

Vacant school to be temporary city hall

By LeAnne Rogers Staff Writer

When Wayne City Hall staff have to relocate while repairs are being made to the building's roof, they will be temporarily moving into a former school.

The city has already met with Wayne-Westland School officials and will be moving into the closed Vandenberg Elementary School, Interim City Manager David Murphy said.

"They will lease the building

to us for \$1. We can fit everyone in there," Murphy said. "Our IT people met with their IT people. I think it will work out just fine."

City Hall wouldn't be expected to move until spring when contractors can begin repairing the building's failed roof. Closed since 2010, Vandenberg is located at 32101 Stellwagen.

The steel trusses on city hall were found to have failed earlier this year when Wayne-Westland firefighters investigated a smoke complaint. A smoking motor in the air handling system was a minor problem but the failed roof trusses required the council chambers to be closed as unsafe.

"The structural engineer is working. It will be early April or mid-May for the construction," Wayne-Westland Department of Public Works Director Ramzi El-Gharib said. "We will have to move out, the contractor will remove the roof, they will put in the new roof and we will move back in." The cost for replacing the roof is about \$350,000 and will largely be paid by the city's insurer, the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority. Belfor is coordinating the project.

Located on Wayne Road just north of Michigan Avenue, Wayne City Hall was constructed in the 1940s as a recreation building. The council chamber was part of a gymnasium/roller rink. The building was remodeled in 1988.

The weight of the record

snowfall last winter is believed to have contributed to the roof failure.

The current flat roof will be built up to address some of the past problems, El-Gharib said. The council held meetings at

The council held meetings at the Wayne Community Center before settling on a room at the Wayne Activities and Banquet Center as temporary meeting space.

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Free Thanksgiving turkeys for vets

By LeAnne Rogers Staff Writer

Westland veterans received free turkeys last week, just in time for Thanksgiving.

Originally, the veterans were supposed to stop by the Wayne Ford Civic League to pick up their turkeys. Some veterans stopped by but State Rep. Robert Kosowski, D-Westland, delivered a number of the turkeys to the homes of the veterans.

"We helped out 63 families, which is pretty awesome. We had a good mix of veterans," Kosowski said. "The majority were Vietnam veterans. I hoped for World War II veterans."

During World War II, Kosowski's grandfather Alex Iwasko died serving aboard the U.S.S. Rich, a destroyer sunk by mines in 1944. Kosowski sponsored the turkey giveaway along with Westland Mayor William Wild and the Wayne Ford Civic League. The turkeys came from Meijer at a very good price, Kosowski said, with support from America Advance.



Council rejects court's staffing request

By LeAnne Rogers Staff Writer

A request to make a currently part-time position full-time at Wayne 29th District Court has been rejected by the city council, but that may not be the end of the issue.

"The city is required by law to fund the court in a reasonable manner. The next step is to call the State Court Administrator," 29th District Court Judge Laura Mack said. "We will settle this with an arbitrator. The city will have to pay for

Wild's office took calls from veterans and the home deliveries were scheduled.

At the start of the twohour pickup period, about a dozen veterans stopped by get their turkeys.

Veteran Ralph Zewicke stopped by to pick up a turkey and ended with taking three — one for his uncle, a World War II veteran, and a neighbor, another veteran.

When notice went out about the free turkeys for veterans, Robert Hallmark said his wife, stepdaughter

State Rep. Robert Kosowski (left) and Wayne Ford Civic League President Vic Barra present a Thanksgiving turkey to veteran Dennis Rachwal.

12-year-old struck and killed by train in Wayne

Wayne police are continuing to investigate a pedestrian/train accident that killed a 12-year-old Westland boy Sunday.

Police described what was called a very tragic accident at Venoy and the railroad tracks. The boy and his friend were on foot attempting to cross the railroad tracks with a train oncoming. The boy continued onto the

tracks and was struck by the train, police said, while the friend stopped

friend stopped. Police didn't identify the youngster who was killed in the accident.

"We're going to hold off

1

releasing information until we've talked to the (victim's) family," said Wayne Interim Police Chief Alan Maciag.

Wayne police officers responded to the accident scene just before noon and confirmed the 12-year-old had been killed.

The youngster was report-

ed to have been struck and killed by the Wolverine Train 353 traveling from Pontiac to Chicago.

There were 92 passengers reported to be on the train, which was held at the scene for about four hours following the accident.

By LeAnne Rogers

SUBMITTED

it. I will let the city know."

For council members, the issue was the current fiscal year budget shortfall — a number that currently isn't certain — and a citywide hiring freeze.

Mack and Court Administrator Linda Gable submitted the request to expand to fulltime the deputy criminal/mental health court clerk. The court has received a mental health court grant that would pay for the additional hours.

"We have more part-time people as a ratio with full-time people than any other court," said Mack, adding there are six part-time staff and four fulltime workers, including Gable.

Like other city departments, Mack said the court has cut its budget, going from \$900,000 to \$650,000. By not having a fulltime criminal clerk, Mack said another staff member has to fill in two days a week, and mistakes are being made.

"Bad things happen when mistakes are made in court," said Mack, who noted that another part-time position had been left unfilled along with mental health court grant funding for the expanded deputy criminal clerk position. "I pledge to work with the city and do all we can to keep costs down."

Maintain position

Council members questioned whether the grant obligated the court to maintain the position after funding ended.

See COURT, Page A2



A2 (W) 0 & E Media | Thursday, November 27, 2014

LOCAL NEWS

recent study session and

weren't happy when administration didn't

have a proposal ready.

pleasure to the mayor

I have received more

than one call from resi-

dents saying they can't

rent a room due to coun-

cil not having approved

the fee schedule," Coun-

cil President James God-

Knowing for a year that the new city hall and

Farmers Market Pavilion

would be opening, God-

bout said the fee sched-

ule should have already

"We have a \$60,000

have no revenue coming

hole in the budget. We

in," Godbout said. "We

from the pavilion for

could have had revenue

months and there are no

city hall (room) rentals.

(Hiring) the Parks and

Recreation director has

the meeting but Deputy

skey said the fee sched-

ule would be ready for

the second council meet-

ing in December to take

effect Jan. 1. She noted

council was scheduled at

their meeting to confirm

the appointment of a new

Parks and Recreation

director who will be on

"You can say there

will be a new Parks and

Recreation director but

there were rental fees

for the Bailey Center,"

reinventing the wheel.

We lost revenues for

Godbout said. "We're not

Christmas parties again."

TURKEYS

Continued from Page A1

and stepson all called to

"I really appreciate

let him know about the

this. And I appreciated

everyone feeding me on

Veterans Day," said Hall-

giveaway.

board soon.

Mayor Thelma Kubit-

nothing to do with the fee

Wild was absent from

bout said.

been in place.

schedule."

"I expressed my dis-

William Wild) last week.

Westland council unhappy with rentals delay

By LeAnne Rogers Staff Write

Without an approved fee schedule. Westland can't rent meeting rooms

in the new city hall or the **Farmers Market Pavil**ion. **Council members** were scheduled to discuss the fee schedule at

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Mom arrested for leaving kids alone

By LeAnne Rogers Staff Writer

A Westland woman is facing child abuse charges after reportedly leaving her young children unattended for hours.

Brittany Little, 22, was arraigned Nov. 21 in Westland 18th District Court on two counts of second-degree child abuse, two counts of fourth-degree child abuse and two counts of contributing to the delinquency of a minor.

Westland Police were called to the Forest Lane Apartments, 6200 N. Wayne Road, on Nov. 19 on a report of a 4-year-old child outside, clad only in his underwear.

Officers reportedly found a second child, 10 months old, inside the apartment when they arrived. Both children were taken to Garden City Hospital for evaluation and turned over to

UAW Local 900 supports Westland veterans memorial

rial Garden of Westland received a boost from UAW Local 900 and Ford Michigan Assembly Plant workers. At Monday's council meeting, Westland Councilman Bill Johnson, UAW Michigan

mark, who spent 21 years

took it upon myself to eat

Hallmark recounted

getting free food on Vet-

tons, International House

erans Day at Tim Hor-

of Pancakes, Subway,

Texas Roadhouse, Fam-

combined in active duty

and reserve time in the

Navy. "My wife said I

myself to death."

Assembly Plant chairman, presented a \$10,000 donation to the memorial garden on behalf his members. The memorial garden, located behind the William P. Faust Library, was dedicated on Veterans Day 2013.

ous Dave's and Applebee's and also enjoyed a free movie.

"I'd like to expand this next year. We will probably do a dinner. I wanted to help out in our area," Kosowski said.

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Continued from Page A1

COURT

Gable said there wasn't that requirement in the state grant. "We haven't had a financial statement to know if we can afford it," Mayor James Haw-ley said. "If we approve it, there will be other departments with as firm justification. It's a difficult time. We also have a hiring freeze. I haven't heard anyone say we should release it for other departments."

The 2014-15 fiscal year budget was adopted by council with a deficit, which was earlier set at about \$500,000. The city has been without a finance director for several months, making it difficult for the council to get a specific number for the shortage

Interim City Manager David Murphy didn't recommend allowing the position to be filled, citing the inability to know if the city can afford the position, including legacy costs, which can fluctuate.

"It's not fair to hire someone and lay that person off in six months. I would ask you to wait a couple of months," Murphy said.

A motion to approve making the clerk position full-time failed with support only from Councilmen David James and John Rhaesa

"We know we are in the hole. We passed a budget with a hole. We have no idea how short we are," Councilwoman Susan Rowe said. "We understand how critical it is for the court. As elected officials, we can't again go ahead and spend money we don't have.'

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The Veterans Memo-

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Little

day

Child Protective Services. which placed them with their maternal grandmother.

Identified as their

mother, Little was lo-

cated and reportedly

told police she had left

the children alone for

seven hours while she

was attending school.

Police said Little told

them she had left the

children alone for about

four hours the previous

Little was arrested

pending charges from

ecutor's Office. A not

was released on per-

uled for preliminary

examination Dec. 4.

sonal bond and sched-

the Wayne County Pros-

guilty plea was entered

at her arraignment. She



LOCAL NEWS

Schoolcraft College students ride to victory in bicycle competition

By David Veselenak Staff Writer

Schoolcraft College student Joshua Costa got real acquainted with the college's fitness center the past several weeks.

Costa, a Livonia resident, was one of several hundred students involved in a competition called the Fall Frenzy, put on by a company that has developed an interactive stationary bicycle used in the event. The competition, which pitted several dozen schools against each other, challenged schools to see who could ride the farthest during a 48-hour period each week.

Using the Expresso interactive bicycles built by Interactive Fitness, students, including Costa, were running the bicycles, sometimes all night, to try to beat other colleges and universities across the country.

The hard work paid off, as Schoolcraft was the winner in the competition, defeating several schools in a tournament that saw students bike for several thousand miles.

And Costa's time at the fitness center was also an accomplishment: not only did his team win, but he placed second in the entire country in distance ridden over the five-week period, clocking 668 miles during the competition.

There were days he would begin in the middle of the night and stay at the college until the middle of the next day.

"I came for the midnight shift. I'd go and sleep in my car for a few hours and came back," he said. "I was here for every shift."

The school was awarded a trophy, dubbed the



DAVID VESELENAK | STAFF WRITER Schoolcraft College fitness center assistant manager and fitness lead Lisa Cunningham and Livonia resident and student Joshua Costa pose with the "Golden Spokes" trophy last week at the Livonia campus. The trophy was awarded to Schoolcraft College after students won a competition against several other colleges and universities across the country riding interactive, stationary bicycles the longest.

"Golden Spokes" trophy, last week by company representatives.

The bicycles look like traditional stationary bicycles, but come equipped with a computer system that allows users to simulate riding in various conditions and locations, including a track and hilly communities.

More than 370 people at Schoolcraft participated with varying amounts of participation. In addition to Costa, two other riders placed in the top 10 for mileage ridden during the event: Pat Mog of Canton, an employee in Schoolcraft's Facilities Management Department, placed fourth with 571.1 miles, and student Jose Ramirez of Northville came in ninth, riding 485.4 miles.

Defeated other larger schools The school went head-

to-head with others in the United States, competing against Carnegie Mellon

University, Houghton College, Louisiana State University and Gannon University, riding more miles in a two-day period than each one en route to their championship.

Lisa Cunningham, the fitness center's assistant manager and fitness lead, said defeating such larger schools, especially LSU, was great for the college.

"That one was fairly large," she said of the win over LSU. "They also won it last year; they were the champs in 2013.'

Costa said he helped recruit people to come in overnight, something that needed to be approved by management, as the fitness center typically closes at 9 p.m. He said throughout the five-week event, he probably spent more than 24 hours riding. "I just wanted to help Schoolcraft win," he said. "It was fun."

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'Smart meter' hearing set for Tuesday in Lansing

conventional utility

meters that are attached to homes to re-

when and how much

electricity is used by

State Rep. Tom

McMillin, committee

after being contacted

by many constituents

privacy, health and

to the meters.

and other citizens about

safety concerns relating

"With this hearing, we're giving the people

of Michigan an open

and transparent plat-

fully have them ad-

R-Rochester Hills.

"Residents have con-

form to not only voice their concerns but hope-

dressed by public utility

officials" said McMillin,

homeowners.

Suzanne Yarbrough of Livonia plans to attend a state House hearing on "smart meters" at 3 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 2, in Lansing, and she hopes other area residents will join her.

"Anyone who wants to testify regarding the health, safety, privacy (and) cyber hacking (of smart meters), or their electric bill going up for a meter that is no benefit to customers can testify," said Yarbrough, who has spoken out against smart me-ters at Livonia City Council meetings.

The hearing, held by the Michigan House **Oversight Committee**, will take place in Room 519 of the Anderson House office building, 124 N. Capitol.

"Smart meters" are a

we buy

tacted my office, terrihigh-tech alternative to fied that their power will be shut off after receiving letters from motely report through utility companies radio frequency waves threatening to do just that if they don't allow a smart meter to be installed on their home, even though they have a perfectly working anachair, called the hearing

log meter.³ Residents can testify during the committee or submit written testimony. Representatives from the Michigan Public Service Commission, DTE Energy and Con-sumers Energy have been invited to testify and respond to citizens' concerns.

For more information, residents can contact McMillin by emailing TomMcMillin@ house.mi.gov or by calling 517-373-1773



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The Westland Goodfellows is holding a toy and food drive. Donations of toys, hats & gloves, and non-perishable food items can be dropped off at any of the following locations All donated items will be distributed to Westland families this Christmas.

Donation boxes available November 1 to December 5th, 2014

Participating Goodfellows' Partners

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Livonia native serves with Navy maritime patrol squad

A 2011 Stevenson High School graduate and Livonia native is serving with Patrol Squadron Sixteen (VP-16), also known as the "War Ea-

gles." Petty Officer 3rd Class Nichole Lindberg is a naval aircrewman with VP-16, a Jacksonvillebased squadron that operates the Navy's newly designed maritime patrol aircraft, the P-8A Poseidon. Each aircraft has an aircrew of nine, is nearly 130 feet long, weighs up to 188,200 pounds and can travel more than 560 mph and nearly 1,380 miles on a tank of gas.

As a naval aircrewman, Lindberg's job duties are to perform as a member of an integrated tactical crew aboard maritime patrol aircraft and an integrated, tactical and logistics worldwide intelligence network. "I am a radar operator

and ensure the safety of a crew during flight," Lindberg said.

Lindberg said. The Navy's replacement platform for the P-3C, the P-8A Poseidon, is designed to secure the Navy's future in longrange maritime patrol capability, while transforming how the Navy's maritime patrol and reconnaissance force will man, train, operate and deploy.

"I am impressed by the P-8 because of its advanced capabilities," Lindberg said. The P-8A provides

The P-8A provides more combat capability from a smaller force and less infrastructure while focusing on worldwide responsiveness and interoperability with traditional manned forces and evolving unmanned sensors.

Lindberg is proud of the work she is doing as part of the squadron's 260-member team, help-



Petty Officer 3rd Class Nichole Lindberg is a naval aircrewman with VP-16, a Jacksonville-based squadron that operates the Navy's newly-designed maritime patrol aircraft, the P-8A Poseidon.

ing to protect America on the world's oceans. "The squadron is a good work environment and everybody cares about everyone else's well being," Lindberg said.

Lindberg's parents inspired her to join. "The Navy is a family business in a sense. Both of my parents are still in the Navy, so growing up in this lifestyle made it an easy choice to serve," she said.

The P-8A leverages the experience and technology of the P-3C's capabilities and assets to meet the Navy's needs of developing and fielding a maritime aircraft equipped with significant growth potential, including an extended global reach, greater payload capacity, higher operating altitude, and the open systems architecture.

The War Eagles were the first squadron to deploy with the new P-8A platform. One of their first major missions was participating in the search for Malaysia Airlines flight MH370 in the southern Indian Ocean.

Sailors' jobs vary considerably in VP-16. Approximately 60 officers, and 200 enlisted men and women keep the squadron running smoothly including maintaining aircraft airframes and engines, processing paperwork, handling weaponry and flying the aircraft.

"Every day I feel an extraordinary amount of pride to serve alongside our great nation's most inspiring men and women," said Cmdr. Daniel Papp, VP-16's commanding officer. "Our team is filled with hardworking and highly qualified professionals who hold uncommon levels of responsibility and accountability in support of our mission: To provide maritime patrol services to the fleet in support of national interests. Their work ethic, commitment, enthusiasm, and esprit de corps are second to none!"









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OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MEDIA HOMETOWN LIFE.COM

John Glenn High students turn out for Pop with Cop

By Sue Mason Staff Writer

Westland Police Offi cer Joe Bobby is wellknown around John Glenn High School. The school's resource officer, Bobby interacts with students on a regular basis.

But when he staged his first Pop with a Cop, he was worried no one would show.

Just the opposite was true. More than a dozen students stopped by the cafeteria last Thursday to have a pop or bottle of water and talk about anything and everything - University of Michigan football coach Brady Hoke, basketball and the school district's tardy policy.

"I got the idea from the chief's Coffee with a Cop," Bobby said. "I did it so they could address their concerns or ask questions off the record and in an open forum. It's a positive thing.'

Many of the students were members of the basketball team. Many of them already knew Bobby who spends 90 percent of his time in the school

"I already knew him around school," Bobby Powell said. "This gives a different vehicle to meet him outside of school."

"I've been cool with him, we've spoken a lot of times," Freddie Thompson said. "I like having a relationship with him. Whenever I talk with him, he gives me a lot of good information."

Some students questioned Bobby about being a police officer, how he gets along with other police officers and how



Joining Westland Police Officer Joe Bobby for Pop with a Cop were John Glenn students Tre'vaughn James, Tion Liddell, Christian Agnew, Terrance Dupree and Saturi Lunad,



Senior Jamie Melchor likes having a relationship with **Resource Officer Joe Bobby.**

many police dogs the department has. He was also asked about using a Taser.

"No one goes to work wanting to Taser or use force," he said. "It's not fun, but sometimes it's necessary." Principal David In-

gham also joined in, fielding questions about which tests are needed for college and the appeal process for being absent for 15 days.

"I'll probably do it again," he said. "You get to know kids. I had them stopping me in the halls during the day and asking if Pop with a Cop was on. That's a positive thing."

"It's nice to know the officer," senior Jamie Melchor said. "I have a bond with him.'

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Motion hearing in soccer ref death case pushed back again

By David Veselenak Staff Writer

More delays have taken place in the trial of Bassel Saad, the man accused of killing a soccer referee in Livonia.

A motion hearing was originally scheduled for last Friday afternoon, but was once again delayed, this time to 9 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 26, said Wayne County Prosecutor's Office spokeswoman Maria Miller.

Also changed in the case is the jury trial date: it will now take place beginning at 9 a.m. Feb. 23 in judge Thomas Cameron's courtroom in the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice in Detroit. It was most recently set for Feb. 9, though that date was also chosen after it was pushed back from its originally scheduled date of Dec. 8. The motion hearing

was expected to deal with three separate



incidents to be included

as evidence during the

torney's motions include

one motion to quash and

trial. The defense at-

Saad

other

previous

faces up to life in prison if convicted. The case has stalled

since it was bound over to circuit court earlier this summer: several delays have taken place, and Saad has also retained a new lawyer to represent him.

The most recent delay occurred when circuit judge Cynthia Gray-Hathaway recused herself from hearing the case earlier this month, claiming she could not be unbiased, as she has a background in sports. She also said Saad's new attorney, Cyril Hall, had represented her in an unrelated case previously. The case was redrawn to Cameron earlier this month.

Saad is being held in the Wayne County jail on \$1 million bond.

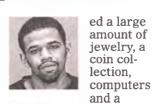
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Westland family reportedly interrupts home break-in

A Westland man has been charged with breaking into a home - a crime that was interrupted by the homeowners

Westland police were called to the home at 206 S. Carlson just before 8 p.m. Nov. 20. The family had just returned from dinner and one family member heard a loud noise, believed to be the suspect fleeing the house.

A rear window was found to have been bro-



Thomas

missing. The investigation led officers to an apartment complex at Western Hills Apartments in the 37000 block of Cherry Hill where a suspect was found to be in pos-

handgun

were

with three stolen handguns

Malik Travez Thomas, 18, has been arraigned in Westland 18th District Court on charges of first-degree home invasion, receiving and concealing stolen firearms, larceny of firearms, larceny in a building and felony firearm

Bond for Thomas was set at \$125,000/10 percent. A preliminary examination has been scheduled for Dec. 4. By LeAnne Rogers

City of Livonia: Regular Meeting Minutes of 10/20/14 Present: Kritzman, Pastor, Meakin, Toy, Scheel, Nash, Brosnan Absent: None Meeting called to order @ 7 pm #300-14 Approving minutes of 10/6/14 Meeting.





Saad, 36, of Dearborn is accused in the death of John Bieniewicz of Westland, a soccer referee who was officiating an adult league match Saad was playing in earlier this summer at Livonia's Mies Park. Witnesses said during the preliminary examination in July that Saad struck Bieniewicz as he was in the process of ejecting Saad from the game. Saad is

charged with seconddegree murder and

Several items received and filed. #301-14 Approving block party on Bennett between Westbrook and Parklane on 10/31/14 from 6 pm - midnight.

#302-14 Approving sidewalk waiver for 20320 Purlingbrook.

#303-14 Approving sidewalk waiver for 33831 Orangelawn.

#304-14 Approving renewal of the Standard Software Maintenance Agreement ("SSMA") between the City of Livonia and New World Systems, for the period December 1, 2014 to November 30, 2019.

#305-14 Accepting proposal from Accumed Billing, Inc., PO Box 2122, Riverview, MI 48192, to perform emergency medical billing services for a three (3) year period (with an option to renew for an additional two (2) year period under the same terms and conditions upon mutual consent by the City and Accumed Billing, Inc.) at the rate of 7.29% of each bill collected. #306-14 Approving the City of Livonia Health Reimbursement Arrangement Plan. **#307-14** Approving the merger of the two part-time positions of Deputy Clerk and Elections Coordinator into one full-time position of Deputy Clerk; approving appointment of Susan Hoff to the position of full-time Deputy Clerk; establishing the full-time salary for this position in the amount of \$62,192.00, or an amount equal to that of the Deputy Treasurer, with the further understanding that all benefits as previously approved by the Council for other appointed positions within the City be also extended to this position. (CR 279-11) #308-14 Authorizing the purchase of one (1) 2015 Sewer Cleaning Jet Truck utilizing the National Joint Powers Alliance (NJPA) Purchasing Contract which was awarded to Jack Doheny Companies, 777 Doheny Court, Northville, MI 48167 (under Contract No. 022014-SCA), in the amount of \$207,267.84, to replace a current vehicle from budgeted funds. **#309-14** Authorizing the purchase of one (1) Case 580SN 2WD Backhoe/Loader utilizing the National Joint Powers Alliance (NJPA) Purchasing Contract which was awarded to Southeastern Equipment Co., Inc., 48545 Grand River Avenue, Novi, MI 48374 (NJPA Member No: 40280), in the amount of \$83,601.20, to replace a current vehicle from budgeted funds

#310-14 Approving and authorizing the modernization of the traffic signal at I-275/I-96 NB Ramp at Seven Mile Road; approving of the City assuming its 67% share of the annual energy and maintenance costs for such modernization; appropriating and authorizing the expenditure of a sum not to exceed \$225.00 annually from the Michigan Transportation Fund. **#311-14** Approving and authorizing the modernization of the traffic signal at Old M-14 (Ann Arbor Road) at Newburgh Road; approving of the City assuming its 50% share of the annual energy and maintenance costs for such modernization; appropriating and authorizing the expenditure of a sum not to exceed \$576.00 annually from the Michigan Transportation Fund. #312-14 Approving and authorizing the modernization of the traffic signal at Old M-14 (Ann Arbor Road) at Ann Arbor Trail; FURTHER, the Council does hereby approve of the City assuming its 50% share of the annual energy and maintenance costs for such modernization;

appropriating and authorizing the expenditure of a sum not to exceed \$528.00 annually from the Michigan Transportation Fund.

#313-14 Approving and authorizing the modernization of the traffic signal at Old M-14 (Plymouth Road) at Levan Road; approving of the City assuming its 50% share of the annual energy and maintenance costs for such modernization; appropriating and authorizing the expenditure of a sum not to exceed \$576.00 annually from the Michigan Transportation Fund. #314-14 Approving Petition 2014-08-SN-02 submitted by WorkForce Software, for a wall sign for the four-story office building (Seven Mile Crossing), located at 38705 Seven Mile Road, subject to conditions.

#315-14 Referring the matter of scheduling a meeting for the purpose of discussing the clarification and possible verbiage change to LOCC Resolution #06-13 in regards to absences of the City Councilmembers at meetings.

#316-14 Approving the Annual Budget of the City of Livonia for the fiscal year commencing December 1, 2014, and ending November 30, 2015.

#317-14 Establishing a tax levy of 4.0447 mills, of the taxable valuation of all real and personal property subject to taxation in the City of Livonia for the fiscal year commencing December 1, 2014, and ending November 30, 2015, as well as various additional levies to support the proposed budget.

Second reading and approval of the following ordinance: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 260 OF TITLE 6, CHAPTER 04 (DOGS) OF THE LIVONIA CODE OF ORDINANCES, AS AMENDED

First reading of the following ordinance: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SUBSECTION (p) OF SECTION 11.03 OF ARTICLE XI OF ORDINANCE NO. 543, AS AMENDED, KNOWN AND CITED AS "THE CITY OF LIVONIA ZONING ORDINANCE."

#318-14 Approving and establishing a \$25.00 fee to non-residents and a \$10.00 fee to residents per exam for test proctoring and a \$10.00 per obituary fee for genealogical research for all library patrons.

