

| | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| <p>Plymouth landing Take a ride to Plymouth and check out these places to go FILTER - INSERTED SECTION</p> |  | <p>HOMETOWNlife Chat or comment on stories and issues in today's Observer at www.hometownlife.com</p> | <p>Shockingly realistic games minus the gore TECH SAVVY - D1</p>  |
|---|---|--|---|

THURSDAY
November 23, 2006

WESTLAND Observer

Look inside for valuable coupons from Maryanne's Polish Kitchen, Hawthorne Valley, Qdoba Mexican Restaurant, Benson Diamond Jewelers, Doc's Sports Retreat, Family Heating and Cooling, Grecian Cafe, Georgia's Gift Gallery and Plymouth Electrolysis.

75 cents WINNERS OF OVER 100 STATE AND NATIONAL AWARDS SINCE 2001

www.hometownlife.com

MDEQ provides more money for Cooper cleanup

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

A \$1 million state grant, authorized Monday to clean up the contaminated Cooper School property in Westland, could be the final piece of a 15-year puzzle for redeveloping the site, officials said.

The grant will bring to nearly \$3.4 million the amount allocated for the project by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

The total includes nearly \$2.4 million in grants for the Livonia school district, which shuttered the school in 1991, and a \$1 million revolving loan for the city of Westland.

Officials called the latest grant critical for

cleaning up the former landfill and making it feasible for developers to build medical office buildings and a senior citizen independent living facility.

"Without this we would not have been able to go ahead with the project," said Jack Kirksey, former Livonia mayor and project consultant for the Livonia district.

Westland Mayor Sandra Cicirelli announced the latest grant on Monday, saying it will boost remediation efforts on the site on Ann Arbor Trail east of Middlebelt.

"This additional funding is the direct result of a lot of hard work on the part of the city, the Livonia Public Schools and the developers of the site over the last couple of years," Cicirelli said.

Officials had met regularly to push for more state funding after the MDEQ ruled that contaminated soil will have to be hauled away - rather than isolated in one area and capped.

"We have been meeting on a regular basis in order to bring this project to completion, and there was a last-minute need for additional funding that could not be provided by the city, the schools or the developer," Cicirelli said. "I am extremely happy that the MDEQ stepped in to ensure that all our hard work will not go for naught."

Departing state Sen. Laura Toy, R-Livonia, and her successor, state Rep. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, also announced the latest grant.

The redevelopment project fell behind an

earlier, tentative schedule as officials awaited word on additional funding.

On Tuesday, Kirksey said remediation efforts could begin as early as next year, when students are on summer break at the newer, nearby Cooper Upper Elementary School.

Construction of the first of potentially four medical office buildings could begin by the end of 2007, he said. Developers plan to build a multi-story senior housing facility as market conditions, currently sluggish, improve.

Officials are more optimistic than ever that the Cooper School site will finally be redeveloped and generate new tax revenues. The school was demolished two years ago.

dclem@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2110



Schweitzer Elementary kindergartner Jamie Downing (left) said 'I love it all,' as she and her reading buddy Amber Ritter (right) enjoy their 'traditional' Thanksgiving feast.

TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The '1st' Thanksgiving

Kindergartners share traditional feast with their reading buddies

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

It was as close as you could get to the first Thanksgiving dinner - dried meat and fruit, muffins and soup.

But there were a few 21st century items on the plates of kindergartners who gathered Monday to celebrate the holiday with their second- and third-grade reading buddies.

"The idea is to have them experience a more traditional Thanksgiving dinner," said kindergarten teacher Anne McKolay who has been holding the feast for at least seven years. "When the Pilgrims had their feast it was with the community there."

The kindergartners dressed as pilgrims with paper hats, bonnets and large white collars, while their reading buddies, with names like Tiger Lily,

Strong Wind and Fire Starter, wore brown paper bag vests and feathered headdresses.

It didn't matter that the older students had had lunch before the feast. "We always have room for food," said Kelsie Wysong, 8.

They sat down to plates full of corn muffins, corn chowder, baked beans,

PLEASE SEE THANKSGIVING, A4

Student arrested after bringing gun to middle school

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

Wayne-Westland school officials are urging parents to talk to their children about school safety in the wake of the arrest of a 13-year-old Marshall Middle School student who brought an unloaded .25-caliber semi-automatic handgun to school Monday.

"Students need to act responsibly and so do parents," Supt. Greg Baracy said. "This very likely prevented a more serious situation. Whenever you put a gun in the hands of a young person, loaded or not, there's the potential for a tragic result. It's always a grave concern for all of us."

The incident happened around 12:30 p.m., after the teen showed another student the gun he had in his pants pocket, according to Westland Police Lt. James Ridener.

"It happened between classes. He stopped another student in the hallway and pulled the gun out enough for the student to see," Ridener said. "He didn't point the gun at him."

The student reported the

incident to a teacher and, according to a letter sent home to parents, school administrators and the school safety officer isolated the teen and removed the weapon from his pocket.

"I give that student a lot of credit for acting responsibly and in an adult manner," Baracy said. "The student did the right thing by immediately sharing the information with an adult."

According to Ridener, the teen told other people that he had "bought the handgun on the street for \$75."

"We don't tend to believe him, but as far as we know, it didn't come from the family home," he said. "Whether it's accurate or true, that's open to debate."

The teen was removed from the school by Westland Police, processed and sent on to the county youth home. Because of his age, the matter will be handled through Wayne County Juvenile Court.

The district has a number of security measures in place and, according to Baracy, they worked well in this instance.

"And that's what we hope"

PLEASE SEE GUN, A4

Mayor orders fences at ball fields, new signs in Central City Park

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Mayor Sandra Cicirelli moved swiftly this week to respond to demands from residents who criticized city and county officials for their years of silence on contaminants in Central City Park.

On Monday, Cicirelli ordered city workers to install snow fencing around the western ball dia-

monds, where soil tests found elevated levels of lead.

Cicirelli also confirmed that more detailed signs would be posted this week in the park, after residents called the "temporarily closed" signs insufficient. Only a paved walking path remains open for public use.

The mayor also affirmed that soil tests will eventually be done at Tot Town - an area of miniature

buildings used by children near Carlson and Ford Road. She said testing will be done even though aerial photos don't indicate the Tot Town area was ever used as a dump site.

Cicirelli pledged to work with Wayne County officials for testing of a Central City Park pond where children fish.

