays.

"You have to have a big passion to work (with animals)," she said. "It takes patience, physical energy and dedication."

Richmond and Betzie Meister, assistant curator of mammals and a Birmingham resident, strolled through the kangaroo exhibit on a mild day last Thursday. Unlike other exhibits placed behind fences and moats, this exhibit of marsupials from Australia puts visitors up front and close to the animals. In fact, there is nothing to separate them.

A path cleared of the recent snowstorm's effects leads visitors next to kangaroo tracks planted in the deep snow. The animals have been known to come right to visitors — just make sure you put your peanut butter sandwich away before entering the exhibit, warns zoo staff.

That day, a gray female kangaroo named Stirling who has a 9-month-old joey (off-



Ashley Richmond brushes snow off one of the signs placed along walkways offering information to visitors about the exhibits. SANDRA ARMBRUSTER

spring) sat in the doorway of its warm hut that is kept at 65 degrees. Nearby sat a 160-pound male named Irwin. Having a band of red on its neck was reflective of its overall reddish body. Both kept their eyes fixed on visitors.

The exhibit includes 19 kangaroos and four of the much smaller wallabies, Richmond said. There are two male and two female wallabies at the exhibit and seven male and 12 female kangaroos. One male is kept for breeding, Meister said, which is monitored and planned for species survival with the groups such as the American Zoological Association.

Meister said it doesn't matter whether it is a holiday or not, animals always need care every day. In fact, the only days that the zoo is closed are Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's.

Richmond said that Australia has some pretty cold nights, and that animals in the exhibit aren't bothered by the snow. But there is a building with heavy strips of plastic that allows them to freely move between indoors and out.

Richmond knows what she is talking about. Her interest in becoming a

zookeeper began when she was 6 years old, she said. It soon became a passion enhanced by her trip to Australia when she was 13 years old. She said she was "very drawn" to it and the animals, and that she would return "in a heartbeat."

She began working at the zoo about seven years ago, about the time that the zoo opened the kangaroo exhibit. She said she knew how popular such exhibits had been elsewhere, so it was a natural choice for her.

Christmas is "the same as any other day" at the zoo, Richmond said. That means maintaining the exhibit, cleaning up after the animals and providing what she said is enrichment.

"They have different things to play with," she said, depending on their personality. "Some are more cautious than others ... They tend to dig at (things), so I hide treats for them in hay beds."

Treats can include peanut butter, Craisins (sweetened, dried cranberries), fresh produce, romaine lettuce, apples and sweet potatoes.

What happens if it is freezing it and well below the 40-some degrees of last Thursday?

The answer was quick: "Wear a big coat."

I-96

Continued from Page A1

one lane at several stretches throughout the project.

Livonia resident Liam Neary drives the freeway several times a week to volunteer at the Redford Theatre in Detroit, as well as visit family in Redford.

He said he plans on using Six Mile frequently, but is open to using other roads as needed.

"I will have to use Six Mile east as my plan when the freeway closes in January," he said. "I guess anywhere east that we have to travel will be by Five Mile or Six Mile roads."

Westland resident Donna Seremak said it will be stressful during the closure, traveling alternate routes to her office at I-96 and Inkster.

"I will surely be losing my mind, ripping out my hair and definitely learning some new bad words," she said. "We will all be going through a lot more gas during this time."

"We will all be going through a lot more gas during this time."

DONNA SEREMAK
Westland resident

Majority wanted freeway shut

MDOT took a survey asking commuters and area residents their thoughts on how best to handle the reconstruction. More than 1,700 people responded, with 56 percent saying they favored shutting the freeway down for a year to complete the work, rather than leaving part of it open and having the work last two to three years.

Not only are commuters preparing for the shutdown, but so are businesses located along the corridor. The Henry Ford Medical Center Livonia, located at I-96 and Middlebelt, has begun crafting a map for their patients and staff members who need to get to the site.

With patients coming from all over the area, the map will be avail-

able to anyone coming to the center during the shutdown.

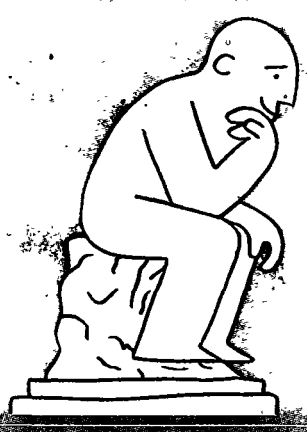
"We're going to be sending out a map to that particular facility. That map also will be made available at the medical center in hard copy format," said David Olejarz, a spokesman for the Henry Ford Medical Center. "If somebody were to call up and make an appointment, we'd be able to fax it to them or email it to them in a PDF."

He said the medical center is encouraging patients to plan extra time to get to Livonia during the construction.

Doughty said he is already looking at alternate routes to get to work in Southfield next year. While the shutdown is frustrating, he knows that once the road reopens, it will be a smoother drive for everyone using it.

"I understand they've clearly got a job to do. It's hard to take out a major traffic artery for an entire year," he said. "They only did it because it was fairly necessary."

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Storyteller Performance

Doug Berky combines masks, puppets, mime, drama and comedy for *Gems: The World's Wisdom Stories*. Lecture Hall, Saturday and Sunday, 2 & 4 p.m.

Now On View

Watch *Me Move: The Animation Show*, through January 5. On Saturdays, buy one adult ticket and receive one free youth ticket! Guest of Honor: *Caravaggio's Saint Francis of Assisi in Ecstasy*, through January 12.

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Wayne man faces six child porn counts

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

A Wayne man is facing six felony charges related to the trafficking of child pornography after illicit images were received on the phone of a Canton man via text message last week.

Joel Dumman, 44, was arraigned last week on three counts of possession of child sexually abusive material and three counts of using computers to commit a crime.

He faces a preliminary hearing Friday in 35th District Court before Judge Michael Gerou.

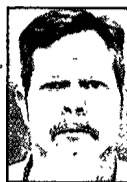
Dumman was arrested Dec. 15 after the Canton resident reported receiving a text message while he was shoveling snow.

The text message, he told Canton police, contained seven images determined to be child pornography.

Canton Detective Sgt. Chad Baugh said police obtained a warrant to search Dumman's home.

When they arrived, he said, the home was vacant. During the search, he said, police found evidence of illegal child pornography.

While canvassing the area, police tracked Dumman to another apartment building.



Dumman

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FARMINGTON HILLS

Larcenies from vehicles

Vehicles and items inside them, as well as tires and wheels, remained popular targets for theft in the past week.

GPS devices, credit and debit cards, computers, video games and sunglasses are among items stolen from vehicles on Glencast Court, Shrewsbury and Chateau Court Dec. 19-22.

Some vehicles also lost tires, wheels, catalytic converters and even the emblem on the front of the car. A 2013 Lincoln MKZ at Orchard Place Condominiums lost its four tires Dec. 20. At J&R Advanced Collision, 31120 Eight Mile, catalytic converters were stolen from some of the vehicles. At the Muirwood Apartments, four tires were removed from a vehicle Dec. 16.

Fire at Hitachi

Police assisted the Farmington Hills Fire Department early Dec. 21 on a fire at Hitachi Automotive, 34500 Grand River Ave.

When police and fire crews arrived, they found heavy smoke coming from the building. No one was in the building when a hydraulic line on a machine broke. There wasn't any damage reported to the building, according to police.

CANTON

Funny money

Police went to a Wendy's restaurant on Ford Road after an employee said a customer tried to buy food with a counterfeit \$20 bill around 5:30

CRIME WATCH

p.m. Dec. 16. The employee told the woman while she was in the drive-through lane that the bill was counterfeit, prompting her to drive off in what was described as a red, four-door vehicle.

FARMINGTON

Warrant arrest

A report of suspicious people in a backyard on Colchester Street on Dec. 9 resulted in the arrest of one of them, a 31-year-old Livonia man, on an outstanding warrant.

According to reports, public safety officers determined the pair was at the home working for a property conservation company and there was a warrant for the arrest of the Livonia man, for breach of peace. He was transported to the Farmington Public Safety Department, to await pick up by Dearborn Police.

Wallet swiped

A wallet was reported stolen from a shopping cart at the T.J. Maxx store Dec. 11. Police detectives requested store surveillance video to help with their investigation.

LIVONIA

Missing check

A resident living in the 16700 block of Harrison came Dec. 20 to the Livonia Police Department to report a check had been stolen from her mailbox.

The victim told police she put the check in her mailbox and raised the red flag to alert the postal carrier. Later in the day, she went out and found the mailbox open, with the envelope containing the check missing

and the red flag still up. She went to the bank to cancel the payment, believing someone had stolen the check out of the mailbox. No suspect information was available.

Stolen drinks

Livonia police were called to the Kroger, 30935 Five Mile, Dec. 20 on a report of retail fraud.

A store manager told police they saw a man with a child come into the store. He was seen later with a hand basket full of cases of Five Hour Energy. Police were called, although they could not locate the suspect or his vehicle.

The manager said another child was seen in the vehicle he drove away in.

Stolen decoration

A resident in the 10700 block of Wayne Road told Livonia police Dec. 22 a Christmas decoration on his lawn was taken overnight.

The resident said he lit up a snow globe lawn ornament on his property the night before and then turned it off before going to bed. He checked the next morning and found the snow globe missing. No suspect information was available.

GARDEN CITY

Fraud

A Garden City woman filed a complaint with police Dec. 18 after discovering someone opened credit card accounts in her name and used them to buy thousands of dollars in merchandise.

The woman said that on or around Nov. 29 someone opened a Target

account in her name in Minneapolis and charged \$1,000 worth of merchandise. She said that person also was able to access and use her already opened JC Penney card and charge \$1,000 at a store, also in Minnesota. Attempts to open lines of credit at Walmart and Cabella's were made, but were denied before anything could be charged.

The woman told police she has no idea how the person was able to obtain her information to get the accounts and that she is now doing extensive history to see if any other accounts were opened.

WAYNE

Stolen vehicles

A 2001 Jeep Cherokee was reported stolen from a home in the 5000 block of Mildred on Dec. 18. The owner said he parked in the driveway the night before and the vehicle was gone in the morning. He said the vehicle was paid off.

Vandalism

On Dec. 12, a resident in the 3000 block of Winifred reported his 2006 Chevy Trailblazer had been parked in front of his home overnight. The next morning, he said he found the front driver's side window shattered and the steering column and ignition damaged.

PLYMOUTH

Retail Fraud

Footprints in fresh snow helped lead police Dec. 16 to a LaPorte, Ind., man who allegedly fled security at the Kmart on Ann Arbor Road after a shoplifting incident.

The 22-year-old, found
See POLICE, Page A5

FIRE

Continued from Page A1

Westland and Inkster firefighters in helping get the fire under control.

"Thankfully, it was called in very early," she said. "If this fire had an opportunity to grow any more, it would have been even more dangerous for firefighters. We were able to get in and get it out. And no one was hurt."
The fire snarled

traffic on Warren Road which was shut down eastbound and westbound.

The westbound lanes were later re-opened, but there were problems with eastbound traffic trying to get around the fire and EMS vehicles that were blocking the through and turn lanes.

The cause of the fire has yet to be determined.

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Enjoy Great Family Entertainment The Village Theater at Cherry Hill Celebrating 10 Years!

December

- 12-15 Spotlight on Youth Studio Show - A Wonderful, Worldful of Christmas - 2pm, 7pm
- 19-22 Central City Dance Christmas Spectacular - Various Times
- 28 Aaron Radatz Holiday Magic Show - 7pm
- 31 Star Tributes from Las Vegas - Matt King as Elvis with Live Orchestra - 4pm, 7pm

January

- 11 TLC Productions - StageLab24: Several One-Act Plays (Studio) - 8pm
- 17 Detroit Symphony Orchestra - Mozart and Bach - 8pm
- 18 Partnership for the Arts - Simply Diamond - 2pm
- 20 Canton Celebrates Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. - 5:30pm
- 23-26 Forever After Productions - Shrek the Musical Various - Various Times
- 24-25 Spotlight Players - Murder Mystery Studio Dinner Theater - Death at Dinner - 6:30pm
- 31 Spotlight Players - I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change - 8pm

February

- 1-9 Spotlight Players - I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change - 2pm, 8pm
- 12 PCCS Showcase: Field Elementary Talent Show - 7pm
- 14 Star Tributes from Las Vegas Valentine's Day - 7pm
- 15 Michigan Philharmonic - Fabulous Fifties - 7:30pm
- 21-22 Spotlight Players - Murder Mystery Studio Dinner Theater - Death at Dinner - 6:30pm, 8pm
- 22 Estella Chambers Live!!! An Affair to Remember! - 8pm



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Wayne police officers, civilian honored at council meeting

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

Wayne police officers and a former reserve officer were honored for their crime fighting and lifesaving efforts at a recent City Council meeting.

"These are awards that should have been presented a few months ago with the Police Officer of the Year," said Wayne Police Chief Jason Wright. "I'm proud to show the caliber of officers we have."

Officers William Mangan and David Hamlet were recognized with meritorious service awards for their June 3, 2012, arrest of a fleeing armed robbery suspect.

Just before 11:30 p.m., Mangan was parked in the parking lot of the closed Brownie's Diner on Michigan Avenue monitoring traffic when he saw a man carrying a bag running northbound from the Tim Horton's restaurant.

Driving on patrol, Hamlet happened to be passing on the other side of Michigan Avenue parallel to Mangan and



Wayne Police Sgt. Finley (left), Officer William Mangan, Mayor Al Haidous, Sgt. Terrance Spring, Officer David Hamlet and Chief Jason Wright.

also saw the suspect. Wright said both officers concluded it was likely the fleeing man had robbed the coffee shop.

The officers pursued the suspect, who dropped his bag near the Parkview Terrace Apartments, toward the Rouge River where he was arrested. As the officers pursued the suspect, Wright said a call was dispatched that the Tim Horton's had been robbed at gunpoint.

"It's a great example of you never know what you'll find patrolling," said Wright.

» Hamlet, Mangan,

Sgts. Finley Carter and Terrance Springer received lifesaving awards for their response to a suicidal man, threatening to jump from the roof of the downtown parking structure on Oct. 7, 2012.

As Springer and Mangan talked to the man from ground level and got him to step back off the ledge, Carter and Hamlet were able to make their way to the roof to grab the man, who was safely taken from the roof and hospitalized.

"All four officers responded. They didn't have to come up with a plan - they knew what to



Wayne Police Chief Jason Wright (left), John Valchine Crime Prevention Award recipient Bernard Moner and Wayne Mayor Al Haidous.

do," said Wright. "The man was distraught. It's quite a large structure. If a person had survived (the fall) they wouldn't be right."

» Officer Robert Amore, who wasn't able to attend the council meeting, also received a lifesaving award for a Sept. 26, 2011, run. In that incident, Amore responded to a 3 a.m. call on William about an infant not breathing.