#319-14 Approving Petition 2014-08-08-10, to remodel the exterior of the commercial/office building (Mark E. Building - O'Malley's Bar & Grill), located at 15231 Farmington Road, subject to conditions

#320-14 Approving Petition 2008-11-06-04, directing the Department of Law to prepare an amendment to Section 11.03 of Article XI of the Livonia Zoning Ordinance No. 543, requiring approval of any licensed business pursuant to the Deferred Presentment Service Transactions Act

Meeting adjourned @ 7:34 pm Complete meeting minutes @ City Clerk's Office Terry A. Marecki

Livonia City Clerk

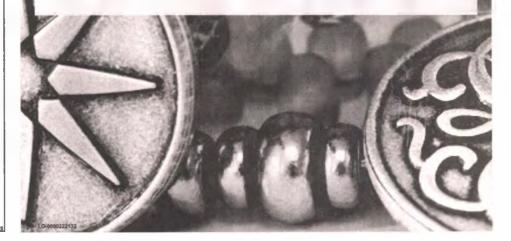


ALEX AND ANI BLACK FRIDAY ONE DAY EVENT

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CANNOT BE COMBINED WITH ANY OTHER OFFER **EXCLUDES BANGLE OF THE MONTH** OFFER ONLY VALID 11.28.14

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Shop is 'Downton Abbey' fans' cup of tea

By Julie Brown Staff Write

There was just a touch of England among the prim and proper crowd at the Tranquili-Tea open house Sunday, Nov. 16.

The business on Ann Arbor Trail in downtown Plymouth hosted an open house with tasting of nine teas, five from the popular PBS Downton Abbey television series set in Great Britain in the early 20th century.

"This gives them an opportunity to try products that normally aren't available for sampling," said Colleen Cannon, who with her husband Pat owns Tran-quiliTea. "We were very pleased with the end product. We thought it was quite delightful."

The Downton Abbeybased tea is new and popular. "They are based on characters," Livonia resident Pat Cannon said of the Downton Abbey teas. "We actually carry Downton Abbey jewelry as well and Downton Abbey-inspired tea cozies."

He paused to compare the British series' venue and Plymouth. "I think it has to do with the small town aspect of the area," Pat Cannon said. "Obviously we don't have a big manor hanging over us. It's kind of that hometown feel."

The Cannons, in business at TranquiliTea for



Colleen and Pat Cannon of Livonia were pleased to welcome visitors to the open house Sunday, Nov. 16, at their TranquiliTea store in downtown Plymouth.

nearly nine years, were pleased with the steady turnout at their business open house. "Business is picking up. I think it'll really start taking off after Thanksgiving," he said. He agreed last winter's weather hit many retailers hard.

"We are in Michigan and we do get snow, Pat Cannon said. One visitor Sunday to

TranquiliTea was Suzan Zissimos of Redford. "I was going through town

and I always like to stop here," she said. "It's fun to taste all the samples.'

She picked Holiday Spice as her holiday tea favorite. Zissimos was accompanied by husband Pete, with both avid Downton Abbey fans.

"The acting is very well done," Pete Zissi-mos said. "The character Matthew should have never died. It's a timepiece. I like that.'

jcbrown@hometownlife.com

City of Livonia: Regular Meeting Minutes of 10/20/14 Present: Kritzman, Pastor, Meakin, Toy, Scheel, Nash, Brosnan

Meeting called to order @ 7 pm #300-14 Approving minutes of 10/6/14 Meeting.

Several items received and filed. #301-14 Approving block party on Bennett between Westbrook and Parklane on 10/31/14

from 6 pm - midnight.

Absent: None

#302-14 Approving sidewalk waiver for 20320 Purlingbrook

#303-14 Approving sidewalk waiver for 33831 Orangelawn.

#304-14 Approving renewal of the Standard Software Maintenance Agreement ("SSMA") between the City of Livonia and New World Systems, for the period December 1, 2014 to November 30, 2019.

#305-14 Accepting proposal from Accumed Billing, Inc., PO Box 2122, Riverview, MI 48192, 211: Appr. minutes of regular meeting held 11/3/14. to perform emergency medical billing services for a three (3) year period (with an option - Appr. 1 yr. Contract w/WH Canon for City Hall Landscape Maintenance Services; to renew for an additional two (2) year period under the same terms and conditions upon amt. not to exceed \$17,091. Intro Manpower Budget Amendment 2014-03; General Fund. mutual consent by the City and Accumed Billing, Inc.) at the rate of 7.29% of each bill collected. Adopt Budget Amendment 2015-01; General Fund Budget Transfer for Animal Control. Adopt Budget Amendment 2015-02; General Fund for COPS Grant. Adopt. Clyde Smith Farm's Condos LTSW Maintenance Facilities Resolution. #306-14 Approving the City of Livonia Health Reimbursement Arrangement Plan #307-14 Approving the merger of the two part-time positions of Deputy Clerk and Elections Coordinator into one full-time position of Deputy Clerk; approving appointment of Susan Hoff to the position of full-time Deputy Clerk; establishing the full-time salary for this position Appr. Clyde Smith Farm's Condos LTSW Facilities Maintenance Agreement. Adopt Prepared Resolution adopting WWCS Partnership Agreement Re. Jefferson in the amount of \$62,192.00, or an amount equal to that of the Deputy Treasurer, with the Barns interior renovations. further understanding that all benefits as previously approved by the Council for other - Adopt. WWCS Partnership Agreement Re. Jefferson Barns interior renovations. appointed positions within the City be also extended to this position. (CR 279-11) Proclaimed 11/29/14 "Small Business Saturday". #308-14 Authorizing the purchase of one (1) 2015 Sewer Cleaning Jet Truck utilizing the 213: Appr. WWPFFU CBA 2014-2020. National Joint Powers Alliance (NJPA) Purchasing Contract which was awarded to Jack 214: Appr. SLU for prop. expansion of Malarkey's Irish Pub, 35750 Warren Road. Doheny Companies, 777 Doheny Court, Northville, MI 48167 (under Contract No. 022014-215: Conf. appt. of J. Mistak as Parks & Rec Director effective 12/1/14. SCA), in the amount of \$207,267.84, to replace a current vehicle from budgeted funds. 216: Conf. appt. of Fr. R. Kerr to DDA to fill unexp. term to exp. 9/6/15. 217: Conf. re'appt. of S. Larimore to EDC/TIFA for 4 yr. term to exp. 11/15/18. #309-14 Authorizing the purchase of one (1) Case 580SN 2WD Backhoe/Loader utilizing 218: Conf. re'appt. of T. Nix to Board of Review for 3 yr. term to exp. 12/6/17. the National Joint Powers Alliance (NJPA) Purchasing Contract which was awarded to Southeastern Equipment Co., Inc., 48545 Grand River Avenue, Novi, MI 48374 (NJPA 219: Appr. checklist: \$ 3,113,805.90. Mtg. adj. at 8:15 p.m. Member No: 40280), in the amount of \$83,601.20, to replace a current vehicle from budgeted Minutes available in the Clerk's Office. funds #310-14 Approving and authorizing the modernization of the traffic signal at I-275/I-96 NB Ramp at Seven Mile Road; approving of the City assuming its 67% share of the annual energy and maintenance costs for such modernization; appropriating and authorizing the James Godbout Eileen DeHart-Schoof, CMC **Council President** City Clerk expenditure of a sum not to exceed \$225.00 annually from the Michigan Transportation Publish: November 27, 2014 LO-0000221918 3x4 Fund. #311-14 Approving and authorizing the modernization of the traffic signal at Old M-14 (Ann City of Livonia: Regular Meeting of 11/05/14 Arbor Road) at Newburgh Road; approving of the City assuming its 50% share of the annual Meeting called to order @ 7 pm energy and maintenance costs for such modernization; appropriating and authorizing the Present: Toy, Scheel, Nash, Kritzman, Pastor, Meakin expenditure of a sum not to exceed \$576.00 annually from the Michigan Transportation Absent: Brosnan #325-14 Approving minutes of 10/20/14 meeting **#312-14** Approving and authorizing the modernization of the traffic signal at Old M-14 (Ann Arbor Road) at Ann Arbor Trail; FURTHER, the Council does hereby approve of the City **#326-14** Approving minutes of Special Meeting 10/22/14 Several items received and filed. assuming its 50% share of the annual energy and maintenance costs for such modernization; #327-14 Approving reappointment of Jack Engebretson to the Livonia Brownfield appropriating and authorizing the expenditure of a sum not to exceed \$528.00 annually from Redevelopment for a 3 yr term expiring 11/24/17. the Michigan Transportation Fund. #328-14 Approving the reappointment of Joe Taylor to the Livonia Brownfield #313-14 Approving and authorizing the modernization of the traffic signal at Old M-14 Redevelopment Authority of a 3 yr. term expiring 11/24/17. (Plymouth Road) at Levan Road; approving of the City assuming its 50% share of the annual #329-14 Authorizing the purchase for \$45,199.09 for Rain Bird Irrigation Products for Idyl energy and maintenance costs for such modernization; appropriating and authorizing the Wyld Golf Course from Automatic Irrigation Supply Company. #330-14 Authorizing the City to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding between Wayne expenditure of a sum not to exceed \$576.00 annually from the Michigan Transportation Fund. County and the City authorizing the City to become a Closed POD to ensure the City is #314-14 Approving Petition 2014-08-SN-02 submitted by WorkForce Software, for a wall sign enabled to acquire and provide the required medication/medical supplies needed during an for the four-story office building (Seven Mile Crossing), located at 38705 Seven Mile Road, event that jeopardizes the health and welfare of Livonia citizens. subject to conditions. #315-14 Referring the matter of scheduling a meeting for the purpose of discussing the #331-14 Approving the 2015 Road Repair Program, for the third year of the 10 year road clarification and possible verbiage change to LOCC Resolution #06-13 in regards to absences paving millage. #332-14 Accepting the quote of Bidigare Contractors to perform emergency repair and of the City Council members at meetings. replacement of a 12" water main at Schoolcraft College. #333-14 Approving Petition 2014-09-08-12 submitted by Triumph Building Co. to amend site #316-14 Approving the Annual Budget of the City of Livonia for the fiscal year commencing December 1, 2014, and ending November 30, 2015. plan for the Cade Meadows property at 36905 Ann Arbor Tr. (CR 82-07) #317-14 Establishing a tax levy of 4.0447 mills, of the taxable valuation of all real and Second Read and approval to Ordinance: personal property subject to taxation in the City of Livonia for the fiscal year commencing AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SUBSECTION (p) OF SECTION 11.03 OF ARTICLE XI December 1, 2014, and ending November 30, 2015, as well as various additional levies to OF ORDINANCE NO. 543, AS AMENDED, KNOWN AND CITED AS "THE CITY OF support the proposed budget. Second reading and approval of the following ordinance: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 260 OF TITLE 6, CHAPTER 04 (DOGS) OF LIVONIA ZONING ORDINANCE." First Read to the following ordinance AN ORDINANCE ADDING SUBSECTION (w) OF SECTION 11.03 OF ARTICLE XI THE LIVONIA CODE OF ORDINANCES, AS AMENDED. OF ORDINANCE NO. 543, AS AMENDED, KNOWN AND CITED AS "THE CITY OF First reading of the following ordinance: LIVONIA ZONING ORDINANCE." AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SUBSECTION (p) OF SECTION 11.03 OF ARTICLE XI Scheel steps from the podium @ 7:18 pm OF ORDINANCE NO. 543, AS AMENDED, KNOWN AND CITED AS "THE CITY OF #334-14 Approving the reappointment of Lynda Scheel to the Livonia Brownfield LIVONIA ZONING ORDINANCE." Redevelopment Authority for a 3 yr. term expiring 11/24/17. #318-14 Approving and establishing a \$25.00 fee to non-residents and a \$10.00 fee to Scheel returns @ 7:21 pm residents per exam for test proctoring and a \$10.00 per obituary fee for genealogical research Kritzman steps from the podium @ 7:21 pm. for all library patrons #335-14 Authorizing City to execute a QBS Contract Amendment with Orchard, Hiltz, #319-14 Approving Petition 2014-08-08-10, to remodel the exterior of the commercial/office McCliment to provide design and construction services for the 2015 Asphalt Road Program in building (Mark E. Building - O'Malley's Bar & Grill), located at 15231 Farmington Road, an amount not to exceed \$207,500.00. subject to conditions #336-14 Authorizing City to execute a QBS Contract with Anderson, Eckstein, and Westrick **#320-14** Approving Petition 2008-11-06-04, directing the Department of Law to prepare an amendment to Section 11.03 of Article XI of the Livonia Zoning Ordinance No. 543, to provide design and construction services for the 2015 Concrete Road Program in an amount not to exceed \$396,470.00. requiring approval of any licensed business pursuant to the Deferred Presentment Service #337-14 Authorizing City to execute a QBS Contract with Orchard, Hiltz, McCliment to Transactions Act. provide design and construction services for the DWRF Project in an amount not to exceed #321-14 Suspending the rules for procedure as outlined in CR 574-82 to permit consideration \$1,315,000.00. of items that do not appear on the agenda. #338-14 Authorizing City to execute a QBS Contract with OHM to provide design and #322-14 Approving the tentative agreement between the City of Livonia and AFSCME construction services for the SAW program in an amount not to exceed \$952,300.00. Union Local 192 for the period December 1, 2013 through November 30, 2016. Kritzman returned to the odium @ 7:24 pm **#323-14** Resolution by Pastor and Meakin, unanimously adopted, approving the proposed contract between the City of Livonia and Livonia Police Officers Association (LPOA), Subunit B, Police Service Aides for the period October 20, 2014 through November 30, 2017. #339-14 Approving and granting Petition 2014-08-02-11 to operate a second hand store at 31092 5 Mile. Meeting adjourned @ 7:41 pm #340-14 Approving the proposed schedule of Council Study and Regular Meeting from Complete meeting minutes @ City Clerk's Office 1/2015-12/31/15. Meeting adjourned @ 7:26 pm. **Terry A. Marecki** Complete meeting minutes available at City Clerk's Office. Terry A. Marecki Livonia City Clerk Livonia City Clerk Publish: November 27, 2014 Publish: November 27, 2014

SEMCOG report paints stark picture of road conditions

Just how bad are roads in southeast Michigan? According to SEM-COG, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, they're not good at all.

Each year, as required by law, SEMCOG works with local road agencies to evaluate the condition of the major roads in the seven-county region. The preliminary results of this summer's work are in and they paint a stark picture. Southeast Michigan

has seen a staggering jump in the total miles of roads that should be repaired by completely tearing them up and rebuilding them from the ground up. Of the nearly 4,500 miles of major roads that were evaluated this summer, more than 1,900 miles need to be rebuilt, an increase of more than 500 miles compared to two years ago, when these same roads were last evaluated.

Another 1,900 miles are in need of preventive maintenance in order to keep them from also slipping into poor condi-

tion Only 650 miles - or 14 percent - are considered to be in good condition.

People may want to blame last winter's weather for the rapid deterioration of our roads," said Carmine Palombo, deputy executive director of SEM-COG. "However, the weather simply exposed the real problem. Our state has been dis-investing in roads for years.

"If the Senate funding proposal is enacted, we will begin to see the condition of our road system improve over time. Unfortunately, if major funding increases do not occur, the decline in the condition of our roadways will continue," she added.

condition

The SEMCOG region has nearly 29,000 miles of public roads. Of that total, approximately 8,000 miles are classified as "federal-aid eligible," which means a portion of the cost to repair them can be provided by the federal government. This includes all freeways, highways and many of the major streets motorists use every day.

Over the course of two years, a team of specially trained local, county and state employees evaluate the condition of all 8,000 miles of federal-aid eligible roads. This evaluation process has been in place since 2004; at that time, only 9 percent of the roads were considered to be in need of replacement.

While the evaluations include a detailed accounting of road conditions, results are reported in three simple categories. Roads rated as "good" have no significant issues related to their condition. Roads in fair condition

are beginning to show

CITY OF WESTLAND SYNOPSIS OF MINUTES MTG. 23 11/17/14

Presiding: President Godbout

Present: Coleman, Hammons, Johnson, Kehrer, Reeves



Of the nearly 4,500 miles of major roads in southeast Michigan, only 650 miles are considered to be in good

> some wear and tear and require certain preventive maintenance in order to improve their condition and extend the useful life of the roadway. Preventive maintenance is relatively inexpensive and can usually delay the need for replacement by 10 to 15 years.

Roads in poor condition have moved beyond the point where preventive maintenance can be effective. The only option for these roads is complete reconstruction, which is much more costly.

The same roads that were evaluated in 2012 were also evaluated again in 2014. Below is the comparison of road conditions from those two years.

Good – in 2012, 16 percent or 721 miles were in good condition compared to 14 percent or 650 miles in 2014.

Fair - in 2012, 52 percent, or 2,328 miles, were in fair condition compared to 43 percent or 1,940 miles in 2014.

Poor - in 2012, 32 percent or 1,427 miles were in poor condition compared to 43 percent or 1,937 miles in 2014.

10.000



LOCAL NEWS



Debbie Gaber of Dearborn brought granddaughter Alaina Smith, 11.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Who cares about cold and snow when you have a chocolate-covered doughnut? Nicole Giacchina and 2-year-old daughter Novella Ventimiglia are from Wayne.

Hines Drive lights up for the holidays

More than four miles of Hines Drive are a glow with the opening of Wayne County Parks' 21st annual Lightfest.

A popular holiday attraction, Lightfest features more than 55 animated holiday-themed displays that line Hines Drive from Merriman Hollow in Westland to Warrendale Park in Dearborn Heights.

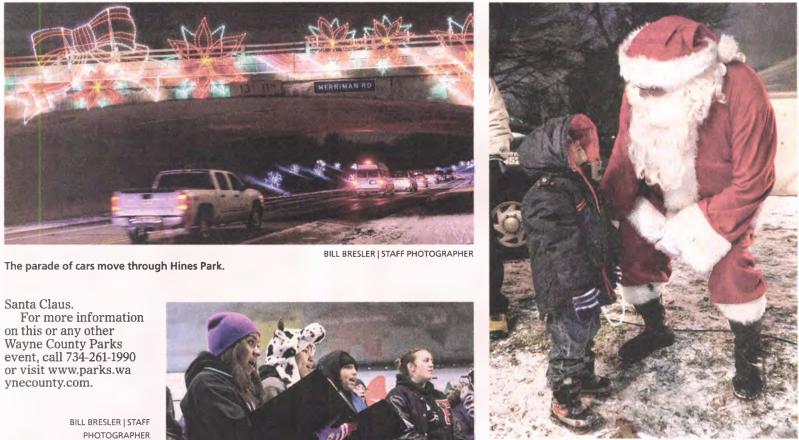
It's now open 7-10 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 6-10 p.m. Friday through Sunday. Hines Drive closes to traffic at 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday and at 5 p.m. Friday through Sunday. The display is closed Christmas Day. Cars can enter at Merriman Road north of Warren Road in Westland. The cost is \$5 per car.

Tuesday, Dec. 2, 9 and 16, also will be Toy Nights with visitors invited to bring a new, unwrapped toy in lieu of the \$5 vehicle fee. Toys will be donated to the Wayne County Family Center.

And there's more to Lightfest than the lighted displays. Youngsters can visit Santa in his workshop at Warrendale Park. Santa will be there now through Tuesday, Dec. 23, to visit with children.



Driving through the tunnels of light.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

And for youngsters, who'd prefer to write to Santa, can drop their letters in a giant mailbox outside his workshop.

And there are more lights to be turned on. The Friends of Nankin Mills and Wayne County Parks will be holding the Family Holiday Fest and 26th Annual Mill Lighting on Saturday, Dec. 13.

There will be children's holiday crafts and games with prizes 3:30-5:15 p.m. Families can participate in holiday games, such as "fruit-cake bowling," "Candy Cane Scavenger Hunt", and "Reindeer Antler Wreath Toss" as well as make several seasonal crafts to take home. Prizes are awarded for games.

The annual Friends of Nankin Mills Traditional Mill Lighting and Sing-A-Long will be 5:15-6 p.m. and include a visit from

on this or any other Wayne County Parks event, call 734-261-1990 or visit www.parks.wa ynecounty.com.

The Livonia Franklin High **School Chorus entertains** with holiday tunes.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Five-year-old Mason Jenks meets Santa Claus. Mason attended Lightfest with his grandma, Gail Jenks of Canton. Mason and his family live in Westland.

Handle the holidays with confidence, creativity

he beauty of the holiday season is often compromised by the stress of preparations and the desire to create idealized memories. With time at a premium, making choices



about baking, cooking, decorating and



Fear not! A selection of titles from the Wayne Public Library can help you navigate the holidays with confidence, creativity and aplomb.

For the adventurous baker, there's Joy the Baker: Homemade Decadence: Irresistibly Sweet, Salty, Gooey, Sticky, Fluffy, Creamy, Crunchy Treats by Joy Wilson. This volume, complete with

mouthwatering pho-tographs, includes recipes for everything from compound butters and tantalizing beverages to decadent treats with unusual flavor combinations, such as Lavender Palmiers and Lemon-Buttermilk Pie with Maple-Cranberry Sauce. Wilson maintains a blog — JoytheBaker.com – where she shares her unique culinary creations.

Does the frantic holiday pace make a homecooked dinner seem impossible? Dinner: the Playbook: a 30-Day Plan for Mastering the Art of the Family Meal by Jenny **Rosenstrach features** easy, gourmet, go-to recipes for busy nights. This slim book contains 80 kid-tested recipes designed to combine maximum flavor with

minimum fuss, as well as five-day weekly meal plans to simplify choosing your nightly dinner. The author combines fancier fare, such as Maple Candy Pork Chops and Quick Coq Au Vin, with homey favorites, such as Chicken BLTs and a Baked Potato Bar. **Rosenstrach emphasizes** the importance of planning to make the weekday dinner rush more manageable, and she includes a range of helpful tips to organize and prioritize mealtime.

If your tinsel is in tangles and your garland is a mess, turn to Decorating for the Holidays by the creative crew at Martha Stewart Living. Martha provides tips for bringing nature indoors by crafting unique decorations from pine cones, greenery, berries and

more. Learn how to add sparkle to your holiday table with sugared lemons and gilded almonds and walnuts. And explore Martha's recipes for such holiday delicacies as Silver-Leafed Almond **Fudge and Chocolate** Genoise.

Simply Handmade: 365 Easy Gifts & Decorations You Can Make covers the year of celebrations from Valentine's Day to Christmas. Brighten your holiday decor with a Christmas Candy Topiary or Peppermint Candy Wreath. If candy isn't your artistic medium, there are designs for Sparkling Beaded Candleholders, Ribbon Poinsettia Rings, Marbleized Centerpieces, and so much more. Many of the projects require no special skills and transform ordinary components

into extraordinary objects.

101 Christmas Ornaments from the Clever **Crafter Series includes** instructions for a variety of adornments that are easy to make and add personal charm to any holiday tree. With categories from Country Christmas and Cute and Clever to Trash to Treasure and A Touch of Elegance, you're sure to find the perfect decoration to create for that special someone.

Whether your ideal holiday includes the enticing aromas of freshbaked goodies and a home-cooked dinner, the glittering sparkle of a beautifully-decorated room or the simple joy of creating one-of-a-kind keepsakes, the Wayne Public Library has materials to inspire you and

help you realize your dreams.

The Wayne Public Library is at 3737 S. Wayne Road, Wayne. The library is open 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday and noon-5 p.m. Thursday-Saturday. The library is closed Sunday and Monday. For the holidays, the library will be closed on Nov. 27 and 28, Dec. 24, 25, 31 and Jan. 1.

For more information, call 734-721-7832 or visit www.wayne.lib.mi.us.

Information Central was compiled by Kathleen G. Kozakowski, Adult Services Librarian. The Wayne Public Library is at 3737 S. Wayne Road, Wayne. For more information, call 734-721-7832 or go online to www.wayne.lib.mi.us.

Certified Pre-Owned Lincoln Vehicles are Luxury for Less at Varsity Lincoln

By Greg Mullin Staff Writer

Varsity Lincoln of Novi's Lincoln CPO-A-THON is on. The dealership offers no turkey, no stuffing, no pumpkin pie. Just great deals. More than 100 Lincoln Certified Pre-Owned vehicles are on-site, ready to drive off the lot, for as low as \$12,995.

Hurry over to Varsity Lincoln these next three days to catch the deals:

» Friday, Nov. 28, 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

» Saturday, Nov. 29, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

» Monday, Dec. 1, 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Certified Pre-Owned Lincoln vehicles come with many benefits, including:

» A meticulous, 200-point inspection by factory-trained technicians

 » 6-year/100,000-mile comprehensive warranty coverage
 » Complimentary roadside assistance

Customers spoke for themselves, detailing their experiences with the team at Varsity Lincoln.

"I have the MKS and I love, love, love the technology in it," exclaimed Lincoln MKS owner Latanya Tarleton, who has been a customer at Varsity Lincoln for 16 years. "I get the best service here. I never have to worry about anything," she continued about her Varsity Lincoln experience.

"I have an MKZ from Varsity Lincoln; I've had it for about a year now. It's a beautiful interior, a beautiful exterior, it handles well on the road and gives me good gas mileage!" said Lincoln MKZ owner Gary Trudeau. "I love this place. I wouldn't even consider buying a car from anybody else!"

"I'm very, very satisfied very happy with it," said Rich Lewnau, describing his Lincoln MKZ purchase.

Jason Towe told us why he got into a Lincoln, stating "I definitely love the comfort and the sportiness of the Lincoln.



A 2013 Lincoln MKX Ultimate FWD (Stk # 39131) is one of the more than 100 Lincoln Certified Pre-Owned vehicles on site for Varsity Lincoln of Novi's Lincoln CPO-A-THON.

The cost was a big factor for me, it was actually cheaper than my last car I owned, and I feel I'm getting a better quality car for what I'm paying!"

"There are numerous benefits of purchasing a Certified Pre-Owned, including the outstanding warranty that comes with the vehicles," conveyed Jere Law, Varsity Lincoln's General Sales Manager and Pre-Owned Director. "The 100,000-mile free bumper-tobumper warranty that comes alongside all Certified Pre-Owned purchases is better than a new car warranty! Additionally, any time the vehicle is in for a service visit, you can receive a loaner for no cost,

exclusively at Varsity Lincoln!"

Loaded with features, a Lincoln will satisfy any customer, Law explained.

"Certified Pre-Owned vehicles not only provide a peace of mind on the road, but also provides a combination of sporty and luxury. Benefits include FWD or AWD, EcoBoost, Navigation, Bluetooth, SYNC, an adaptive suspension, a panoramic roof, and heated and cooled seats for comfort, just to name a few," Law articulated.

"Drivers will also enjoy peace of mind from knowing that Lincoln vehicles will hold their value," Law said. "Any depreciation has already been taken on by the previous owner. Plus, the advanced styling and dependability are advantageous to a Lincoln vehicle's value."

"The warranty is the key with all these cars; with Certified Pre-Owned, you get the best from Varsity Lincoln," Law said. Certified Pre-Owned financing is available for as low as 0.9% APR.*

Varsity Lincoln is the number one dealer in the nation, based on 2013 Total New Retail Sales and Service Customer Satisfaction, per a Lincoln sales report.

"Leasing or buying from the number one dealer in the country gives you the best selection, price and service," Law expressed. "Our dealership is ready for any situation that may arise, whether it is special financing or a specific request. We can handle every unique situation."

"Our customers speak for themselves and how their experience is. When you read the reviews our customers write online, you can see how happy they are before, during and after the sale," Law concluded.