Finally, she engaged in telephone conversations with county

officials in hopes of setting up a temporary site, possibly at the Bailey Recreation Center, where children and adults can be tested for lead exposure. Details hadn't been firmed up Tuesday afternoon.

"I'm hopeful that we'll get that very quickly," Cicirelli said.

Her actions came after residents packed a public meeting last

PLEASE SEE PARK, A4



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The city has replaced signs around the park announcing that it is closed and that people must stay on the paths. Snow fencing also is being erected around the baseball diamonds which testing has shown to have problems with contamination.

For Home Delivery call: (866) 887-2737

© The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

Volume 42 Number 52



Qdoba MEXICAN GRILL

NOW OPEN

WESTLAND
36575 Warren Rd.
at Central City Parkway
734-326-2885

- Burritos
- Tacos
- Nachos
- Quesadillas
- & More! In a fast, casual environment

Buy one entree get one entree FREE with purchase of drink! Expires Nov. 30, 2006 • With Coupon. Not valid with any other coupon.

| INDEX | |
|------------------|--------|
| APARTMENTS | B9 |
| BELIEFS & VALUES | A18 |
| AUTOMOTIVE | C6 |
| CLASSIFIED | B8-C8 |
| CROSSWORD | B8 |
| JOBS | C2 |
| MOVIES | E14 |
| OBITUARIES | A18 |
| OPINION | A10-11 |
| REAL ESTATE | B8 |
| SERVICE GUIDE | B12 |
| SPORTS | B1 |

Coming Sunday in Health

Trouble in toyland: PIRGIM (Public Interest Research Group in Michigan) releases its 21st annual toy safety report.

LPS board retreat meeting questioned

BY REBECCA JONES
STAFF WRITER

Livonia's school board met for a retreat Nov. 13, in part to discuss ways to improve communication with the public.

But few members of the public knew about it. The retreat replaced a committee of the whole meeting that had been canceled.

"We talked about working together and working with the community, how to effectively communicate with each other and the community," said board President Lynda Scheel.

Although cancellation of the committee of the whole meeting was noted on the district's Web site, there was no mention online of the retreat meeting. A notice was posted on the door to the administration building at 7:45 a.m. Friday, Nov. 10, said Suzanne Steffes, executive assistant to the superintendent and Board of Education.

"It was posted on the school board office per the Open Meetings Act," Scheel said.

The law specifies how and when a governing body must notify the public before meeting. For a special meeting, the requirement is 18 hours, and the board office must be open during that time.

The district met the Open Meetings Act requirement.

However, parent Brad Wolkan questioned the timeline.

"That's not illegal."

Unethical? Yeah," said Wolkan, a member of the group Citizens for Livonia's Future. "They contradicted themselves."

To improve communication, he said, "they need to start doing more than the bare minimum, especially at these times."

The meeting was scheduled to begin at 5:30 p.m., but started shortly after 6 p.m. and lasted until 9 or 9:30 p.m., Scheel said. Board Secretary Kevin Whitehead took minutes.

All seven board members participated. Virginia Winters from the Wayne County Regional Educational Services Agency facilitated.

"Nobody was there from the public," Scheel said, adding that since she's been on the board "we've never had anybody there from the public" for a retreat.

"We usually do one to two board retreats a year," Scheel said, "but you have to work around everybody's schedule."

When the Nov. 13 time slot became available, the board decided to meet "sooner than later."

"We are going to have another one planned soon," she said. "We do not discuss business, nor is business decided at our board retreats. Our board retreats are to provide continuous improvement - a way to measure where we are as a board, to where we want to be."

rrjones@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2054



PHOTOS BY TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Seven-year-old Evan Winowiecki, who is blind, plays a game of tic tac toe on a special board with Emerson Middle School eighth-grader Brandon Wolfe at Seedlings, a Livonia nonprofit organization.

Class makes tic tac toe for the sight-impaired

BY REBECCA JONES
STAFF WRITER

Tic tac toe is traditionally a pen-and-paper game of Xs and Os.

But Emerson Middle School students developed a 3-D version for visually impaired children to play.

On Thursday, Ron Wilson's technology class delivered the game boards and pieces to Seedlings, a Livonia nonprofit that adapts children's books for braille readers.

Students routed a three-by-three grid into a sheet of plywood. Instead of Xs and Os, the pieces are red asterisks and white cylinders that fit into drilled holes.

Last year's class started the project, and this year's students put the finishing touches together. Students created and packaged 54 games.

"We sanded (the wood) to make sure there were no rough edges, drilled the holes and painted the tic tac toe pieces," said eighth-grader Courtney Woods.

At Seedlings, Woods and



Emerson Middle School eighth graders Jake Long (left), Connor Osborn and Brandon Wolfe take a look at one of the Braille printers with Seedlings staff member Debbie Charnley.

classmates met and played tic tac toe with two vision-impaired students from Cass Elementary. Third-grader Austin Hill and first-grader Evan Winowiecki each got to take home one of the tic tac toe games. Austin also read from a braille version of "The Very Hungry Caterpillar."

Seedlings produces 24,000 braille books each year, filling a need for blind parents who want to read to sighted children and for blind children

director at Seedlings. "They're still at a disadvantage, but we're trying to make a difference."

Seedlings sends books around the world. Even Bonde doesn't know where the tic tac toe games will end up.

"Your games may go to Australia. They may go to Ghana. Your school name is going to go around the world," Bonde said. "They'll go to good use."

Wilson's technology class will now begin a new project. Wilson developed a mold of Michigan to teach visually impaired children about the Great Lakes and help them learn where places like Traverse City and Lansing are in relation to each other.

The project will be submitted for the Michigan Industrial and Technology Education Society invention convention where it will compete among learning tools inventions.

rrjones@hometownlife.com
(734) 953-2054

CORRECTIONS

The headline for Hugh Gallagher's column on Sunday, Nov. 19, should have read "Support for Proposal 2 opens door for dialogue on race."

A headline in the Sunday, Nov. 19, issue above a story about the funeral Mass for a Canton man killed in Iraq should have referred to Sgt. Bryan Burgess as a Marine.

BARNETT

Roofing and Siding Inc.

RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL

Certainteed Select Shingle Roofer
Duro-Last Elite Roofer Award Winner
Professional Roofer Advisory Council

Family Owned and Operated for Over 45 Years

41700 Michigan Ave. • Canton • 734-397-8122

WESTLAND
Observer

WHERE HOMETOWN STORIES UNFOLD

GANNETT HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

HOW TO REACH US

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>Susan Rosiek Executive Editor (734) 953-2100 srosiek@hometownlife.com</p> <p>Hugh Gallagher Managing Editor (734) 953-2149 hgallagher@hometownlife.com</p> <p>Sue Mason Community Editor (734) 953-2112 smason@hometownlife.com</p> | <p>Jeannie Parent Retail Sales Manager (734) 953-2177 jparent@hometownlife.com</p> <p>Cathy White Retail Advertising Rep. (734) 953-2073 cwhite@hometownlife.com</p> |
|---|--|

Newsroom (734) 953-2104 Fax (734) 591-7279
Sports Nightline (734) 953-2104
Circulation/Customer Service ... 1-866-88-PAPER (866-887-2737)
Classified Advertising 1-800-579-SELL (7355)
Display Advertising (734) 953-2153

To purchase page and photo reprints go to www.hometownlife.com/oreprints.
For more information contact 1-866-88-PAPER.

Circulation Business Hours/Subscription Rates
Monday-Tuesday-Wednesday-Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Sunday 8 a.m. to noon

If you missed a delivery please call by 6 p.m. Thursday and 11 a.m. Sunday.

| Carrier Delivery | Mail Delivery |
|---|---|
| <p>Sunday/Thursday</p> <p>One year \$59.95 6 Month \$29.95 3 Month \$14.95</p> <p>For senior citizen rate, please call 1-866-887-2737</p> | <p>Sunday/Thursday</p> <p>One year (in county) \$83.95 6 Month \$41.95 3 Month \$20.95</p> <p>One year (out of county) \$108.95 6 Month \$54.45 3 Month \$27.25</p> |

POSTAL PERIODICAL REQUIREMENTS
The Westland Observer - Publication NO. USPS 663-530 Published every Thursday and Sunday. Periodical postage is paid at Livonia, Michigan 48150.

36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150

We're Flexible!

Custom-Build a Flex Certificate
that fits your needs.

5.61%^{APY*}

5.35%^{APY*}

Pick Your Rate & Term!

Discover how easy it is to build your savings with Community Financial's new insured **Flex Certificate**. We've set the rate, now you decide the term! It's that simple.

- You pick the term; from 90 days to 5 years
- Accounts insured to \$350,000
- Friendly, professional service at an office near you

COMMUNITY FINANCIAL

Thinking forward. Banking right.

Call or stop by a Community Financial office today!

(734) 453-1200 (877) 937-2328 toll free www.cfcu.org

| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| <p>PLYMOUTH 500 S. Harvey</p> | <p>CANTON 6355 N. Canton Center</p> | <p>NORTHVILLE 400 E. Main</p> | <p>NOVI 43350 Arena Dr.</p> |
|--|--|--|--|

*The 5.61% Annual Percentage Yield (APY) requires an active checking account and is available on deposits of \$1,000 or more with new money not currently on deposit at Community Financial. Select from any "traditional" term certificate from 90 days to 5 years. Rates effective 10/02/06. Rates cannot be combined with any other bonus rate offer and are subject to change without notice. Subject to penalty for early withdrawal, fees, if any, may reduce earnings.
 NCUA Your savings federally insured to \$100,000 by the National Credit Union Administration, an agency of the U.S. Government. IRAs are insured to \$250,000 by the NCUA. ESU Your savings also privately insured up to an additional \$250,000 by Excess Share Insurance Corporation (ESI). ESI is a subsidiary of American Share Insurance. Equal Housing Lender. ©2006 Community Financial. PDF 06047282

Board narrows field to 2 for library director

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Westland library officials could be nearing the final chapter of their search for a successor to former Director John Patane, who was fired in May.

The field of candidates has been narrowed to Susanna Davidsen, coordinator of the electronic Michigan eLibrary, and Clyde Scoles, director of the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library in Toledo, Ohio.

"We are down to two candidates," Westland Library Board Secretary Daniel Bourdeau confirmed Monday.

Davidsen and Scoles would bring distinctly different skills to the job, Bourdeau said, adding that the board still hopes to fill the post by the New Year.

Davidsen was described by Bourdeau as having "a very traditional background with a lot of good experience" in running a library, while Scoles was portrayed as "very forward thinking" in terms of new technology.

A board decision will be difficult as long as both candidates remain in the running for the job, Bourdeau said.

"It's going to be challenging," he said. "I think either way we choose it's a win-win decision for the library. At this point, given the two candidates, there's not a bad decision to be made."

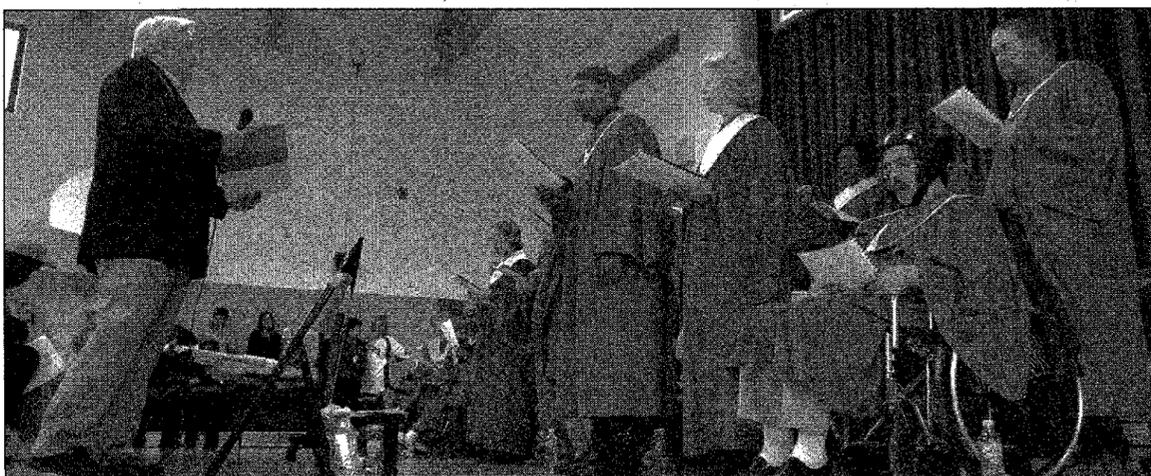
Davidsen and Scoles have survived a nationwide search led by library consultant Larry Corbus, who said nearly 30 applicants sought Patane's job.

Patane was fired in May after a board majority took issue with the way he was handling his job. His dismissal came less than two years after the 10-year-old facility's first director, Sandra Wilson, also was fired.