The baby also had no pulse, Wright said, so Amore began CPR.

"He was able to get the baby breathing but the baby was gasping. He

(Amore) did rescue breathing," Wright said.

To speed up medical treatment, Wright said Amore continued to perform rescue breathing on the baby as he carried the child to the EMS vehicle. At the request of firefighters, Amore continued the rescue breathing on the baby during the trip to Oakwood Annapolis Hospital.

"The child made it. We received a very nice thank you note from the family," said Wright. "It's a great story, great police work."

» Wayne resident Bernard Moner was pre-

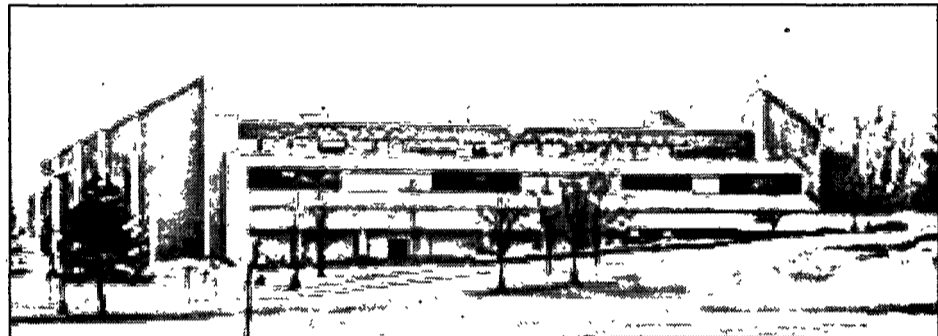
sented with the John Valchine Crime Prevention Award. On July 21, 2012, officers had responded to a call about a disorderly person at the Dollar General store on Michigan Avenue.

The suspect had fled on foot into the street and was nearly hit by several vehicles. A former Wayne reserve police officer, Moner happened to be driving by as the suspect ran into traffic.

"The suspect was being chased by the two officers. Bernie went after the suspect and held him for the officers," said Wright. "He (Moner) didn't know what the suspect had done, he could have killed someone. He put himself in harm's way. He didn't question himself. It was a very courageous act."

Presented periodically, the John Valchine Crime Prevention Award was named in memory of a Wayne party store owner killed in a 1987 robbery.

rogers@hometownlife.com
313-222-5428
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Harrison High School was evacuated Friday evening after a small fire developed in an electrical room. No injuries were reported.

Harrison High School evacuated because of electrical fire

By Aileen Wingblad
Staff Writer

A small fire at Harrison High School caused no reported injuries but called for evacuation of the Farmington Hills school Friday evening.

Farmington Hills Fire Marshal Jason Olszewski said emergency personnel were dispatched to the school at around 6:20 p.m. after a small fire developed behind a panel in the electrical room near the gymnasium. Firefighters found just a few flames arcing from the panel and smoke in the electrical

room when they arrived soon after, he said.

The fire was contained to the electrical room and quickly extinguished, he said. School personnel had already ordered all students and occupants to leave the building.

"We cleaned out the smoke and made sure the building was evacuated - the school did a great job," Olszewski said.

It's believed rain water seeped into the electrical panel and caused it to short out, he explained. Damage is estimated to be in the

several thousand dollar range, but could have been much higher if school personnel hadn't followed fire code regulations, he added.

"Fortunately, the school hadn't been using (the room) for storage, so there was nothing in there to catch fire. Had there been, it would have been a different story," Olszewski said.

According to a statement issued by Farmington Public Schools, Harrison is closed until further notice.

awingblad@hometownlife.com | 248-933-4054

POLICE

Continued from Page A4

behind a Dumpster in a business plaza at Haggerty and Ann Arbor Road, was arrested on a charge of shoplifting \$59.44 worth of merchandise, including a set of miniature speakers and an audio cable, according to a Plymouth Township Police Department report.

Police retraced his steps to find the items he was accused of taking after he told an officer he had discarded them, the report said.

Officers were dispatched just after 6 p.m. Dec. 16 on a report of a man who had run from a Kmart loss-prevention officer.

The security worker later told police he had watched the man, over security cameras, pick up miniature speakers and conceal other merchandise in a coat pocket before leaving the store. When the security worker confronted him outside, he said, the man ran westward across Haggerty and into a plaza there.

A responding police

sergeant searching near the plaza saw footprints leading to behind a Dumpster and found the man crouched there, police said.

The man was later released after being issued a retail fraud ticket with a mandatory Tuesday, Jan. 7, court appearance

REDFORD

Wallet stolen while shopping

A woman came into

the Redford police station Saturday morning to report her wallet being stolen at a shop in the 9300 block of Telegraph.

The woman said she believed while she was in an aisle talking on the phone, someone reached into her purse and wallet. Inside the wallet was her driver's license, insurance cards, Bridge card and cash.

The woman canceled the cards, but was informed they had been used prior to her canceling them.

CITY OF WAYNE PUBLIC NOTICE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the City of Wayne Planning Commission is scheduled to meet in regular session on the second (2nd) Tuesday of each month at 7:00 P.M. in the City Council Chambers at Wayne City Hall, 3355 S. Wayne Road, Wayne, MI 48184. For calendar year 2014, those twelve (12) meetings are as follows:

January 14	April 8	July 8	October 14
February 11	May 13	August 12	November 12*
March 11	June 10	September 9	December 9*

The Commission reserves the right to schedule special meetings as desirable or necessary.
Matthew K. Miller
City Clerk

Publish: December 26, 2013

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ABSTRACT

WAYNE CITY COUNCIL MEETING NO. 2013-43
December 14, 2013

A Special Meeting of the City Council was held Saturday, December 14, 2013 at 8:00 a.m. at Wayne City Hall, 3355 S. Wayne Rd. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT. Interviews were held for potential City Manager Candidates. APPROVED: authorize committee to look at other candidates that applied for City Manager position, authorize Personnel Director to contact Mr. Flaisher and Mr. Cleaver to let them know they weren't chosen at this time, possibly hire Michigan Municipal League (MML) for Interim City Manager to help current Interim City Manager El-Gharib with budget and for consultant Bill Costick to give list of names for those who may be interested or available for position. Adjourned at 11:15 a.m.
Jennifer A. Wagner
Deputy City Clerk

Publish: December 26, 2013

LC-000017288 2x2

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH PUBLIC NOTICE

To all residents and other interested parties: Agendas and Minutes for the Charter Township of Plymouth Board of Trustees Meetings are available for review online at www.plymouthtwp.org under Agendas/Minutes and in the Clerk's Office at Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Rd., Plymouth, MI.

Regular Meeting dates in 2014: January 14, February 11, March 18, April 15, May 13 & 27, June 17, July 22, August 19, September 9 & 23, October 7 & 21, November 18 and December 9.

Special meetings, if any, will occur on Tuesdays, unless otherwise posted. The public is invited and encouraged to attend the Board of Trustees Meetings.

Nancy Conzelman
Township Clerk

Publish: December 26, 2013

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Moss to chair 2014 Concours d'Elegance

The Concours d'Elegance of America Board of Directors has appointed Larry Moss chairman of the board and event chairman for 2014.

Moss has a long history with the Concours. He served as event chairman of the Meadow Brook Concours in 1999 and 2000. He was chairman of the Car Selection Committee from 2007 to 2010 and was a board member from 2008 to 2010.



Larry Moss

After the event was moved to The Inn at St. John's in 2011, Moss remained active on the Judge's Committee and Car Selection Committee. Moss replaces Peter Heydon who recently resigned after serving as chairman of the board since 2009.

"I am very happy to return to the Concours as chairman," Moss said. "It is my intention to make our 36th event the best ever."

Moss brings with him a strong passion for the car hobby. He has served as director of the Michigan Region Classic Car Club of America, chairman of the British Sports Car Council and has judged at several national Concours.

Moss and his wife Patty live in West Bloomfield. He is a senior vice-president, investments and managing director of the Moss Financial Group of Raymond James in Birmingham.

The Concours d'Elegance of America at St. John's is a world-class exhibition of classic, rare and magnificent automobiles. Always held on the last Sunday of July, collectors from around the country gather to showcase their unique vehicles on the beautiful green fairways of The Inn at St. John's in Plymouth.

The 36th Annual Concours d'Elegance of America will be held 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, July 27, at The Inn at St. John's. General admission and VIP tickets are now on sale at the Concours website, www.concoursusa.org, or by calling the Concours office at 248-643-8645.

New law says schools must have epinephrine injectors

Legislation recently signed by Gov. Rick Snyder requires schools to carry epinephrine injectors to help protect Michigan children suffering from dangerous and life-threatening food allergies.

House Bills 4352 and 4353 require schools to have at least two injectors on site and have at least two staff members trained to use the devices. The bills, approved with strong bipartisan support, were sponsored by state Rep. Lisa Posthumus Lyons, R-Alto.

"Food allergies are becoming more common and the risks to children are greater," Snyder said. "By making sure our schools are equipped with these devices, we can help protect our students."

The devices provide inexpensive and effective emergency treatment for anaphylaxis brought on by food allergies.

"Nothing is more important than keeping our kids safe at school and thanks to the Governor Snyder's signature and the leadership of lawmakers like Representative Lyons, our schools will be safer than ever," said Lisa Rutter, a mother of two and the Founder of the No Nuts Moms Group who attended today's bill signing. "Adding epineph-



Gov. Rick Snyder (center), state Rep. Lisa Posthumus Lyons, R-Alto (standing, from left), and Doug and Lisa Rutter, of Rochester, and their sons, 6-year-old Evan and 4-year-old Hayden, pose for a photo after the signing into law House Bills 4352 and 4353 which require Michigan schools to have at least two epinephrine injectors onsite and have at least two staff members trained to use the devices.

rine auto injectors to our schools' emergency tool kits will protect kids from the sort of unexpected and life threatening food allergies that have tragically claimed so many lives on playgrounds and in classrooms in other states."

It is estimated that one of every 13 children suffers from food allergies — roughly two per classroom. Common food allergies include peanuts, milk,

soy, wheat and fish. Other causes of anaphylaxis include bee stings, latex and exercise.

The injectors immediately deliver epinephrine into the victim's system, slowing down the allergic reaction to give emergency personnel time to provide further treatment.

The bills are now Public Acts 186 and 187 of 2013. More information is available at legislature.michigan.gov.

Patient honors cardiologist who saved his life

Dr. Amjad Farha, a cardiologist at Henry Ford Hospital's Heart & Vascular Institute, was credited with saving the life of a patient, who then went on to compete in a marathon last October.

During a recent ceremony at the Henry Ford Medical Center-Fairlane, Greg Weglowski of Canton awarded the marathon medal he earned to Farha as a token of his appreciation for the medical care he received in 2008. Weglowski is a Gulf War veteran and federal law enforcement special agent.

Farha performed a life-saving angioplasty procedure on Weglowski after an angiogram showed blockages in three arteries. U.S. hospitals perform about 600,000 angioplasty procedures annually. Farha also recommended Weglowski change his eating habits and start to exercise.

"You never really realize the impact that you have on someone," Farha said. "It is so rewarding to save a life."

Since then, Weglowski has gone on to compete in a half-marathon, a Tough Mudder race and the recent marathon in Grand Rapids.

"I have had a lot of good doctors, but



Greg Weglowski presents his marathon medal to Dr. Amjad Farha.

nothing like Dr. Farha," Weglowski said. "He really listened and really cared for me. I thank him with my life. You've got to live life to the fullest."

Don't wait until tomorrow to eat healthier, work out or reduce stress. Tomorrow is right now."

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Saturday morning brought a line of vehicles and volunteers to deliver Farmington Area Goodfellows holiday packages of food and gifts to 175 Farmington area and 62 seniors. PHOTO BY JOANNE MALISZEWSKI



While volunteers load cars up with packages, other volunteers, armed with directions, dropped off the holidays gifts to families and seniors. PHOTO BY JOANNE MALISZEWSKI



Farmington Area Goodfellows president Dave Kenerson thanks volunteers for getting everything loaded and delivered quickly Saturday morning. PHOTO BY JOANNE MALISZEWSKI

Goodfellows make record time delivering holiday packages Saturday

By Joanne Maliszewski
Staff Writer

If you ask the Farmington Area Goodfellows and the tens of additional volunteers who got up early Saturday and worked in the rain to load and deliver boxes of food and gifts if it was worth it — the answer would be a resounding yes.

"Thank you very much. We appreciate your help," Goodfellows President Dave Kenerson announced in the warehouse on Interchange Drive as the last package was loaded for delivery.

Last week, Kenerson expected some 150 volunteers to be on hand Saturday when packages for 175 families and 62 seniors in need were loaded into cars and delivered throughout the Farmington area. But when Saturday came, Kenerson was surprised by the overwhelming number of high school students who came ready to work.

"I am really enjoying this," said Farmington High student Jonathon Kuriakose, who with his friend and classmate Viraj Patil, decided it would be a good experience to help the Goodfellows.

Students included those from the honor society and the hockey team. "This is the best year we had for high school kids," Kenerson said.

Like an assembly line, volunteers, including Farmington Hills firefighters, hauled the heavy packages to the door of the warehouse as other volunteers in their cars and trucks pulled ahead, received directions and were on their way to deliver at homes.

"We're getting better at it every year," said Bob Rebtoy, former Goodfellows president and retired firefighter.

jmaliszews@hometownlife.com
313-550-8558



Farmington Area Goodfellows member Nancy Cook with Farmington High School students Jonathon Kuriakose and Viraj Patil. PHOTO BY JOANNE MALISZEWSKI



Former Farmington Hills Fire Chief Rich Marinucci, now chief in Northville Township, with a Goodfellows member, helps organize the gift packages at a warehouse on Interchange Drive. PHOTO BY JOANNE MALISZEWSKI



Retired Farmington Hills firefighter and former president of the Goodfellows, Bob Rebtoy keeps track of what packages have been delivered. PHOTO BY JOANNE MALISZEWSKI

Westland Goodfellows serve 1,017 children this Christmas

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

With their fundraising and gift distribution done for the year, the busy pace of the holiday season is winding down for area Goodfellows.

The Westland Goodfellows raised \$82,500, below their expenses of just over \$100,000. The donations included \$66,500 raised by UAW Local 900 workers at the Wayne Assembly plant at a bowling event and a golf outing.

"We served 1,017 kids this year. That's a 10 percent increase from last year," said Westland Goodfellows co-president Heather Hatfield.

At a recent council

meeting, Hatfield accepted the ceremonial check from Bill Johnson, a Local 900 official and Westland councilman.

At the same meeting, Westland resident Makenzie Cox, 8, was honored for raising \$450 to buy toys for the Goodfellows.