*0.9% APR for 36 months on select vehicles for qualified customers with Tier 0-1 approval through preferred finance source. Offer subject to change at any time. See Varsity Lincoln for details.

Flu Season is here



ST. MARY MERCY MEDICAL GROUP SAINT JOSEPH MERCY HEALTH SYSTEM

Let us help you and your family stay healthy.

Flu season is as predictable as the falling leaves and dropping temperatures. St. Mary Mercy Medical Group is ready to help you make it through as healthy as possible.

Don't wait.

Start by getting your flu shot. And if you feel sick, St. Mary Mercy Medical Group not only offers quick treatment of seasonal flu, we also treat sore throats, ear infections, fractures and complex medical conditions. Sick today, seen today and on the road to good health.

Livonia 734-655-8200 · Farmington Hills 734-655-8220 · Livonia Campus 734-655-1618



Welcome Dr. Irby-Johnson

The St. Mary Mercy Medical Group would like to extend a warm welcome to NiJuanna Irby-Johnson, MD. She joins our medical group of over 25 primary care and specialty physicians as an internal medicine physician. She has more than 10 years of experience in adult primary care, preventative care and management of chronic disease.

Dr. Irby-Johnson received her medical degree from Wayne State University School of Medicine and is board certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine.

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stmarymercy.org/smmmg

BLACK FRIDAY JUMP-START

OPENING 6PM THANKSGIVING NIGHT

SELECT STORES ONLY

Details at LaurelParkPlace.com



Laurel Fark Place

37700 West Six Mile Rd. Just East of I-275, Livonia 734.462.1100 | LaurelParkPlace.com f

CBL

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0 & E Media | Thursday, November 27, 2014 (WGRL) A9



Monday 12/01/14 8:30am-9pm

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*Based on 2013 Total Certified Pre-Owned Sales and Service Customer Satisfaction per Lincoln Sales Report. *As low as 0.9% APR for up to 48 months on select vehicles for qualified customers with Tier 0-1 approval through preferred finance source. Offer subject to change at any time. See Varsity Lincoln for details. *Price does not include tax, title, license and dealer fees due at point of purchase. Inventory and pricing subject to change. See Varsity Lincoln for details. Offers end 12/31/14.

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LOCAL NEWS

BBB matches holiday trends with shopper tips

This holiday season will be a boon for retailers, according to a recent study by management firm Accenture. The study found that onequarter of U.S. consumers plan to spend more on holiday shopping this year. And according to Accenture's annual holiday shopping survey, spending on holiday gifts is expected to hit an average of \$718 per shopper.

Better Business Bureau Serving Eastern Michigan is offering some tips to help consumers shop smart in step with 2014 holiday trends.

Black Friday 2014 Trend: The survey found consumer enthusiasm for Black Friday shopping has reached its highest level in eight years. Twothirds of the respondents said they are likely to shop on Black Friday.

Plans to shop on Thanksgiving Day and evening rose to 45 percent.

» Experts agree that Black Friday hype is often exactly that deals can still be had throughout the shopping season. Frenzied sales can create impulse buys. Make a list and stick to it.

» Slow down and pay attention to what you spend and where. Watch your bank and credit card statements in the weeks after Black Friday to ensure there has been no fraudulent activity.

» Bargain Shopping 2014 Trend: Even though they intend to spend more, holiday shoppers remain keenly focused on discounts and sales. Nearly all respondents said that discounts will be important to their purchasing decisions, and more than one in four said that it would

take a discount of 50 percent or more to persuade them to make a purchase.

» Price isn't everything. Make sure you do your due diligence and compare the product's quality and the company's reliability.

» Check the business out at bbb.org and talk to friends before shopping.

» Gift Card 2014 Trend: Retailers could also see a shift in sales in the post-holiday season this year, as more than half (57 percent) of consumers plan to purchase gift cards (the top item on consumers' shopping lists) this year.

» Avoid buying gift cards on the secondary market. Look for discounted multicard packs or incentives through the merchant or your credit card company.

» Get a receipt of activation when buying





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in-store and hang onto it for your (and your recipient's) protection.

» Ask about online fees — sellers can skirt consumer protection laws by selling a card online, and charge shipping and handling fees that eat away at a card's value.

» Loyalty Program 2014 Trend: When asked how likely they would be to share more of their personal information, such as contact details and preferences, in order for retailers to be able to provide them with personalized and customized offers during the holidays, one-third of consumers said that they would be likely to do so.

» Guard personal and financial information. Less is more. Be careful who you share with and watch your passwords. » Watch online "free'

subscriptions that may turn into monthly charges after an introductory period. » Watch for "phish-

ing" emails from "phony" retailers or shippers that try to trick you into exposing passwords or financial information.

» Online Shopping 2014 Trend: With the popularity of Cyber Monday, more than half of consumers surveyed (63

percent) indicated that they will use a laptop or home computer to make purchases or assist in their holiday shopping this season (up 16 percentage points from last year), and 24 percent plan to use a smartphone. In addition, 13 percent of respondents said they intend to use social networking sites to assist them in their holiday shopping.

» Never make purchases while on public Wi-Fi.

» Only use secure, encrypted, "https," sites when buying online.

» Don't use the same password for shopping or for creation of "user accounts" that is used for your bank account.

» Check out the reliability of a website/company prior to making a purchase on an unknown site

» When shopping online, always enter the URL of a website directly into a browser, and not by clicking on a link from an email.

» Shipping 2014 Trend: Shipping shortfalls during last year's Christmas holiday season have raised concerns among consumers this year. In fact, nearly half of survey respondents (49 percent) are concerned

about receiving deliveries from online purchases on time, and of those, nearly one out of five are "very" concerned.

Track online purchases clearly and request a refund if your package is not delivered in 30 days. The Federal Trade Commission has updated a longstanding rule governing mail- and phone-based retailers to explicitly include e-commerce vendors, meaning that online retailers now must abide by a 30-day shipping requirement or refund customers' payments if they can't.

Better Business Bureau Serving Detroit and Eastern Michigan is a nonprofit organization with the purpose of promoting trust in the marketplace by assisting in the protection of consumers and businesses from fraud and unethical business practices. BBB provides its services free to the public and its service territory stretches across Eastern Michigan from Ann Arbor through metropolitan Detroit, Lansing, Flint, upward to Alpena, and covers the entire Upper Peninsula of the state.

For more consumer tips you can trust, visit bbb.org.





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Forgotten heroes

Military working dogs honored, revered at memorial

By Joanne Maliszewski Staff Writer

A general who had fought in the Korean War told a story of a man and a dog.

As the story goes, as told by Phil Weitlauf, president of the Michigan War Dog Memorial, soldiers accompanied by a German Shepherd K-9 partner, approached a bridge they intended to cross.

The dog sat down and wouldn't budge. Some soldiers forged ahead and checked the bridge. They couldn't find what was upsetting the dog. So, the soldiers began to move out. The dog took two steps and again sat down. And again soldiers investigated.

This time, however, they found explosives ready to blow in the middle of the bridge. "The dog could hear the wires," said Weitlauf, who spoke to the Xemplar Club on Wednesday in downtown Farmington.

"You can hear these stories over and over again," said the Milford resident.

Perhaps little known, K-9 military dogs have long accompanied soldiers on their missions, going as far back as World War I. Weitlauf and other veterans in 2010 decided that the War Dog Memorial cemetery in Lyon Township — long ignored and in disrepair — needed attention and the respect it deserved.

As they rolled up their sleeves and began cutting down overgrown weeds and grass, another 50 residents, some just passersby, jumped in and helped clean up the 2acre cemetery that was begun in 1936.

Thanks to Boy Scouts

War Dog Memorial, an effort that is supported through the organization, donations, veterans and volunteers.

Each of the dog graves represents a story of courage and sacrifice, Weitlauf told Xemplar Club members.

He told another story of a young soldier on his first patrol in Vietnam. "He was scared to death," Weitlauf said. But he survived that first encounter with the enemy and then had an idea.

He offered to be a handler for a war dog, assuming that would keep him out of the line of fire. Unfortunately, the young man didn't realize that when you are the handler of a scout dog — you're back on patrol.

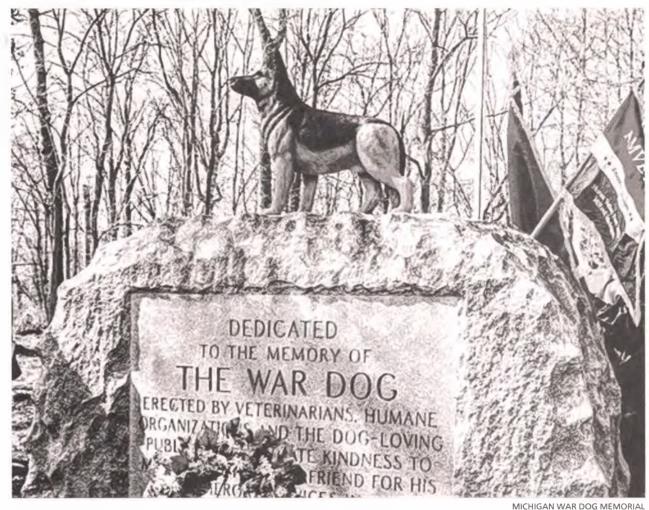
Sure enough, the soldiers were headed into a rice paddy. The dog stopped cold just a split second before a mortar landed and injured his handler. While the fighting continued, the dog not only wouldn't leave the injured man, he dragged him to cover and saved his life.

"They will bond with you and protect you with their lives," said Weitlauf, who was accompanied to the Xemplar Club with his dog, Siva, an ambassador for the War Dog Memorial.

"This is something we have to acknowledge and respect them for," he continued.

The use of dogs as scouts isn't limited to recent conflicts. In World War I, dogs were used as messengers, accompanied ambulances and were trained to find wounded soldiers. "There were very few records kept then," Weitlauf said. But in World War II,

dogs played a large role, including leading and protecting soldiers in the jungles of the Pacific battles. In 1942, the U.S. government put out a request for "Dogs for Defense," asking Americans to donate their dog for the war effort. More than 20,000 dogs were donated.



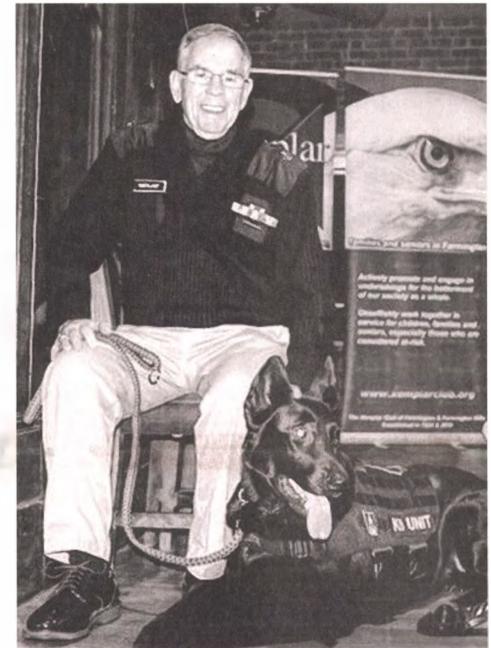
This monument welcomes visitors to the Michigan War Dog Memorial and cemetery at 11 Mile and Milford Road in Lyon Township.

The dogs preferred by the Navy were dobermans and for the Army, shepherds. Handlers were chosen based on two questions: Do you own a dog? or Were you raised on a farm?

raised on a farm? Some 15,000 soldiers were saved by war dogs, while 10,000 lives were saved in Vietnam. In Korea, 28 dogs saved some 3,000 lives. At the same time, a smaller percentage of the dogs were killed in action.

were killed in action. In World War II, of 2,800 dogs, 250 were killed in action and 250 died from disease or heat exhaustion. In Vietnam where 4,000 dogs were used, 550 were killed in action and 300 died due to the heat. "They are America's forgotten heroes." Weitlauf added.

heroes," Weitlauf added. War dogs are trained now at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. It is also where retired war dogs are sent and put up for adoption. But don't get any quick ideas of bringing one home soon. The waiting list has 1,500 Veitlauf For more information on the Michigan War Dog Memorial or to make a donation, go to www.mwdm.org. The memorial is at the corner of Milford and 11 Mile in Lyon Township. "They are America's forgotten heroes," Weitlauf added.



the cemetery contains 2,158 graves of dogs that have served, including Blizzard who died in 1937 after he joined in an expedition to the Antarctic, as well as Sgt. Sparks, a doberman who passed away in 1947 following four major battle campaigns.

By 2012, the cemetery's owner gave up the property to the Michigan "Most chihuahuas had to be sent back," Weitlauf said, referring to their size.

jmaliszews@hometownlife.com 248-396-6620 Phil Weitlauf, president of the Michigan War Dog Memorial, with his pet, Ziva, spoke at the Xemplar Club.

Livonia Symphony presents annual Christmas concert

The Livonia Symphony Orchestra will present its annual Christmas concert at 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, at Clarenceville High School, Livonia.

The event, "Holiday Merriment," features Angie Hahn's Academy of Dance performing excerpts from the *Nutcracker Ballet*.

The program performed by the Livonia Symphony Orchestra will feature a variety of holiday favorites, including Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, White Christmas, Four Ukrainian Carols, Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas, An Overture for Hanukkah by returning composer Christopher Tew and closing with the everpopular Christmas Festival by LeRoy Ander-



son

Santa has also scheduled a visit in his very busy schedule to meet with all the young and young at heart.

Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$10 for students age 6 and up. Group rates are available at \$15 each for groups of 10 or more by calling 313-538-2536. Tickets are available at the door and at the Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile Road, Livonia,

For more information, visit www.livonia symphony.org.

City of Livonia: Special Meeting Minutes of 10/22/14 Present: Pastor, Meakin, Toy, Scheel, Nash, Kritzman, Brosnan Absent: None Meeting called to order @ 7:30 pm #324-14 Approving an application for Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate for NYX Incorporated, for building improvements, machinery and equipment, as well as furniture and fixtures at their facility located at 38900 Plymouth Road, Livonia, MI 48150, for a period of 12 years (Industrial Development Overlay District #112) Meeting adjourned @ 7:33 p.m. Complete meeting minutes @ City Clerk's Office **Terry A. Marecki** Livonia City Clerk Publish 11/21/14 LO-0000222111 2x2

Postal Service delivers Letters to Santa

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. And the Postal Service can help prove it when Santa replies to a child's letter to Santa — complete with a North Pole postmark.

The Letters to Santa program adds to the excitement of Christmas and is perfect for interesting youngsters in letter writing.

Here are the steps for children to get a letter back from Santa:

1. Have your child write a letter to Santa and seal it in an envelope addressed to: Santa Claus, North Pole.

2. Tell your child that you'll place a stamp on the envelope and mail it to St. Nick for him or her.

3. Later, when alone, open the envelope, read the letter and write Santa's response on the back of the child's letter. Have Santa write: "It's important to be green and save paper. That's why I'm writing on the back."

4. When responding as Santa, reference your child's accomplishments not included in his or her letter, for example, Santa is so proud that you volunteered to help, or Santa is really impressed with the great job you're doing in school — especially with math. Sign it Santa Claus with a P.S. to get to bed early Christmas Eve. 5. Place the letter into a new envelope addressed to the child at his or her home. Be sure to include: Santa Claus, North Pole, as the return address on the envelope. Don't forget to apply a First-Class stamp such as a recently issued Santa or Rudolph Forever stamp.

6. Place the stamped envelope in a larger envelope (or Priority Mail envelope) with adequate postage addressed to North Pole Holiday Postmark, Postmaster, 4141 Postmark Dr., Anchorage, Ak. 99530-9998 7. Letters from Santa must be received by the Anchorage, AK, postmaster by no later than Dec. 15.

RICHARD LERNER

8. The Anchorage postmaster will open the envelope, remove Santa's letter addressed to your child, apply the North Pole postmark and mail it back home.

When Santa's letter arrives, have your camera ready when you ask your child to open the letter and read it to you. Share the photos on Twitter and Facebook using the hashtag #SantaLetters.

ABSTRACT WAYNE CITY COUNCIL MEETING NO. 2014-34 November 18, 2014

A Regular Meeting of the City Council was held Tuesday, November 18, 2014 at 8:00p.m. at the Wayne Activity & Banquet Center, 35000 Sims Ave. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT APPROVED: minutes of spec. mtg. of Nov. 3; reg. mtg. of Nov. 4; spec. mtg. of Nov. 12; the resignation of Mayor Haidous; James Hawley as Mayor; Lorne "Skip" Monit, Mayor Pro-Tem; Wayne Main Street to place benches in downtown; review 29th District Court at Dec. 2, 2014 meeting; alt. mtg. of Board of Review; City Attorney to draft resolutions regarding the creation of voting districts; City Clerk to work with Stantec regarding the creation of voting districts; storm water agreement with Jack Demmer; submit letter of interest to City Clerk by 12/8/14 for City Council vacancy; white lights in downtown trees. Received and filed Communications and Reports. Adjourned to Closed Session to discuss pending litigation at 10:29 p.m. Reconvened at 10:53 p.m. Adjourned at 10:53 p.m.

	Matthew K. I	Miller
	City	Clerk
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A12 (WG) THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2014 **OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MEDIA** HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

OPINION

Our fundamental purposes are to enhance the lives of our readers, nurture the hometowns we serve and contribute to the business success of our customers.

Support entrepreneurs this Saturday Small Business Saturday promotes shopping at small, local businesses

Purists will stay home Thanksgiv-ing evening to savor time spent with family and enjoy a second helping of dessert, but many folks will clear the table, grab their coats and head out to the malls and major retailers for an early start of Black Friday.

OUR VIEWS

Those who prefer to avoid the frenzy and the crowds have Cyber Mon-day, the digital equivalent to Black Friday, to do their shopping with a click of a mouse.

But in between what have become the powerhouse shopping days of the year is Small Business Saturday, a national initiative to support local busi-nesses which create jobs, boost the economy and preserve neighborhoods around the country.

Created by American Express in 2010, Small Business Saturday is held on the Saturday after Thanksgiving during one of the busiest shopping periods of the year. First observed on Nov. 27, 2010, it's a counterpart to Black Friday and Cyber Monday.

Small Business Saturday encourages holiday shoppers to patronize

GUEST COLUMN

Technology solutions help Michigan courts work smarter

id you know there is a smart phone app to calculate the likelihood of a snow day at your child's school? I have a feeling that app is going to get a workout this winter. New technologies are helping every aspect of our lives, from avoiding traffic jams to managing our finances. In this regard, Michigan judges are putting technology to work, improving ser-vice to the public and being more efficient.

For example, many of us have given up stamps and envelop



and other government agencies need to make decisions. To this end, nearly every court in the state contributes to the 45 million records stored in the online Judicial Data Warehouse. Courts, law enforcement and other agencies like the Secretary of State accessed this database nearly 400,000 times in 2013.

Online access to



brick and mortar businesses that are small and local. And with good reason. According to Forbes, there are almost 28 million small businesses in the U.S. More than 50 percent of the working population — 120 million individuals works in small businesses which have generated more than 65 percent of the net new jobs since 1995.When small businesses are strong and growing, communities are strong and growing. That's why cities like Wayne and Westland are embracing Small Busi-

ness Saturday. In effort to keep dollars in the local economy, Westland Mayor William Wild will visit various businesses in the city's Shop and Dine District and raffle off a variety of gift cards, rang-ing from \$10 to \$50, noon-2 p.m.

"Statistics show that for every \$100 you spend locally, \$66 stays in the local community," Wild said. "That means your dollars are helping to build parks, libraries and improve fire and police departments."

Wayne Main Street whose aim is to revitalize downtown Wayne is celebrating Small Business Saturday and Neighborhood Champion Program with a breakfast kick-off and Passport Shopping Spree starting at 8 a.m. Shoppers will pick up Small Business Saturday Passports and shopping bags and be given a list of participating business. Completed passports accompanied by three receipts will qualify shoppers be entered into a door prize drawing of items donated by each of the participating businesses.

Small businesses have been the

backbone of this country from its in-ception. Dry goods stores and millinery shops may have changed over the years but the services they provide are still as important today as they were back then.

Communities like Wayne, Ply-mouth, Milford, Northville and Birmingham have downtowns filled with small shops, while newer communities like Westland, Novi and Southfield have created shopping districts that are anchored by regional malls. In all instances, the variety of goods and services rival what's available in big box stores and online this holiday season.

Wayne Main Street Director Lindsey Wooten may have said it best: "We have a unique, historic downtown and our small businesses are something to be proud of."

By all means, do your shopping on Thanksgiving evening, Black Friday and Cyber Monday, but save some money for Small Business Saturday. Think local, and support Small Business Saturday.

LETTERS

Where's WLND?

AT&T U-verse wanted to carry the local government channel. They knew this would increase their customer base. Comcast also knew that and did not want that to happen. They, I am sure, did not want another competitor in their market to cut their customer base and bottom-line profits

AT&T received the rights to carry WLND, with a city in-house company hooking it up and maintaining it. The problems begin. First, "Sorry this video is currently unavailable." On Nov. 5 to Nov. 8, all there was a black screen.

I know that AT&T works with cities in good faith and trust that they do the same. For years now, the city has said the problem was AT&T's not theirs. As I see it there are two choices

1. After AT&T received the rights to carry WLND and in-crease their customer base, they got dumb and shot themselves in the foot. Their new customers leave and go back to Comcast o WOW

mates were still looking. She tells me stories every day when she shows up at people's homes for service calls, 99 percent of the people get caught off guard because they were expecting to see a male. She always gets asked "what do you want" or "who are you," or even sometimes "but you're a female" or "I don't think you should be doing this, you should be a secretary.

Other than that, people welcome her with open arms. The company that hired her is Technical Hot & Cold in Westland. She is the only female HVAC technician in Westland that works for a company in Westland. They do most of their service calls for Consumers Energy.

It's sad to hear this, but they say for every 100 males there is one female, but the numbers could be higher than that. **Mark Johnston** Garden City

Oppose Electoral College bill

Voters beware — your vote for lent and he presi

infrastructure spending and increasing the minimum wage both with 75-percent approval, fighting Ebola in Africa by spending there instead of here at 65 percent, followed by reducing carbon emissions at 59 percent. Excuse me, but the last elec-

tion saw what could be described as a "Republican Wave" and none of the top five issues listed by voters could be identified as Republican Party objectives. Matter of fact, all are Democratic Party priorities.

According to the same poll, when respondents were presented with a carefully constructed statement describing the components of the comprehensive immigration bill passed by the Senate over 500 days ago that Republican Speaker Boehner has refused to bring to the floor for a vote, 74 percent of respondents

approved of the language. On top of that, although Re-publican presidents Ronald Rea-gan and George H.W Bush employed executive orders allowing millions of immigrants to be spared the fear of

in favor of paying our bills online. Courts are keeping up with this trend. Across Michigan, 118 courts offer the convenience of paying tickets online and 85 percent of Michigan citizens have access to online payment. In addition, several courts are beginning to offer online ticket resolution programs that allow eligible drivers the opportunity to reduce or eliminate points without having to take a day off and go to court.

Businesses have long used video-conferencing to reduce travel costs and increase efficiency. Many families use online applications for phones and computers that allow for video chats with friends and relatives. Michigan courts are putting this technology to work by equipping 215 "virtual" courtrooms so that hearings can be done via video-conference

In 77 counties, every courtroom with an assigned judge now has this equipment. The result? Over the past year, the Michigan Department of Corrections has made 4,058 "video" transports, saving more than \$2.6 million compared to the cost of physically transporting prisoners for hearings. Local governments save even more.

Technology also provides critical and timely access to information that courts information is also the driving force behind improvements to the state's award-winning "One Court of Justice" website (courts.mi.gov), and more than 800,000 people visited the site last year. In addition, there are more than 14,000 visits each week to MichiganLegalHelp.org, a website dedicated to helping state residents solve their legal problems. Already one of the top three websites of its kind in the nation, a Spanish language version of the site was launched in September.

The Michigan Supreme Court is committed to identifying, evaluating and encouraging the adoption of technology solutions to improve the efficiency of local courts and increase access and convenience for the public. Future innovations range from e-filing so documents can be filed from anywhere at any time — to mobile apps that allow potential jurors to find out if they should report for duty. Here in Wayne County, we are dedicated to implementing technology solutions that help us work smarter.

Milton L. Mack Jr. is chief judge of Wayne County Probate Court. He was appointed probate judge in 1990 and has served as chief judge since 1998.



Sue Mason, **Community Editor** Susan Rosiek, Executive Editor

Grace Perry, Director of Advertising

2. Someone in the city set out to cause problems for AT&T, causing customers to leave and go back to Comcast or WOW.

Business economics is simple: give the products and services your customers want or fail.

Keeping that in mind, which do you think is happening? If you, like me, come up with choice 2, I ask you to call the mayor, WLND and council members. Let them know just how you feel.

Jim Davis Westland

Thank you, voters

I would like to thank every voter that came out to the polls on Election Day and voters that filed an absentee ballot.

I would like to also thank all of the voters that supported me in my efforts to be re-elected to the Wayne-Westland Community Schools Board of Education.

For the next six years, I will work hard for the students, parents, families and our communities. Our students deserve nothing less.

Thank you!

Carol Middel Canton

A woman's work

We see TV commercials about going to college for medical, dental assistant, but the thing is when the schooling is done, they can't find jobs.

My wife came to me around this time last year and said she wanted to go to school to get a degree. I was fine with it, but when she told me what she signed up for that caught me off guard. She was going to school for HVAC, and for the people who don't know what that is, it's heating and cooling technician.

I stood behind her 100 percent. She was the only female in her class and was the only student that found her own externship within a few hours. Come to find out when the company she called found out she was a female, they wanted her to start her externship A.S.A.P. Heating and cooling companies are looking for female technicians, but can't find them.

As soon as her externship was done in 180 hours, they offered her a job on the spot. The sad thing was some of her male class-

dent may be meaningless in future years if the state Legislature adopts a proposed bill that would change how Electoral College votes are allocated.

The League of Women Voters of Northwest Wayne County urges you to contact your state representative, opposing HB 5974 which would change the way Michigan votes for the president of the United States. Currently, along with 47 other states, we use the "winner-takes-all" system, which allocates all of our 16 Electoral College votes to the candidate who wins the popular vote in Michigan.

HB 5974 would change the current system to one where the candidate who wins the statewide vote would get at least nine of the state's 16 Electoral College votes and then an additional electoral vote for each 1.5 percent point increase in their margin over the second-place finisher. The second-place finisher would get the rest of the electoral votes.

According to Crain's Detroit Business News, if this bill had been in effect in 2012, President Obama would have received 12 of the state's Electoral College votes and former Governor Romney would have received four. This result would not have reflected the will of the majority of voters who supported the top candidate. President Obama would have received only 12 electoral votes, not the entire 16, even though he won the popular vote by 400,000 votes.

Tell your state legislators and the governor that you do not want them to take away the "winnertake-all" basis for the Electoral College. To find out who your legislators are and how to contact them, please go to www.lwvnww.org and click on the link for "They Represent You.'