Bourdeau said the library board hopes to have Davidsen and Scoles return for a second interview as soon as possible. He said the two finalists also will be given a tour of the city and will meet with key elected officials.

A salary hasn't been decided, although the board advertised up to \$84,864 for the next director. Patane was paid \$70,000.

dclem@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2110



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Len McCulloch directs the Broe Therapy Choir during its performance at the Burger Center for Students with Autism.

Choir performance has safety message

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

They came, they sang, and when they were done, the Broe Institute Therapy Choir left youngsters at the Burger Center for Students with Autism with a message: Protect your head.

Billed as a "unique a cappella choir comprised of people recovering from traumatic brain injuries," the choir visited the Garden City school last month to promote the prevention of brain injuries.

"We're here to tell you to always wear your helmet," said choir director Len McCulloch. "If you're riding a bike, roller skating, ice skating, wear your helmet. When you cross the street, look both ways. Some (choir) members didn't look both ways and were hit by a car."

Plenty of hands went up when McCulloch asked how many youngsters rode a bike, but far fewer were raised when he asked how many wore a helmet while riding their bikes.

The choir is made up of adults being treated through the Broe Rehabilitation Services Inc. in Farmington Hills where McCulloch is director of psychological services.

It started with one singer in 1998 and has grown to 18 members. It presents close to 100 free concerts a year. In addition to performing at schools like the Burger Center, homeless shelters and churches, the choir has sang at the Michigan State Capitol and for former President Jimmy Carter and his wife, Rosalynn, at a lunch for 1,400 people, Gov. Jennifer Granholm and Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick.

The choir has produced five CDs, including its debut album, *Music of Special People*. The group worked with Michigan Opera Theater in composing a song.

Interspersed with songs like *Amazing Grace*, *Take Me Out to the Ballgame* and a medley of TV show tunes, some members of the choir talked about themselves.

"I was into drugs and alcohol,"

said Larry Tillman of Detroit. "One day I woke up in the hospital. I had been in a coma, but the Lord saved me and sent me a second chance."

McCulloch pointed to another member who shuffled through a well-worn magazine. Identified as Kimberly, he told students she had autism like them.

"She loves singing at home, especially in bed," he said. "She's in the choir to try and encourage her to talk more."

One member was suicidal before joining the choir, but after two weeks, he had "a choir to live for," he added.

"For many, before the choir they were just 'Joe, I'm brain damaged,'" he said. "Now it's 'I'm a celebrity in a special choir.' They're proud as opposed to being shattered and broken."

"In the early years, they were timid, but now they take the stage like they own the place."

As part of the program, the choir - this is its fourth visit to Burger - was joined by the Burger Choir, under the direction

of music teacher Susan Helmkamp in performing two songs - *Michael, Row the Boat Ashore* and *He's Got the Whole World in His Hands*.

McCulloch also passed out Frisbees and balls to some students and tapped Kevin Kimberlin to be "safety guy for the rest of the day" after he correctly identified the name of the song the choir performed.

"If you guess it, you'll be the first one in 140 shows to guess it," McCulloch said. Kevin did identify the song, *Old MacDonald Had a Farm*.

"I want you to remind your friends to wear their helmets," he also told the youngsters.

McCulloch is pleased with the reception the choir has received over the years. It's been featured in 42 newspaper stories and appeared in a PBS special.

"The community has reached out to us and we reach out to the kids, so they learn, too," McCulloch said.

smason@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2112

Buy 1 Pair,
Get a 2nd Pair*
50% OFF



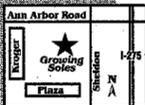
Savings are waiting.
Let's go.

Give your kids all the support and confidence they need. Whatever adventures lie ahead. Treat them to the unrivaled fit of Stride Rite shoes. And we'll treat you to special savings.



44427 W. Ann Arbor Road
Plymouth
734-459-1070

Mon - Wed. & Fri. 10 am - 6 pm
Thurs. 10 am - 8 pm • Sat. 10 am - 4 pm



stride rite.
Life's waiting. Let's go™

*Sale good on in-store merchandise only-special orders, winter boots and Stride Rite Natural Motion® shoes are not a part of their sale. 50% will be taken off the lesser priced pair. Offer good through Saturday, December 2, 2006.

Medicare Part D



➔ 2007 Open Enrollment Period is
November 15th - December 31st, 2006

38 DAYS LEFT until open enrollment ends

Do you have questions and need answers to which plan is excellent for you? Let Ann Arbor financial help you at no cost. You can set up an appointment to meet with an agent and complete all forms either in our local office or by mail. Ann Arbor Financial will assist you with all of your Medicare supplemental needs.



ANN ARBOR
FINANCIAL

729 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth, MI 48170
Ph: (734) 416-8100 • Fax: (734) 416-8250
www.annarborfinancial.com

Call Today!

734-416-810 Local
866-699-6566 Toll Free

Call today for an appointment or to have materials sent via mail or email.

0E08489710



Receive this bracelet
FREE

with a purchase of \$200 or more.*

November 24-26 only.

Sterling Silver Bracelet
with Diamonds. Retail Value \$150
Matching earrings and necklace
also available for purchase.

AMERICAN GEM SOCIETY

ORIN
JEWELERS

Garden City
29317 Ford Rd.
734.422.7030

Northville
101 E. Main St.
248.249.6940

www.orinjewelers.com

Hours: Friday 10am - 8pm; Saturday 10am - 6pm; Sunday Noon - 4pm

*Previous purchases, layaways and repairs are not included in this promotion.



PARK

FROM PAGE A1

Thursday and blasted city and county officials for the way they handled the park controversy.

Lead was found in elevated levels mostly on the ball diamonds. Officials have called it unlikely that park users would have come into contact with enough soil to pose any real health threat.

Speaking during a Westland City Council meeting, Cicirelli said she hopes that cleanup efforts can begin by early spring in the limited areas — mostly the ball diamonds — where elevated lead contamination is known.

The scope of the problem will be more fully known as early as next week, when officials expect to receive results of new soil tests conducted earlier this month.

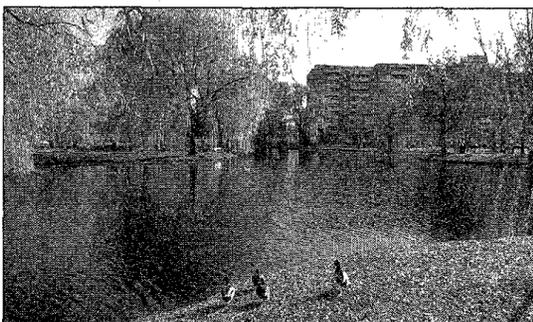
Officials hope that most of the park will be in use by sometime next year, although no one can yet say with certainty. The park hosts activities ranging from Little League baseball to the Westland Summer Festival.