"Her mom called a couple months ago, her daughter (Makenzie) wanted to do something and she was looking for ideas," said Hatfield. "Not being sarcastic, but I thought what can an 8-year-old do?"

Hatfield suggested Makenzie, who raised the money doing chores around her neighborhood, help pack items for distribution to needy

families.

"They showed up on packing day with mom's car filled to the roof with toys," said Hatfield. "I was blown away. She went to Big Lots, used coupons and sales. I love the fresh energy, it re-energizes us."

The Goodfellows, who also receive donations through a solicitation letter, are still accepting contributions through Paypal on their website www.westlandgoodfellows.org or by check at the Dorsey Center, 32715 Dorsey, Westland, MI 48186.

"We have a little money in reserve, so it's not like we aren't able to pay our bills," said Hatfield. "It would help if dona-



Westland Goodfellows co-president Heather Hatfield (left), Makenzie Cox, Westland Councilman Bill Johnson and Westland Mayor William Wild.

tions picked up. We'll need to look at what we will be spending next year."

Over the years, the Westland Goodfellows have expanded to pro-

vide support to the Wayne-Westland Family Resource Center and senior citizen programs, including a donation to the Friendship Center. "Those programs are

extras — Christmas is our core program," said Hatfield. "We don't like to have to cut programs."

Longer term, Hatfield said the Westland Goodfellows need to consider how to fund their programs going forward potentially with less support from the UAW.

"Bill Johnson is our hero at Ford but he won't be there forever. Each of them (Local 900 officers) will have their own favorite charities," said Hatfield. "I can't believe the fundraising they do out of their place. They adopted 250 kids (for the holidays)."

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

EVENTS OF INTEREST

NEW YEAR'S PARTY

Date/Time: Tuesday, Dec. 31, dinner specials start at 4 p.m.
Location: Four Friends Bar & Grill, 44282 Warren Road in Canton

Details: Four Friends hosts a New Year's Eve party, that will feature a champagne toast cheering in the New Year. There is no cover charge, but reservations are suggested. The dinner meal features surf & turf, top sirloin with lobster, shrimp Scampi, filet and chicken Oscar. Entertainment provided by Ded by Dezine (as heard on radio station 89X). Four Friends, opened in December 1999, now has its original chef back in the kitchen.

Contact: Call 734-416-0880 to make a reservation or for more information.

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP

Time/Date: 1-2 p.m. Monday, Dec. 30
Location: 35300 Warren Road, Westland

Details: The public is welcome to attend the Westland Homeowners Committee for Environmental Conservation's year-end general meeting. Topics will include environmental issues affecting Michigan and beyond.

Contact: For further information, call Lee Duffey at 734-722-1184.

ART SHOW

Time/Date: Ongoing during library hours through Dec. 30
Location: Livonia Civic Library, 32777 Five Mile, Livonia

Details: The artwork of current and retired Livonia Public Schools art teachers will be on display. Visitors may browse the artwork in a variety of media, including photography, paintings, collages, ceramics and jewelry.

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Time/Date: 6-9 p.m. Monday, Jan. 20
Location: Livonia Civic Park Senior Center on Farmington Road, south of Five Mile, Livonia

Details: Northville Genealogical Society President Grace Wolfing will speak about "Unusual Websites." Stymied in your genealogical research? Don't know where to go beyond Ancestry, Family Search and the usual? Wolfing will present websites you might not know about, but are useful for research into your ancestors.

Contact: More information is available at info@wwcgs.org

LEARN TO PLAY HOCKEY

Time/Date: 11 a.m. Jan. 4
Location: Garden City Civic Arena, in Garden City Park at Merriman and Cherry Hill, Garden City

Details: The Garden City Hockey Association is offering an eight-week Learn To Play Hockey session. Youngsters need not know how to skate. Equipment is available to use with a refundable deposit of \$50, when the equipment is returned. A limited number of skates will be available. Skates also can be rented from the rink for \$2. All players must register with USA Hockey - for ages 7 and under, there is no cost, over age 7, a onetime fee of \$45. Register in the Parks and Recreation office at the ice arena noon to 6 p.m. Monday-through Friday. Or register online at www.leagueneup.com/gcha.

Contact: For further information, contact Darlene Hennessy at 313-917-4173.

TRI COUNTY CELIAC SUPPORT

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 6
Location: First Presbyterian Church, 26165 Farmington Road, Farmington

Details: Tri County Celiac Support Group is holding a general meeting. The doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting begins at 7 p.m. Dr. Steven Fisher, clinical psychologist, will speak on "This is harder than I thought: Coping with the psychological aspects of eliminating gluten."

FINANCIAL PEACE

Time/Date: 6-8 p.m. Sundays, beginning Jan. 12
Location: Warren Road Light and Life Church, 33445 Warren Road, Westland

Details: The Warren Road Light and Life Church in partnership with Dave Ramsey is offering Financial Peace University, a nine-week class to bring peace to your finances. Through video teaching, class discussions and interactive small group activities, FPU presents biblical, practical steps to get from where you are to where you've dreamed you could be. This plan will show you how to get rid of debt, manage your money, spend and save wisely, and much more. The life-changing class is taught by Dave Ramsey and the FPU teaching team on video and coordinated by Josh Sprunger of Warren Road Light and Life Church. The class costs \$95 per

family and can be paid through the website provided or through the coordinator Josh Sprunger. The average family pays off \$5,300 in debt and saves \$2,700 in the first 90 days of taking the class. The registration deadline is Jan. 5.

Contact: For more information, visit www.daveramsey.com/fpu or call Josh Sprunger at 734-458-7301.

TRIVIA NIGHT

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 11
Location: Ss. Simon and Jude Parish, 32500 Palmer, east of Venoy, Westland

Details: Doors open at 6 p.m., Trivia will begin promptly at 7 p.m. The cost is \$20 per team of up to four persons and includes 10 rounds of questions, popcorn and one pepperoni pizza for each team. Beverages will be available for purchase throughout the night. There also will be a 50/50 raffle and other items for purchase. Space is limited to the first 25 teams. No registrations will be taken at the door. To register, visit www.stssimonandjude.com/trivianight. All proceeds to the Ss. Simon and Jude Building Debt Reduction Program.

Contact: By email at stssimonandjude@gmail.com or call Kathy Hansen at 734-716-4436 for more information.

CASINO TRIP

Time/Date: 3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 11
Location: Firekeepers Casino in Battle Creek

Details: Join the Wayne Rotary in a night of fun Jan. 11 with its Firekeepers Casino Trip. The cost is \$35 and includes \$20 in slot play and \$5 food. The bus departs the Banquet Center at 35000 Sims Ave., at 3 p.m. and returns at 10 p.m.

Contact: For more information or reservations call Trish Hampton at 734-890-6934.

MARATHON BINGO

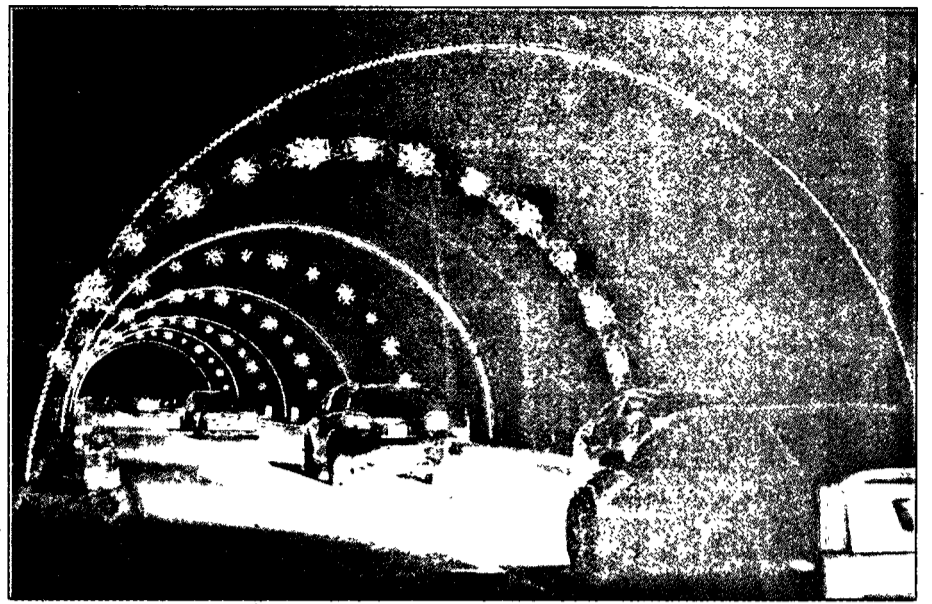
Time/Date: 1-6 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 1
Location: St. Dunstan Church Community Room, 1615 Belton in Garden City

Details: The St. Dunstan Rosary Altar Sodality is sponsoring a New Year's Day Marathon Bingo on 1-6 p.m. in the Community Room of the church. Refreshments will be available for purchase.

ORGANIZATIONS FRIENDS OF ELOISE

Time/Date: 7 p.m. third Tuesday of the months of February, April,

Lighting up the night



Time is running out to see the Wayne County Lightfest, a 4½-mile light show along Hines Drive from Westland to Dearborn Heights. Lightfest is open 7-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 6-10 p.m. Friday-Sunday through Dec. 31. Visitors enter Lightfest at Hines Drive and Merriman Road in Westland and exit onto Warren Avenue near Telegraph Road in Dearborn Heights. There is a \$5 fee per vehicle. For more information, call 734-261-1990 or visit www.parks.waynecounty.com.

June, September and November

Location: Collins House in the Westland Historic Village Park, 857 N. Wayne Road between Marquette and Cherry Hill, Westland.

Contact: Pat Ibbotson at 734-331-9291 or by email at pibbotso@aol.com or Jo Johnson 734-522-3918

FAMILY CAREGIVERS

Time/Date: 7 p.m. first Monday of the month
Location: Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main, Plymouth

Details: For residents of southern and western Wayne County who are caring for family members and/or friends age 60 and older, or who are over age 60 themselves. Offered by Adult Well-Being Services through The Senior Alliance. Funded by The Senior Alliance and United Way.

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

WIDOWED MEN

Time/Date: 9 a.m. second and fourth Thursdays of the month
Location: Steve's Family Restaurant, 15800 Middlebelt, Livonia

Details: The Men's Group of Widowed Friends, a peer group of the Archdiocese of Detroit, invites you to meet with other widowed men for breakfast. Many topics are discussed. Also, ideas are presented to help you become involved in the activities

of Widowed Friends.

Contact: Call Dick at 313-534-0399.

CITIZENS FOR PEACE

Time/Date: 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month
Location: Unity of Livonia Church on Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster, Livonia

Details: The group is dedicated to working for creation of a U.S. Department of Peace. All are welcome.

Contact: Colleen Mills at 734-425-0079

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Location: 638 Starkweather, Plymouth

Details: Habitat for Humanity seeks volunteers to help with building homes, office duties and fundraising. No experience necessary. Training will be provided. Habitat for Humanity Western Wayne County's service area includes Belleville, Canton Township, Dearborn Heights, Garden City, Inkster, Lincoln Park, Livonia, Northville, Plymouth, Redford, Romulus, Taylor, Wayne, Westland and Van Buren Township.

Contact: 734-459-7744

FIRST STEP

Location: 4400 S. Venoy, Wayne
Details: First Step, which has been active in the effort to end domestic violence and sexual assault in western Wayne Coun-

ty and Downriver communities for more than 20 years, is looking for volunteers. Interested people must be at least 18, willing and able to travel to the Downriver area and complete a 55-hour training program. Volunteers can help by sponsoring Family Fun Nights, joining the Assault Response Team, provide supporting at the Emergency Housing Facility, helping with the day-to-day operations at the office, or accompanying individuals to court.

Contact: Call Ilene at 734-416-1111 or send an email to volunteers@firststep-mi.org for more information.

METRO FIBROMYALGIA

Time/Date: 1-3 p.m. second and fourth Thursday of each month
Location: Merriman Road Baptist Church, 2055 Merriman, just west of Ford in Garden City

Details: The first meeting has a speaker, the second meeting is open to discuss living with our fibromyalgia.

Contact: Ruthann at 734-981-2519

GENEALOGY, COMPUTERS

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. third Monday of every month
Location: Livonia Civic Park Senior Center on Farmington Road, south of Five Mile

Details: Beginning genealogy and computer classes start at 6:30 p.m. Guests are welcome.



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On demand

When sewers back up or emergencies arise, Doheny is there

By Kurt Kuban
Staff Writer

Call it good timing. Jack Doheny broke into the sewer cleaning business at a time when it was taking off. When he started selling his products, including vacuum trucks and other equipment in the early 1970s, there were very few standards on how to maintain sewers.

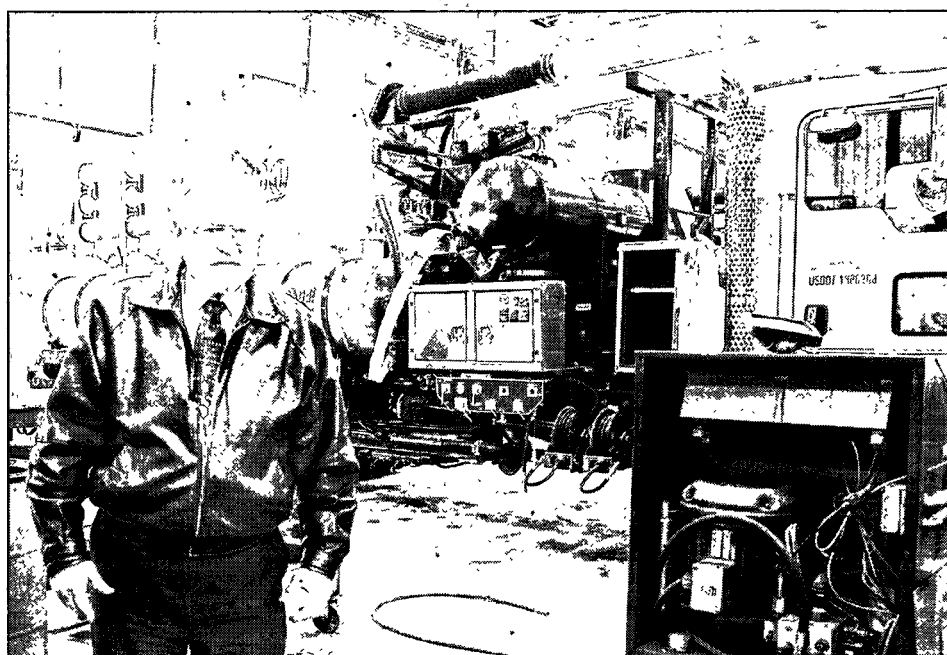
"Back then so many sewers were running right into local creeks and rivers," said Doheny, 83.