> Angela E. Ryan President, League of Women Voters Northwest Wayne County

Voters stupid

A recent NBC/Wall Street Journal post-election poll found that voters ranked reduction of student loan rates highest as an issue, with an 82-percent approval rating. Next came increased

with little or no blowback, 48 percent of those polled opposed the fact that Democratic President Barack Obama had the audacity to take the same exact type of independent action in spite of the fact that public support for comprehensive immigration was as strong as the NBC/ WSJ poll had indicated. One wonders why?

With large segments of the voting public regularly voting against not only their own opinion stances as measured in this and countless other polls but actual self-interest, one may ask, "Are American voters stupid?" You be the judge.

Mitch Smith Canton

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Return service

The breach of security at the White House has been unacceptable to anyone. It does not matter who is president. This must be remedied before another tragedv. There has been one President shot at, one actually shot and eight presidents murdered in our history.

The mission of the Secret Service is protection of the President and first family. Julia Peterson, director of the Secret Service, resigned last week. The problem in the Secret Service goes much deeper than Peterson.

One prevailing issue, not mentioned by the partisan alarmist and talking heads, is the fact former President Bush removed the service from the Treasury Department where it had been for over 150 years. He then transferred the service to his newly created the Department of Homeland Security. Since this transfer, the Secret Service has lost its identity, mission and professionalism as well as being chronically understaffed.

Yes, the service currently is not functional and they only have to get it wrong one time and someone is dead. Instead of the usual Congressional investigations, blue ribbon committees and traditional Washington finger pointing, return the Secret Service to the Department of Treasury where it will not be lost in the vast bureaucracy of the homeland security department. Gerald Maxey

Farmington Hills

A13 (WG)

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2014 **OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MEDIA** HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

BUSINESS

SUE MASON, EDITOR SMASON@HOMETOWNLIFE.COM 313-222-6751 FACEBOOK: HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

There's something to adage of 'sit up straight'

e've probably all heard that spending lots of time sitting at a desk is

bad

for our

health.

but the

good

there

really

simple

things

we can

are



Clarity Patton Newhouse A SUNNY NOTE

do to protect ourselves. According to Luis Feigenbaum, director of sports physical therapy at the University of Miami's Miller School of Medicine, "the No. 1 thing that gets people into trouble as far as a downgrade in their health is

their posture.' Apparently our parents were right when they scolded us to ... Sit up straight!

The next step, according to a study published in the Journal of Applied Physiology, is to perform a few simple strength exercises that can dramatically reduce neck and shoulder pain caused by office work. In fact, most of these easy exercises can be performed at work just by keeping a few little free weights handy. Here's a link to a handy article, www.military.com/ military-fitness/workouts/office-workout.

Hopefully having fewer aches and pains will help make it a sunny day.

Clarity

By Julie Brown Staff Writer

Got an idea for business, but need space to work out the details? You may be interested in TechShop, near the Detroit Lions practice facility in Allen Park

TechShop began in Menlo Park, Calif., some eight years ago, and has been in metro Detroit 2½ years. It's a do-it-yourself fabrication studio whose senior account manager, Addie Langford, spoke to Westland Rotarians last week.

The member fee is \$175 per month, Langford said, for the 17,000 square feet of work space, with additional space in the property. TechShop founder Jim Newton began in IT.

This became his mission to get this off the ground," Langford told Rotarians and guests. Newton taught at community college and found his students retaking his classes for equipment access.

Langford displayed a Power-Point of the computer numericcontrolled equipment, with machinists, engineers and artists among TechShop customers. You bring your ideas to the

table," she said.

A class is first required for safety. Langford showed via PowerPoint how the water-jet cutter can even cut granite.

Some woodworkers use the Allen Park TechShop, which can

Santa visit

Santa and Mrs. Claus will be visiting Mr. Mike's Grill and Family Restaurant, 6047 N. Wayne Road, Westland, during December to hear youngsters' wishes and pose for photographs.

The Clauses will be at the restaurant from 6-8 p.m. Dec. 4, 11, 18 and 19, and 4-8 p.m. Dec. 7, 14, 20 and 21. Parents can bring their cameras and smart phones to snap photos. Donations are requested, with the money going to Blum's Landing, a bed and breakfast for returning veterans and their families. For more information, visit www.blumslanding.org. Also, starting Friday, Nov. 28, Mr. Mike's Grill will open at 7 a.m. Its new hours will be 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. And from Nov. 28 through Friday, Dec. 5, as part of its grand opening, it will be offer a free appetizer with an entree purchase. It also will debut prime rib dinner on Saturday and Sunday after 4 p.m. For more information, call 734-729-6453 or email mrmikesgrill@gmail.com.



TechShop offers place to grow business

Addie Langford, senior account manager for TechShop Detroit, speaks to Westland Rotarians.

also handle the custom packages that can make consumer products difficult to open. The plastic injection molder can be used for knobs, other controls, keyboards and more.

There are also uses for electronics and software and the local site is launching a student robotics team, Langford said. She showed a slide as well of 3D printing and scanning, along

with a laser lab for etched glass and more.

The large project bay can accommodate cars, as well as a kayak

"This is an exciting thing to come and watch," Langford said. "Skill sharing happens really naturally. There's this incredible exchange.'

She added that referrals to incubators for business help are available at TechShop. Rotarian Earl Ludwig of Dearborn Heights, who arranged the visit, said, "It's all skill levels, from very basic.'

Langford said TechShop doesn't take any proceeds nor protect intellectual property, meaning your work must be able to be out in sight.

She showed a knitting needle gauge that has been developed: 'She cannot make these fast enough.'

The Square Inc., mobile payment for smart phones came from TechShop in San Francisco. There was also a low-cost infant warmer developed.

"It's really meant for the Third World," Langford said, noting such preemies have much better survival chances if they reach cities.

The Allen Park TechShop is in the Rotunda-Southfield Freeway area at 800 Republic Drive. For more, go to www.techshop.ws. The phone is 313-583-3831, email info.detroit@techshop.com.

BUSINESS NEWSMAKERS in the thea-

tre industry as a projectionist and associate manager in 1998

where he was associated with Cory Jacobson at United Artists Theatres. He was able to experience general operations and play a key role at the inception of Phoenix

Theatres in 2000. Alan subsequently contracted with First Mortgage Corporation, a subsidiary of Health One Credit Union, to own and operate Elite Consulting Solutions from 2005 to

ty Airport Authority as representatives for the County of Wayne.

Ayad is a private practice attorney from Dearborn with law offices in Canton. In addition to being an active member of the legal community, he also has been tapped by several national news programs as an expert on legal issues.

"Nabih Ayad's legal skills have distinguished him at both the national and local level," Ficano

said. "His leadership abilities are highly ad-mired and respected throughout southeast Michigan.

JULIE BROWN

Garavaglia has an extensive business background and with experience in construction and real estate through his work with his own real estate development company as well as prior positions with Turner Construction and General Motors. He also serves on a number of local

boards, including the Detroit Medical Center and Forgotten Harvest.

"Mike Garavaglia's business background will be a tremendous asset to the Airport Authority as DTW works to become a major hub for economic development," Ficano said.

Ayad and Garavaglia will replace Alfred Glancy and Sam Nouhan whose terms expired earlier this year.

THE MOST IMPORTANT RELATIONSHIPS BEGIN



P.S. "We must look for ways to be an active force in our own lives. We must take charge of our own destinies, design a life of substance and truly begin to live our dreams.'

Les Brown

P.P.S. You can read more Sunny Notes at www.SunnyNotes.com and new readers can subscribe at www.JoinSunnyNotes.com. I appreciate your feedback and I hope Sunny Notes brighten your day.

Clarity Patton Newhouse

is president of Sunny Media Group Inc., located at 39209 Six Mile, Suite 165, Livonia. She writes "A Sunny Note" to brighten the day with encouraging insights for business and life. To reach her, call 734-855-4728 or find her on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ sunnynotes.

Phoenix Theatres names new VP

Phoenix Theatres has appointed of Braden Alan as vice-president and **CFO of Insight Group** Companies/Phoenix Theatres, headquartered near downtown Farmington and with public theatre locations in Monroe, Livonia and Wayne. Alan began his career

2008. In the past seven years, he has served as senior account representative for Thomson Reuters, specializing in software solutions for the professional tax and accounting industry.

Alan has acted as an outside consultant for Phoenix Theatres as the director of the company's NXD committee, advising management by illuminating issues, communicating solutions and organizing the successful implementation of complex technology solutions to maximize bottom-line profitability.

Alan is presently pursuing a degree in Informatics from the University of Michigan.

Airport Authority appointments

Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano has appointed Michael Garavaglia and Nabih Ayad to the Detroit-Wayne Coun-





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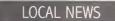


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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

The Community Calendar runs in the Observer as space permits. Nonprofit groups and communi ty organizations are welcome to submit news of upcoming events. Include a daytime telephone number and contact person. Email address is: ksmith@hometownlife.com

THANKSGIVING DAY DINNER

Time/date: 1 and 4 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 27.

Location: Newburg United Methodist Church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia.

Details: Free and open to all. A turkey dinner with all the fixings will be served. Football fans are invited to stay and watch the game. RSVP at www.newburgumc.org.

Contact: 734-422-0149; www.newburgumc.org.

ST. NICHOLAS IS SANTA CLAUS PARTY

Time/date: 1-3:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 29.

Location: Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church, 36075 W. Seven Mile Road, Livonia. Details: The Council of Orthodox Christian Churches of Metropolitan Detroit will sponsor its fifth annual "St. Nicholas Is Santa Claus, a Nativity-season children's party featuring the story of St. Nicholas as told by St. Nicholas himself. Children will

meet St. Nicholas and receive a gift while their parents take their pictures. They will do a craft project, and there will be a carol sing-a-long and refreshments. Prior to the party from noon to 1 p.m., children will be able to have their pictures taken with live reindeer. The party is free of charge and open to Orthodox and non-Orthodox children of all ages and their parents. Refreshments will be served.

Contact: 248-345-9346; paschabooks@sbcglobal.net.

RAILROADIANA

Time/Date: noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 30. Location: Ss. Simon and Jude

social hall, 32500 Palmer Road, west of Merriman, Westland. Details: The Ushers Club will sponsor a buy and swap, toy and train show at the church hall. Admission is \$2 per person, \$4 per family. Food is available and parking is free. There will be operating train layouts and more than 100 dealer tables with various gauges of trains. Tables are available at \$10 per table. Contact: To reserve tables, call 734-595-8327. Dealer set-up is at 9 a.m. on the day of the show.

TOY SHOW

Time/date: 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 30. Location: Livonia Elks Hall,

31117 Plymouth Road, east of

Marriman, Livonia Details: Admission \$4, children under 12 free. Show includes Hot Wheels, comic books, beer signs, lunch boxes, music, movie and TV items, Star Trek, Star Wars, model cars, doils, games, books

Contact: 586-775-3289; 586-790-6290 **TREE LIGHTING AND** CAROLING CEREMONY

and magazines, cards, etc.

Time/date: 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 2.

Location: Front steps of Livonia City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Dr., Livonia

Details: Free for all ages. Come sing holiday carols with the Livonia Civic Chorus in City Hall. Afterward, visit Santa and Mrs. Claus, make holiday crafts, watch a magician perform tricks and enjoy hot chocolate and cookies at the Livonia Civic Center Library. Co-sponsored by Livonia Parks and Recreation, Livonia Rotary Club, Livonia Public Libraries, Busch's Fresh Food Market in Livonia and Livonia **Civic Chorus.** Contact: 734-466-2410.

HOLIDAY TASTE FEST

Time/date: 6-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 2.

Wish you were here

Location: Hellenic Cultural Center, 36375 Joy Road, Westland.

Details: The Westland Rotary Club and Westland Chamber of Commerce have teamed up again for their annual charity food and fun extravaganza, the 2014 Holiday Taste Fest. You'll dine on food from 13 different vendors, enjoy holiday music by RCDJ and Video and vocals by Frank Sinatra impersonator Bart Ventura. There will be raffles and a live auction. Wear your "ugly holiday sweater" and you might win a \$100 VISA gift card. Admission is \$25 per person. Tickets are available at the Westland Chamber of Commerce or Juenemann Insurance Agency. Contact: Brookellen Swope, 734-326-7222 or westlandchamber@yahoo.com.

COLLEGE FUNDING WORKSHOP

Time/date: 7-8:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 4.

Location: Franklin High School, 31000 Joy Road, Livonia Details: Robert Hoger, Certified College Planning Specialist with Michigan College Funding, will discuss such topics as how to help your student decide on which colleges to apply to, how to pick

the colleges that may give you the most amount of money, how to help maximize your student's potential to receive scholarships and grants and why procrastination may cost a family thousands of dollars. Admission is free but seating is limited by the size of the room, so call to reserve your seats.

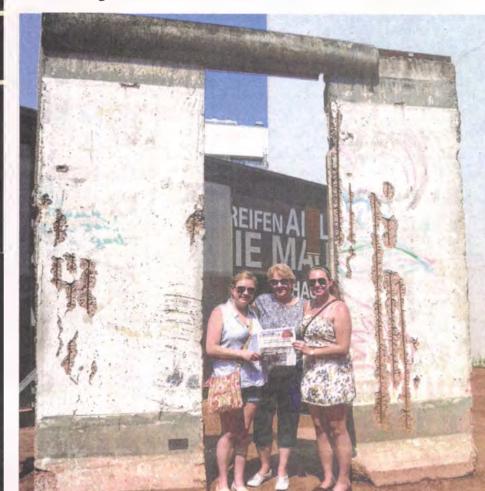
Contact: 248-662-1300. **GABRIELLE'S ANGELS**

Time/date: noon to 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6.

Location: Dorsey Community Center, 32715 Dorsey St., Wayne. Details: Fundraiser to benefit children aging out of the foster care system, low-income single parents and homeless prevention. White elephant auction, raffle drawings for gift certificates donated by local businesses, fun and games for the family

Contact: 734-895-1830 **HOLIDAY CONCERT**

Time/date: 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec.





BENEFIT

Location: St. Paul's Church, 27475 Five Mile, Livonia. Details: The Redford Civic Symphony Orchestra will perform a holiday concert. There will also be a bake sale and afterglow. Admission is free. Contact: mike@entropystereo.com

CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD HOLIDAY MUSICAL

Time/day: 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7. Location: Churchill High School, 8900 Newburgh Road, Livonia. Details: Presented by Metro Dance and Music Co., the Christmas Around the World Holiday Musical tells the story of Santa's elves working as "newsies" traveling the globe collecting stories of the different traditions and holiday customs while the North Pole readies for Santa's arrival. Tickets are \$12 each, \$40 for a family of four. Come early to enjoy live music, Christmas caroling and the "around the world " bake sale. All audience members are also welcome on stage following the show to take pictures and get autographs from cast members, including Santa.

Contact: http://metrodancecompany.com/

ANNUAL WCGH REUNION

Time/date: 5:30-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 9.

Location: Hibachi Grill Supreme Buffet, 6539 North Wayne Road, Westland.

Details: The 30th annual Wayne County General Hospital employees holiday reunion will be held in the party room of the Hibachi Grill Supreme. There is a large choice of food selections and a senior discount. All retirees and former employees are invited to attend. No reservations are needed. You can pay at the door. Contact: 734-331-9291.

3D PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB MEETING

Time/date: 6:30-9:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 10. Location: Civic Park Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia.

Details: The December meeting will feature the club's annual Holiday Pot-Luck dinner, and include a short live musical performance. There will also be a variety of photographic and 3D items available for purchase. A 3D image competition will conclude the evening's events. The meetings are free to attend, and visitors are always welcome Contact: www.Detroit3D.org, or call Dennis at 248-398-3591

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

Time/date: 4-6:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13.

Location: New Beginnings United Methodist Church, 16175 Delaware Ave., Redford. Details: Enjoy chips and hotdogs, create your own ornament to put on the tree and visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Everything

Reservations: (248) 484-2420

Nicole, Cindy and Bailey Hryczyk from Livonia took the Observer with them on their mom and daughter trip to Germany in July 2014. The picture was taken in front of a remaining piece of the Berlin Wall.

is free Contact: 313-255-6330.





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SPORTS

SECTION B (WGRL) THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2014 **OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MEDIA** HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

COLLEGE CROSS COUNTRY

UPLIFTING EXPERIENCE

Kroll helps Spartans harriers win first NCAA championship

By Ed Wright Staff Write

Moments before Saturday afternoon's official trophy presentation at the NCAA Women's **Cross Country Championship** won by Michigan State University, Spartans head coach Walt Drenth approached fifth-year senior Sara Kroll and asked her an unforgettable question.

"He said, 'Do you want to hold the trophy for us?'," recounted Kroll, a former star long-distance runner at Livonia Churchill. "I was emotional all day

PREP SWIMMING



Churchill graduate Sara Kroll was picked by MSU women's cross country coaches to hold the NCAA championship trophy during Saturday's presentation.

any way, but when he asked me that I just broke down in tears. It meant so much to me. He told the team, 'Sara Kroll is going to hold the trophy!' Wow, what a

feeling!" After red-shirting in 2013, Kroll capped her amazing com-

See KROLL, Page B3



Sara Kroll holds the NCAA championship trophy.

Zywick lauded

ED WRIGHT, EDITOR

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EWRIGHT@HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Garden City native and Westland John Glenn graduate Brooke Zywick, a

senior volleyball



Zvwick

player Marist College, was recently named

to the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference's All-Academic team. To be eligible for the award, student-athletes must have a cumulative grade-point average of 3.2 or higher.

Zywick has blazed an impressive trail at Marist, where she has set the school's all-time career and single-season records for digs.

She was named the MAAC's "Libero of the Week" in consecutive weeks in September.

Pilat 129th

Livonia Churchill graduate Bethany Pilat capped a fantastic junior season on the Olivet Nazarene (Ind.) Univer-



country team by placing 129th at Saturday's Nation-

al Association of Intercollegiate Athletics National **Championships held** at Rim Rock Farm in Lawrence, Kansas. Pilat covered the 5-kilometer race in



JAYNE FRONEY

Livonia Stevenson's swimming and diving team qualified seven swimmers for Saturday's Division 1 finals at Eastern Michigan University. Pictured are (back row

Stevenson swimmers and LCSC's Tucker cap season with strong showings at D1 finals

19 minutes and 39.20 seconds to help the Tigers place 16th in the final standings. **Olivet registered** 321 points

MU hoops

Khalil Malone's career-high 25 points was not enough Saturday as the Madonna University men's venport in Grand

omore point-guard from Waterford Mott was upstaged, however, by Daven-port's Dominez Burnett, who finished with 29 points and eight rebounds.

Donald Owens and Zak Lewis each chipped in with nine points for the Crusaders (3-5, 1-2), who shot 19-of-45 from the floor and 15-of-19 from the foul line. Owens also snared seven rebounds.

Grazulis dominated and 17 rebounds Saturday as No. 4-ranked Davenport University (5-0, 3-0) pulled away midway through the second victory over Madonna's women's team (3-2, 2-1), 73-55 13 and 10 points,

respectively, off the bench for the Panthers, who shot 31of-63 from the field and committed just nine turnovers.

MU got a careerhigh 25 points along with seven rebounds from junior guard Michele Hayes, a transfer from Oakland University via the University of Toledo.

from left) Sara Bowen, Merril Froney, Rebecca Arakelian, (middle row from left), Rachel Arceri, Bayne Froney, Brenna Erickson and (front row) Melissa Flannigan. MAKING WAVES

basketball team fell at No. 4-ranked Da-Rapids, 70-57 The 5-foot-9 soph-

Grand Valley

State transfer Daina inside with 22 points half to earn a WHAC Alex Law and Tiesha Stokes added

Livonia Stevenson's Brenna Erickson (middle) gets off to a quick start during 50-yard freestyle event Saturday at Eastern Michigan University.

By Ed Wright Staff Writer

Livonia Stevenson's sevenmember swimming contingent made a splash at Saturday's MHSAA Division swimming and diving championships at Eastern Michigan University's Jones Pool.

The Spartans earned 68 points to finish 14th overall. Saline edged runner-up Farmington Hills Mercy, 267.5-262, to capture the D1 title.

While all seven Spartans who earned a spot in the state meet excelled, a few were on the cusp of earning coveted All-State

honors, which come with a top-eight finish in each event.

Merril Froney placed ninth in the 500-yard freestyle with a time of 5 minutes and 7.44 seconds while teammate Rebecca Arakelian placed ninth in the 100 breaststroke with a time of 1:06.38

Arakelian capped an outstanding high school swimming career by also taking 10th in the 200 individual medley (2:07.15) and by helping the Spartans' 400 freestyle relay quartet, which also included Rachel Arceri, Brenna Erickson and Froney,

See WAVES, Page B2



PREP PROFILE

Downtime not on Cramton's agenda

Franklin senior excels in three varsity sports

By Ed Wright Staff Writer

Livonia Franklin senior Sarah Cramton would undoubtedly qualify as an anti-couch potato - a person who makes chilling in front of a big-screen TV secondary to staying active on her school's sports teams.

Cramton is an athlete for all seasons, excelling in volleyball in the fall, basketball in the winter and softball in the spring.

By the time she graduates in June, Cramton will have collected close to double-digit varsity letters - a feat that is almost unheard of in this era of high school sports specialization.

Given her DNA, the personable Patriot's accomplishments are not surprising. Her father, Mark, and her uncle, Scott, are both

physical education instructors at Garden City High School.

"My dad always encouraged me to stay active in sports, ever since I was a little kid," Cramton said. "He always told me to do my best in whatever I was doing."

That, she has.

Cramton was an all-around standout on Franklin's volleyball team, which wrapped up its season early this month.

With just a four-day break to rest, Cramton attended the Patriots' first basketball practice on Nov. 10.

In March, she'll transition from hoops to softball with little time to rest, but that's how she likes it.

"I like staying busy," she said. "When I'm

See CRAMTON, Page B2



Livonia Franklin senior Sarah Cramton is a rare three-sport athlete.

ED WRIGHT

B2 (WGRL) 0 & E Media | Thursday, November 27, 2014

LOCAL SPORTS

hometownlife.com

PREP PROFILE

Smith provides leadership for young Chargers

Senior has honed hockey skills since his Timbits days

By Ed Wright Staff Writer

Armed with a quick smile (and a full set of perfect teeth), Dylan Smith resembled anything but a menacing hockey player as he walked from the Devonaire Ice Arena locker room to his car Monday afternoon.

But put the Livonia Churchill senior along the boards with possession of a loose puck up for grabs, and the talented center's competitive edge will surface quickly.

That edge - combined with a top-shelf skill set - is one of the reasons Smith was selected to serve as the Chargers' captain this season.

"Dylan has evolved not only as a highly-skilled player, but as a great leader as well," said Churchill head coach Jason Reynolds. "He is a physical specimen for us on the ice and we will look to him to set the tone as far as aggressiveness

and competitiveness."

Smith has been on the fast track (or rink) to hockey success since he was a small child growing up less than a mile from Churchill High School. He started skating when he was 2 or 3 years old, and it wasn't too long before sticks and pads were added to his equipment bag

"I started playing hockey when I was 5 or 6 for the Timbits mini-mites," said Smith. "I actually scored my first goal at Eddie Edgar. I got past the defense and slid the puck past the goalie. I still remember it.' One of Smith's current line

mates - fellow senior Justin O'Brien - has not only been a good friend since Smith can remember, but the two share the same level of passion for hockey.

"Justin and I have played hockey together pretty much our entire lives," Smith said. "We were probably 5 when we met. We have great chemistry on the ice, so being on the same line with him is awesome. We kind of know what one another is thinking."

Smith said he feels honored to be selected to wear the "C' that goes along with the captaincy

"Churchill has such a great hockey history, I want to do whatever I can to keep the success going this year," he said. "We have a very young team – we have five freshmen - but we're hungry and we work hard."

Smith's on-the-ice philosophy isn't complicated, he said. When I get the puck on the

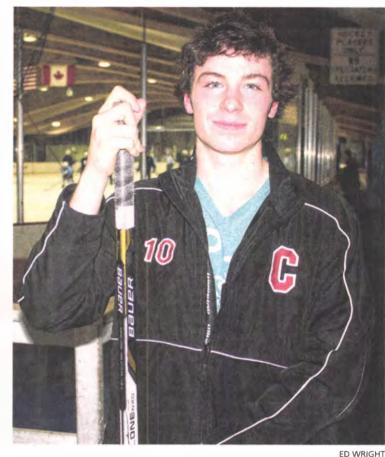
my stick, I keep my head up and try to find an open teammate," said Smith, who tallied eight goals and 15 assists as a junior. "And hopefully whichever teammate I pass it to gets a goal. I know it's not that easy, but that's what I try to do.'

A baseball and basketball player as well as an icer during his pre-high school days, Smith focused most of his extracurricular time on hockey once he started attending Churchill.

An exceptional student who carries a "3.7 or 3.8" gradepoint average this year, Smith definitely wants to continue to play hockey after he graduates in June.

"I've been in contact with a couple colleges," he said. "A lot of it depends on how my senior season goes."

ewright@hometownlife.com



Livonia Churchill senior captain Dylan Smith leads a young but talented hockey team this season.

WAVES

Continued from Page B1

take 10th in 3:34.43. Erickson also sparkled in the freestyle sprints,

touching 10th overall in the 50 with a 24.61 clock ing and 10th in the 100 with a time of 53.40. Arceri was 14th in the 100 (53.86)

Stevenson's 200 freestyle relay foursome of Erickson, Arceri, Sara Bowen and Arakelian placed 11th in 1:39.24

The Spartans' 200 medley relay team of **Bayne Froney**, Merril Froney, Bowen and Melissa Flannigan placed 24th in Friday's preliminaries with a time of 1:55.50.

Arceri barely missed

ED WRIGHT Waterford United senior

Miranda Tucker, a resident of Plymouth and member of the Livonia Community Swim Club, broke two state records at Saturday's MHSAA **Division 1 swimming and** diving meet held at Eastern Michigan University.

advancing to Saturday's final in the 200 freestyle as she placed 18th with a time of 1:56.98. Only the top 16 finishers in the preliminaries make it to the final round.

Merril Froney placed

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27th in the 200 free with a time of 1:57.98. Waterford United

senior Miranda Tucker, who lives in Plymouth and swims for the Livonia Community Swim Club during the off-season, had a banner day, setting a pair of MHSAA Division 1 records.

Tucker, who has committed to competing at the collegiate level for Indiana University, won the 200 IM with a recordsetting time of 1:59.14. She also broke the D1 state record in the 100 breaststroke with a time of 1:00.56.

Westland John Glenn sophomore Kera Sells placed 23rd in both the 200 IM (2:14.49) and the 100 butterfly (1:00.28).

ewright@hometownlife.com

CRAMTON

Continued from Page B1

not doing sports - which isn't very often - I like to relax. But I'd rather be playing something."

Cramton's role on this season's Franklin girls basketball team will be multi-faceted. In addition to serving as a deadon perimeter shooter and hustling defender, she'll fill the role as one of the Patriots' four senior captains along with Erin and Jessica McNally, and Tyonna Tate.

"I like this year's team a lot," she said. "A few of us have played together since middle school and the new girls we have on the team are

really working hard. I think it's going to be a good season.