The park controversy continued to fuel some criticism during Monday's council meeting — though nothing like the heated attacks that erupted last Thursday.

Parent Velda Garcia, who spoke during both meetings, said Monday that government officials should move quickly to clean up the park.

She said private residents would be forced to take quick action for similar problems on their property.

Garden City resident Teresa Waterkamp, formerly of Westland, said that her sons played ball in the park and that



PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Mayor Sandra Cicirelli assured residents Monday evening that the water in the park's Friendship Lake also will be tested for possible contamination.



Marcia Burgess (from left), visiting from Florida, walks with Ivana Zavodsky, 2, and her mother Damyana, both of Canton, along the path at Central City Park Monday afternoon.

her extended family helped build the children's playscape. She told Cicirelli that she should be ashamed for not acknowledging the lead contamination until earlier this month.

Councilwoman Cheryl Graunstadt repeated her criticism of the city for not taping last Thursday's meeting and showing it on Westland cable

station WLND for residents who couldn't attend the session.

Council President William Wild responded that most study sessions, such as the one last week, aren't usually taped and shown on cable. He said the council typically airs only its regular business meetings.

dclcm@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2110



PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Schweitzer Elementary kindergarten teacher Jennifer Ferris reads 'The Very First Thanksgiving Day' to her students before their feast.

THANKSGIVING

FROM PAGE A1

dried beef, dried apricots, cranberries and banana chips, and such modern day delights as trail mix, popcorn, juice boxes and pumpkin pie with whipped cream.

Youngsters were encouraged to try what was on their plate, especially the dried beef.

"It's real soft, but it's real salty," said McKolay, explaining that "the Pilgrims didn't have refrigerators, they had to dry their food. That's how they had to preserve things."

Reaction to the thinly sliced meat was mixed.

While 8-year-old Kylie Strong said the meat smelled "like cat food," Courtney Walsh, 8, found it "salty," but good tasting.

"I liked the beef and I like the pie," she said.

Yes, the pumpkin pie was the big hit of the feast with students asking for seconds with plenty of whipped cream. There were requests, however, for just whipped cream.

Six-year-old Jamie Downing liked the soup a lot — "All the stuff in it is good" — but skipped the beef.

"I didn't expect to have this much food because the Pilgrims didn't have anything," she said. "They had to plant seeds in the ground for food."

"The Indians planted food and gave it to the Pilgrims to help out," added Jamie's reading buddy, Amber Ritter, known as Little Dolphin for the feast.

While the contents of the meal were somewhat of a surprise for the kindergartners, it was nothing new for their reading buddies who enjoyed the same feast their first year of school.



Third-grader Julia Lyle (from left), kindergartner Alexia Daygsa and third-grader Shiann Scalf dance to the Pow Wow song in preparation for their Thanksgiving feast.



Third-graders Jack DeJack (left) and Reshard Kanady, dressed as native Indians, dance with the kindergartners, dressed as pilgrims, at their Thanksgiving celebration.

Robert Martin, 8, "pretty much ate everything except the dried fruit," but was there for the dessert.

"I pretty much like the pie," he said trying to wrangle a third slice. "I'm here for the pie."

Before their classroom feasts, students gathered in the school gym where they gathered in two circles to dance to several native American songs. One was a drum beat, while the other, *Pow Wow*, spoke of flying like an eagle, running like a deer and growling like a bear.

The youngsters growled loudly like a bear and howled at the moon, and in the case of McKolay's students, danced around a fire

made of pieces of wood and construction paper flames.

And like the early settlers, these young Pilgrims also exchanged gifts with their guests. They gave their reading buddies necklaces made of hand-dyed noodles and received handmade beaded necklaces in return.

There also were Happy Thanksgiving cards.

"I really like being your buddy," wrote Amber. "I think you're really friendly."

"I am," said Jamie with a smile.

A similar note from buddy Kylie to Jamie's sister, Emily, acknowledged the youngster as "sweet."

smason@hometownlife.com (734) 953-2112

GUN

FROM PAGE A1

for," he said.

Bringing a gun to school is in violation of the district's weapons-free school zone and the teen will face "appropriate due process," Baracy said.

"It appears from what we know at this time there will likely be a mandatory expulsion," he added.

In the letter sent home to parents, Marshall Principal Robert Van Vulkenberg also asked parents to discuss the danger of handling weapons with children and pointed out that weapons should be "kept under lock in a secure location."

"Parents, number one, need to talk to their children about safety, violence, weapons and what to do if they come in contact with one," Baracy added. "This student acted very responsibly and did the right thing."

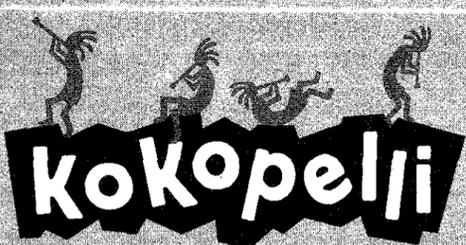
smason@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2112

NOW OPEN!

BRING THIS COUPON TO OUR NEW LOCATION FOR A

FREE BASKET OF CHIPS & SALSA!



FRESH MEXICAN GRILL

FAST • FRESH • HEALTHY

37140 6 MILE ROAD | LIVONIA, MI | 48152
(NE CORNER OF 6 MILE ROAD & NEWBURGH | KEY BANK COMMONS PLAZA)

734.542.9100

SUNDAY-THURSDAY: 11AM-9PM • FRIDAY & SATURDAY: 11AM-10PM

*OFFER EXPIRES 4/30/07 • VALID AT THIS LOCATION ONLY • NO CASH VALUE • WWW.KOKOPELLIBILL.COM

GRAND OPENING

GREAT VALUE IN LASIK...
GREAT VALUE IN EYEWEAR AND CONTACTS



Yaldo Eye Center

the VISION experts

Progressive "No Line" Bifocals

*With coupon. Some restrictions apply. Limited time only

\$89⁹⁵*

only

FREE! FRAMES

With Purchase of Lenses*
Many frames to choose from
*With coupon. Some restrictions apply. Limited time only

2 for 1

EYE EXAMS*

Family Members Only, Eyeglass Exams Only
*With coupon. Some restrictions apply. Limited time only

5 NEW LOCATIONS TO SERVE YOU

| | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Livonia 248-477-4574 | Westland 734-326-1100 | Ferndale 248-541-5941 |
| Dearborn 313-846-8877 | Utica 586-731-4770 | |

1-888-881-2020

Hospital reunion

The 22nd annual holiday reunion of former Wayne County General Hospital's staff and retirees is scheduled for 5-9 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 5, at the Golden Corral restaurant, on Warren Road between Newburgh and Central City Parkway. The reunion will be held in a private dining room.