That's when the federal government started cracking down. The Clean Water Act was passed in 1972, which forced municipalities to clean out their sewers and stop polluting local waterways. It so happened that was the time when Doheny just began selling sewer cleaning equipment.

"That's when I came into the business. It was really a perfect time," Doheny said. "The federal government found they didn't have any guidelines or regulations for cleaning out sewers. Once those were in place, there was a tremendous explosion in demand for the sewer cleaning products and equipment. In many ways, I was very lucky to come in when I did."

Today, Jack Doheny Companies, the company he founded in 1973 from his home, is the world's largest distributor of Vactor trucks, sewer cleaning and municipal air handling equipment. Their footprint is especially large in Michigan, where they sell 95 percent of all the sewer cleaning equipment.

The company, which has doubled in growth in the last 4-5 years, has facilities around the country and recently expanded into Canada, where it largely serves the oil companies and their oilfields. Things are so good, the company is currently undergoing a



Jack Doheny, president and founder of the Northville-based Jack Doheny Companies, walks past one of his company's signature trucks: a Vactor 2100 model. The truck, which run about \$500,000, is used to clean up oil and hazardous material spills, and is also used by most municipalities to clear jammed sewers. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

major \$5 million expansion to its corporate headquarters on the outskirts of downtown Northville, where it has 140 employees

They sell a broad range of products, but their bread and butter are Vactor trucks, including the state-of-the-art Vactor 2100, which can hold up 12 yards of debris and 1,500 gallons of water. Nearly all of the municipalities in Southeast Michigan have purchased one of these vehicles from Doheny. With their vacuum and jet spray abilities, they are used primarily to clean out sewers. But they can also be used for other purposes, particularly to clean up hazardous material spills in waterways, at airports and along railways.

In fact, you will find Doheny's equipment at most major HAZMAT situations, including after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11 when they were used to clean asbestos out of the air in New York City. When the Enbridge oil spill occurred in the Kalamazoo River back in 2010, Doheny had 40 trucks on site sucking the oil out of the river.

Their equipment is used in less hazardous situations as well. For example, Doheny says Disney World uses them to suck the change out of their fountains so the coins don't clog up their drains. Also, in Wyoming, they are used to pick up the corn that falls from the trains along the tracks so deer aren't drawn into harm's way. Farmers also use them to clean out their silos.

"There are literally a thousand applications for our products that have nothing to do with sewers," he said.

Good salesman

Doheny's rise in the business started shortly after he got out of the Air Force. He went to work for his uncle's company selling a snake-like product used by dairy farmers to clean out the traps on their milk basins.

"I was selling them all over North America," Doheny recalls.

After parting ways with his uncle, Doheny moved to Northville in the late 1960s and by the early 1970s was solely focused on selling sewer cleaning products.

Kay Doheny, Jack's

daughter and executive vice president of the company, said his success was due to many factors, and timing certainly helped. But she said he was also a great salesman, who stood by his products.

"He's like the foundation we all live by," she said. "Everyone in our business measures themselves against him. I think he has been successful, and in turn the company, because we do what we say. He's always done what he promised."

"Our phones ring 24 hours a day. Our contractors demand it. If you have a problem on Christmas Eve, we'll be there to help. That's the nature of this business," she said.

The company does

JACK DOHENY COMPANIES

Founder/President: Jack Doheny of Northville

Address: 777 Doheny Drive, Northville

Founded: 1973

Business specialty: World's largest sewer cleaning and maintenance equipment dealer organization, with some \$100 million in annual sales; operates multiple businesses

Website: www.doheny-supplies.com

about \$250 million in annual sales, which is a far cry from where Doheny started.

"My first year of sales was about \$44,000," he said.

What has really been driving the company's growth in recent years is the rental business. Disasters can strike at any time, and most contractors or municipalities don't have the money to purchase the expensive equipment for a one-time job.

"We have a fleet of 400-500 vehicles and they are rented in essentially every state in the union," Jack Doheny said. "Cities and different municipalities usually have their own machines, but in cases of emergency they need immediate help and they come to us."

Demand never stops

A lot of municipalities will also rent Doheny's Vactor trucks during the summer months to help with the regular maintenance

of their sewer system. Not only are they forced to not pollute their waterways, but there is also the threat of lawsuits from residents who have sewer backups in their basements.

"When I broke into this business the only time they cleaned out a sewer was when it was blocked up. That has really changed over the years. Cities do a much better job now, because they have to," he said.

On a positive note, Doheny said the regular maintenance to the sewer and storm drains has led to much cleaner rivers and creeks. He said the Rouge River, in particular, has really come back to life since the early 1970s, and he feels like his products have played a big part in that revival.

"It's not fair for one generation to spoil it for all other generations," he said.

Looking back on the last 40 years, Doheny says he was very fortunate to choose the business he did. He is amazed how the company and industry has grown and evolved. And after all these years, he still looks forward to going to work every day.

"I love it because every day is a new day, with a new challenge. You never know what's in store," he said. "This was the greatest business to get into. It's a necessity, there is demand, and it is government mandated. It's an exciting business."

kkuban@hometownlife.com
734-716-0783

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Carson's exclusive

Alex Sanchez, national makeup artist for Lancôme, will be doing customized makeup lessons with his team of professional artists 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 4, at Carson's at Laurel Park Place mall in Livonia.

Sanchez has worked with some of modeling's biggest names, including Liya Kebede, Alek Wek, Eva Herzigova and Karen Elson. Additionally, he has been one of the makeup artists of choice for New York Fashion Week.

Customers at the Lancôme event will get personalized time with Sanchez. He will demonstrate his expertise in skincare and makeup while his artists assist during the consultation.

There is a \$50 reservation fee that will be credited to the customer's purchase. Call 734-953-7500, Ext. 213.

Attorney elected

Kim Rattet, partner with a practice focus on creditor consumer bankruptcy for Trott & Trott, P.C. (Trott), a Farmington Hills-based real estate law firm, was recently elected to the Consumer Bankruptcy Association of Detroit's Board of Directors.

First appointed to the board in November 2012, Rattet will serve a six-year term during which she will work with her fellow board members to promote excellence and

civility in the practice of Consumer Bankruptcy law through continuing education, training and open discourse for the association.

A member of Trott since 2002, Rattet previously served as a staff attorney and supervising attorney before to her promotion to partner in 2012. She graduated with a bachelor's degree in biology from Eastern Connecticut State University and received her master's in forensic science from the University of New Haven. She earned her juris doctor from the Thomas M. Cooley Law School, where she graduated magna cum laude with a concentration in litigation.

Food drive

Paragon Properties is coordinating a food and fund donation drive for Gleaners Community Food Bank of Southeastern Michigan at its 19 apartment communities throughout Michigan as part of the organization's "Give a Hand for the Holidays" campaign. This is the second consecutive year the property management company is participating in this collaborative community collection effort.

Gleaners Community Food Bank is hoping to provide 1,000,000 meals to hungry neighbors now through Dec. 31. Paragon Properties is asking its residents and community neighbors to join the

fight against hunger by giving \$5 or 5 pounds of food. Donation can be dropped off at the company's Leasing Offices/Clubhouses.

Requested canned and dry good foods include tuna fish, canned meat, beef stew, meat soups, canned spaghetti or pasta, dry or canned beans (kidney, pinto, green, yellow, refried or black beans), fruits, baby food or formula, Ensure or other nutritional supplement drinks, rice, noodles, macaroni, powdered milk, pancake or baking mixes, cereal/oatmeal (including single serving size), granola bars, peanut butter (in plastic jars), jelly (in plastic jars). Personal care items, such as diapers, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, shampoo and disposable razors, are also being collected. Please, no glass items, opened containers, homemade food or expired products.

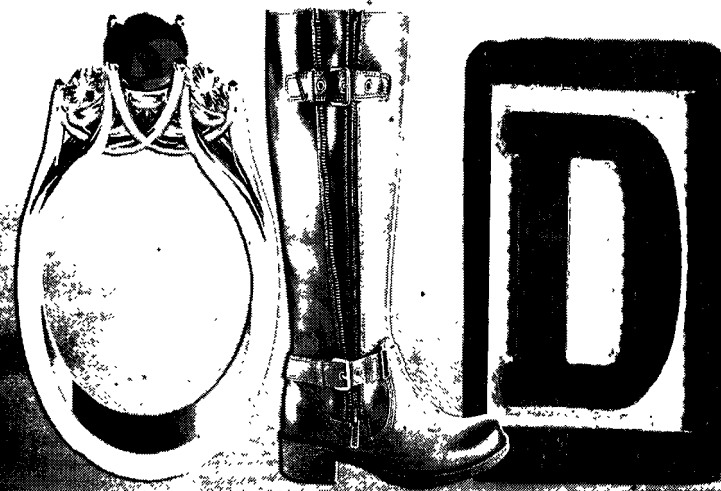
Each dollar raised provides three meals due to Gleaners bulk purchasing and efficient distribution network. To make a financial contribution and help give families in our community a happy and healthy holiday season, visit www.paragonapartments.com/events for information on how to donate online. All financial contributions made to Gleaners through Paragon Properties fundraising page will be funded by the company.



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COMMUNITY VOICE

WHAT WAS YOUR MOST FAVORITE CHRISTMAS GIFT EVER?

We asked this question throughout our Observer communities.

OUR VIEWS

Don't drink and drive

Commit to making it a smart and safe New Year's Eve

The numbers seem very small in comparison to how many people live in the United States, but they're really not. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 10,322 people in this country lost their lives in drunken driving accidents in 2012. That's one death every 51 minutes.

We are approaching what *Time Magazine* lists as the No. 1 booziest night of the year — New Year's Eve. People will gather in homes, in halls and in bars to ring in the New Year where copious amounts of alcohol will be consumed. After all, what is a party without a bit of the bubbly?

There are those people who believe that there is value in going out on New Year's Eve and drinking with the aim of getting drunk, that somehow the evening isn't a success without that happening.

But it is what happens when the parties are over that also make it the scariest night of the year. Many of those revelers will get behind the wheel of a vehicle and drive home. Hopefully, they make it to their final destination without a problem. Some do, some don't.

Some get stopped by the police and in Michigan, if they register more than .08 blood alcohol on a breath test, they end up sobering up in a jail cell. Some find themselves involved in accidents that can cause injuries and even death.

In a country that glorifies the making of illegal moonshine on cable TV and sends the message through commercials that drinking certain beverages gives you sex appeal, it's hard to deter people from drinking and driving, especially those who do it repeatedly.

According to NHTSA statistics, a drunken driver on average has driven drunk 80 times before being arrested for the first time. And between 50-75 percent of convicted drunken drivers continue to drive on a suspended license.

New Year's Eve is meant to be a time of celebration, but it doesn't need to be alcohol-laden. For those who feel a need to overindulge, think about other people and don't drive. Have a designated driver, call a taxi to take you home, or play the big shot and arrange for a limousine service to do the pickup and delivery duties.

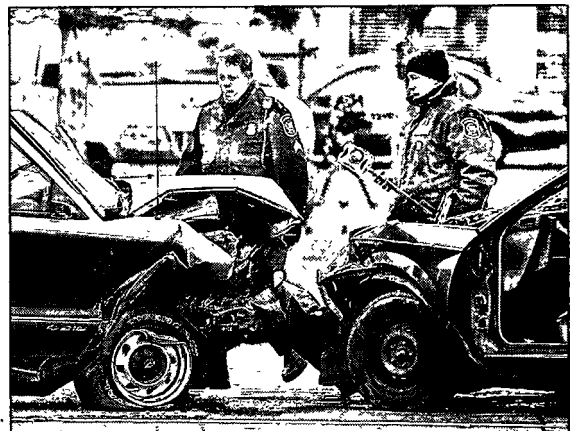
The holidays should be about friends and family, not excessive drinking. They can be just as much fun without alcohol. Find alternative ways to ring in the New Year like:

- » Gathering your families and friends together for a scavenger hunt and potluck dinner.
- » Blowing the snow off out the fire pit and having a fire with s'mores and hot chocolate.
- » Hosting a movie marathon, featuring your favorite films of 2013. And don't forget the buttered popcorn.
- » Planning a game night. Dust off the UNO cards, pull out the Trivial Pursuit and open up the Monopoly board. No need for booze to buy Boardwalk.
- » Going out for a nice dinner and a movie. A lot of restaurants offer special menus for New Year's Eve.

And if you feel the need to hold a cocktail glass in your hand, fill it with a mocktail. There are plenty of recipes for everything from a hibiscus mimosa to non-alcoholic sangria that can be found on the Internet.

This New Year's Eve, commit to making it a safe one for you and for others. Celebrate all you want, but be smart. Don't drink and drive.

We are approaching what Time magazine lists as the No. 1 booziest night of the year — New Year's Eve. People will gather in homes, in halls and in bars ... where copious amounts of alcohol will be consumed.



New Year's Eve is one of the worst nights of the year for drunken driving accidents. Make sure you have a designated driver if you hit the town. FILE PHOTO

FARMINGTON OBSERVER

A GANNETT COMPANY

Joanne Maliszewski,
 Community Editor
 Susan Rosiek,
 Executive Editor

Grace Perry,
 Director of
 Advertising



"A Barbie doll with high-fashion clothing back in the 1960s."
Laurie Scott
 Farmington Hills



"The best gift I received was the gift of sobriety."
Eugene Young
 Westland



"Anything my daughter makes me. She's pretty crafty."
Patricia Ballard
 Farmington Hills



"A great Christmas with my family."
Lisa Phillips
 Farmington Hills



"When I was six years old, I got a complete play-kitchen set."
Sandy Lawrence
 Livonia



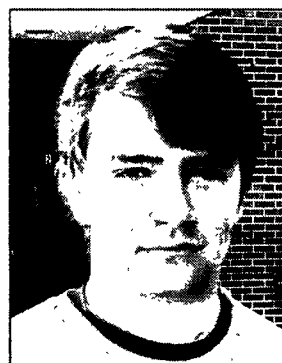
"A bicycle."
Edman Yee
 Livonia



"My Wii U."
Jacob Yee
 Livonia



"Probably the ping-pong table we got last year."
Knute O'Brien
 Livonia



"Probably the saxophone I got two years ago. It was me getting into music."
Andrew Brown
 Canton



"An American Girl doll, one of the first ones. Every girl wants an American Girl doll."
Alexandra Worthy
 Canton



"My best Christmas present was a new TV ... high definition."
Rita Drumgo
 Romulus



"The Ford Focus my parents gave me a couple of years ago."
Ben Davis
 Canton



"It's my great-granddaughter, Tatum Adkins. She's 5 now."
Eugene Adkins
 Wayne



"It was the ring I got with my daughter's birthstones in it."
Sue Michalak
 Garden City



"It was my first record player and with came 'You Ain't Nothin' But a Hound Dog.'"
Susan Nicholas
 Westland



"It was a couple of albums my grandmother bought me, and they were Elvis Presley and Tom Jones."
Liz Shalhou
 Westland



"The guitar I got from my grandma when I was 9. She died a month later. That's why I play the guitar."
Grant Kennedy
 Plymouth



"It's a present for me. I'm trying to be a coding specialist and I'm going to do it."
Joyce Smith
 Wayne



"My foosball table, when I was 7."
Gage Markey
 Plymouth



"My 2006 Mitsubishi Eclipse. My parents gave it to me."
Tyler Addy
 Plymouth

Mental illness: Stigmas, stereotypes, societal change

Mental health issues have been present in our society for thousands of years. During that time, mankind has dealt with wars, illness, death, natural disasters, and managed to overcome them. But one thing we still manage to struggle with – the proper social treatment for persons with mental illness.