Cramton admitted to being a competitive person.

"I absolutely hate losing," she said, smiling.

Cramton said she'd have a hard time deciding if she could only play one sport at Franklin.

"I enjoy playing volleyball the most, but softball is probably the sport I'm best at," she said. "I really enjoy basketball, too.'

Ironically, Cramton listed a game-winning goal in soccer as the high school athletic accomplishment she's most proud of.

"I played soccer growing up and I played soccer instead of soft-

ball my freshman year of high school," she said. "I scored a goal that helped get us into the district final [which the Patriots ultimately won]. That's probably my best achievement so far.'

Cramton's future aspirations include earning a nursing-related degree at either Michigan State University or Grand Valley State University.

Her mom and sister both work in the medical field, which has ignited her interest in nursing.

Cramton is a star in the classroom, too, having chiseled out an outstanding 3.5 grade-point average through threeplus years of high school.

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VI Kids' and Men's Gifts The Children Place, Shoe Carnival, Destination XL and more!

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LOCAL SPORTS

COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL

Sioux City-bound MU clips Union

Gates, Stokes spark NAIA play-in triumph

By Brad Emons Staff Write

The Madonna University women's volleyball team had to win a play-in game Saturday to advance to the NAIA National Tournament and the host Crusaders answered the call.

Senior outside hitter Casey Gates led the way with 17 kills and three others reached double figures as the 37-7 Crusaders punched their ticket to Sioux City, Ia. with a 25-21,

25-22, 21-25, 25-20 triumph over Union College (Ky.). Kayla Vogel added 14 kills, while Samantha Geile and Emily Johnson each added 10 as 16th-ranked MU hit at a .309 percentage.

"It actually was a good match and a good opponent," said coach Jerry Abraham, who guided MU to a runner-up finish in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference.

"Union was very scrappy and had a couple of hard hitters. I thought we played real well on both defense and offense.

"We great, great match from both Sam Geile and Casey Gates on the outside. Both kind of controlled the nets today.

"They had a lot of terminating hits, a lot of game-changing kind of hits. Kayla Vogel and Emily Johnson were unstoppable on the slide and from the middle attack."

Junior setter Spencer Stokes, a transfer from Oakland Community College, racked up 50 assists, and senior defensive specialist Amanda

Obrycki paced the defense with 15 digs.

'We had a well balanced game defensively, offensively, and our setter (Stokes) controlled the tempo today," Abraham said.

'She had a nice game and made good decisions at the net. I think we kept them off balance and we needed to play a real strong game on both sides of the ball, and we did tonight."

Marissa Elam and Rachel Andrews paced Union (30-10) with 16 and 12 kills, respectively. Setters Chandler Gray and Heather Fields combined for 41 assists with 21 and 20, respectively.

Twenty-four NAIA teams advance to play Dec. 2-6 at the Tyson Events Center in Sioux City, Iowa.

The Crusaders will make their third straight appearance and the 14th under Abraham, who is in his 28th season as Madonna coach.

"For losing three All-Americans and four starting seniors, the kids have responded, and I'm just very proud of them,' said Abraham, the all-time leader in wins among NAIA coaches.

PREP HOCKEY

Stevenson knocks off Hartland, 2-1

In a rematch of the 2013 **Division 2 state championship** game, Livonia Stevenson clipped host Hartland 2-1 Saturday afternoon thanks to timely goals from Alex DeFlorio and Alex Hunt, and solid play between the pipes from junior goal-tender Cullen Barber.

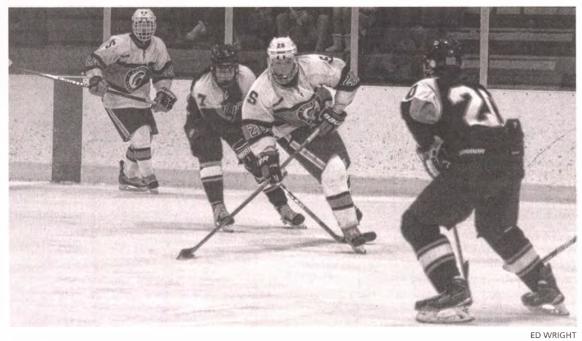
The Eagles entered the contest ranked No. 4 in Division 2 by State Champs, while Stevenson carried a No. 5 ranking into the clash.

Hartland has played in the past two D2 state championship games, losing to Stevenson in 2013 and Trenton this past March.

'It was a solid, solid team effort for us tonight," said Stevenson head coach David Mitchell. "Again, we got better as the game went on. To come into this arena [Hartland Arena], on the road, against a top team like Hartland and get the win is huge for our team and program.

"We understand that we have to keep working, staying

PREP HOCKEY



Livonia Stevenson's Stephen Olschanski lines up a shot during last week's game against Birmingham Brother Rice.

coaches." ing 32 minutes, the Spartans lit up the scoreboard first when DeFlorio netted his fourth goal of the season on a five-one-three power-play that was assisted by Alec Allen.

Hunt provided what proved to be an all-important insurance net-finder with 8:18 to go in the third when he scored for the first time this season thanks to a helper from Randy Maples.

Hartland made things interesting with 6:37 to play when Blake Heier tallied an unassisted goal, but the Spartans closed the contest with air-tight defense.

Junior Christian Spangler turned in an exemplary performance for Hartland as he was credited with 48 saves. The Spartans rifled 12 shots at Spangler in the first period before launching 20 in the middle stanza and 18 down the stretch.

Barber made eight saves during the first 17 minutes, seven in the second period and six in the final period.

ewright@hometownlife.com

Following a scoreless open-



By Dan O'Meara Staff Writer

DIVISION 2 FOOTBALL SEMIFINAL

Muskegon Mona Shores overcame injuries to two quarterbacks and daunting odds for an improbable victory over

University of Buffalo, injured his left knee on the third play of the seconti quarter and didn't return.

Junior backup Tyler Trovinger was taken to a hospital by ambulance

bled, and seven of eight pass attempts either were knocked down or fell incomplete.

Jevon not practicing a long time, it was tough for him to get into a rhythm of throwing," Harrison

Sailors away from their goal line to the Harrison 23. The Hawks picked up three first downs as they tried to work the clock, but the drive stalled at the Mona Shores 42.

the Sailors struck for the

long TD pass on Wilson's

fourth snap from center.

Burse caught the ball

behind the defense and

ran away from the last

Hawks on top early

with junior Alex Bol-

ing kickoff, and they

made it 10-0 with an 83-

yard pass play between

Shaw and Iwarri Smith.

Mona Shores scored on

Deontay Moffett's 13-yard

run, and the Sailors added

slipped on the slick turf in

Harrison recovered a

Shores 17 and capitalized

with Giovanni's 10-yard

pass to Ojemudia, giving

the Hawks a 17-9 halftime

The Sailors tied the

score with a drive to start

the third quarter. Trov-

inger scored on a 1-yard

fett for the two points.

sneak and passed to Mof-

Harrison marched to

the Mona Shores 1 when it

got the ball again, but it

lost a fumble in the end

the end zone, putting the

fumble at the Mona

tally at 10-9.

lead.

zone.

a safety when Giovanni

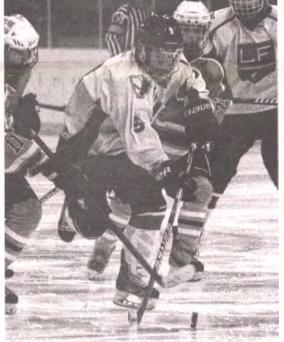
To start the game, the Hawks took a quick lead

strum's 30-yard field goal

after receiving the open-

defender.

It was two plays later



true to the process and get better every day. I'm very, very proud of our players and

ED WRIGHT

Livonia Franklin's Brendan Nutting pushes the puck up the ice during a game earlier this season.

Pats play well in 2-1 loss to 'Cats

Plymouth outlasted Livonia Franklin, 2-1, Saturday night in a defense-dominated KLAA South Division hockey game played at Canton's Arctic Edge Arena.

The loss dropped the Patriots' record to 1-1 heading into Wednesday's 8 p.m. home game against White Lake Lakeland.

Senior goal-tender Matt Monendo played brilliantly in the crease for the Patriots as he turned away 28 Wildcat shots to give Franklin a chance. Plymouth goalie Jared Maddock countered with 17 saves at the other end of the ice.

All three of the game's goals came in the action-packed second period. The Wildcats netted a power-play goal from Alex Bump at the 8:22 mark. He was assisted by James Baldwin and Zach Weiner.

Franklin answered less than two minutes later when Trevor Lassaline evened the ledger at 1-1 with a bad-angle, needle-threading goal that was assisted by Chase Wallis and Jonny Parkinson.

Plymouth scored the eventual game-winner with just over two minutes left before the second intermission when Baldwin scored thanks to helpers from Jake Silvester and Jared Merandi.

"Our guys battled and played a very disciplined game both in our defensive zone and by staying out of the penalty box with only one penalty," said Franklin head coach Dennis Gagnon. "Monendo was solid and gave us a chance to win.

"Plymouth has a big and fast team with great coaching and usually ends up a top-ranked team. I'm very proud of our guys' effort and grit.'

ewright@hometownlife.com

Farmington Harrison in a Division 2 semifinal football game Saturday, 25-24.

Behind on the scoreboard the whole game, the Sailors scored with 4:48 remaining in the fourth quarter and claimed a come-from-behind win at Howell High School.

Third-string quarterback Elijah Wilson connected with Kobe Burse for a 76-yard touchdown pass to pull Mona Shores within a point, 24-23.

On the two-point conversion, Wilson faked a pitch to his left, turned to the right and threw a pass to a wide-open Deontay Moffett in the end zone for the winning margin.

It was a play the Sailors had never run, according to Mona Shores coach Matt Koziak. He opted to go for two because the first- and second-string holders were the injured quarterbacks.

"I was going to practice one of our freshmen holding, and I just said, 'Ah, forget it," Koziak said. "We knew they were in man (coverage); maybe this will work. We went for it and got it. It's almost like a destiny.'

Six-foot-5 starting quarterback Tyree Jackson, who committed to the

KROLL

Continued from Page B1

petitive cross country career Saturday the way all young runners dream about doing so: by helping MSU win not only its first women's cross country title, but the first women's championship in any sport in the school's storied athletic history.

Kroll placed 61st overall with a time of 20 minutes, 56.70 seconds on the challenging 6-kilometer course.

The Spartans dominated the race by compiling just 85 points- the lowest total at the NCAA

early in the fourth quarter, following an end-zone collision with Harrison's Michael Ojemudia.

"When we beat Muskegon, I thought that couldn't be topped, at least for a while," Koziak said. "To win the way we did we lose our best player and the backup quarterback goes down. Our third-string quarterback gets in and the receiver makes a great catch.

"It's an unbelievable win, No. 1 easily. Farmington was unbelievable; they were down to their thirdstring quarterback, and they played their tails off. I don't think you could ask for a better semifinal football game."

Hawks try to rally

After the Sailors (12-1) took the lead, Harrison junior quarterback Anthony Giovanni was tackled just short of the 30-yard line on fourth-and-3 from his 27.

Injured senior quarterback Jevon Shaw, who made several appearances in the game, tried to rally the Hawks in the final 1:17.

Shaw was unable to escape the Mona Shores defense when he scramcoach John Herrington said

"I think our kids played one of their better games. I think they outplayed (the Sailors) most of the time and were more physical most of the time. But sometimes it doesn't always work out."

The Hawks took a 24-17 lead at the start of the fourth quarter. Giovanni found a wide-open Jared Char down field in the left flat for a 41-yard pass.

A Mona Shores player made a near-costly mistake on the kickoff when he downed the ball at his 2-yard line.

Safety not awarded

The Hawks (10-3) thought they deserved an additional two points for a safety on the play Trovinger was hurt.

But the officials ruled forward progress and put the ball back at the 2. After watching the replay on film, Herrington said it was definitely a safety.

"The kid was down a good yard into the end zone," he said. "It's not that big a deal; we should have won anyway. The slant pass, letting the guy get away from us, that was the one that hurt."

A 71-yard punt got the

Clark (11th in 20:16), Leah O'Connor (17th in 20:20.80) and Julie Otwell (20:29.50).

"What a great group of people," MSU director of cross country and track & field Walt Drenth told msuspartans.com. "They really did what they've done all year. They stayed patient and they ran well late. They stepped up for each other. It was a great team effort.

"To win a national championship, it's a really proud moment. I'd really like to thank Spartan nation, that was amazing to hear that 'Go Green, Go White.' I couldn't be more proud to be a Spartan right now."

Kroll's senior season at

MSU was drenched with success. In addition to earning All-Big Ten second-team and All-Region first-team honors, she placed 15th at the NCAA Great Lakes Regional Championships and 11th at the Big Ten Champion-

ships. The daughter of Michael and Anna, Kroll is majoring in special education and has been accepted to participate in the highly-acclaimed "Teach For America" program.

The Spartans were to be recognized during halftime of Monday night's men's basketball game against Santa Clara.

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Championships since the

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had 79 in 2008 - to easily

out-distance runner-up

Iowa State by 62 points.

try to stay with my two

teammates, Rachele

(Schulist) and Lindsay

(Clark), but the pace for

the first 1,000 meters was

very fast, so I decided to

back off a little bit and save my legs for the end,"

she said. "I saw online

today that I was 96th after

2,000 meters, 76th after

4,000 and I finished 61st,

so my on-the-fly decision

Kroll was the fifth

line, behind Schulist

Spartan to cross the finish

(fourth place in 19:54.30),

worked well."

"My initial plan was to

Wearing a knee brace.

B4 (WGRL) 0 & E Media | Thursday, November 27, 2014

OHL HOCKEY

Late goal lifts Whalers to 2-1 win

Big game by Nedeljkovic, goal by Scognamiglio lead Plymouth

By Tim Smith Staff Write

So far, nothing has come easy for the Plymouth Whalers this season, and that applied to Saturday's 2-1 victory over Niagara at Compuware Arena.

The Whalers, still smarting from a 9-3 loss Friday night at Guelph, thought they would be getting veteran defenseman Gianluca Curcuruto back after finishing a 12-game suspension

They kind of did, for a while. Curcuruto injured his shoulder midway through the first period. Later on, forward Will Bitten took an elbow to the head and missed the final eight minutes.

Yet, the Whalers persevered and skated off with the two points, improving to 9-12-1-1 and ending a four-game skid in which they were outscored, 26-10.

"It was a total team letdown yesterday (against Guelph)," Whalers coach Don Elland said. "And I give the guys all the credit in the world.

"We challenged them; we went over film and we called a few of them out - that they got to be better and they all were.'

He joked the only player he thought *didn't* play well was goalie Alex Nedeljkovic, who stonewalled the IceDogs to the tune of 43 saves just one night after the Storm victimized him for nine goals. Nedeljkovic was selected as the No. 1 star Saturday.

"He knows that (loss to Guelph) wasn't on him," Elland COGNAMIBLO RENA LAVERTY | PLYMOUTH WHALERS

LOCAL SPORTS

Plymouth Whalers goalie Alex Nedeljkovic makes one of his 43 saves Saturday night against Niagara. Here, he denies a bid by Anthony DiFruscia (No. 10).

said. "You don't give up nine goals (and) it's just the goalie's fault.'

Plenty of others contributed, including forwards Cullen Mercer (one goal, one assist) and Vincent Scognamiglio, who tallied the winning goal with a screen shot from the left circle that beat Niagara netminder Brent Moran with 5:54 left.

"Merce was great; Scogs was great, not just because he got the goal," Ellland said. "First time we used him on PK, because we just don't have

bodies. Did a great job. "Misty (Matt Mistele) was really good. Sonny (Milano), probably the best game he's played since he's been here. Everybody stepped up tonight and we needed to after we weren't very good last night."

Scognamiglio skated down the left wing and, using a Niagara defenseman as a screen, snapped a low shot inside the right post for the tiebreaker. Assisting were Mercer and defenseman Mathieu Henderson.

There still were some tense moments the rest of the way, particularly during Niagara's 10th power play of the night. Conversely, the Whalers only had the extra man four times.

The IceDogs (6-16-0-0) fired off one last salvo in the final minute but could not hit the target

Elland emphasized that the kind of team effort that the Whalers displayed Saturday is

what will be needed to stay in the playoff hunt in the OHL West Division. Plymouth still has 17 of 18 games remaining against division rivals Windsor, Saginaw and Sarnia.

"Until we get everybody back on board it's going to have to be all hands on deck," Elland said. "I know that's a cliche, but everybody's going to have to go."

Mercer, who was a forechecking force all night, got the Whalers on the board late in the first period.

Plymouth's power-play goal was set up by Mistele and Milano, who threaded a pass in front to Mercer for the finish.

At that point, Niagara carried the edge in play and a 16-5 edge on the shots board.

Lady Ocelots' offense struggles in loss

By Tim Smith Staff Writer

It was a good-news, badnews afternoon for the Schoolcrafts women's basketball team Saturday against Glen Oaks Community College.

The Ocelots lost 51-50 in the non-conference matchup, but Schoolcraft coach Kara Kinzer wondered whether a few positive plays down the stretch might have made a difference.

Although the host Ocelots, particularly T'era Nesbitt and Jessica Parry, played stellar defense to keep Glen Oaks scoring threat Anika Gasich to just 11 points, the Vikings were able to grab some offensive rebounds and score key putbacks in the final min-

utes. "If we would have made a couple different plays, where we would have boxed out defensively it would have a totally different game," said Kinzer, whose team dropped to 4-2 overall. The Lady Ocelots trailed 27-20 at halftime, struggling

to find an offensive rhythm against the Vikings' zone defense. Schoolcraft hit just 10 of 40 shots (25 percent) in the first half.

Things improved slightly in the second half, in part due to a number of transition points off steals (Rikki Sherdt had three steals, Sara Gammons and Wayne Memorial alum Ashley Bland had two each).

"They played a zone on us and we kind of hesitated from it," Kinzer said. "They packed it in on us and didn't let us drive much, so that hindered our scoring ability.'

Schoolcraft was led by Bland, who scored 17 points. Chipping in with 12 points each were Gammons and Nesbitt.

Novi's bid to be No. 1 is blocked by Romeo

Ocelots men's cagers

Gia Milana's 29 kills lift Bulldogs to title in Class A state final

PREP VOLLEYBALL

By Brad Emons Staff Write

Jen Cottrill described her team as "relentless and fearless," and that was once again on display Saturday in the Class A volleyball final at Kellogg Arena in Battle Creek.

Although it battled from two sets down for the second straight day, Novi came up just short this time as Romeo, led by Gia Milana's matchbest 29 kills, survived a five-set thriller to capture its first state title, 25-23, 25-22, 14-25, 25-27, 15-9.

Novi, which finished its best season in school history at 54-6-1, nearly duplicated its stirring semifinal comeback Friday when it rallied from two sets down to stun Grand Haven.

But Milana, a 6-foot-1 junior committed to Maryland, asserted her authority in the final set as she came up with six kills, including championship point.

"That's pretty miraculous to do in the first place, at this point, at this place in the state tournament. Twice is a lot to ask," Cottrill said of the back-to-back comebacks.

"(Milana) came back in the front row at the end. She's a great player, a phenomenal player. We don't have a lot of height and she's hitting the ball pretty high. We made some errors in the fifth set, too.

"But I'm proud of them. For a team to come back being down 2-0 two matches, in the state semis and final, speaks a lot about their character."

Cottrill tried to make defensive adjustments



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

With heavy hearts, Novi players applaud state champion Romeo after falling in five sets in the Class A volleyball final at Battle Creek's Kellogg Arena. Emily Robinson (center) holds the state runner-up trophy.



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Novi's Erin O'Leary (center) and Olivia Bradford go up for the block against Romeo attacker Gia Milana during Saturday's Class A final at Battle Creek's Kellogg Arena.

on the fly, but it seemed Milana was able find the floor enough times despite making 14 hitting miscues.

"In the third set, she made a lot of errors and that allowed us to get some easy points to give us some momentum,' Cottrill said. "In the end, she was just hitting around our block, hitting over our block, and that's pretty tough to defend."

Jodie Kelly and Lauren Korth added 13 and 11 kills, respectively, for Romeo (45-8-1), which

lost twice to Novi in the Seaholm tournament.

Victoria Iacobelli, one half of the potent 5-foot-9 junior outside hitting twins for the

Wildcats, finished with a team-best 19 kills; sister Paulina added 14 kills.

Sophomore Alyssa Cummings, who came on strong in the third and fourth sets, also had 14 kills. Freshman setter Erin O'Leary had 47 assists and senior Jennifer Kulie 11 digs.

"They were just an amazing team," Milana

said. "They fought. We knew they were going to come back and fight and they did. We had to fight back. We worked our butts off and we got it done.'

When Victoria Iacobelli got hot on offense in the third set with six kills and two blocks, the Wildcats seemed to carry the momentum into the fourth set, which was nip-and-tuck all the way.

But Milana came through in the final set as the Bulldogs raced to a 7-2 advantage and never let Novi get closer than two, 8-6. Romeo coach Stacy

Williams used an identical word to describe the Wildcats. "Relentless," she

said. "(Novi) just wouldn't give up. It was just a match — two top teams in the state that were fighting for it. And nobody was willing to

let it go. "That's what it really came down to. You had two fantastic teams fighting for a championship. No better way to finish it."

survive Glen Oaks' surge

By Tim Smith Staff Writer

COLLEG BASKETBALL

Young Schoolcraft players getting used to the college basketball grind were taught a lesson in what happens when assuming a game is well in hand.

An apparent blowout turns into a bit of a nailbiter.

That's what happened Saturday afternoon, when Schoolcraft's men's basketball team led 74-49 midway through the second half, but needed to hold off a late uprising by Glen Oaks Community College to win 95-85.

"It's what having freshmen's all about," Ocelots head coach Abe Mashhour said. "Obviously, we're a very young team, so it takes some learning for them to understand they have to close out games a lot better.

"I thought we were terrific for 32 minutes, we played very well, we played hard. They need to understand that at this level, guys can make plays. Every guy on the other team's a good basketball player. That's why they're playing at this level."

Mashhour, whose squad improved to 8-1, attributed much of the momentum shift during the second half to players getting "complacent" and not protecting the basketball.

Leading the Glen Oaks charge in the final eight minutes was guard Christopher Harris (23 points). He scored 12 points including a pair of treys — as the Vikings closed the gap from 78-52 to 81-71.

Glen Oaks (4-1) actually cut the gap to six points (88-82) with 46 seconds remaining before Schoolcraft's Lito Booth (23 points) made four consecutive free throws

the boost the lead back to 10.

"I thought our inside people played very, very well," Mashhour said. "After the first eight minutes of the game, we did an excellent job of ... keeping them off the offensive boards.

"We did quite a few good things.

Mashhour cited the play of 6-foot-6 freshman forward James Pruitt (Westland John Glenn).

"He stepped up for us. This was his first game where he played quite a few minutes," Mashhour said. "I thought he was terrific, did a lot of the intangibles, blocking shots, rotating defensivelv.'

Schoolcraft built a 50-36 halftime lead, bolstered by back-to-back threes from the right wing by freshman forward Marcus Williams (19 points, a team-high nine rebounds).

Booth, a freshman guard, stopped-andpopped from the top of the key to expand the Schoolcraft advantage to 61-42 with 17:30 remaining.

Freshman forward Davon Taylor (seven points, seven boards in 18 minutes), a Canton alum, went strong to the rack for a layup.

With the Ocelots' quickness and aggressiveness paying dividends, a steal by Taylor in the defensive zone led to a put-back by freshman guard Ja'Christian Biles (15 points), making it 65-45 with about 14 minutes left.

Schoolcraft really got it going for a minute or two when Biles threw down a pair of slams, sandwiched around a backdoor layup by freshman forward and Brighton alum Nathan Kamal, upping the Ocelots' advantage to a whopping 74-49 with 11:54 remaining.

REAL ESTATE JULIE BROWN, EDITOR JCBROWN@HOMETOWNLIFE.COM 248-842-8046 FACEBOOK: HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

B5 (WGRL) THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2014 OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MEDIA HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



The Botsford Cancer Center in Farmington Hills, which was honored, has Farbman Group as its management company. Adam Westrick is property manager, Botsford Hospital property owner.

Commercial real estate industry honored

The Building Owners and Managers Association of Metro Detroit (BOMA) held its annual awards program, The Outstanding Building of the Year (TO-BY) and Leadership Awards Presentation, on Friday afternoon, Nov. 7, at the MotorCity Casino Sound Board, Detroit. The program honors outstanding leaders and commercial properties in the local commercial real estate industry.

The TOBY Awards, now in its 30th year, lauds the commercial real estate industry, recognizing excellence in office building ownership and management. Judging is based on community impact, tenant/employee relations programs, energy management systems, emergency evacuation procedures, building personnel training programs and overall quality indicators. A team of expert industry professionals conducted comprehensive building inspections.

"Each of this year's TOBY & Leadership Awards recipients has shown remarkable achievement in their respective categories" said Paul S. Magy, president of BOMA/Metro Detroit.



James Jonas of REDICO received a lifetime achievement award.

"These extraordinary professionals provide unsurpassed service and building management and each are commended for their commitment to the industry."

Leadership Award recipients were recognized for their contributions to the organization, the community and the greater industry. Recipients are: **» Gina Goodin, RPA,** of CBRE, Prop-

erty Manager of the Year; John Guardiola, RPA, LEED AP of Bedrock Real Estate Services, Facility Manager of

the Year; Ric Adkins of Piedmont Office Realty Trust/Able Engineering Services, Building Engineer of the Year; Wiss, Janney, Elstner Asso-ciates, Inc., Service Provider of the Year; and Karen Skierski of Comcast Business, Supplier Member of the Year.

» Jason Gordon of AlliedBarton Security Services, Emerging Leader; Cindy Wiegand of KIRCO Management Services, Outstanding Service Award; and William Wylonis of RED-ICO, the President's Award. James Jonas of REDICO was honored with a lifetime achievement award.

Twenty-two distinguished properties vied for first place in 8 categories for The Outstanding Building of the Year. The local winners are:

» Under 100,000 Square Feet m@dison, Bedrock Real Estate Services, Detroit

» 100,000-249,999 Square Feet - Kennedy Square Office Building, RED-ICO, Detroit

» 250,000-499,999 Square Feet - Oakland Towne Square, REDICO, Southfield

» 500,000-1 Million Square Feet -**One Detroit Center, Signature Asso**ciates, Detroit

» Corporate Facility - 1075 West Entrance Drive, Piedmont Office Realty Trust, Auburn Hills

» Government Building - Coleman A. Young Municipal Center, Hines, Detroit

» Medical Office Building - Botsford Cancer Center, Farbman Group, Farmington Hills

» Renovated Building - Comerica Bank Center, CBRE, Detroit

Metro Detroit TOBY winners will be invited to participate in the North Central Regional TOBY competition, in-cluding Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan and Ohio, to qualify for the BOMA International TOBY Awards, one of the highest honors in the commercial real estate industry. Winners of the international competition will be announced at the BOMA International 2015 Every Building Conference and Expo in Los Angeles, in June 2015.

For more information on the TOBY and Leadership Awards, visit www.bomadet.org.