Anyone associated with the hospital is invited to attend. For more information, call Patricia Ibbotson at (734) 561-0177.

The hospital on Merriman Road closed in 1984, and the building was torn down in 2000. Many people have connections with the hospital or worked in the buildings on the grounds, including the Eloise Post Office, which closed in 1979, or the commissary, which is now used as a homeless shelter.

Blood drive

VFW Post 3323 will start off the holiday season with a Red Cross blood drive 1-7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 24. Call the post at (734) 721-9876 for more information.

Country breakfast

AMVETS Post 171 and its auxiliary will hold a country breakfast from 9 a.m. to noon Sunday, Nov. 26, at the hall, 1217 Merriman, south of Cherry Hill in Westland.

The cost will be \$4 for adults and \$2.50 for kids up to age 12 for hash browns, pancakes, eggs, sausage, bacon, biscuits and gravy, coffee and tea. Milk and juice will be available for an extra 50-cent charge.

Got a mocktail?

Share a favorite non-alcoholic drink for a chance to win a gift certificate for stores at Westland Shopping Center.

The Southeast Michigan Community Alliance and Mothers Against Drunk Driving are looking for the tastiest holiday drinks to be featured at the Holiday Mocktail Mixer 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, Dec. 8, at the mall's east court.

There will be first-, second- and third-place gift certificates awarded.

Drop off recipes at the mall Information Desk, e-mail them to Wendy Harless at wendyh@semca.org or mail them to 25363 Eureka, Taylor MI 48180. All entries must be received by Friday, Dec. 1.

For more information, visit www.semcaprevention.org.

Talk about SciFi

What if The War of the Worlds started in Westland?

H.G. Wells' classic story isn't based in Westland, but a new science fiction forum is.

The Westland public library will host a science fiction and fantasy discussion group at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 29. It's free, and the public is invited.

"I'm looking more for adults, anyone 20 and over," reference librarian Jane Lowry said. "It's for anyone that reads science fiction or fantasy."

A flier for the group seeks participants to "engage in spirited discussion" during "kind of an intellectual party about aliens" and other things science fiction.

Oh, and cookies will be served, but don't worry: They're made by humans, not aliens.

Diabetes programs

The CVS Pharmacy at 37530 Cherry Hill, Westland, will offer a program on Managing Your Diabetes 3-6 p.m. Monday, Nov. 27.

Participants will learn how to control diabetes and manage their medications, as well as get tips on making healthy lifestyle choices. They also will have a chance to speak to an expert about diabetic supplies and get a free glucose screening.

For more information, call (734) 727-0322.

The program also will be offered at the CVS Pharmacy at 31411 Cherry Hill, Westland 3-6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 30. For more information, call (734) 326-2990.

Craft Show

Lutheran High Westland will hold an arts and craft show 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 1-2, at the school 33300 Cowan east of Wayne Road.

A variety of items will be featured at the juried show, including work by Gary and Jan Bower of Traverse City. Jan Bower is an oil painter who

does exquisite portraits, mainly of children, while her husband has authored a children's book, I'm a Michigan Kid, which she illustrated.

Also featured will be Jim Williams, the artist from Highland, who does oil paintings of area landmarks. A participant in the spring craft show, he will be back with new designs, such as Comerica Park, Santa at 12th floor of Hudson's, Ford Field, the Palace, and others.

Lunch will be available, and there also will be a bake sale, entertainment, hourly door prizes and Kid's Craft Corner.

For more information, call (734) 422-2090.

Food fest

Holiday Taste Fest, featuring food and drink from 19 vendors, mostly restaurants, will come to the Hellenic Cultural Center in Westland at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 5.

Admission is \$20 per person for the event, sponsored by the Westland Chamber of Commerce.

The Hellenic Cultural Center is on Joy Road east of Newburgh.

Tickets may be bought 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays at chamber offices on Ford Road east of Newburgh. The event also will include entertainment. For more information, call the chamber at (734) 326-7222.

Christmas Extravaganza

The Westland senior Friendship Center will hold its annual Christmas Extravaganza noon-3 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 14, at the center 1119 Newburgh, south of Ford.

Doors will open at 11:30 a.m. with the Fabulous Fest served at noon. There will be an opportunity for pictures with Santa Claus, a sing-along with the Friendship Center Chorus, entertainment by the Tommie James Trio with Michael Carluccio and gifts.

Tickets are \$8 for members and \$12 for non-members. They're on sale at the

Friendship Center. For more information, call (734) 722-7628.

Scrapbooking event

Scrapbookers and picture people are invited to Another Hot Crop! and Holiday Open House 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 25, at the Bailey Recreation Center, 36651 Ford.

Sponsored by the Westland Jaycees, the event allows scrapbookers the time and space to devote to their scrapbooks and pick up new ideas, tips and techniques. Non-scrapbookers and beginners can learn how to preserve their memories and photos.

The cost is \$35 for the all day crop. It includes lunch and

dinner, goody bag, cropping space and much more. Album supplies and tools will be available for purchase.

The event will benefit the Westland Fire Department which is raising money to purchase a thermal imager.

For more information or to reserve a spot, call Lisa Graham at (734) 718-5705 or contact her by e-mail at Lisa.Graham@sbcglobal.net.

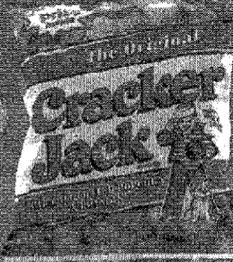
Book sale

The Friends of the Library will hold a book sale Dec. 8-10, at the William P. Faust Public Library on Central City Parkway north of Ford. For more information, call (734) 326-6123.

OPEN EARLY FRIDAY 5:00 AM - 10:00 PM

LOOK FOR OUR INSERT IN MOST OF TODAY'S PAPERS!

after thanksgiving cracker jack SALE



Cracker Jack

EARLY BIRD SPECIAL

SHOP 5:00-10:00 AM FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24 for a FREE BAG OF CRACKER JACK® with a discount coupon in every bag.