People with mental illness in our society have historically been treated as outcasts – stigmatized. They have been tortured, held in restraints, beaten, abandoned and exiled from their families. Through the centuries, mankind has learned to be more civilized – or have we?

Treatment for those with mental health issues has come in leaps and bounds; this is evident by U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow's Excellence in Mental Health Act. This legislation would expand access to treat-



George Gaines

GUEST COLUMNIST

ment and improve the quality of care to mental health centers to those with behavioral health issues and offer services like 24-hour crisis psychiatric services and integrated treatment for mental illness and substance abuse.

As chairman of the Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority Board and having been involved in the delivery of community mental health service for more than 30 years, I know that time is right for change.

I have never seen this level of commitment to meet the challenge of preventing and treating serious mental illness as I have recently.

Perpetuating stigmas

While we continue to make strides with mental illness, unfortunately society still plays an active role in perpetuating the stigmas and stereotypes from so many years ago. Recent local events involving officers from the Grosse Pointe Park Police Department where they publicly shamed and humiliated a man believed to be dealing with intellectual challenges drew outrage from the community – rightly so.

DWMHA community mental health providers from Northeast Guidance Center are now currently working with the police department and its officers through their community and police advocacy program. The officers are also now undergoing sensitivity training.

But this incident is just a wakeup call for us all.

We are all guilty – at some

point in time – of labeling someone as being less than ourselves simply because they are different. Oftentimes those differences make them unique and special like Vincent Van Gogh. Some differences you wouldn't even notice. Celebrities like Richard Dreyfuss, Catherine Zeta Jones and Elton John have recently disclosed that they have struggled with mental health.

We have the ability to break down some of the stereotypes that unfortunately still exist in our society. But that change comes with getting rid of the ignorance that holds our minds captive. We need to educate and have conversations within our families and communities about mental illness. It affects everyone from young to old, black and white, rich or poor.

A ways to go

We have come so far yet we still have a ways to go. We owe

it to ourselves and to the next generation to enlighten them about mental illness.

What are the causes? Is it hereditary? Are there treatments/medication? Where can I get help?

We must continue to educate, inform and make societal changes in order to advance the overall acceptance of mental health in our communities. From my experience, people make fun of what they don't know and don't understand. It is imperative that the people have answers to their questions, especially when it comes to their mental health.

If you or someone you know is in need of mental health services, call our Access Center 24-Hour Helpline at 800-241-4949 or visit us at www.dwmha.com.

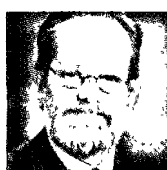
George Gaines is the chairman of the Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority Board.

The promise of a new year brings the need to live as a moral society

Some observations as we celebrate Christmas and the promise of a new year: The phrase "What Would Jesus Do" (WWJD) always seemed wrong to me. It's not what He would do but what He would have us do. To feed the hungry or heal the sick He performed miracles, we cannot. But we can live as He taught us, and that can bring a miracle in itself to someone in need.

At the beginning of our nation, Thomas Jefferson literally cut all the miracles and religious doctrine from a New Testament, leaving only the biography and moral lessons of Jesus. The resulting book, *The Life and Morals of Jesus of Nazareth* (or Jefferson Bible), was a secular view of the moral structure Jesus set up in His teachings. Whether you are Christian, Jewish, any other religion or none at all, it is hard to argue with the lessons of universal love Jesus taught.

In more recent years, I have seen too many Christians take



Jim Nash

GUEST COLUMNIST

a route never taken by Jesus. Some have allowed abortion, birth control and LGBT issues to dominate the national religious conversation. Neither of these issues were discussed by Jesus, though both existed in His time, yet they are the sole focus of many Christian organizations.

I am sure Jesus would have us encourage and help any woman safely keep her baby, and ask us all to support the children born in poverty. But He would not have used government to enforce a religious test on individuals; judging all by a single, unforgiving standard and not taking into account individual circumstances. His forgiveness would pardon any woman for ending a pregnancy, and I cannot see Him allowing innocents to lose

their souls because a woman chose to do so.

'Love is love'

I can come to no conclusion other than He would inspire all people to love and respect our gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender brothers and sisters.

The anti-abortion and anti-LGBT issues embolden "judgmentalism" among followers, which hardens the heart rather than opening it. Jesus asked us how one can see a mote in their neighbor's eye and not the beam in their own, and said "judge not lest ye be judged." And most importantly, Jesus said he was no terrestrial king, but only ruled in heaven.

The concern for the unborn is betrayed by many on the Christian Right, by supporting current calls to cut food stamp spending by \$40 billion, cutting other poverty programs and allowing families to lose needed unemployment insurance. We cannot demand women give birth and then abandon

families in need.

Would Jesus have cut off food aid that mostly goes to mothers, children and the working poor? (I was hungry and you fed me) Would Jesus support universal health care? (I was sick and you sat with me) Would Jesus support America incarcerating the most citizens of any nation on earth? (I was in prison and you visited me) Above all else, Jesus said "what you do for the least among you, you do for me" and "love your neighbor (and enemy) as you love yourself."

Valuing all people

I also believe Jesus would have us use our minds and free will to develop as a people in a way that is sustainable now and for the future. He would judge well the people who support an economy that values all people, that protects the environment for its citizens and future and gives equal access to the necessities of life for all people.

Finally, how would Jesus view the massive and growing gap between the most wealthy and everyone else? He taught us that we "cannot serve mammon (wealth, greed) and God." America's laws since the 1980s have benefited the wealthy above all others and allowed the greatest gap between the rich and poor in American history. As Franklin Delano Roosevelt said "we have always known that unrestrained self-interest is bad morals, now we know it is also bad business."

We have a duty as a moral people to make this nation a more perfect union and Jesus gives us both a religious and secular measure of how to get there.

Let us live our lives with love for all and direct our government to act in a way that meets Jesus' expectations and would deserve His blessing.

Jim Nash is Oakland County Water Resources commissioner.

LEGAL NOTICE 1954 PA 188 PROCEEDINGS NOTICE OF SPECIAL ASSESSMENT HEARING

Charter Township of Plymouth
Wayne County, Michigan

TO: THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN, AND ANY OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that as a result of Petitions of property owners within the Township signed by the record owners of land whose front footage constitutes more than 50% of the total front footage of the hereinafter described Special Assessment District and the Township Board of the Charter Township of Plymouth proposes a road rehabilitation project in the Country Acres of Plymouth Nos. 1, 2 & 3 Subdivision and to create a Special Assessment for the recovery of the cost thereof by Special Assessment against the properties benefited therein.

Notice is hereby given to all persons interested, that the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Plymouth has tentatively declared its intention to make the hereinafter described improvement:

The proposed improvements shall consist of full depth removal of the existing concrete road with the placement of new concrete pavement at the entrances to the subdivision on Fellows Creek Drive, Maple Ridge Drive, Fellows Hills Drive, and various locations within the subdivision. It is understood that this is primarily a road maintenance project and therefore any drainage problems existing prior to the project will not be corrected except where said modification is necessary to protect the life of the road pavement. Existing water problems, such as standing water, etc., outside of the roadway will not be resolved by this program. It is further understood that this alternate, if permitted by the County of Wayne, could be subject to special conditions dependent upon the findings of the soils investigation report, existing subsurface conditions, etc. The proposed improvements to the existing two-lane concrete pavement shall consist of complete concrete pavement replacement, as well as miscellaneous driveway and drainage work, which may be needed to facilitate the replacement of the concrete road pavement. The project commences from the north right-of-way of Ann Arbor Road and proceeds northward on Fellows Creek Drive for approximately 5200 feet to the west right-of-way of Fellows Hill Drive. The project proceeds: West from Fellows Creek Drive along W. Fellows Creek Court, and East from Fellows Creek Drive along E. Fellows Creek Court; West from Fellows Creek Drive along Top of Hill Court; South from the south right-of-way of Powell Road and proceeds along Fellows Hill Drive to Fellows Creek Drive; North from Fellows Hill Drive along Fellows Hill Court; East from Fellows Hill Drive along Pine Court, Oakview Court, Powell Ridge Court, and Ash Court; West from Fellows Hill Drive along Top of Hill Drive to Fellows Creek Drive; South from the south right-of-way of Powell Road and proceeds along Maple Ridge Drive to Fellows Creek Drive; West from Maple Ridge Drive along North Ridge Drive; South from North Ridge Drive along Maple Valley Drive.

That it has further been tentatively determined that the following described lots and parcels of land will specially benefit from said improvements and will constitute a Special Assessment District against which the cost of said improvement shall be assessed:

The district limit for frontage along Fellows Creek Drive, E Fellows Creek Court, W Fellows Creek Court, Fellows Hill Drive, Fellows Hill Court, Pine Court, Oak View Court, Top of Hill Drive, Top of Hill Court, Ash Court, Powell Ridge Court, Maple Ridge Drive, Maple Valley Drive, N. Ridge Drive, consist of lots 1 through 178 and lots 182-211 of Country Acres of Plymouth Nos. 1, 2 & 3 Subdivision located in Section 31, T1S, R8E, of Plymouth Township, Wayne County, Michigan.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Plymouth shall meet on Tuesday, January 14, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. at the Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Rd, Plymouth, Michigan 48170, for the purpose of reviewing said proposed Special Assessment District, and hearing objections to the improvement, creation of the Special Assessment District, and the assessment thereon. All persons may then and there appear and make any objections they may have to such improvement and assessment. Appearance and protest at the hearing is required in order to appeal the amount, if any, of the special assessment to the state tax tribunal. An owner or party in interest, or agent thereof, may appear in person at the hearing, or may file an appearance or protest by letter. All parties or agents appearing in person at the hearing for purposes of protest should request the appearance be entered into the record of the meeting.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the plans, specifications, estimates of cost and recommendations of the engineer for said proposed Special Assessment District have been filed with the Township and are available for public examination at the office of the Township Clerk. The estimate of costs of such construction is in the approximate amount of \$1,029,000.00.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that periodic redetermination of costs for the proposed Special Assessment District may be necessary and may be made without further notice to the record owners or parties in interest in the property.

Ms. Nancy Conzelman
Township Clerk
Charter Township of Plymouth
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Olympic hopefuls find a home in Novi

By Lonnie Huhman
Staff Writer

Olympic-level ice dancing and skating has found a home at Novi Ice Arena, where world-renowned coach Igor Shpilband is training top talent from around the world.

A Novi resident for some time, Shpilband began working out of the Ice Arena nearly two years ago. Nearly 15 countries are represented during some of his training sessions.

"We are really happy to be here. It's worked well for us and each team," he said.

They also utilize the sports club next door to enhance their practice for a big year in competitive ice dancing, which includes the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia.

Shpilband came to Michigan more than 20 years ago after defecting from the Soviet Union, where he was an Olympic skater. He's turned into a go-to coach for skaters wanting to compete in Olympic-level events.

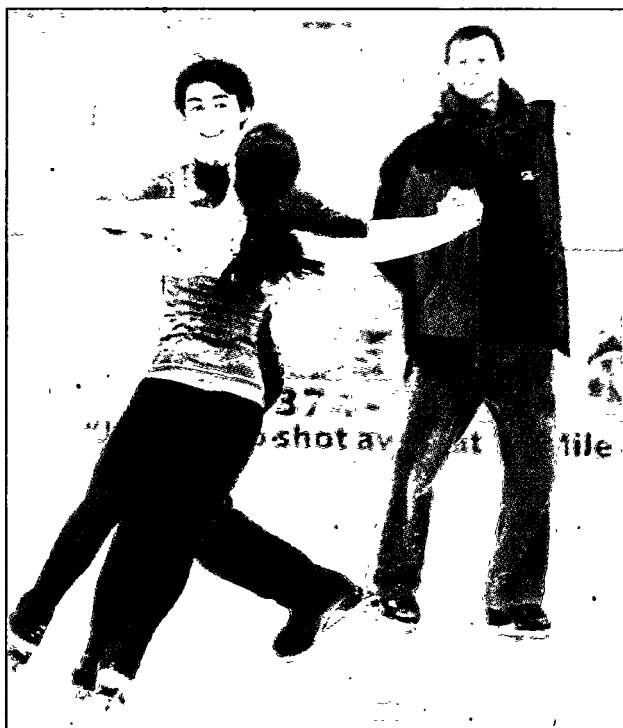
There's been a lot of talent like this training in Novi for the last year or so, including 2010 Novi High graduate Madison Chock.

"Novi is my home and it's been great to learn from a coach like Igor in such a familiar setting," she said.

She and partner Evan Bates, a University of Michigan graduate, are projected to make the U.S. Olympic team. They're in their third season together and have finished well in previous qualifying events, including top three at the U.S. Nationals.

This level of high achievement has become the norm at the arena located on Nick Lidstrom Drive.

According to Shpil-



Pairs ice-dancing coach Igor Shpilband, right, watches over a couple of his students during a Dec. 17 practice at the Novi Ice Arena. Shpilband, a former Olympic skater for the Soviet Union, defected to the US in the late 80s, currently lives in Novi and has been coaching many ice dancer skaters who are Olympic hopefuls at the Novi Ice Arena. Shpilband said that of approximately the 24 pairs of skaters who will perform at this year's Olympics in Sochi, Russia, about nine of them are currently training in Novi.



A board in the lobby of the Novi Ice Arena has a countdown calendar for the Sochi Olympics and also shows photos and differing nationalities of the various skaters training at arena.

band, of the 24 pairs of skaters who will perform at this year's Olympics, about nine are training in Novi. This includes teams from France and Lithuania.

"This is a big year coming up, especially because of the Olympics.

But it's always big when these world competitions take place," he said.

He trains the skaters with a team of professionals and specialists, which includes his fiancé Adrienne Lenda, a former ice skater.

"Igor is the heart of



Ice-dancing skaters Madison Chock and Evan Bates are probable members of the United States team at this year's Olympics. They've been training at the Novi Ice Arena for awhile now with Igor Shpilband. Chock is a 2010 Novi High graduate as well. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

the coaching team," she said. "He has patience, great skating knowledge and skills that are a benefit to all who train with him."