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\$220,000

\$355,000

\$175,000

\$205,000

\$150,000

\$282,000

\$275,000

\$206.000 45736 White Pines Dr LYON

estate closings recorded the week of July 14-18, 2014, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

BIRMINGHAM

278 Baldwin Rd 375 Baldwin Rd 1225 Derby Rd # 1 890 Emmons Ave 1621 Haynes St # 23 1898 Humphrey Ave 2833 Manchester Rd 571 N Old Woodward Ave 819 Ruffner Ave 1958 S Bates St 555 Smith Ave 547 W Merrill St 1708 Washington Blvd 1737 Webster St **BLOOMFIELD HILLS** 2642 Aspen Ln 5154 Kellen Ln 2205 Cameo Lake Ct 204 Charing Cross Ct 5649 Kolly Rd 733 N Valley Chase Rd 726 Parkman Dr 4669 Ravine Dr **BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP** 4681 Charing Cross Rd

630 E Fox Hills Dr 643 E Fox Hills Dr 6185 E Surrey Rd 1141 Fox Chase Rd 2658 Heathfield Rd 835 Pine Hill Dr 178 S Williamsbury Rd \$1,400,000 1650 Trailwood Path \$2,100,000 6295 W Surrey Rd \$104,000 294 Wilshire Dr \$358,000 **COMMERCE TOWNSHIP** \$320,000 3229 Adele Ter \$235,000 9030 Gittins St \$295,000 4046 Heatherwood Dr \$240,000 4566 Hideaway Pines St 8712 Ringwood Dr \$190,000 1715 Trace Hollow Dr \$279,000 218 Vinona Ter \$460,000 FARMINGTON \$575,000 23008 Lilac St \$357,000 33924 Macomb Ave **FARMINGTON HILLS** \$745,000 22003 Arbor Ln \$250,000 37465 Carson St \$351,000 25749 Castlereigh Dr \$370,000 31180 Country Blf \$590,000 35472 Fredericksburg Rd \$340,000 37853 Glengrove Dr \$340,000 23355 Larkshire St \$479,000 24537 Martel Dr \$960,000 30829 Misty Pines Dr 29668 Orion Ct \$438,000 25535 Ranchwood Dr

1155 Crestview Ave

4785 Dover Rd

29592 S Meadowridge	\$206,000	45736 White Pines D
29569 Sierra Point Cir	\$203,000	SOUTH LYON
33673 Vista Dr	\$160,000	61522 Brookway Dr
27650 Westcott Crescent	\$150,000	52072 Copperwood I
Cir		1107 Gallop Ln
FRANKLIN		21143 Greenbriar Ln
32855 Outland Trl	\$540,000	331 Harvard Ave
HIGHLAND		859 Hidden Creek Dr
1966 Elkridge Cir	\$330,000	1051 Paddock Ln
1901 Grove	\$545,000	22280 Quail Run Cir
4534 Teal Ct	\$542,000	1
1590 White Lake Rd	\$225,000	52349 Red Cedar
MILFORD		450 W Liberty St
833 Abbey Ln	\$209,000	SOUTHFIELD
410 Peters	\$200,000	20981 Dartmouth Dr
343 River Wood Trl	\$430,000	24701 Harden Ave
1650 S Creek Dr	\$265,000	18787 Jeanette St
2991 Tall Timbers Dr	\$938,000	18272 New Hampshi
895 W Dawson Rd	\$225,000	Dr
NORTHVILLE		24260 Norwood Dr V
21124 E Glen Haven Cir	\$93,000	26891 Princeton Ct
47141 S Chigwidden Dr	\$235,000	17231 Roseland Blvd
20828 W Glen Haven Cir	\$145,000	30284 Southfield Rd
NOVI		A202
51097 Almafi Ct	\$548,000	29155 W Chanticleer
25230 Buckminster Dr	\$263,000	17660 Windflower D
24503 Dinser Dr	\$212,000	WHITE LAKE
51224 E Bourne Ter	\$323,000	1310 Castlewood St
50904 Glades Ct W	\$100,000	10900 Hillway St
24806 Joseph	\$185,000	8689 Scenic Bluff Ln
40628 Kingsley Ln	\$384,000	9274 Steephollow Dr
22836 Renford St	\$90,000	1349 Sugden Rd
24548 Riverview Ln	\$268,000	423 Teggerdine Trl
31186 Seneca Ln	\$228,000	8061 Vanden Dr
31076 Silverdale Dr	\$205,000	

Copperwood Dr N \$361,000 iallop Ln \$255,000 Greenbriar Ln \$370,000 \$160,000 rvard Ave dden Creek Dr \$288,000 addock Ln \$253,000 Quail Run Cir Unit \$151,000 Red Cedar \$380,000 \$175,000 Liberty St FIELD Dartmouth Dr \$165,000 Harden Ave \$90,000 Jeanette St \$165,000 \$169,000 New Hampshire Norwood Dr W \$249,000 \$200,000 Princeton Ct Roseland Blvd \$73,000 Southfield Rd # \$54,000 W Chanticleer Dr \$110,000 Windflower Dr \$125,000 LAKE \$160,000 astlewood St \$280,000 Hillway St cenic Bluff Ln \$290,000 \$153,000 teephollow Dr ugden Rd \$160,000 ggerdine Trl \$152,000 /anden Dr \$175,000

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-WAYNE COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Aug. 4-8, 2014, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

\$250,000

\$535,000

\$190,000

\$105,000

\$155,000

\$183,000

\$220,000

\$279,000

\$82,000

\$200,000

\$50,000

\$220,000

\$341,000

\$250,000

\$269,000

\$90,000

\$200,000

\$88,000

\$335,000

\$160,000

\$255,000

\$166,000

\$305,000

CANTON

7515 Admiralty Dr 2230 Antique Ct 43459 Applewood Rd 4055 Berkeley Ave 39815 Cather St 555 Cherry Orchard Rd 6170 Courtland Dr 1630 Crestview Dr 2315 Fairmount Park Ln 44149 Franciscan Dr 51140 Glen Hollow Ave 43958 Harsdale Dr 5879 Hathaway Rd 2527 Hogan Way 45752 Larchmont Dr 42753 Lilley Pointe Dr 3407 Milcroft Ct 50044 N Wintergarden Ct 7225 Oakmont Dr 39661 Peters Dr 6835 Pittsford St 44638 Ridgefield Rd 6755 Tiffany Cir

41824 Wild Turkey Ln **GARDEN CITY** 28975 Balmoral St 130 Harrison St 28731 Kathryn St LIVONIA 15017 Alexander St 28671 Bayberry Park Dr 9909 Berwick St 19004 Canterbury Dr 15525 Deering St 17663 Dolores St 9910 Doris St 35245 Elmira St 19005 Farmington Rd 14740 Hix St 19496 Ingram St 9403 Lathers St 9357 Marie Ct 18892 Mayfield St 29876 Mcintyre St 39206 Meeting House Ln 19183 Milburn St 29537 Pickford St 38122 Ross St 19602 Saint Francis St 20126 Saint Francis St 36529 Sherwood St 14448 Stonehouse Ave 14180 Susanna St 18331 University Park Dr 30246 W Chicago St NORTHVILLE

\$200,000 18311 Blue Heron Dr E 17017 Horseshoe Dr \$77,000 16782 Lochmoor Cir W \$56,000 17076 Lochmoor Ct \$73,000 46556 N Valley Dr 19663 Northridge Dr \$115,000 17372 Oak Hill Dr \$139,000 17290 Stonebrook Dr \$175,000 18393 Stoneridge Ct \$283,000 45131 Walnut Ridge Ct \$185,000 42090 Waterfall Rd \$124,000 PLYMOUTH \$125,000 44601 Albert Dr \$145,000 1093 Ann Arbor Rd W \$130,000 46550 Barrington Ct \$164,000 46550 Barrington Ct \$155,000 11921 Chandler Dr \$93,000 42044 Clemons Dr \$161,000 11326 General Dr \$348,000 975 Hartsough Ct \$137,000 292 Pacific St \$212,000 REDFORD \$175,000 9317 Appleton \$136,000 16851 Brady \$191,000 17233 Five Points St \$114,000 18829 Five Points St \$80,000 26260 Graham Rd \$191,000 9967 Hemingway \$145,000 18317 Lexington \$155,000 8972 Lucerne \$93,000 20407 Olympia \$155,000 17674 Sumner 20492 Wakenden

\$455,000 14220 Westgate Dr \$550,000 WAYNE 4302 Adams Cir \$309,000 \$300,000 3724 Elizabeth St \$455,000 33200 Forest Park Dr \$110,000 33200 Forest Park Dr \$675,000 4426 Nyman Ave WESTLAND \$525,000 \$901,000 31020 Barrington St 34034 Cambria Ct \$544,000 37609 Colonial Dr \$355,000 33132 Creston St \$160,000 547 Darwin St \$150,000 30936 Grandview Ave \$290,000 31041 Hiveley St \$355,000 31123 Mackenzie Dr 32841 Mackenzie Dr \$390,000 34105 Majestic St \$120,000 \$130,000 32105 Merritt Dr \$185,000 1272 Michael Dr 7786 Millwood Dr \$245,000 38180 N Jean Ct \$66,000 39125 Palmer Rd \$20,000 240 Pattingill St \$40,000 804 Rahn St \$72,000 29615 Shacket St \$154,000 1397 Shoemaker Dr \$98,000 36081 Traditions Dr \$45,000 38350 Warren Rd \$100,000 32702 Winona St \$549,000 1491 Woodbourne St \$67,000 7630 Woodview St \$30,000

Short sales

\$430,000

\$411,000

\$70,000

\$55,000

\$34,000

\$84,000

\$80,000

\$90,000

\$95,000

\$21,000

\$73,000

\$86,000

\$77,000

\$58,000

\$80,000

\$83,000

\$109,000

\$120,000

\$125,000

\$150,000

\$200,000

\$107,000

\$178,000

\$125,000

\$105,000

\$150,000

\$43,000

\$165,000

\$189,000

\$125,000

\$81,000

\$40,000

If you owe more than what your house is worth, you may be interested in a free informational seminar on short sale procedures.

REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

Bonnie David, broker/. owner of Quantum Real Estate, is the presenter. It will be 6-7 p.m. each Thursday at 129 N. Lafayette, downtown South Lyon.

Please call the office at 248-782-7130 or email june.quantum@gmail.com for your reservation or additional information.

Investors

The Real Estate Investors Association of Wayne will have an open forum. Investors will answer questions and offer a market update. Meetings are at 6-9 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month at the Red Lobster on Eureka in Southgate.

Members are free, guests \$20, which will be applied to their membership. The Red Lobster is next to 7-11, near Trenton Road.

Any questions or concerns, call Bill Beddoes at 734-934-9091 or Wayde Koehler at 313-819-0919.

Seminar each

Tuesday, Thursday

A free seminar on government-insured reverse mortgages is offered by Colonial Mortgage Corp. at 6:30 p.m. each Tuesday and at 2 p.m. each Thursday at various locations. **RSVP** with Colonial

Mortgage at 800-260-5484

Free foreclosure tours

Free foreclosure tours are 1 p.m. every other Sunday. Meeting place is Panera Bread on the southeast corner of Middlebelt and I-96. Email Georgia@addedvaluerealty.com or visit FreeForeclosureTour.com.

B6 (*) 0 & E Media | Thursday, November 27, 2014

6 (*) 0 & E Media Thurs	day, Nove	mber 27, 2014						Class	sified Advertising: 1-800-579	-7355	hometownlife
THE OBSERVER &			BTG			OB	In case of the	TO PL	ACE YOUR	AD	OBSERVER & ECCEN
							MICHIGAN AD NETWORK SOLUTIONS CLASSIFIED	1-80	0-579-7355	5	ME
	NMLS#		30 Yr.	Pts.	15 Yr.	Pts.	ADOPTION	\$65K-\$75K Annually!	Assistant! NO EXPERIENCE	7564. (MICH)	CONTACT US AT 800-579-7355
SPMortgage	138501	(313) 215-1766	3.75	0	2.875	0	ADOPTION: Happily	Dedicated Customer Freight, Excellent Benefits and We Get	NEEDED! Online training can get you job-ready! HS	ACORN STAIRLIFTS. The AFFORDABLE solution to your	www.hometownlife.c oeads@hometownlife.
or mongage	100001	(010) 210 1100	0.70	0	2.075		married, financi couple, stay-at-home mom,	You Home Every Week! Call	Diploma/GED & PC/Internet	stairs! **Limited time -\$250 Off	DÉADLINES: Fri. at 4 pm for Sund Tues. at 3 pm for Thurs
st Choice Mortgage Lending	138560	(734) 459-0782	3.75	0	2.875	0	devoted dad promise a lifetime	Online www.Drive.lecebeen	needed! 1-877-253-6495 (MICH)	Your Stairlift Purchase!**Buy Direct & SAVE. Please call	NEWSPAPER
							of love. Expenses pd. Susan & David 1-800-943-7780 www.	S ANCLIN	AIRLINE CAREERS	1-800-311-1195 for FREE DVD	POLICY
FI Financial	2431	(810) 588-4424	3.75	0	2.875	0	com (MICH)	ATTN: Truck Driver recruiters.	0	and brochure. (MICH)	All advertising publis in this Newspaper subject to the condit
						_	FOR SALE	We can help you place your ad in print & online for as low	Aviation Maintenance Tech. FAA approved training.	ADVERTISE your product or recruit an applicant in	stated in the applica
meriplus Mortgage Corp.	127931	(248) 740-2323	3.75	0	2.875	0	CARS/MOTORCYCLES/		Financial aid if qualified-	this paper plus 65 other	available from the
							ATVS/SNOWMOBILES	your trusted source for finding qualified drivers statewide!	Housing available. Job	papers in Eastern Michigan for only \$250/week! Call	Observer & Eccent Media
arborn Federal Savings Bank	399721	(313) 565-3100	4.125	0	3.25	0	Corvettes Wanted 1953-1972 Any Condition Courteous,	Call 800-227-7636 for more	CALL Aviation Institute of	800-227-7636 www.cnaads.	615 W. Lafayette Bl Detroit, MI 48220
fth Third Bank	403245	(800) 792-8830	4.125	0	3.25	0	Fast, Professional Buyer	details. Www.cnaads.com	Maintenance 1-877-891-2281	com (MICH)	866-887-2737.
	403243	(800) / 92-8830	4.120	0	0.20	0	In the Corvette Business for 26 years Licensed and	(MiCH) TRUCK DRIVERS Top Pay.	(MICH) MISCELLANEOUS	REAL ESTATE	We reserve the right to accept an advertiser's orde
old Star Mortgage	3446	(888) 293-3477	3.75	0	2.875	0	Bonded Vince Conn Corvette	Home Weekends Available.	CANADA DRUG CENTER	CENTRAL FLORIDA Direct. Waterfront Condo at below	Our sales representa
na otal mongago	0,10	(000) 400 0			2.070		vinceconncorvette.com	Class A CDL. EOE. 866-950-	is your choice for safe and	builder cost! Was \$560,000,	have no authority to this newspaper i
old Star Mortgage	3446	(888) 293-3477	3.625	1.25	2.75	1.125	1-800-850-3656 (MICH) HELP WANTED-	43:32 GordonCareers.com	affordable medications. Our	NOW \$169,900. 3 bedroom,	only publication on an advertisement s
						_	TRUCK DRIVER	TRACTOR OWNER/	licensed Canadian mail order pharmacy will provide you with	turnkey, close to major cities. Visit online flakefrontcondos.	constitute final acceptance of th
oup One Mortgage	107716	(248) 282-1602	4.125	0	3.375	0	DRIVER TRAINEES	OFCRATORS - New Pay	savings of up to 75 percent on	com. (MICH)	advertiser's orde Advertisers are
							NEEDED! Become a driver	Bonus, MS to MI and Return	all your medication needs. Call	STEEL BUILDINGS	responsible for reactive their ad(s) the first ti
al Credit Union	408356	(734) 466-6113	4.125	0.25	3.25	0	for Stevens Transport! NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED! New	2500-3000 miles/week. Call	today 1-800-259-4150 for	PIONEER POLE BUILDINGS Free Estimates-	appears & reporting errors immediately.
	L						driver earn \$800+ per week!	885-888-7996 Today (MICH)	and free shipping. (MICH)	Licensed and insured-2x6	Newspaper will not i credit for errors in
ove Information available as o	11/21/14	and subject to cha	nge at any	/time. Ra	ites are ba	ased on a	PAID CDL TRAINING! Stevens covers all costs! 1-888-528-	INSTRUCTION, SCHOOLS	ORDER DIRECTV	Trusses-45 Year Warranty	after the FIRST
00,000 loan with 20% down &	credit score	e of 740 or above.	Jumbo ra	tes, spec	ific payme	ent	8864 drive4stevens.com	MEDICAL BILLING	SERVICE TODAY. Enjoy the ultimate TV experience	Galvalume Steel-19 Colors- Since 1976-#1 in Michigan-	When more than o insertion of the sa
culation & most current rates a	available Fi	ridavs after 2:00 P.	M. at ww	w.rmcre	port.com		(MICH)	TRAINEES NEEDED!	tomorrow. Call DigitaITV	Call Today 1-800-292-0679,	advertisement is ord only the first insert
							\$3000 SIGN ON BONUS,	Become a Medical Office	authorized retailer (888) 710-	(MICH)	will be credited. Publishers Notice: Al
All Lenders are Equal Oppo	ortunity Len	iders.Lenders to pa	articipate	call (734)	922-3032	2				Chrysler-Plymouth	estate advertising in newspaper is subject
2014 Residential Mortgage	e Consult	ants, Inc., All Ri	ghts Res	served			NOTICE TO BRIGH	T HOUSE NETWORKS C	ABLE CUSTOMERS		the Federal Fair Hous Act of 1968 which sta
			1				This notice is to inform our Bi programming lineup.	right House Networks customers of a	upcoming changes to their cable	LOOK	that it is illegal to advertise "any prefere
100 mound v			/		-		While we do not anticipate any	ents with cable channels and televisio loss or disruption of service, regulation	ons require us to notify you of the	Chrysler 2005 T&C VAN 56k miles \$10,000 3.8V6, Auto, white exterior.	limitation, or discrimination." Th
° 198 moves y	UU IN						Ice, NHL Network, and Youtoo r	ng, Therefore, please be advised that remain in effect on a month-to-month uthority to continue is withheld. Also,	basis, but we may have to cease	grey leather interior. Trip Computer w/ Compass, pho-	newspaper will no knowingly accept a
Free rent un	til 🔬		R	6	-53		Music Choice, The Weather Ch	annel, and TV One expire on Decembrour authority to continue is withheld.		to chromatic rear view mir- ror, heater front bucket	advertising for real es which is in violation of
📜 Jan. 1st 201				9	00			s time to come to acceptable and fair er a free preview of Showtime services		seats, Cruise control, PS PB, PL, PW, Power Mirrors, Pow-	law. Our readers a hereby informed that
	a service			1	-		2015 through January 11, 201 programs. To find out how to t	5. These channels may contain PG, F block these channels, and for more p 976 EASY. Programming is subject to c	PG-13, TV-14, TVMA and R rated	er Doors, Tinted windows, AM-FM-CD-TAPE-DVD w/	dwellings advertised
MOVE IN REA	<u>ADY</u>		5	E E			in all areas. Restrictions may a			rear seat video screen, con- trols on steering wheel, Pow-	available on an equination of the second sec
HOMES IN CAR	NTON			10			is carried on channels 123, 49	9, and 631 depending on converter ty e Well Network, channel 105 will be re	pe.	er adjustable pedals, Stow & Go seats, third seat, Power	(FR Doc, 724983 3-31 Equal Housing
bedroom / 2 bath with all a				2		(P)	On or after January 14, 2015,	, TVGN, channel 170, and TVGN HD.		front seats, front and rear air conditioners w/ integral	Opportunity Statem We are pledged to t
including washer/dry			>				and POP HD. On or after January 15, 2015,	Discovery Fit & Health, channel 132 w	vill rebrand to Discovery Life.	ducting, roof rack, towing package, class 2 hitch re-	letter & spirit of U.
Homes starting at	\$749		-				will remain on channel 18 in di	WGN America may be removed from a igital format. Customers may contact	nalog channel 18. WGN America Bright House Networks to obtain	ceiver, self leveling suspen- sion, front and rear, air	policy for the achieve of equal housing
Call us today!	000			h	ometown	life.com	a digital device. On or after January 27, 2015,	, WGN America, channel 18, and WGI	N America HD, channel 218 may	deflectors, ceramic brake pads, 1 owner, interior and	opportunity, through the nation. We encou
888) 272-3 Academy/Westpoi			100			1	change tiers from Basic to Star	ormation, please call 1-8	77 995 9919	exterior in like new condi- tion, 4 Firestone Snow tires	& support an effirma advertising & market
2021 Old Michigan Ave.					~		or visit	t our website at brighthou	ISE.COM	mounted on vehicle. Remote Entry and Factory theft Deter-	program in which th are no barriers.
*Offer valid on select home	-	T- (A)			Garage/Mov	ring Sales	l la se	all the second of	3	rents. Livonia area. Call 734-255-3666 for viewing	DISCLAIMER: All class ads are subject to the
Expires 11/26/2014 W/					MOUTH Ch		Dri	ight house		information.	plicable rate card, co of which are available
the state of the second		¢	nlife.com	Barn	Beautiful r	ristmas in the restored 1942 ruck! Vintage	LO-2481550-01			SEBRING TOURING 2008 FWD, air, cruise, heated	our Advertising Dept. ads are subject to app
Condos	& Townhouse		mine.con	orna	ments, sleds	s, skates, old bicycles, large		4 Wheel Drive	Buick	mirrors. \$8345 NORTH BROS.	before publication. (server & Eccentric Me
			1	cubb	by hole cupb	oard, chimney al sections of	~	CIEDDA 1500 0011		855-667-9860	reserves the right to refuse, reject, classif
S69	9 move	S	aug II	-, old	iron fencing	 a) sections or & iron gate. (& primitive. 		SIERRA 1500 2011 Ext. Cab, 4WD, SL	BUICK LACROSSE 2008 36,000 Miles, White Opal,	Ford	cancel any ad at any Errors must be report
	in PLUS		wall	MUC	CH MORE! N	lov 28-30th. 655 Forest		58k, 1 owner \$23,495 BOB JEANNOTTE	1 Owner, Fully Loaded. \$12,995		the first day of publication of the first day of the first day of publication of the first day of the first day of the first day of publication of the first day of th
E E Fron	rent unt			Ave.		of Main, 2	0	BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500	BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC	FIESTA SE 2012 FWD, 29K, One Owner, Ford	dia shall not be liable any loss or expense
Janua	ry 2015	i laoroi i lopa	s. Free Est. 3	0					734-453-2500	Certified. \$14,988 NORTH BROS.	results from an error i omission of an adver
			515-505-67		Household	1 GOODS	0	Sports Utility	BUICK LUCERNE 2011	855-667-9680	ment. No refunds for
	Rent		rating Paper	Unin				BUICK ENCLAVE 2009	CXL Premium 4 dr sedan, Fully loaded, A real beauty!	FIVE HUNDRED 2005	cancellation of ord
	starti at \$7		BY ROBERT	sizes	s, small Chi	lls of various ristmas trees,		CXL, FWD, ABS, leather/ heated seats. \$19,995	Only 50,000 miles. \$17,995 BOB JEANNOTTE	SEL, FWD, Red Fire Metallic, Ford Certified	Pontiac
	= foi	Wallpaper Ext = Plaster	Removal •In		ds bears, (ed to sell! (24	other items 18)476-9398		BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC	BUICK, GMC	NORTH BROS.	
CHILD	S 3 be	d, Staining. 25 y	rs exp. Free	47 Fine	e China - Len		hometownlife.com	734-453-2500	734-453-2500	855-667-96 80	Grand Prix 2004 Sedan-original owner, 9
LAKE ESTAT	2 ba ES hom			Rut Set	ledge, 5-pc P tings, Servi	Place ice for 12		BUICK ENCLAVE 2012	LaSabre 1994- 4 dr blue, v8, 142k, auto trans	FLEX 2013 LIMITED Visra, navigation.	great condition, well tained, 4 dr, chrome fin
	inces includ	i Kemo	deling	exc	00.00. No ch eptions. (248	8)649-5288		FWD. leather, heated seats, Black Metallic. \$21,995	Runs & Looks good. \$1500 obo. 248-961-4444	Ford Certified! 1.9%. \$29,888	\$6000 obo. 734-564-4
Wash Wash	er & dryer.	Licensed Resid		m-	elsey@gmail.	com		BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC	LUCERNE CXL 2010	855-667-9860	PONTIAC G8 GT 20 White, Low Miles, 1 Ov
4377 0	d Plank Roa	ad 25 yrs ep. Fr Kyle 734.44	ee estimates		Appliar	nces	Dogs	734-453-2500	43K, leather, heated seats, ABD, traction control.	FOCUS 2012 SEL FWD, Lot of options,	Moon Roof, New Arriv \$20,995
	Vilford	Kyle 734.44 Mark 734.		-				CHEVY EQUINOX 2011	\$15,995	20,000 miles \$16,988	BOB JEANNOTTE

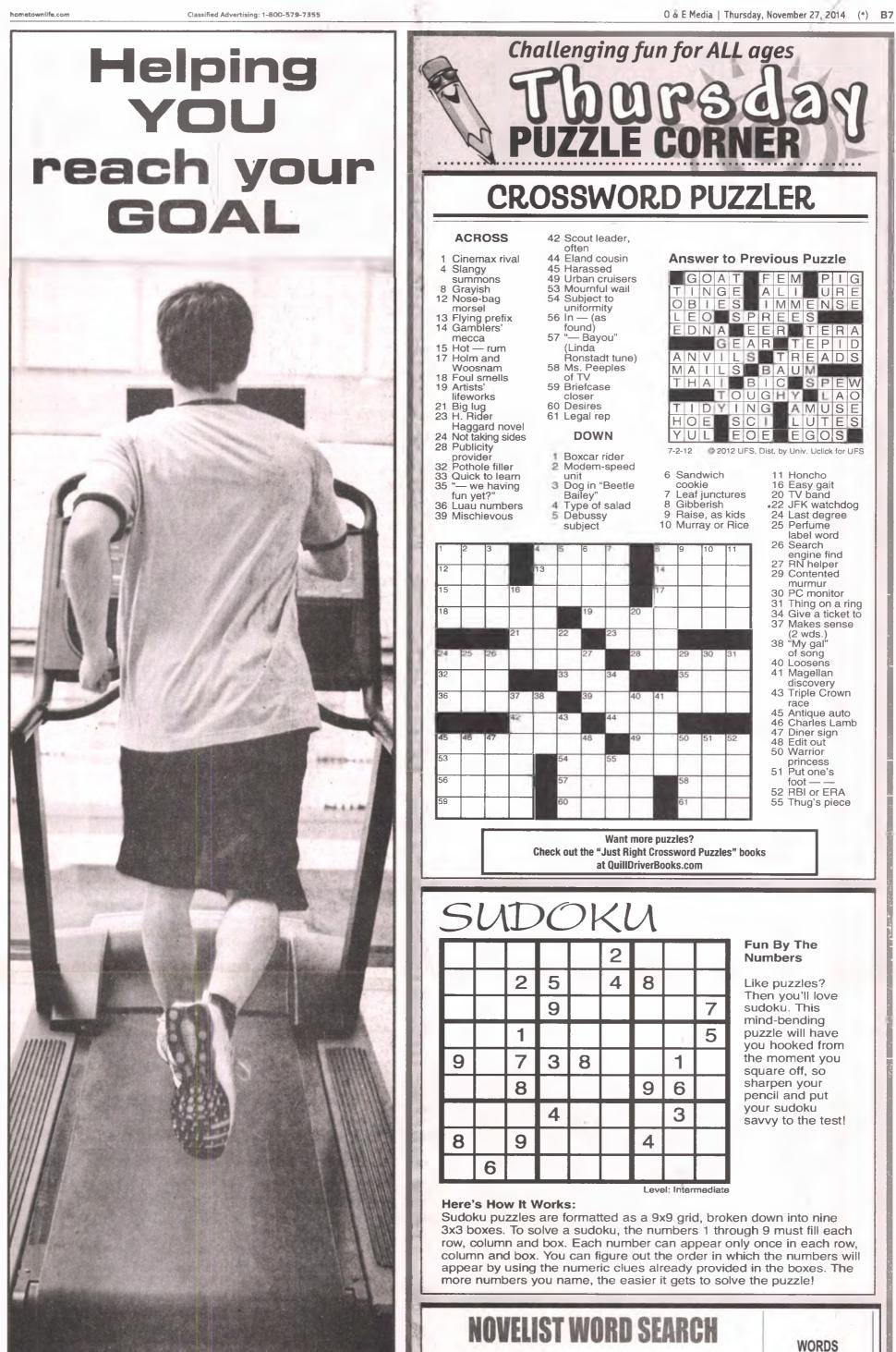
heated

FWD, 4 dr. 2 LT



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Live nativity scene greets families at church concert

RELIGION CALENDAR

By Sharon Dargay Staff Writer

Put on a red sweater and get into the holiday spirit with a live nativity scene and seasonal concert, Sunday, Nov. 30, at First Church of the Nazarene's "Christmas Around the Globe."