- \$5 off a \$20 purchase 50,760 coupons
\$5 off a \$25 purchase 8,460 coupons
\$5 off a \$30 purchase 8,460 coupons
\$10 off a \$25 purchase 2,820 coupons
\$10 off a \$30 purchase 5,640 coupons
\$10 off a \$35 purchase 8,460 coupons

While supplies last. One per customer, please. No cash back and no cash value. Cannot be combined with any other discounts, coupons or promotional offers...

MORE THAN 100 DOORBUSTERS!

FRIDAY DOORBUSTERS VALID UNTIL 1:00 PM!

OR WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

VELOUR ATHLEISURE: \$9 each DOORBUSTER. Includes image of athletic wear.

SHEET SET: \$49 DOORBUSTER. Includes image of a sheet set.

LADIES' RELATIVITY: \$29 DOORBUSTER. Includes image of a boot.

LEATHER JACKETS: \$69 DOORBUSTER. Includes image of a leather jacket.

DIGITAL CAMERA: \$99 DOORBUSTER. Includes image of a digital camera.

COTTON CABLE SWEATERS: \$19 DOORBUSTER. Includes image of a sweater.

SAVE MORE WITH YOUR COUPONS

20% off* any single sale or clearance item. Friday, November 24 only. Includes barcode and terms.

20% off* any single sale or clearance item. Friday, November 24 only. Includes barcode and terms.

EXTRA 40% OFF ENTIRE STOCK RED-LINED FALL CLEARANCE MERCHANDISE

LADIES', PETITES' & PARISIAN WOMAN SPORTSWEAR • MEN'S & CHILDREN'S APPAREL

EXCLUDES INTIMATE APPAREL, FINE JEWELRY, WATCHES, COSMETICS, SHOES & HOME. NO PRICE ADJUSTMENTS FOR PREVIOUSLY PURCHASED MERCHANDISE. INTERIM MARKDOWNS HAVE BEEN TAKEN.

YOU'RE SOMEBODY SPECIAL PARISIAN

Save an extra 10% when you open a Parisian account.

Valid on your first day's Parisian credit card purchases. Excludes gift cards, lease & services. Subject to credit approval and additional terms and conditions. See an associate for details.

PARISIAN SIGNATURE REWARDS EARN PARISIAN REWARD POINTS WITH EVERY PARISIAN CREDIT CARD PURCHASE. SHOP MORE. EARN MORE. SAVE MORE.

L 1-800-424-8185: MONDAY THRU SATURDAY, 10:00 AM TO 10:00 PM EST, AND SUNDAY, 11:00 AM TO 7:00 PM EST. American Express not accepted with phone orders. Located at the Village of Rochester Hills, corner of North Adams Road and Walton Street; and Laurel Park Place in Livonia, IJRGH Road and Six Mile Road.

WAYNE MEMORIAL HONOR ROLL

Named to the honor roll for the first marking period at John Glenn High School are:

Amanda Abu-lawi, Nur Abu-lawi, Anthony Adams, Ambrosia Adkins, Ammer Ahmad, Muhammad Ali, Tiffanie Allen, Jason Allred, Jennifer Altman, Lynn Alves, Jessica Amburgey, Amirul Amirudin, Christopher Anderson, Jasmine Anderson, Jessica Anderson, Nicholas Anderson, Sergio Anderson, Lamont Archer, Shelby Arnold, Kaylee Artman, Autumn Askew.
 Brittanie Askin, Ashley Atterberry, Gideon Ault, Amber Backstrom, Caitlin Badrak, Amanda Bailey, April Bailey, Michael Bailey, Shirelle Bailey, Georgia Baker, Kelsey Baker, Matthew Baker, Cara Ball, Alexander Balli, Trenia Barbee, Johnny Barnett-Ison, Ashley Barrett, Jessica Barrett, Delancey Barron, Rachael Barton, Jeremiah Bauder, Paige Bawcum.
 Samantha Bawcum, Rachel Bayer, Jordan Beaudoin, Katherine Bellenir, Schuyler Benjamin, Hailey Benton, Cynthia Berean, Blake Berry, Lauren Betke, Madelynn Bevilil, Ryan Bird, Brooke Bishop, Brandie Bishop-Stacker, Fawna Black-Cicotte, Shereen Blair, Colleen Blake, Chelsea Blamer, Jessica Blanchard, Brittany Blanton, Kelsey Blevins.
 Cameo Bond, Shayna Bono, Jessica Boone, Gabrielle Borden, Danielle Borg, Samantha Bosiooper, Danielle Boston, Deanna Boston, Christopher Bowie, Amanda Bowman, James Boyce, Joshua Bradford, Joshua Bradley, Yolanda Bray, Lekaya Brinson, David Brooks, Chante Browder, Andrea Brown, Jackson Brown, Jessica Brown, Rickelle Brown, Jonathan Bryant.
 Aaron Buchanan, Samantha Buglione, Deborah Burden, Dominic Burnett, Kevin Burns, Brittani Burroughs, Christopher Burtraw, Dakota Butler, Domonique Butler, Alaina Butner, Nathaniel Byberg, Chanel Cabbil, Brooke Cabe, Chelsea