Shpilband said Michi-

gan has become a great place for the ice skating world and he expects Novi to remain a place for high-level talent to train for years to come. The Olympics will

take place from Feb. 7-23.

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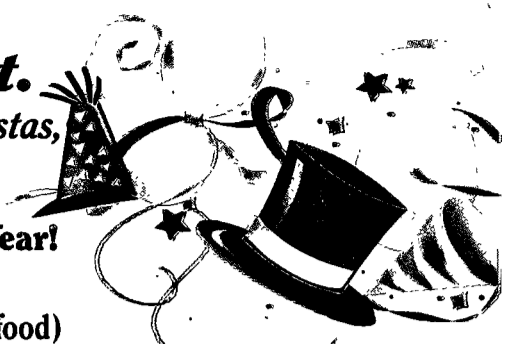


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OHL INVADES HOCKEYTOWN

Whalers on deck at Comerica Park

Plymouth players pumped up to play outdoor game Sunday against London

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Mitch Jones remembers lacing up his skates and marching to a pond near the family's Rochester Hills home for hours and hours of hockey.

"We have a pond somewhat close to our back yard," Jones said. "Me and my brother (Max) would go out early in the morning and start shoveling.

"Then we'd get a couple buddies over and play for a few hours until we were dead tired."

The 2012 Stoney Creek High School grad — now a defenseman for the Plymouth Whalers of the Ontario Hockey League — soon has a rare chance to replicate that experience on a much bigger scale.



On Sunday, Dec. 29, at Comerica Park, the Whalers will face London in the second game of the OHL's doubleheader as part of the ongoing Hockeytown Winter Festival.

Faceoff is set for 5 p.m.; the opener is at 1:30 p.m., when Windsor squares off against Saginaw.

One admission ticket (\$38) is good for both contests.

Call the Compuware Arena box office at 734-453-8400, or visit www.plymouthwhalers.com for info.

"Oh, yeah, I never played an outdoor game with boards and in such a beautiful stadium," Jones said, following practice last

week.

"So it should be real exciting, I've watched it (outdoor hockey) on TV and, you know, it sure looks like some fun."

Will it be as much fun as the neighborhood pond? Who knows, but Jones has plenty to be excited about as the big day draws near.

"No. 1," Jones said about what he was most looking forward to Sunday, "beating London and, No. 2, obviously playing in front of my family and friends that are all going to be there and just to experience it, too. It should be good."

For a while, Jones and other players such as Whalers defenseman and team captain Nick Malysa wondered whether the Comerica chance might flutter away like a high shot hitting the end zone netting.

"We're getting excited for it," Malysa said. "Everyone had it

See COMERICA, Page B2

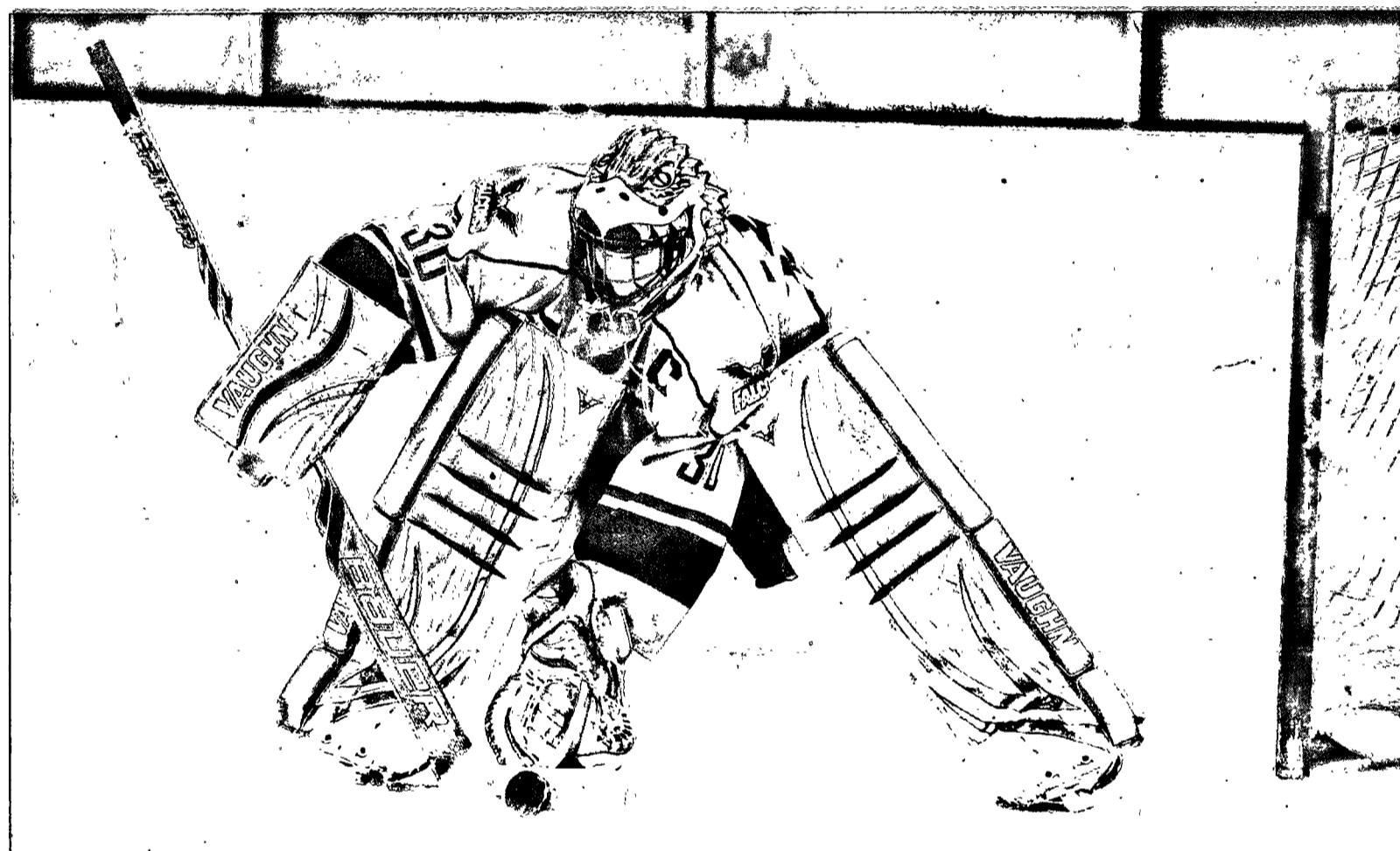
Lever update

Former Canton High School basketball standout Dietrich Lever is enjoying a stellar junior season for the Ferris State University men's basketball team.

A 5-foot-9, 150-pound guard, Lever has averaged 9.3 points per game for the Bulldogs, who have racked up a 5-3 record. Among the team's leaders in minutes played, Lever has recorded 31 assists, seven steals and averages 2.5 rebounds per game.

Last season, he was among the team's leaders in points (10.0) and assists (2.9) per game, while shooting 44 percent from beyond the 3-point arc.

PREP HOCKEY



Senior goalie John Lethemon was outstanding for the Falcons, stopping all 30 shots by the Flyers. PHOTOS BY JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Dynamo second

The Livonia YMCA Dynamo, an under-12 girls soccer team, posted a 6-2-1 record to capture second place in a league hosted by High Velocity Sports in Canton.

Team members include: Andrea Abramson, Jamie Colling, Allison Esker, Emily Esker, Alexis Gibbons, Isabella Jabbour, Mandy Laiacono, Juliana Racette, Riley St. Ledger, Abby Woods and Emily Woods.

The Dynamo are coached by Laura Litfin and Don McDougall.

CEBL champs

The Lakers and the Sixers captured the regular-season conference championship in the Plymouth-Canton Community Education Basketball League's Boys A League (seventh- and eighth-graders) this fall.

The Lakers, coached by Jeff Arnold, went 8-0. Team members included: Jake Arnold, Deshpande Abhimanyu, Bryce Henderson, Jake Yengulap, Connor Flanigan, Joe Watson, Jonathon Cook, Ian Wallman and Grant Harrison.

The Sixers, who went 7-1, consisted of: Ali Beydoun, Karan Singh, Ben Wright, Carlton Harper, Brett Tolinski, Andrew Wylie, Klevis Todi, Beau Giles, Blake Carter and Matt Malcolm.

Falcons blank Flyers

Three-goal flurry in third period ends scoreless stalemate against rival

By Dan O'Meara
Staff Writer

While the score was nearly identical as the first time, it was a much different hockey game when Farmington and North Farmington-Harrison played a second time Saturday night.

The latter battled its cross-town rival to a stalemate and even outplayed the Falcons at times until midway through the third period at Farmington Hills Ice Arena.

That's when Farmington popped in three goals within a span of two minutes and 45 sec-

onds and skated off with a 3-0 victory to improve its record to 10-2.

The Falcons dominated the first meeting a month ago, scoring three times in the first period and coasting to a 4-0 win over the Flyers, who have fallen to 1-8-1.

"It was a long way from a 3-0 game," Farmington coach Bill Newton said Saturday. "Every inch was competed for. I think we got that first one and our guys really wanted the second one."

"I think you could see (North-Harrison) deflate a little bit because of the frustration on their part, because they just couldn't score."

Farmington's Drake Cole broke the ice and scoreless deadlock with 8:54 remaining in

the game as he made a stick-handling move in front of Flyers goalie A.J. Miller and backhanded the puck into the net.

The crowd and teams had barely settled down when the Falcons scored again and then got a third goal just 34 seconds later.

Nick Kozoro flung the puck out from the boards to Richard Lantz, who fired a shot from the point. Nick Heffron, who was unmarked at the left doorstep, one-timed the rebound into the upper corner at 6:43.

The third goal was a similar play, as Cam Noseworthy sent a centering pass to the front of the net and Kris Hamilton quickly knocked the puck into the side of the North-Harrison goal.



Senior defenseman Austin Meltzer tries to get the puck squarely on the blade of his stick.

See HOCKEY, Page B4

PREP PROFILE



German exchange student Roland Buecher has excelled in the classroom and for the Redford Union football and wrestling teams. ED WRIGHT

RU's German import is a fast-learner

Buecher makes quick transition to American sports with Panthers

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

When it came time to select which American sports he would try during his 10-month stay at Redford Union High School, German exchange student Roland Buecher took the road less traveled.

Instead of competing in soccer and basketball — his primary athletic endeavors in his hometown of Ingelheim, Germany — Buecher chose football and wrestling, sports he has taken to like a bee to honey.

Despite missing the first two weeks of the Panthers' football practices (he didn't arrive in Redford until Aug. 27), Buecher worked his way into a starting spot as a defensive end for the RU defense.

Wrestling-wise, he is coach Rob Rankin's starter at 189 pounds.

Rankin, who helped coach Buecher on the

gridiron as well as the wrestling mat, said he knew not long after he met the long-distance transfer that he would be a hit in whatever he tried.

"Roland has such an outstanding, good-natured personality and he's willing to try anything," Rankin said. "He's just a good, all-around kid. Everybody likes him."

"He likes to rough-house, so he took to football and wrestling pretty quickly. The only times he gets upset are when he thinks he's not picking up something as quickly as he should be. He's been a joy to have on both teams. I told Mike (Humitz) to order me three more just like him."

Buecher said there was no way he was going to take the easy way out by tackling the sports he had already conquered in Germany.

"I wanted to experience something different," he said, as an ever-present smile creased his face. "I played soccer in Germany; all the kids play soccer in Germany. And

See BUECHER, Page B2

Wonnacott shines

Livonia native Monty Wonnacott II, a graduate of Dearborn Divine Child High School and currently a member of the Concordia University men's bowling team, placed third out of 78 competitors at the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference Jamboree No. 3 event, held Dec. 7 in Southfield.

Wonnacott, a sophomore, rolled games of 217, 213, 245 and 193 for a four-game average of 217. The Cardinals placed fifth in the event, which was won by Davenport University.

THE WEEK AHEAD

BOYS BASKETBALL
Thursday, Dec. 26
(Motor City Roundball Classic)
 Farmington vs. Windsor Herman at Harper Woods H.S., 4 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 27
(Motor City Roundball Classic)
 N. Farmington vs. Warren Mott at Harper Woods H.S., 4 p.m.
(Franklin Holiday Tourney)
 Salem vs. Crestwood, 5:30 p.m.
 Franklin vs. Edsel Ford, 7 p.m.
(Northville Tournament)
 Saline vs. Troy Athens, 1 p.m.
 Clarencville vs. Northville, 7 p.m.
(Reeths Puffer Tourney)
 John Glenn vs. Muskegon, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 28
 Franklin Tourney 5:30 & 7 p.m.
 Northville Tourney, 3 & 7 p.m.
(Reeths Puffer Tourney)
 John Glenn vs. E. Kentwood, 7 p.m.

(Motor City Roundball Classic)
 Farmington vs. Ferndale Univ. or Toronto Humble at HWHS, 9 a.m.
(Christmas Holiday Classic)
 Harrison vs. Waterford Kettering, at Dearborn Hts. Robichaud, 4 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 29
(Motor City Roundball Classic)
 North Farmington vs. Ecorse, at Harper Woods H.S., 2:20 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 30
 Thurston at Novi Detroit C.C., 7 p.m.
GIRLS BASKETBALL
Thursday, Dec. 26
(Rochester Falcon Classic)
 John Glenn vs. W. Bloomfield, 2:30 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 27
 Garden City at Southgate Tourney, 3 p.m.
 Livingston Christian at Thurston, 3 p.m.
(Rochester Falcon Classic)
 John Glenn vs. Rochester, 6 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 29
(Motor City Roundball Classic)
 N. Farmington vs. Woodhaven, at Detroit Edison Academy, 9 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 30
 Plymouth at F.H. Mercy, 7 p.m.
(Motor City Roundball Classic)
 Harrison vs. H.W. Chandler Park, at Detroit Edison Academy, 9 p.m.
PREP HOCKEY
Friday, Dec. 27
(Rochester Showcase at Onyx)
 Churchill vs. Stoney Creek, 4 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 28
(Rochester Showcase at Onyx)
 Churchill vs. Rochester Unified, 3 p.m.
PREP WRESTLING
Saturday, Dec. 28
 Salem Invitational, 9 a.m.
 Summit Dragon Duals, 9 a.m.
 Ionia Invitational, TBA.
 TBA - time to be announced.

BUECHER

Continued from Page B1

I played basketball for the past year and a half, but I wanted to try something I couldn't do back home.

"I missed the first two weeks of football practice, so I wasn't in as good of shape as everyone else, but I liked the contact right away. I especially liked playing kickoff and kickoff return, because the players run at each other full speed."