"We've done red sweater night for eons. We started having a live nativity with it last year," said Denise Dickey, who coordinates the event for the Northville church. "It's always been about starting off the Christmas season with carols

and music." **Church members** started red sweater night 30 years ago, serving

cinnamon rolls and singing carols while wearing red sweaters. The idea was to wear casual attire while celebrating the start of the Christmas season.

"Now we have a bigger variety (of music) and it includes more people from outside the church."

The Novi High School Singers, the school's top choir, will be the guest musical group this year. The group, under the

direction of Claire Schurig, will sing Christmas carols from around the world. The congregation's singers will perform a wide variety of music, from classical to jazz to spirituals.

"We start off with Joy to the World and end with Silent Night and candles." Dickey said. "There is something for everyone.'

The live nativity scene kicks off the evening from 4:30-6 p.m. just outside the church. There's no story or script involved, but youngsters and their families can

walk through the scene, pet the alpacas, sheep, goats and other animals and take their photos. The nativity scene will be set in a sheltered area, so it will be staged rain or shine.

The concert will start at 6 p.m. inside the church, followed by a cookie and cocoa reception.

"I think it's going to be a not-to-miss evening," Dickey said.

The church is located at 21260 Haggerty. For more information, call the church at 248-348-7600



SUBMITTED Members of the First Church of the Nazarene in Northville will present a live nativity scene in conjunction with the church's annual Christmas concert.

NOVEMBER **ST. NICHOLAS PARTY**

Time/Date: 1-3:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 29

Location: Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church, 36075 W. Seven Mile, Livonia Details: Children will meet St.

Nicholas and receive a gift while their parents take their pictures. The party includes a craft project, carol sing-along and refreshments. Youngsters can have their picture taken with a live reindeer, noon to 1 p.m. Free Contact: Richard Shebib at 248-345-9346 or paschabooks@sbcglobal.net

DECEMBER **ADVENT REFLECTION**

Time/Date: 6:30 p.m. Tuesday-Wednesday, Dec. 2-3 Location: St. John Neumann Roman Catholic Church, 44800 Warren Road, Canton Details: Craig Pohl, director of New Evangelization for Lansing Diocese, speaks on "Men's Night," Dec. 2; Sister Mary Finn of Sacred Heart Seminary speaks on "Women's Night," Dec. 3. Both events begin with dinner and child care is provided. Register in advance for child care

Contact: 734-455-5910 **ADVENT SERVICES**

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 3, 10 and 17

Location: Lola Park Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford **Details**: The meditation theme is "Waiting With The Old Testament Church" Contact: 313-532-8655 or 734-

968-3523 CANDLELIGHT

GATHERING

14

Time/Date: 5:30-8:45 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6 Location: Michigan Zhong Shu 5:30 p.m., reception at 6 p.m., candlelight program, 7:15. Music, food and fellowship. This is a quiet, musical event with candles. Due to safety concerns, it may not be suitable for younger children. Vegetarian food without onion, garlic and chive will be served during the reception. RSVP to michigantemple@yahoo.com Contact: 734-890-2307

Details: Evening ceremony at

CONCERT

Time/Date: 8 p.m. December

4-6 Location: Trinity in the Woods, 26880 La Muera, Farmington

Hills Details: Holiday Hearthsong, a celebration concert for the holiday season, features the Trinity and Friends Choir, Tickets are \$10 and include a wine and cheese reception Contact: 248-474-2860; trinityinthewoods.org

CONCERT

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, and 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7

Location: Fort Street Presbyterian Church, 631 W. Fort St., Detroit

Details: The group sings Handel's Messiah. Tickets are \$20 Contact: 313-961-4533; fortstreet.org

DETROIT LUTHERAN SINGERS

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7

Location: Hosanna-Tabor Lutheran Church, 9600 Leverne, Redford

Details: Excerpts from Bach's Magnificat, along with carols and other songs; tickets are \$15 general admission, \$10 for seniors and students Other concerts: 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 13, at Faith Covenant Church, 35415 W. 14

eransingers.com **DVD COURSE**

Time/Date: 1 p.m. Wednesday, beginning Dec. 3 Location: Congregation Beth Ahm, 5075 W. Maple, West Bloomfield

Details: Mark Berkson teaches a 24-part course on Cultural Literacy for Religion: Everything the Well-Educated Person Should Know." Free, walk-ins welcome

Contact: Nancy Kaplan at 248-737-1931 or email nancyellen879@att.net

LESSONS AND CAROLS Time/Date: 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7

Location: St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 Sheldon, Plymouth

Details: The service includes readings of scripture from The Message, a contemporary language translation of the Bible, along with songs and carols by the Youth Choir, Handbell Choir, Grace and Amazing Grace choirs and House Band, under the direction of Julie Ford. Local percussionist, Tom Arnett, also will perform. The concert is free, but donations will be accepted for donation to Gleaners Community Food Bank of Southeastern Michigan

Contact: 734-453-0190, or visit stjohnsplymouth.org **LESSONS AND CAROLS**

Time/Date: 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec.

Location: St. Aidan, located on the east side of Farmington Road between Six Mile and Seven Mile in Livonia Details: Features the ensembles and members of St. Aidan Music Ministry. Admission is a \$5 donation or two canned food goods for Christmas food baskets for the needy Contact: 734-425-5950

WINE & CHOCOLATE

Location: Temple Beth El, 7400 Telegraph, Bloomfield Hills Details: Wine and chocolate tastings, musical entertainment and silent auction. Tickets are \$18 per person. For reservations, make checks payable to Sisterhood of Temple Beth El, 7400 Telegraph Road, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48301.

Contact: Harriet Cooperman, at 248-321-9023 or hscooperman@sbcglobal.net.

ONGOING CLASSES/STUDY

Men's Bible study Time/Date: Breakfast at 7 a.m. and study at 8 a.m. Location: Kirby's Coney Island, 21200 Haggerty, Northville

Township Contact: John Shulenberger at 734-464-9491

Our Lady of Loretto Time/Date: 6:30-7:30 p.m. Monday

Location: Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford Township Details: Scripture study

Contact: 313-534-9000

CLOTHING BANK Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. last Saturday of the month Location: Canton Christian Fellowship, 8775 Ronda Drive, Canton

Details: No documentation needed Contact: info@cantoncf.org

FAMILY MEAL Time/Date: 5-6 p.m. every

Thursday Location: Salvation Army,

27500 Shiawassee, Farmington Hills Details: Free meal Contact: 248-477-1153, Ext. 12

MOMS **Christ Our Savior Lutheran**

Church

Location: 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia

Details: Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) is aimed at mothers of infants through kindergartners

Contact: Ethanie Defoe at 248-227-6617 and Jody Fleszar at 734-658-2463

Dunning Park Bible Chapel Time/Date: 9:30-11:30 a.m. first and third Tuesdays

Location: 24800 W. Chicago Road, Redford Details: MOPS is a place where

moms can build friendships, receive mothering support, practical help and spiritual hope. Contact: Amy at 313-937-3084 or Kristen at 734-542-0767

PET-FRIENDLY SERVICE

Time/Date: 1 p.m. Sunday Location: Dunk N Dogs, 27911 Five Mile, Livonia Details: All Creatures ULC sponsors the service, which is conducted in an informal setting. Pet blessings after the

service. Contact: 313-563-0162

PRAYER St. Edith Church Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday Location: 15089 Newburgh, Livonia. Enter through back. Details: Music, singing, prayer

Contact: Grace at 734-464-1896, Shirley at 734-464-3656 or Geri at 734-464-8906 St. Michael Lutheran Church

Time/Date: 6-7 a.m. Monday-Friday

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday

Location: 7000 N. Sheldon, Canton

Details: Praying silently or aloud together; prayer requests welcomed

Contact: 734-459-3333 for additional information

Contact: The facilitator at 313-283-8200; lef@dwo.org **First Presbyterian Church** Time/Date: 7-7:15 p.m., social time: 7:30 p.m., announcements: 7:30-8:30 p.m., program; 8:30-9

p.m. ice cream social, Thursdays. Location: 200 E. Main St., Northville

Location: 23800 W. Chicago,

Details: Divorce Overcomers

going through divorce, those

who are divorced or separated.

group is designed for individuals

Redford, Room 304

Details: Single Place Ministry; cost is \$5

Contact: 248-349-0911 or visit www.singleplace.org

Steve's Family Restaurant Time/Date: 9 a.m. second and fourth Thursday

Location: 15800 Middlebelt, 1/4 mile north of Five Mile, Livonia Details: Widowed men of all ages may attend the Widowed Friends Men's breakfast. Contact: 313-534-0399

SONG CIRCLE

Congregation Beth Ahm Time/Date: Noon to 12:30 p.m. every Shabbat Location: 5075 W. Maple, West

Bloomfield Details: Sing zemirot (Shabbat

songs) and celebrate Kiddush following morning services. Lyrics in transliteration as well as the original Hebrew

Contact: 248-737-1931 or email nancyellen879@att.net. SUPPORT

Apostolic Christian Church Time/Date: 5 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Location: 29667 Wentworth,

at the church's Woodhaven

Details: Adult day care program

Retirement Community, Funding

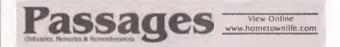
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Temple, 23845 Middlebelt, **Farmington Hills**

Mile, Farmington Hills Contact: www.detroitluthTime/Date: 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6

Time/Date: 9:30-11:30 a.m. second Tuesday, September-May SINGLES **Detroit World Outreach** Time/Date: 4-6 p.m. Sunday

icans Act Contact: 734-261-9000: www.woodhaven-retirement.com



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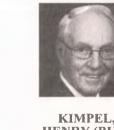
Deadlines: Friday, 4:00 p.m. for Sunday papers Tuesday, 4:00 p.m. for Thursday papers Holiday deadlines are subject to change.

ADAMS. **ROBERT "BOB"** Age 63, of Mussey Township, passed away Thursday, November 20, 2014, at his home. He was born in Dearborn, December 8, 1950, the son of the late Elmer and Patricia (Willard) Adams. His marriage to Patricia Anne Flaugher was September 3, 1969, in Detroit. Bob retired in 2010. He enjoyed nature and wildlife photography and loved spending time with his grandchildren. Surviving in addition to his wife of 45 years, Patricia, who he lovingly called "Squitch", are a daughter, Nicole (Samuel) Adams-Gibson and two sons, Gerald Adams of Port Huron and Ronald (Jami) Adams of Livonia; "Papa" to three loving grandchildren. Samantha, Brandon and Alexis; a sister, Judy Hackerd, and his faithful dog, Cosmo. He is preceded in death by a brother. James Adams. Cremation arrangements provided by Kaatz Funeral Directors, Capac. Memorials are suggested to www.ASPCA.org in memory of Bob or Blue Water Hospice. For information and Guest Book kaatzfunerals.com

May the memory of your loved one ...

...bring you peace.





HENRY (BUD) Died November 23 2014, age 84. Beloved husband of Lucille. Dear father of David (Lynn),

Andrew (Leslie). Grandfather of (Gretchen), Katelyn, and Alex. Great-Jason Alyssa, grandfather of Ian. Brother of Katherine Remenapp. Born in 1930 in Cleveland, Ohio, Henry moved to Detroit when he was 6 years old. A graduate of Cooley High School in 1948 and from Michigan State University in 1952, he served in the U.S. Army. During that time, Henry married Lucille, his wife of 62 vears. After leaving the Army, Henry went to work for Chrysler Corporation. He retired in 1996, after a 43 year career in accounting and finance. Henry went on to a second career. spending 8 years as a Director of the Michigan State University Foundation. He was also active in the Stephens Ministry at Northville First Presbyterian Church. Henry passed away after a courageous 4 year battle with Alzheimer's Disease. Memorial donations, in lieu of flowers, are suggested to the Michigan State University Horticultural Gardens or to the First Presbyterian Church of Northville Memorial Fund Visitation MANNS-FUNERAL FERGUSON HOME, 17000 Middlebelt (south of 6 Mile), Friday 2-8 p.m. Final visitation Saturday at 10:30 a.m. followed by Services at 11 a.m. at First Presbyterian Church of Northville, 200 E. Main St., Northville MI 48167. Share a memory at

www.mannsfuneralhome.com.

Alanna - Ferguson Funeral Home

Honor the Memory and Celebrate the Life of passed loved ones by placing a Special Holiday Tribute. The Observer and Eccentric/Hometown Weekly Newspapers will be publishing a Special Tribute during the holidays. Here is the perfect opportunity to share your thoughts of loved ones

who hold a special place in your hearts.

Call us for our **Special Holiday Rate**

Publications Sunday, December 14th through Thursday, December 25th **Observer & Eccentric Newspapers**

Call **800-579-7355** Fax: 313-496-4968

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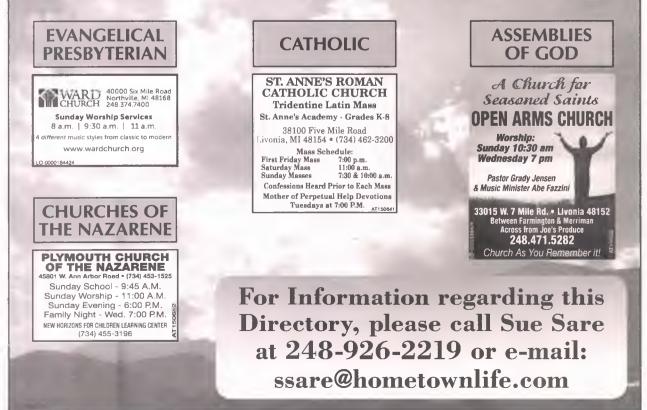
Deadline

For Sunday Publication/Friday 4 p.m. prior Thursday Publication/Tuesday 9:30 a.m. prior

Observer & Eccentric

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CMOTYat the Holidays

B9 (WGRL) THURSDAY, IBER 27, 2014

OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MEDIA HOMETOWN

Farmington Hills producer, Southfield singer team on Thanksgiving parade song

By Diana Wing Correspondent

Cassaundra Fitch was a sophomore studying dietetics at Michigan State University when she picked up a guitar, started to write songs based on her poetry, and found that she could sing - outside the shower. Over the last few years, Fitch's musical hobby turned into a new career with opportunities she had never dreamed of. The Lathrup Village native will kick off America's Thanksgiving Parade at 10 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 27, with a live performance of the new song Tell Me I'm Not Dreaming. Dan Yessian, Farmington Hills music producer and writer, penned the upbeat tune that celebrates Detroit's revival.

"I'm very excited about it," said Fitch, who drew Yessian's attention last year with a video of her song Free Fall.

"A friend of mine, Brad Kinnan, produced a music video for me in downtown Lansing. It was my first music video while I was at school," she said. "I put it out on You-Tube to see the reaction I'd get, and Dan ended up seeing it."

While Fitch speaks in a soft, sweet, rather quiet manner, Yessian was surprised by her "captivating, soul-filled" voice.

'I just didn't expect to hear that mature of a voice coming out of her ... she wasn't really singing professionally anywhere," he said. "I was delightfully surprised when I heard her sing.'

For the last year, Fitch has been writing songs, recording and collaborating with Yessian under a new record label, Late to the Plate, which was formed to help launch her career.

Fire, her first official music



Cassaundra Fitch will sing "Tell Me I'm Not Dreaming," a song written by Dan Yessian, at America's Thanksgiving Parade, Thursday, Nov. 27, in Detroit.

video, was released in September. The video was directed by photographer/producer Christos Moisides. Fitch wrote the song, which is all about the "blindness of love."

"That song is about how there can be extreme love and extreme hate, and sometimes people can be so enwrapped in the good that they don't take in all the bad." Fitch explained. "I wanted to bring out that inner battle that someone has with themselves when they're in that relationship.'

Yessian and Moisides were delighted with her acting skills, her ability to absorb the character she portrays.

Realizing a dream

The record label name, Late to the Plate, symbolizes the new career directions taken by Yessian and Fitch. "My sons (Brian Yessian

and Michael Yessian) have given me the ability to be able to get off the hot seat of running a company that produces music for commercials, productions and TV shows something that I've done for the last 40 years ... I'm finally able to realize a dream of producing and writing with and collaborating with a singer," Yessian said. "For Cassie, it's because late in her career at

college, when she thought her career would be as a dietitian, she made this U-turn for music.

Yessian pointed out the huge role that social media plays in the music business. Keeping current on all social media platforms is vital.

"While you are in this journey, you try to be ubiquitous so that you can find opportunity because it's still going to take some special break. I'm fairly well connected but even with that, there are the powers that be that you have to satisfy, or find that light where you can walk your way into something," Yessian said.

AMERICA'S THANKSGIVING PARADE

» See it in person The 88th annual parade starts at 8:50 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 27, at Woodward Avenue and Kirby and marches south to Congress, in downtown Detroit. Meryl Davis and Charlie White, Olympic gold medalists, are the parade marshals. » Watch it on television WDIV Local 4 parade review is at 8 a.m., with parade coverage at 9 a.m. » Listen to it on radio

WJR AM-760 broadcasts live from the parade route, beginning at 8 a.m.

The music business may be difficult to penetrate, but Yessian and Fitch are enjoying the journey.

"I am 70 years old and Cassie is 22. Her grandfather is younger than I am," Yessian said, laughing. "This is a very interesting proposition for me because I get to kind of live through the eyes of youth. To see her excitement, I find exciting too.'

"Even though I was going into dietetics," Fitch said, "be-ing creative and writing and being on this journey is what's really in my heart. For Dan to see the potential in me and work with me in this way means so much. This is the best time in my life so far. I love it."

Learn more about Cassaundra Fitch and her music at www.Cassaundra.com. For more about Yessian music, visit vessian.com.

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS



\$3

visits

theatre.com

and 8 p.m. Dec. 6

Location: Hillside Middle School, 775 N. Center in Novi tickets, \$12

Contact: beckridgechorale.org

Details: Admission is free; bake sale and afterglow follow the concert Contact: redfordsymphony.org SCHOOLCRAFT COLLEGE Time/Date: Noon Wednesday, Dec. 3

ART

POTTERS MARKET Time/Date: 2-9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 5, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dec. 7

Details: "Home for Christmas" concert:

Location: The Southfield Pavilion, 26000 Evergreen at Civic Center Drive, between 10 Mile and 11 Mile, Southfield Details: Nearly 35,000 pottery items by 145 potters are available for purchase. Includes from pots, vases, platters, tiles and mugs to bird baths, jewelry, ceramic framed mirrors, sculpture, lamps, tile-topped tables and more. Admission is free, Preview sale runs 6-9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 4, and costs \$10 at the door Contact: 248-554-4470; thepottersmarket.com

VAAL HOLIDAY SHOPPE

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 5-14; opening reception, 6-8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 4

Location: Visual Arts Association of Livonia (VAAL), 37653 Five Mile, Livonia

Details: One-of-a-kind holiday gifts created by area artisans include pottery, fiber, hand blown glass, jewelry and other accessories, wood items, clothing, ornaments, framed and unframed art and more. Items in every price range. Contact: 734-838-1204; vaalart.org

DANCE THE NUTCRACKER

Time/Date: 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6 and 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7

Location: Salem High School auditorium, located in the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park, on Joy, west of North Canton Center Road, Canton

Details: Plymouth-Canton Ballet Company, with the Michigan Philharmonic: tickets are \$25 for adults, \$18 for children and \$3 for the Sugar Plum Parade, held after the show

Contact: plymouthcantonballet.org

FILM **FARMINGTON CIVIC** THEATRE

Time/Date: 10:15 a.m., 11:15 a.m., 12:15 p.m. and 1:15 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 6 Location: 33332 Grand River Ave., Farmington

Details:See Ice Age: A Mammoth Christmas for free with donation of a new book, toy, or canned or boxed foods for Farmington Area Goodfellows Holiday Assistance Program. A surprise winter princess movie will screen at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Contact: farmingtonareagoodfellow.org

PENN THEATRE

Time/Date: Weekends through December

Location: 760 Penniman, Plymouth

Details: It's a Wonderful Life, 7 p.m. / Thursday, Dec. 4, 7 p.m. and 9:25 p.m., Friday-Saturday, Dec. 5-6, 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7; Miracle on 34th Street, 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 12-13, and 4:45 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14; Christmas Vacation, 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18, and 7



SUBMITTED

See "Ice Age: A Mammoth Christmas" for Saturday, Dec. 6, at the Farmington Civic Theater. Admission is a new book, new toy or canned or boxed foods for the Farmington Area Goodfellows Holiday Assistance Program.

p.m. and 9:05 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19; The Westland Polar Express, 4:45 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 20-21. All seats

Contact: 734-453-0870; www.penn-

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Dec. 5 and 2 p.m.

Location: 17360 Lahser, just north of

Details: Christmas Vacation, \$5; Santa

visits the theater — bring your camera

Coming up: White Christmas; \$5; Santa

PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL

Time/Date: 1-4 p.m. Wednesday,

Location: 155 S. Main, Plymouth

Details: 'Twas the Night Before Christ-

mas exhibit runs through Jan. 11, 2015.

The exhibit features scenes from stories

and movies, such as Elf, Polar Express

and A Christmas Carol. The Museum's

holidays. Beginning Nov. 29, Santa visits

every Sunday until Christmas and will

and open house, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6. Admission is \$5 for

Time/Date: 6-10 p.m. Friday-Sunday,

through Dec. 31, excluding Dec. 25

Location: Along four miles of Hines

Warren road and Ann Arbor Trail in

Drive; enter at 7651 Merriman, between

adults, \$2 for ages 6-17

Contact: 734-455-8940

LIGHTFEST

HOLIDAY LIGHTS

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Contact: 313-898-1481

HISTORY

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Friday-Sunday

Details: Drive by 55 holiday light displays; admission is \$5 per car Contact: 734-261-1990; parks.waynecounty.com

WILD LIGHTS

Time/Date: 5:30-9 p.m. Nov. 28-30 and Dec. 5-7, 11-14, 18-23 and 26-31 Location: The Detroit Zoo, located on

the I-696 service drive at Woodward Ave., in Royal Oak Details: More than five million lights

illuminate buildings, trees and animal sculptures through a portion of the zoo. The event includes photos with Santa Paws, carousel rides, The Polar Express 4-D Experience, ice carving, arts and crafts. Admission for ages 2 and older is \$8 in advance and \$10 at the gate; parking is \$6 per car. Buy tickets online at www.detroitzoo.org/ events/wild-lights, at Detroit Zoo main admissions, or Kroger stores Contact: 248-541-5717

MUSIC

BECKRIDGE CHORALE Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, and 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7 Location: Northville High School, 45700 Six Mile, Northville Details: "Wonder of Christmas" concert: tickets \$15 and \$18 Contact: beckridgechorale.org **CANTON CONCERT BAND** Time/Date: 2 p.m. Dec. 13 Location: Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton Details: Christmas concert; tickets \$12 Contact: cantonvillagetheater.org **CHERRY HILL SINGERS** Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Dec. 13

FARMINGTON COMMUNITY BAND

Time/Date: 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7 Location: Harrison High School, 29995 W. 12 Mile, Farmington Hills Details: A Festival of Music will include seasonal music by the concert band and some jazz standards by the FCB Big

Band Contact: fcbmusic.org

FARMINGTON COMMUNITY CHORUS

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 19-20

Location: Orchard United Methodist Church, 30450 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills

Details: "35 Years of Holiday Cheer" will feature Christmas favorites from the past 35 years. Tickets in advance are \$12; at the door, \$15

Contact: farmingtonchorus.com **HOLIDAY SING**

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Dec. 13

Location: Village Theatre at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton

Details: Matt Watroba leads a holiday sing-along; tickets are \$5

Contact: cantonvillagetheater.org **LIVONIA CIVIC CHORUS**

Time/Date: 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14 Location: Clarenceville High School, 20155 Middlebelt, Livonia

Details: "Extraordinary Merry Christmas" program; advance tickets are \$12 for adults and \$10 for seniors and students, \$15 at the door

Contact: 734-542-9071; livoniacivicchorus.org

LIVONIA SYMPHONY **ORCHESTRA**

Time/Date: 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6 Location: Clarenceville High School, 20155 Middlebelt, Livonia

Details: Features Nutcracker excerpts with Angie Hahn's Academy of Dance; tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for students

Contact: livoniasymphony.org

MICHIGAN PHILHARMONIC Time/Date: 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11

Location: Penn Theatre, 760 Penniman, Plymouth

Details: Holiday Pops with the Phil includes Christmas carols, sounds of Hanukkah and holiday pop favorites, such as Rock the Bells and music from Home Alone. Kristen Tait plays xylophone at the 8 p.m. show. Tickets are \$30 general admission, \$25 for seniors, 62 and over, and \$10 for students with ID

Contact: michiganphil.org **REDFORD CIVIC SYMPHONY**

Time/Date: 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7 Location: St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, 27475 Five Mile, Livonia

Location: VisTaTech Center, on the main campus, located on Haggerty between Six Mile and Seven Mile, Livonia

Details: The Paul Keller Ensemble performs Christmas music in this free concert

Coming up: The Jazz Ensemble & Jazz Improvisation Combo presents Winter Wonders concert, 7:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 15, in the Diponio Room of the VisTaTech Center; free

Contact: 734-462-4403; schoolcraft.edu/music

TWELFTH NIGHT SINGERS

Time/Date: 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 30 Location: Zion Lutheran Church, Woodward at Albany, south of Nine Mile, Ferndale

Details: The a cappella choral group performs in renaissance costume and will sing sacred and secular music for its Christmas concert, "A Season of Light and Peace." Free-will offering will be collected

Contact: 248-544-4631; twelfthnightsingers.com

SHOPPING AND MORE **CHRISTMAS IN PLYMOUTH**

Time/Date: 5-9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11

Location: Downtown Plymouth Details: Shoppers will sing along with the Cherry Hill Singers, hear music by the Schoolcraft College Brass Ensemble, and Evenin' Gentlemen barbershop quartet, take \$5 horse and carriage rides and find store specials Contact: plymouthmich.org

THEATER **FOREVER AFTER** PRODUCTIONS

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday-Friday, Dec. 4-5 and 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6

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

Details: A Christmas Carol the Musical; tickets. \$22

Contact: 734-547-5156; forevereafterproductions.com

METRO DANCE AND MUSIC

Time/Date: 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7 Location: Churchill High School, 8900 Newburgh, Livonia

Details: Christmas Around the World, is a holiday musical that tells the story of Santa's elves working as "newsies" traveling the globe collecting stories of the different traditions and holiday customs while the North Pole readies for Santa's arrival. Caroling and a bake sale before the show. Tickets are \$12; buy a family four-pack for \$40

Contact: metrodancecompany.com

SHARON DARGAY, EDITOR SDARGAY@HOMETOWNLIFE.COM 313-222-8833 FACEBOOK: HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

B10 (WGRL) THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2014 OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MEDIA HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Prunes sweeten holiday treats, adding fiber, vitamins

FOOD

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Gingersnap Prune Cheesecake Bites

ookies, cakes and pies are the typical treats associated with the holidays, but there are other ways to celebrate the sweetness of the season. Flavorful appetizers, beverages and snacks can also carry those richly sweet tastes you crave. According to registered dictitian Dawn Jackson Blatner, healthy

According to registered dictitian Dawn Jackson Blatner, healthy swaps can be easy and flavorful with just a little planning. Whether you're eating out or hosting your own holiday bash, there are ways to choose more healthful options for your celebrations.

choose more healthful options for your celebrations. To help you enjoy all the sweet dishes of the season, Blatner cre-ated the following recipes which feature one of her favorite ingredients - prunes. This versatile ingredient can sweeten up dessert, provide balance to a savory appetizer and add body to a slimmeddown version of hot chocolate, while providing fiber and other nutrients. Keep portion control in mind and remember that giving into cravings in a small way can minimize the chance of over-indulging later. For a skinny take on a popular holiday dessert, top simple bite-size cheesecake with juicy prunes and tangy ginger. The use of Greek yogurt instead of cream cheese keeps calories down but protein up, and Sunsweet's Plum Amaz!ns top it off for a sweet fruit flavor. In fact, using 1 ¼ cups 2 percent plain Greek yogurt instead of the same amount of regular cream cheese saves more than 700 calories while adding 12 grams of protein per recipe. Finding the perfect holiday appetizer that is both delicious and healthy is not always easy. Substitute fruit in dishes where veggies are more expected, such as a decadent bruschetta. Dress up toasted

baguettes with balsamic-prune relish and goat cheese for a taste that is nothing but a sweet reward, and delight your fellow party goers with a tasty appetizer they can also feel good about.