A skill Buecher started mastering at a young age - speaking English - has been a huge ally for the well-liked German, who has excelled in the classroom as well as in the athletic arenas. Buecher has earned A's and B's on his report card, adding that his favorite classes are art, psychology and history. "Every kid in Germany starts learning English in fifth grade," he said. "Actually, my English was really bad before I came here, but it has improved quite a bit since."

"School was hard at first, trying to catch on to all the new information. But I learned to start doing my homework before football practice and wrestling practice, so it has gotten better."

Buecher has earned close to a 4.0 grade-point average, which would be



Roland Buecher attempts an escape during a wrestling match against Belleville last week. ED WRIGHT

sub-par in his native country.

"In Germany, ones are the best and sixes are the worst," he said, smiling, "so lower is better, not like here."

Buecher misses his family and, at times, his homeland's food, especially the schnitzel, a boneless meat coated with flour, beaten eggs and bread crumbs.

It didn't take long for Buecher to realize that fast food is far superior in Redford than it is in Ingelheim.

"The burgers are a lot smaller in Germany and when you walk out of a McDonald's over there, your stomach hurts," he said. "They are much better here."

As far as entertainment goes, there was no

great culture shock that accompanied his journey over the Atlantic Ocean, Buecher said.

"We have most of the same TV shows that you have here - *Family Guy*, *American Dad*, *Breaking Bad*," he said. "We just get them a few weeks later over there because they have to be dubbed."

"We get to watch pretty much the same movies, too, but only the ones that make a lot of money in America make it to Germany."

Buecher will have one more year of schooling ahead of him once he returns home next summer. His long-term goal is to become a lawyer.

ewright@hometownlife.com

PREP BOYS HOCKEY

Spartans slosh their way to 8-1 victory in Winter Festival

Steady rain slows ice surface at Comerica

By Brad Emons
 Staff Writer

The Livonia Stevenson hockey team was "Singing in the Rain" Saturday night at soggy Comerica Park.

The defending Division 2 state champion Spartans danced like Fred Astaire around the sloshy outdoor ice surface in a steady downpour to beat South Lyon, 8-1.

The state's No. 1-ranked team gave up the first goal and then reeled off eight straight to improve to 10-1 overall and 6-0 in the KLAA's Central Division.

Stevenson had a lot of players chip in for the win, including Tyler Irvine (two goals, one assist), Stephen Olschanski (two goals), Dominic Lutz (one goal, three assists), Ray Chartier (one goal, two assists), Devin Kelly (three assists), Michael Sinclair and Alex DeFlorio (one goal apiece).

Andrew Rozenbaum played the first two periods in goal for the Spartans, while Brad Coutts finished up. They combined for 20 saves.

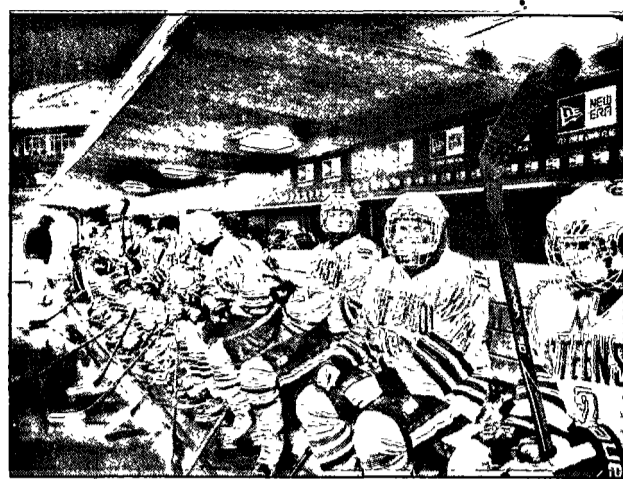
Meanwhile, South Lyon goaltender Justin Zabinski (36 saves) not only dodged raindrops, but faced plenty of rubber as the Spartans unleashed 44 shots.

"It was pretty slushy, but you could still move the puck," said Olschanski, a junior forward. "It didn't affect us too bad, because we still put eight on the board."

Although the Zamboni machines cleared off the surface between periods, conditions were challenging.

"It was hard to move the puck through the middle, so we tried to flip the puck out," Olschanski said. "It's easier to move the puck out of our own zone instead of making passes that weren't going to go through in wet ice and snow."

Ironically, South Lyon's C.J. Myers drew first blood when he scored 2:53 into the first period to get the Lions off to a good start.



On a rainy night at Comerica Park, the Livonia Stevenson boys hockey team huddles in the visitors dugout. KYLE ZAGATA

"We gave up an early one ... South Lyon came ready to play and we knew they would," Stevenson coach David Mitchell said. "It kind of woke us up. Conditions were a little tough, to say the least, but we had to make some adjustments and I feel that we did that."

The simple play proved to be a chore.

"A tape-to-tape pass was a tough thing today," Mitchell said. "We had to make sure we had to skate the puck a little more and get the puck deep a little more. If we were going to make a tape-to-tape pass, it had to be hard and solid. We try and do that anyways. It's something we couldn't be so deliberate. We had to kind of chip it and get pucks out and deep and we were able to make those adjustments. And good things happened."

After Myers' initial goal, Stevenson scored four times in the first period to take a 4-1 lead.

"It was different; nothing prepares you for it," Mitchell said. "You can talk about practicing in it, but there's nothing you can do to practice in this. It was different, it was challenging, but we reminded them they're athletes. No matter the conditions, the time or place, they have to be prepared both mentally and physically."

The Spartans added two more in the second period and two more in the third to put the game away.

"They're dynamite," South Lyon coach Bill McCreary said of the Spartans. "I think we were kind of fortunate that weather worked to our favor a little bit." Although the loss dropped the Lions to 1-9 overall and 0-5 in the KLAA Central, McCreary remained upbeat. "I'm excited for our kids," he said. "We only have six returners on the roster and our young guys are working really hard. Certainly competing against the top teams in the state ... we're challenged, but we're going to continue to get better." And just playing in Comerica, despite the rain, it proved to be a plus. "That's what we tried to focus on with the kids, is the experience," McCreary said. "Just go out there and enjoy it, compete to your best ability each shift." A hot shower afterward proved to cap off a perfect night for Olschanski and his Stevenson teammates. "I don't think I've ever played a real game outside," he said. "I've played many with my friends on ponds, but nothing like that. The jerseys were getting soaked, so we wanted to give them a chance to dry. We had extras and we talked about that before the game. We changed them, then we went for our third the last period. It was really wet and soaked. We just wanted something dry." And overall? "It was a fun one," Olschanski said.

And overall?

"It was a fun one," Olschanski said.

And overall?

"It was a fun one," Olschanski said.

And overall?

"It was a fun one," Olschanski said.

And overall?

"It was a fun one," Olschanski said.

And overall?

"It was a fun one," Olschanski said.

And overall?

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COMERICA

Continued from Page B1

circled on their calendar at the start of the year and now as the time comes and it's getting closer and closer we're getting more excited."

Malysa grew up in New Jersey, so he is not quite as up to speed as Jones is about the lure of outdoor hockey.

"Just a couple pond hockey games, but it doesn't really get too cold in New Jersey to play," Malysa said, grinning. "So this is my first time in a real game outdoors."

There were some times when players might have wondered whether they'd get to Comerica due to matters out of the OHL's control.

Plug pulled

In July 2012, the outdoor hockey celebration was first announced, only to have the plug pulled a few months later due to the National Hockey League lockout.

When labor peace in the NHL finally was restored, so was the Winter Festival. And, thankfully for the Whalers, the OHL twinbill also was restored.

Hockey fans from all over Canada and Michigan will be en route to downtown Detroit for the games.

"It's a step in the right direction," Malysa said, discussing how the Winter Festival could introduce fans to the NHL's player developmental pipeline. "Try to get the league out there, get it



Mitch Jones of the Plymouth Whalers remembers playing pond hockey near his home in Rochester Hills. He'll soon get the same chance at Comerica Park. RENA LAVERTY | PLYMOUTH WHALERS

known throughout the whole entire world that it's the top junior league. This is one step closer to broadcasting it."

Followers of the Whalers already know how strong the OHL-NHL link really is.

There were 16 former Whalers on the opening-night rosters of NHL teams in early October, including Stephen Weiss (Detroit), Tyler Seguin (Dallas), Canton native James Wisniewski (Columbus), Tom Wilson and Connor Carrick (Washington).

Whalers president, general manager and head coach Mike Vellucci also is pumped about the opportunity for his team and league.

Take a look

"We're excited, it should be fun, the guys are excited to do it and hopefully it's not too cold," Vellucci said. "It's cool for the kids, it's cool

for everybody.

"It's a different way to get more fans in the metropolitan Detroit area that haven't seen our games (to) see what good hockey it really is."

Of course, he doesn't know how much time his players will have Dec. 29 to get used to the open-air environment - let alone outdoor ice complete with cracks, divots and bumps.

"There's so much going on down there with the alumni game and the American Hockey League," Vellucci said.

"We probably won't get any practice ice there, but it will be cool to play."

And Malysa added that it will just come down to getting used to the outdoor ice, elements and environment and "just play our game."

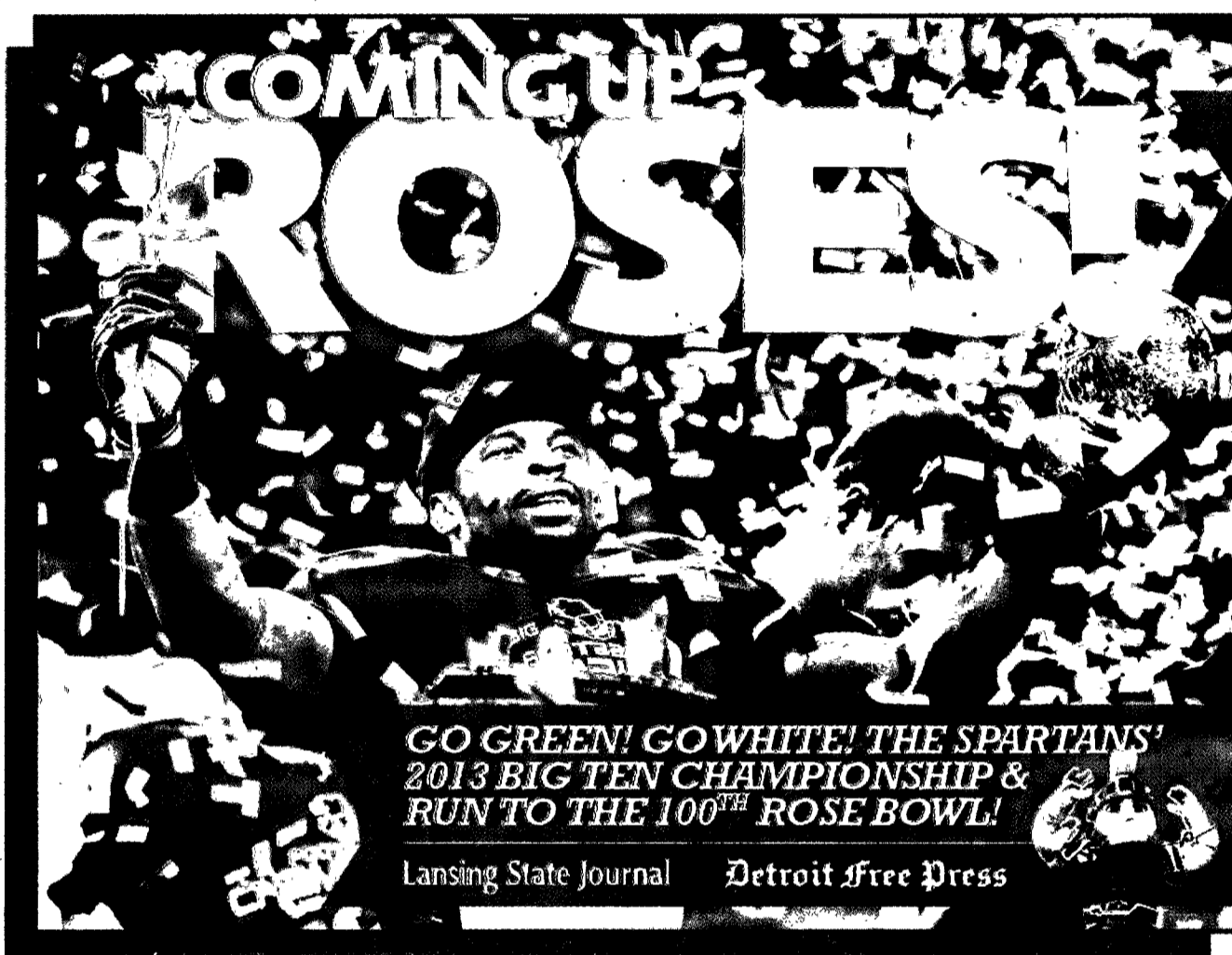
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WAR HORSE

FORMER CANTON RESIDENT
MAKES PUPPET COME ALIVEBy Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

When Jessica Krueger auditioned for *War Horse*, she sidestepped its speaking roles and aimed straight for the play's equine star.

The Canton native landed an ensemble spot in the North American tour as one of three puppeteers inside the 120-pound life-sized horse puppet named, Joey. She handles Joey's hind legs and tail as it moves on stage, helps voice his vocal reactions and shares half the puppet's weight with the actor who works the front legs and breathing movements.

"It's an incredibly unique show," Krueger said. "I'm working with essentially 17th century technology and it's the most amazing thing most people have seen on stage. And every single night we say to the audience, we're going to pretend we're a horse. Please pretend with us. And every single night they say yes."

Krueger is back in southeastern Michigan, 12 years after graduating from Plymouth Canton High School, with *War Horse*. The show runs 7:30 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Sunday, and 2 p.m. Saturday, through Jan. 5, 2014, at the Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. Tickets are available at www.ticketmaster.com, broadwayindetroit.com, at the Fisher Theatre box



Jessica Krueger, who grew up in Canton, is touring with the show 'War Horse,' which runs through Jan. 5, 2014 at the Fisher Theatre in Detroit.

office or by phone at 800-982-2787.

War Horse, based on a novel by Michael Morpurgo, tells the story of Albert and his beloved horse, Joey, who become separated when Joey is shipped to France to work with the British cavalry during World War I. Albert eventually enlists in the army in order to find Joey and bring him home.

The play, with puppets made by the Handspring Puppet Company of South Africa, originated in 2007 in London, England, and opened in 2011 on Broadway, where it won five Tony Awards. The North American company has been on the road for a year and a half and will end its tour in summer 2014.

"I never imagined this kind of role. I could never have imagined being part of a horse in a Broadway play that's touring the country," said Krueger, who studied at Circle in the Square

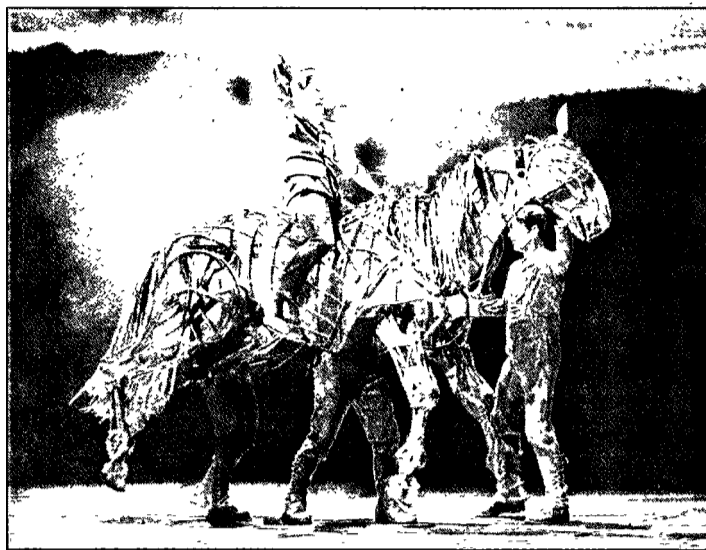
Theatre School in New York, after graduating with a degree in anthropology from Indiana University. She lives in New York and has worked in productions at the Metropolitan Opera and IMAGO Theatre in Portland, Ore., among other venues.

Workshop audition

When Krueger first heard about *War Horse*, she researched the production online and watched a video about the creation of the puppets in the show. Joey is among several horses used in the production. Several three-puppeteer ensembles rotate between them.

"They had this great demonstration of Joey (online) and then when the puppeteers came out to bow, I noticed that none of them were female, and I thought, hey, I can do that," Krueger said.

She inquired about auditioning and a year



Andrew Veenstra, who plays "Albert," rides Joey the horse in the play, 'War Horse,' currently in production at the Fisher Theatre in Detroit. Puppeteers Jessica Krueger, Patrick Osteen and Jon Riddleberger work as a team to make Joey move and react like a real horse.

BRINKHOFF-MOEGENBURG

later received an invitation to attend a three-hour workshop-style audition with other aspiring puppeteers. About an hour into the process, participants were assigned to either the head, heart or hind of the horse puppet. Krueger was placed in the hind role, the perfect spot for someone who stands 5-foot-7 tall. Krueger said she's too short for the head and that the heart of the horse seemed "awkward."

"It felt like I got better and better (in the hind). It was fun."

Krueger, who danced and did gymnastics while growing up in Canton, said she was called back twice before landing the role, which requires physical strength and athletic ability in addition to acting and puppet skills.

"There are actors who ride us and there are cavalry charges. These

people actually jump on top of the horse and ride. We carry their weight, as well. And Joey is on stage for 2 1/2 hours. It's a physically demanding role."

An aluminum frame creates a backbone and rib cage, enabling actors to ride the puppet. The frame is covered in hand-bent and hand-tied strips of cane. A hosiery-like fabric creates the skin for the horse. During the rehearsal process, puppeteers visited horses, and talked about horse movement and behavior.

Acting like a horse

"Actually moving like a horse is probably the easiest part. The hardest part is two-fold. It's both working with two other people to create something realistic and the second part is acting like a horse, reacting like a horse and not like a human."

"Sometimes we have to not listen to the words

the actor is saying, but to listen to the (emotion in) their voices and the energy that is coming at us," she said. "We make all of the sounds, all three of us do. Horses are multi-tonal. They can make different tones at the same time. Their sound capabilities are phenomenal."

The puppeteers can't talk to each other inside the horse, because they wear microphones. Their synchronized movements are almost "a sort of dance," Krueger said. She can see beyond the horse to the left and right, depending on the lighting, as well as her feet and the marks on the stage that help guide the horses through the play's blocking.

"We have to get from point A to point B. How we get there is up to us. We can do it however we like, we just have to act like a horse and respond like a horse."

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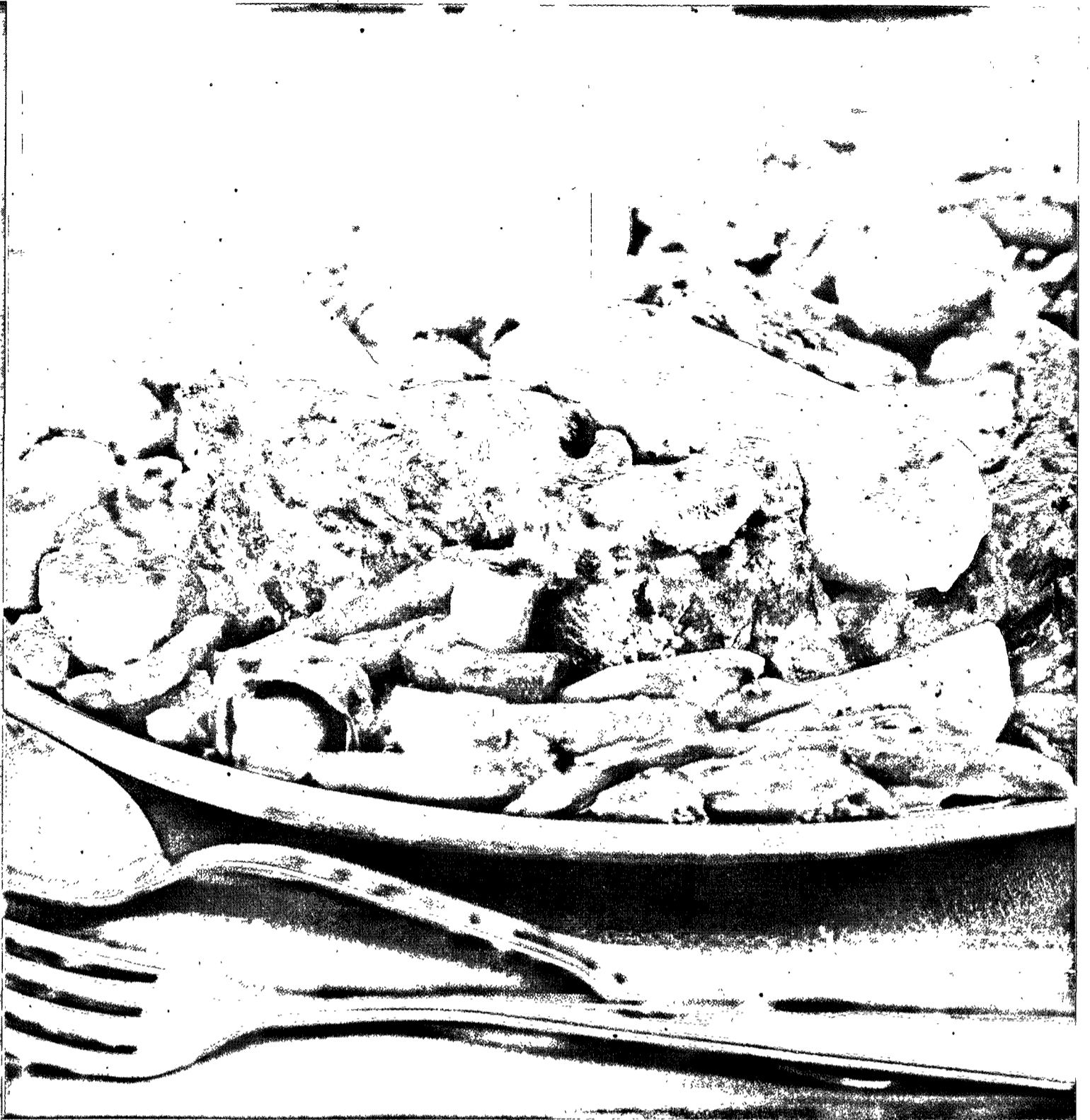
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COUNTRY STEW

Yield: 10 servings

- 5 pounds bone-in short ribs, trimmed and cut into 2-inch pieces
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 cup vegetable oil
- 2 cups water
- 1/2 cups Zinfandel
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 2 beef bouillon cubes
- 6 large Wisconsin potatoes, washed, peeled and quartered
- 1 pound small fresh mushrooms, cleaned and trimmed
- 1 package (10 ounces) frozen whole green beans
- 1 can (16 ounces) peeled whole tomatoes, undrained

1. Dredge ribs in flour to coat; reserve leftover flour.
2. Heat oil in 8-quart Dutch oven on moderate heat.
3. Add half of ribs and brown on all sides. Once browned, remove ribs. Repeat instructions for remaining ribs.
4. Stir in the reserved flour. While stirring, add 1/2 cup water and wine and stir until thickened.
5. Return ribs to the pan.
6. Add onion, garlic, salt, pepper and bouillon and bring to a boil.
7. Cover and lower heat to simmer for about 1 hour or until ribs are tender.
8. Remove ribs with slotted spoon and cover with foil to keep warm.
9. Add potatoes, mushrooms and beans. Simmer 20 to 30 minutes or until vegetables are tender.
10. Add ribs and tomatoes with liquid, and heat through.
11. Use slotted spoon to remove meat and vegetables to large serving platter.
12. Remove gravy to serving container and serve with ribs.



WINTER AROUND HEARTY COMFORT FOODS

Kee warm with hearty dishes that satisfy appetites and comfort food cravings. From russets to reds, fingerlings to purples, the hearty potato comes in many beautiful varieties that add color and texture to beloved comfort dishes.

Beyond their appearance in some of the most beloved dishes, potatoes also boast many benefits to your diet. Here are few reasons to add this versatile vegetable into meals:

Potassium — Potatoes are a great source of potassium, which may help lower high blood pressure, making them a heart-healthy choice. In fact, potatoes contain more potassium than a banana or spinach.

Vitamins — A spud a day may keep the cold germs away. One medium-sized spud has nearly half the recommended daily value of vitamin C and is also a good source of vitamin B6.

Dietary fiber — Potatoes are also a source of dietary fiber, a complex carbohydrate, which is known to increase satiety and help with weight loss.

Gluten free — Potatoes are a naturally gluten-free food, so those with gluten sensitivity can enjoy this flavorful vegetable.

You can bring out the flavors of your down-home creation by pairing it with a perfectly suited wine. A spicy red with raspberry and peppery flavors, Zinfandel pairs particularly well with the flavors of winter — the season where comfort food is king.

For more on potatoes and healthy recipe ideas, visit www.eatwisconsinpotatoes.com.

— Courtesy of Family Features

HEALTHY POTATO LASAGNA

Yield: 4 servings

- 2 links Italian turkey sausage (3 1/2 ounces each)
- 1 1/2 cups chopped onion
- 1 cup fat-free ricotta cheese
- 1 teaspoon dried basil or Italian seasoning
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 egg white
- 2 cups marinara sauce, divided
- 1 1/2 pounds Yukon gold potatoes, peeled and thinly sliced, divided
- 1 cup part-skim shredded mozzarella cheese, divided

1. Remove sausage from casing and crumble into medium skillet with onion.
2. Cook for 10 minutes or until both are browned, breaking up sausage with back of spoon.
3. Stir together ricotta, basil, garlic powder and egg white in small bowl.
4. Spread 1/2 cup marinara sauce in bottom of 9-inch square baking dish.
5. Place 1/2 of the potatoes in the bottom of the dish, forming solid layer with no gaps.
6. Drop 1/2 ricotta mixture in spoonfuls over top and spread out just a little.
7. Sprinkle with 1/2 of mozzarella and 1/2 sausage mixture.
8. Add 1/2 cup more sauce then repeat potato, cheese and meat layers.
9. Top with last layer of potatoes, remaining sauce and mozzarella.
10. Cover with plastic wrap and make small slit to vent.
11. Microwave on high for 30 minutes or until potatoes are tender.



QUICK & HEALTHY SLOW COOKER CHICKEN & POTATOES

2 teaspoons Herbs de Provence (or combination of dried thyme, fennel, basil and savory)

- 1 teaspoon garlic salt
- Freshly ground pepper to taste
- 1/2 cup flour
- 1 tablespoon canola oil
- 4 small (2 pounds) bone-in-chicken breasts, skin removed
- 1 1/2 pounds small red potatoes
- 1/2 cup frozen, thawed pearl onions
- 1 cup small baby carrots
- 1/2 cup reduced-sodium chicken broth
- 8 ounces small baby bella or white mushrooms
- Chopped fresh thyme (optional)

1. Combine Herbs de Provence, garlic salt, and pepper on a dinner plate.
2. Spoon flour onto a second dinner plate.
3. Coat each chicken breast with herb mixture; then dredge in flour.
4. Heat oil in a large skillet.
5. Add chicken and cook over medium-high heat until chicken is golden brown on both sides (approximately 3 to 4 minutes per side). If necessary, cook chicken in two batches so as not to crowd the pan.
6. Once browned, place chicken in large slow cooker and add all remaining ingredients, except fresh thyme.
7. Cover slow cooker and cook on high for 4 hours or on low for 8 hours.
8. Sprinkle with fresh thyme before serving, if desired.



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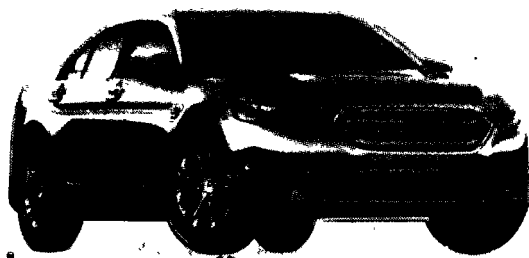


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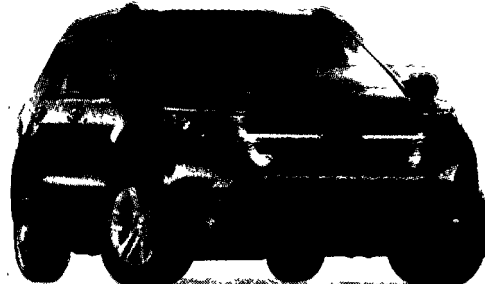
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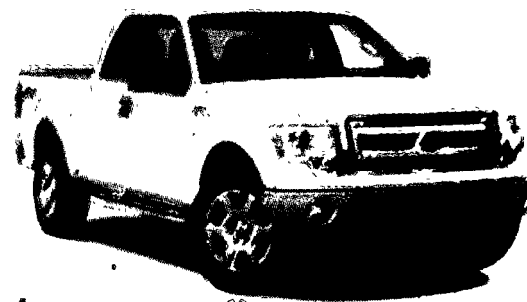
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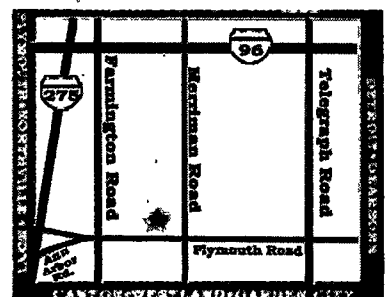
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