Reducing fat

Remember that beverages can pack a big calorie punch, especially with specialty flavors and syrups added in. Ward off the chill in the air with a sweet, new and reduced fat version of hot chocolate. Adding prunes and prune juice is a surprising way to reduce fat and still enjoy the rich and creamy flavor of this classic drink. The prunes act as a fat mimic, providing body and thickness while complementing the chocolate taste.

Typical hot chocolate recipes using whole milk can have more than 5 grams of fat per serving, whereas this lightened up version has only 3 grams of fat per serving if made with 2 percent milk.

Looking for a DIY gift idea that is delicious and indulgent without the guilt? Swap out the typical cookie platter for a wholesome alternative in a jar. Tied with a pretty bow or raffia, a Mason jar filled with sweet and crunchy trail mix makes a perfect present from the heart. PlumSweets provide the goodness of real fruit with diced prunes dipped in rich dark chocolate. Combine them with heartfriendly nuts and whole grain cereal for a snack that tastes too good to be good for you.

Get started with these delicious recipes created by Dawn Jackson Blatner, and visit www.sunsweet.com for additional recipes.

GINGERSNAP PRUNE CHEESECAKE BITES

Servings: 12

1 ½ cups 2 percent plain Greek yogurt 1 egg 2 tablespoons coconut sugar Cooking spray 12 small gingersnap cookies ½ cup Plum AmazIns 2 tablespoons minced candied ginger

Preheat oven to 325°F. Combine yogurt, egg and coconut sugar in medium bowl and stir by hand until smooth. Mist mini-muffin tin with cooking spray. Place gingersnap cookie at base of each mini-muffin mold. Note: If cookie is too large, use fine cheese grater or knife and trim to fit. Fill each muffin tin to top with yogurt mixture. Bake for 35 minutes. Remove from oven and let cool for 10 minutes. Refrigerate for at least 30 minutes to set. Stir together Plum Amaz!ns and ginger. Top each mini-cheesecake with Plum Amaz!ns mixture.

PLUM MASON JAR TRAILMIX

Servings: 5 cups (20 ¼-cup servings)

1 cup almonds 1 cup pepitas (green pumpkin seeds) 1 cup large unsweetened coconut flakes 1 cup favorite whole grain cereal (such as puffed brown rice) **1 cup Sunsweet PlumSweets** (use **PlumSweets dark** chocolate or Greek yogurt)

Combine all ingredients in bowl. Spoon mixture into Mason jars.





BALSAMIC PRUNE & GOAT CHEESE BRUSCHETTA

Servings: 12 ½ cup balsamic vinegar 1 cup thinly sliced red onion 12 prunes, quartered 12 slices (¼-inch each) sourdough baguette, toasted 3 ounces soft goat cheese 1 cup arugula (about 36 leaves) 2 tablespoons chopped walnuts

Simmer vinegar and onion about 8 minutes, until onion is tender. Add in prunes until warm, about 3 minutes. Top each baguette slice with ¼ ounce goat cheese, 3 arugula leaves, 1 tablespoon prune mixture and ½ teaspoon walnuts.

PRUNE-SPICE HOT CHOCOLATE

Servings: Three 3/4-cup servings

2 cups reduced fat dairy or plant-based milk 4 prunes 2 tablespoons unsweetened cocoa powder ½ cup prune juice 1 teaspoon honey ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon Pinch cayenne Pinch sea salt

Add all ingredients to blender and puree until smooth. Heat mixture until almost boiling in pan on stovetop or in mugs using microwave.

Special events celebrate the holiday season

CANTON BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

When: 9-11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 6 Where: Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway, Canton

Details: Tickets on sale at the Summit Front Desk (no online sales) and conclude Dec. 1. Get your picture taken with Santa, make a craft and enjoy a Christmas story. Tickets are 3 and under: \$4 resident and \$5 nonresident; ages 4-12: \$15 resident and \$18 nonresident; and 13 and up: \$19 resident and \$23 nonresident. Children will also receive a holiday souvenir, crayons, and a place mat to color. Table seating is available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

CANTON TREE LIGHTING

When: 6-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 3 (official tree lighting at 6:30 p.m.) Where: Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway in Canton

Details: Kick off the holiday season with the annual Township Tree Lighting Event. The official tree will be lit and special festivities will take place both indoors and outdoors. Join in for seasonal entertainment, crafts, activities, refreshments and visits with Santa! No registration necessary. \$5 per family.

FAMILY HOLIDAY FEST AND MILL LIGHTING

When: 3:30-6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13 Where: Nankin Mills Interpretive Center, 33175 Ann Arbor Trail, Westland Details: Join us for an old-fashioned celebration of the season at historic Nankin Mills. From 3:30-5:15 p.m., families can participate in unique holiday games and make several seasonal crafts. The second part of the program features a community sing-along, mill lighting and special visit from St. Nick. Cost is \$6 per child and \$2 per adult for crafts and games. Add \$1 for out of county residents. Preregistration required. For more information, call 734-261-1990.

FARMINGTON HOLLY DAYS When: Saturday, Dec. 6

Where: Downtown Farmington Details: Get that warm, nostalgic feeling of old as you stroll through downtown Farmington listening to carolers, sampling freshly baked cookies while sipping

hot chocolate. Bring family and friends to see the free Holiday Movies at the historic Farmington Civic Theater. Join the tree-lighting celebration at the Gov. Warner Mansion. There will be a visit from Santa and activities for all the kids to enjoy. Entertainment, food and lots



Walk through Kellogg Park and see the Christmas trees and visit with Santa every weekend between Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve. File Photo.

of holiday spirit will be aglow. The Greater Farmington Area Chamber of Commerce will host Holly Days in 2014. The Farmington Winter Market will be 10

a.m. to 2 p.m. Dec. 6 at the American Legion Hall, 31775 Grand River Ave. in downtown Farmington.

FARMINGTON HILLS BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

When: 9 a.m. Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 13-14

Where: The Longacre House, 24705 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills.

Details: Cost is \$13 for residents, \$18 for nonresidents. Register by Dec. 7 or until sold out. Special breakfast with Santa with time to share your Christmas list. Each child receives a gift and picture with Santa.

FARMINGTON HILLS HOLIDAY SHOPPING EXPO

When: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14 Where: The Costick Activities Center, 28600 11 Mile Road, Farmington Hills Details: Vendors, crafts and food and refreshments. Admission is free.

FARMINGTON HILLS KWAANZA CELEBRATION

When: 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6 Where: Second floor auditorium of Farmington Community Library, 32737 W. 12 Mile, Farmington Hills

Details: No registration, all ages welcome. Hear stories, see dancers, learn about Kwanzaa, enjoy food samples. Hosted by the African American Family Network.

FARMINGTON HILLS STORIES AND COOKIES WITH SANTA

When: 6:30-8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 5 Where: The Longacre House, 24705 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills **Details:** Cost is \$8 for residents and \$13 for nonresidents. Milk and cookies by the fire while Santa reads a holiday story, afterwards each child gets an individual visit with Santa. Register by Nov. 28 or until sold out.

FARMINGTON HILLS TREE

When: 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 2 Where: By the fountain area outside city hall, 31555 11 Mile, Farmington Hills. Details: Trees will be illuminated along with a 20-foot candle. The festivities will include songs performed by members of the Farmington Hills Youth Theatre, directed by Mel Sheatzley with the Actors Avenue. After the ceremony, refreshments will be served inside Fire Headquarters, and Santa will visit.

GARDEN CITY SANTALAND PARADE

When: 10 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 29 Where: The parade will begin at Garden City High School, travel south on Middlebelt Road, turn east on Ford Road and conclude on Central Street. Details: One of Garden City's oldest traditions, the 54th annual parade will feature marching bands, floats and balloons, as well as a visit from Santa during post-parade events. The theme of this year's parade is "Christmas Through the Decades." KT Maviglia, Miss Michigan 2014, will be one of the 54th Santaland Parado Grand Marshals. Many past Miss Michigans have served as Grand Marshals. More information can be found on the parade s website at www.santalandparade.com.

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2 (*) O&E Media | Thursday, November 27, 2014

HIGHLAND TREE LIGHTING, FESTIVAL OF TREES

When: 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 8

Where: Veterans Park at the corner of Livingston and John streets in downtown Highland.

Details: Spring Mills Elementary honor students will lead attendees in carols and will help summon Santa and Mrs. Claus. Families can get their pictures taken with Santa at the Highland Station House across the street. Cider and cookies will be offered. In addition to the township tree lighting, the Highland Downtown Development Authority is having a Festival of Trees to celebrate the new streetscape and light it up for the holidays. Once all trees are decorated by Dec. 1, the public will vote and a "People's Choice" winner will be crowned.

LIVONIA LUNCH WITH SANTA

When: 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13

Where: Livonia Civic Park Senior Center, southeast corner of Five Mile and Farm-ington roads

Details: Children are invited to have lunch with Santa. Cost to attend is \$5 per person and includes a lunch of pizza, drink and chips; crafts, games and a special visit from Santa. Attendees will also take home a souvenir picture of them with Santa. Advance registration is required. Call the Livonia Parks and Recreation office at 734-466-2410.

LIVONIA TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

When: 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 2 Where: Livonia City Hall and Civic Cen-

ter Library, Five Mile and Farmington roads

Details: The public is invited to sing holiday carols with the Livonia Civic Chorus, visit Santa, make holiday crafts, watch a magic show and enjoy hot chocolate and cookies. Refreshments will be served at the Civic Center Library. There is no charge to attend. Co-sponsored with Livonia Rotary Club, Livonia Libraries, Livonia Civic Chorus, Livonia Parks and Recreation and Busch's Fresh Food Market in Livonia.

MILFORD CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

When: 5:45-9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 4 Where: Main Street in downtown Milford.

Details: Get in the spirit of the season. Enjoy the hospitality of the downtown merchants, the strolling entertainment and the special promotions and refreshments. Santa arrives at 5:45 p.m. and will stay at the Village Center Mall next to Center Street Park until 9 p.m. 248-684-

MILFORD CHRISTMAS PARADE

When: 10 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 29

Where: Main Street through downtown Milford

Details: The Huron Valley Chamber of Commerce will host the annual Christmas Parade. This will feature a special appearance in the parade by Santa Claus himself.

NORTHVILLE EVENTS

Small Business Saturday – Nov. 29, presented by the Northville DDA, 248-349-0345

Contra Dancing – 1-4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21. All ages. Mill Race Village, 248-348-1845 or millracenorthville.org. Admission charge varies. At the New School Church. Wear comfortable clothing. Only clean, indoor, smooth-soled shoes permitted on dance floor.

NORTHVILLE NITE FAMILY NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

When: 4-7 p.m. Dec. 31

Where: Northville Recreation Center at Hillside Middle School, 700 W. Baseline Details: This family-friendly New Year's Eve celebration will feature crafts, huge inflatable games, entertainment and more. There will be a New Year's Eve countdown at 7 p.m. Contact Northville Parks and Recreation for tickets at 248-349-0203.A spaghetti dinner will be served.

NORTHVILLE TINSEL & TREASURES HOLIDAY MARKET

When: 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14 Where: Northville Community Center, 303 W. Main St.

Details: More than 75 juried artists and fine craftspeople from the Midwest will showcase their unique pieces of work. From glass design, gourmet foods, jewelry, original fashions, home decor, authors and much more. Everyone is bound to leave with their hands full of great finds. For more information, visit www.hcshows.com.

NOVI LIGHT UP THE NIGHT

When: 6-9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 5 (tree lighting at 6:15 p.m.)

Where: Novi Civic Center, 45175 10 Mile. Details: Santa visits, train rides, marshmallow roasting, live reindeer, free refreshments, craft show and magic shows at Novi Public Library at 7 p.m. and 8 p.m. More information at cityofnovi.org Novi ROCKIN' AROUND THE

CHRISTMAS TREE

When: Noon to 2 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11 (55 and older)

Details: Fun-filled Holiday Luncheon. Pre-registration is required and is available now at the Older Adult Services office, 45175 10 Mile, and the Meadowbrook Activity Center, 25075 Meadowbrook Road. Keep the wonder of the holiday season in your heart as Novi brings you tidings of joy. Entertainment will be featured. Resident \$7, nonresident \$8.50.

NOVI SKATE WITH SANTA

When: 3-4:50 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21 Details: Skate with Santa, raffles and games. For all ages. Cost \$4 for residents, \$5 for nonresidents. Skate rental is \$3. Where: Novi Ice Arena, 42400 Nick Lidstrom Drive. Visit www.noviicearena. com.

NOVI TWELVE OAKS MALL EVENTS

When: Various times

Where: Twelve Oaks mall, 27500 Novi Road, Novi

Details: Ice Palace Featuring Disney's Frozen, through Dec. 24; World of Wicked, through Dec. 14; live radio broadcast with Jay Towers of WNIC-FM (100.3), 6-10 a.m. Nov. 28; Santa Paws (pet photographs), 9-10:45 a.m. Dec. 7 in Center Court. Space is limited and reservations are a must for pet photos. Call 248-348-9438 to reserve a spot. Dogs and cats must be on leashes or in carriers and up to date on shots.

PLYMOUTH SANTA ARRIVAL

When: 6 p.m. Friday, Nov. 28 Where: Plymouth's Kellogg Park. Children's holiday entertainment featuring Joel Tacey on the band shell in Kellogg Park from 5:30-6 p.m. Santa arrives by fire truck, greets kids and receives the key to the city of Plymouth at 6 p.m. Lighting of the holiday tree in Kellogg Park along with a PCEP Choir performance.

Details: Santa arrives, lights the official Plymouth Christmas tree and then goes to his house on the outskirts of Kellogg Park and meets children. He does that every weekend between Thanksgiving weekend and Christmas Eve. The Plymouth Historical Museum will host an open house from 6-8 p.m. which includes Santa's workshop in the lower level with crafts for kids. They will be featuring their "Twas the Night Before Christmas" exhibit. The Walk of Trees with festively decorated trees in Kellogg Park runs Nov. 28 through Jan. 1.

More Plymouth Fun

When: 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 10 Where: Plymouth Historical Museum, 155 S. Main

Details: Simply Dickens Christmas Show

hometownlife.com

12121 Hemingway, Redford.

Details: Tickets are \$6 for an adult, \$7 for a child. Cost includes "snowy" games, "cool" crafts and a light brunch. An adult must accompany each child and all attendees must have a ticket. Tickets are limited and available on a first-come first-served basis. Tickets will not be sold at the door. Purchase them from the Leisure Services Office, 12121 Hemingway (and Capitol), inside the Redford Community Center.

Redford Olde Fashioned Holiday

When: 5-9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 4 Where: Township Hall Complex, 15145 Beech Daily Road, Redford

Details: The township will once again be transformed into a winter wonderland. There will be carriage rides, a special children's area, caroling and pictures with Santa. Be sure to dress warmly.

HOLIDAY MAGIC MARKETPLACE!

When: 4-8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 4 Where: Royal Oak Farmers Market, Civic Center, Royal Oak

Details: The Royal Oak Farmers Market will host a Holiday Marketplace before, during and after the City Tree Lighting Ceremony on Thursday, Dec. 4, from 4-8 p.m. Over 60 local crafters and artisans featuring antiques, collectibles, crafts, and many downtown merchant booths.

SOUTH LYON COOL YULE

When: Saturday, Dec. 6, all day across the community

Details: On the first Saturday in December, groups across South Lyon come together to offer free/low-cost family friendly activities across the community and to support local charities. From the Christmas in the Country Craft Show to the Cool Yule Lighted Parade and tree lighting ceremony, this event is sure to offer something for everyone! Enjoy everything from the Christmas in the Country craft show (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.) at South Lyon High School, Candy Cane Hunt (10 a.m.) in McHattie Park, live reindeer, Christmas cabaret concert, lighted holiday parade and tree lighting ceremony. Visit southlyonmi.org and southlyonchamber.com for more details.

WAYNE COUNTY LIGHTFEST

Through Dec. 31, 7-10 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 6-10 p.m. Friday through Sunday, closed Dec. 25.

Where: Hines Park; enter off Merriman Road, between Ann Arbor Trail and Warren Road, Westland.

Details: Visit the Midwest's longest drive-through holiday light display for four miles of colorful lights with a fee of

1975. Where: Meadowbrook Activity Center. 248-347-0414



Santa waves to all the visitors in downtown Milford during the annual Christmas Parade.

with traditional carols and attire from the 18th and 19th centuries. Comedic skits. Call 734-455-8940. Tickets \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door.

When: 5-9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11, in downtown Plymouth

Details: Sidewalks Dressed in Holiday Style. Horse and carriage rides for a small fee. Schoolcraft College barbershop quartet will perform. Evenin' Gentlemen Brass Ensemble, with shopping specials starting 5 p.m., dining specials starting 7:30 p.m. Community sing-along at 8:45 p.m. in ftont of Boule Artisan Bakery. **When:** 5-9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18, in downtown Plymouth

Details: Twas Ladies Night Before Christmas. First 500 women receive a free jingle bell bracelet. Merchants will offer specials.

Redford Blizzard Brunch with Santa

When: 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 13 Where: The Redford Community Center, \$5 per car. Wayne Lighted Christmas Parade

When: 6-7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 5

Where: Line up will be on Second Street and Sims. The parade will end at the State Wayne Park Theater with a visit from Santa.

Details: For the second time the Wayne Rotary Christmas Parade will be a lighted parade. Organizers are encouraging everyone to capitalize on the nighttime aspect of the parade by lighting up their entries.

WESTLAND SENIOR CENTER CHRISTMAS PARTY

When: Noon to 3 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12 Where: Friendship Center, 1119 Newburgh, south of Ford Road, Westland Details: For more information and tickets, call 734-722-7628.



Holiday Lighting 101

(Family Features) While decorating the tree, house, or garland, a whole section of lights can go dark – along with holiday spirits. Light outages can be frustrating and time-consuming to repair during the busy holiday season.

The LightKeeper "Pros" have developed tips to keep holiday lights and spirits bright, and keep everyone safe, too.

Measure: To estimate the number of lights needed for your tree, plan on an average of 100 lights per every foot of tree height.

LED vs. incandescent: LED lights are more expensive than incandescent, but last longer. Due to their low voltage, more sets of LEDs can be strung together endto-end than traditional sets. Use lights that have the label of an independent testing laboratory such

as Underwriters Laboratory (UL).

Inspect: Before stringing lights check for broken bulbs and sockets, frayed cords, burnt out lights and loose connections. Replace and repair any damaged light sets. For sets with bulb outages, use the LightKeeper Pro for incandescent lights or the LED Keeper for LEDs to find and fix the problem in seconds.

Connect: Connect no more than three strands of mini string sets and a maximum of 50 bulbs for screw-in bulbs. Read manufacturer's instructions for the safe number of LED strands to connect. Use no more than three light sets on any one extension cord.

Indoor vs. outdoor: Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use. Outside lights are exposed to water, so should be rated for outdoor use. Wrap connections with electrical tape when two or more light strands are being used. Outdoor lights should be plugged into circuits protected by ground-faultinterrupters (GFCIs).

Live and artificial trees: To string lights on an evergreen, begin at the top of the tree and wind strands through its center, widening with the tree's shape. For deciduous trees, work your way up. Wrap lights around the base of its trunk, moving upward in a spiral formation. If you use an artificial tree, choose one that is tested and labeled as fire resistant. Artificial trees with built-in electrical systems should have the UL label.



Photo courtesy of Getty Images

Replace and repair lights: To get the most out of your light sets, do occasional visual checks for any bulbs that are no longer working. Replace those bulbs as soon as possible. If a light set stops working or a section goes dark, use the LightKeeper Pro (for incandescent lights) or LED Keeper (for LEDs) to find and solve the issue in seconds.

For questions about holiday light repairs, call the holiday lighting pros at Ulta-Lit year-round, and 7 days a week between Thanksgiving and Christmas at 888-858-2548 or visit www.UltaLit.com.



(Family Features) The holidays are a special time of year to celebrate and connect with family and friends. From a cookie swap at work to a formal holiday dinner at home, with the right kind of recipes and a little planning, any holiday gathering can be a sweet success.

But, before you tie your apron strings and grab your rolling pin, avoid the last minute trips to the store by stocking up on baking staples like flour, butter, sugar and especially eggs.

As a versatile and affordable ingredient, eggs can be used in everything and offer limitless baking possibilities — from pies to cookies to eggnog. Plus, at 15 cents apiece, they can be an affordable way to feed a crowd for the holidays.

For holiday recipes, baking hacks and more, visit IncredibleEgg.org and Incredible Eggs on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Pinterest.

Mini Pumpkin Pies

Prep time: 35 minutes Chill time: Several hours or overnight Cook time: 35–37 minutes Yield: 6 mini pies **Crust:**

3	cups	all-purpose	flour
1	teast	oon salt	

- teaspoon salt
- 1 cup vegetable shortening, cold
- 2 egg yolks
- 6-8 tablespoons ice water, divided
 - tablespoon fresh lemon juice

Filling:

1

- 3 eggs, slightly beaten
- 1 can (15 ounces) pumpkin
- 3/4 cup packed light brown sugar
- 1 1/2 teaspoons cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cloves
- 1 cup half and half

To make unbaked crusts, mix flour and salt in large bowl. Cut in



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shortening with pastry blender until pieces are size of small peas. Mix egg yolks, 6 tablespoons ice water and lemon juice in small bowl. Add to flour mixture, 1 tablespoon at a time, stirring lightly and tossing with fork until moistened and dough just holds together. Add remaining ice water, if needed. Gather dough and shape into six 1-inch-thick disks. Refrigerate, wrapped in plastic wrap, 1 hour or overnight.

Roll out each dough disk on lightly floured surface, rolling from center to edge, to form 6-inch circle. Fold into quarters; ease and unfold into 4-inch pie plate. Press pastry gently against bottom and sides of pie plate, easing out any air. Trim edge leaving 1/2-inch overhang. Fold overhang under; flute edge. Refrigerate, covered, at least 30 minutes.

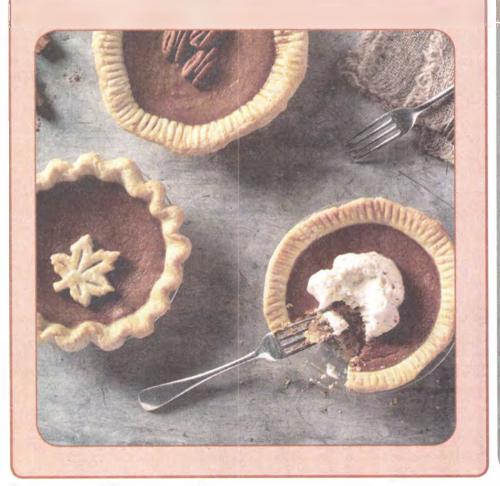
Heat oven to 400°F.

Whisk eggs, pumpkin, brown sugar, cinnamon, salt, ginger and cloves in medium bowl. Beat in half and half. Pour approximately 2/3 cup into each mini piecrust.

Carefully place pies on rack in oven. Bake 15 minutes. Reduce oven to 350°F; continue baking 20–22 minutes or until knife inserted midway between center and edge of pie comes out clean.

Cool completely on wire rack. Refrigerate, loosely covered, until firm, several hours or overnight

Garnish with toasted pecans and whipped cream.



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1

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and you could win. The more creative the better! Include the **phone number, age, community of residence, and name of each person** in the photo.

Winner's parents may need to completed a wavier and registration online at skyzone.com before admittance into the park.

Thanksgiving: Giggles & Riddles

Q: Why did the police arrest the turkey?

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