Cahill, Megan Callahan, Lindsay Callender, Cassandra Campbell, Cody Campbell, Corey Campbell, Jacob Campbell, Danielle Capraro.
 Jorge Carmelo, Sarah Carney, Samantha Carrier, Arlene Carter, Amber Rose Cassidy, Richard Castaldini, Paolo Miguel Catala, Keana Cathey, Clinton Cavanaugh, Kimberly Chau, Kristine Chau, Melissa Chesnut, Jonathan Choate, Lorina Clardy, Taylor Clark, Travis Cleveland, Ashley Cole, Michael Cole, Adrian Coleman, Alexandra Coleman, Kellen Collison.
 Jedadijah Compau, Megan Connolly, Nova Connolly, Kiara Cook, Charles Cooney, Heather Copeland, Dominick Corredino, Krystle Crandall, Anna Crawford, Matthew Cretens, Daniel Crummey, Samantha Cruse, Linette Cuevas-Zuniga, Patrik Culey, Alexandria Cupp, Stefanie Curcuro, Patrick Dani, Heather Daniels, Nicole Daniels, Brittney Davis, Brittney Davis.
 Michael Davis, Jennifer Dawson, Amber Decker, Lea DeGuisti, Staci DeFezenne, Brittany Demaray, Hayden Derr, Christopher Dewaelsche, Briana Dewyer, Kyra Dewyer, Erina Dinkollari, Adrian Dipascale, Christina Dixon, Sean Doerr, Jordan Dottor, Alyssa Draper, Kelsey Drennen, Rajat Dua, Chance Dunigan, Samantha Dye, Jessica Eaves, Ashley Elliott.
 Kaitlyn Ellison, Eleanor Emmons, Kevin Erdmann, Javeair Ester, Kenneth Ester Jr., Alicia Evans, Kherre Fairbanks, Joshua Farmer, Marian Farmer, Heather Favazza, Pilar Felan, Amanda Fill, Kevin Fischer, Patrick Fischer, Benjamin Fisher, Jeremy Flatt, Joshua Fletcher, Trevor Fletcher, Baily Floyd, Katie Fogg, Dominic Folgado, John Foote, Kreg Forrester.
 Matthew Foss, Katie Frazee, Susan Frederick, Leslie Freedle, Scot Fretwell, Daniel Frey, Lindsay Funk, Kia Fuqua, Shane Fyfe, Michael Gabriel, Ryan Gabriel, Michael Gallagher, Michelle Gallardo, Stephanie Garnett, Alexa Gauthier,

Amanda Gauthier, Alvin Geddis, Heather Gendron, Lance Gentry, Ravynne Gilmore, Ryan Gilmore, Zachary Girouard.
 Kevin Glass, Michelle Goff, Nastassia Goines, Julie Good, Kristyn Goodchild, Scott Goodchild, Adam Gorring, Michael Grandowicz, Timothy Grandowicz, Claudia Grant, Essence Grant, Michelle Grassmyer, Ian Green, Joshua Green, Lauren Green, Michael Green, Thurston Green, Jessica Gregg, Jade Griffith, Meridith Griggs, Brittney Grubbs.
 Jaclyn Guajardo, Elaina Guenther, Justin Guenther, Howard Gugin, Thomas Gunther, Kristine Haggard, Tracey Haiberda, Jade Hamilton, Bethany Hamlet, Chase Hampton, Erin Hanner, Kathryn Hansen, Cory Harden, Amber Harding, Elizabeth Cuevas-Zuniga, Patrik Culey, Alexandria Cupp, Stefanie Curcuro, Patrick Dani, Heather Daniels, Nicole Daniels, Brittney Davis, Brittney Davis.
 Victor Hatch, Freddy Hawkins, Lavertis Hawkins, Bianca Hayes, Haley Hayes, Lalita Hayes, Yousef Hegazi, Alyssa Hendricks, Elyse Henry, Jessica Hensley, Donald Herber, Maxwell Hershey, Shannon Hesch, Bailey Hessler, Joshua Higgs, Corey Hileman, Emily Hilger, Daniel Hill, John Hill III, Cody Hilla, Samantha Hochstadt, James Holbrook, Jordan Holland.
 Tyler Honeycutt, Jeffrey Horne, Derric Horton, Callie Hubbard, Janessa Hudson, Elysia Huertas, Stefanie Huffman, Crystal Hughes, Jason Hughes, Kelli Hughes, Ashley Hunt, Johnathan Hunt, Jacob Hurst, Olatola Ibrahim, Christie Iller, Ryan Irwin, Brooklyn Isbell, Stephanie Jablonicky, Alonzo Jackson, Chanelle Jackson, Gabrielle Jackson.
 Shelby Jackson, Alicia Jacobs, Anthony James, Kyle Janes, Andrew Janos, Cody Johannesen, Alexis Johnson, Byron Johnson, Chelsea Johnson, Christopher Johnson, Kody Johnson, Alyssa Jones, Brandie Jones, Christina Jones, Floyd Jones,

Katlaind Jones, Cassandra Jordan, Hope Kaminski, Jason Kanter, Adam Karson, Jimmy Kassis, Ishpreet Kaur, David Kautz, Jessica Kay, Kaitlyn Kellow, Alexander Kelly, Barbara Kelly, Chase Kelly, Hunter Kennedy, April Kersey, Chapin Kibittlewski, Shawn Killen, Jory King, David Kiracofe, Monica Kmet, Elgin Kodra, Dylan Korzetki, Nicholas Kostora, Christopher Kouri, Christopher Kreitner, Taylor Krohn, Kyle Kruckow, Alexander Krumbach, Jessica Kuder.
 Daria Kujat, Tabitha Kujat, C.J. Kulas, Nicole Kwolek, Courtney LaBeile, Olivia LaFortune, Danielle Lamarand, Kayla Lambert, Christon Landfair, Holly Lane, Sharon Langa, Saniyyah Langston, Halee Lankton, Kevin Lanstra, Christopher Larson, Tiffany Larson, Jeannette Laskowski, Timothy Lauderbach, Jennifer Laurie, Danielle Lawson, Taylor Leblanc, Ha-Young Lee.
 Crystal Lees, Shayna Lenox, Jamie Lentz, Amanda Lewis, Joshua Lewis, Keivin Lewis, Monica Lewis, Britiani Lincoln, Amanda Linton, Brandi Little, Nicole Little, Tad Lloyd, Trisha Lloyd, Zachary Lloyd, Megan Lundberg, Jeremy Lovelady, Joshua Lowe, Alyssa Lucas, Alyssa Luckett, William Luke, Kandise Madison, Kanav Mahotra, Kyle Maier, Matthew Maier.
 Timothy Malay, Kristen Malkiewicz, Brittney Malloy, Ashley Mandreky, Brandon Manning, Brian Manning, Alantae Martin, Paris Martin, Zachary Martin, Muata Mason, Lynn Mathew, Karissa Matson, Sarah Mayberry, Andrew Maynard, Rebecca McClester, Amanda McClure, Patrick McClure, Michael McCollum, David McCown, David McCrary, Brandon McCrory, Robert McDonald, Jacob McEndree, Brittaney McFalling, Alyssa McGeorge, Derek McGowan, Alex McIntosh, Khatja McKay, Leah McKay, Andrew McKelvey, Patrick McKinzie, Stephen McNamara, Maria McNaughton, Adrienne Meagher, Ronnie Meirthew, Abraham Mendez, Christina Merritt-Haase, Kyle Michael, Chelsea Miller, Monquese Miller.
 Rebecca Miller, Christian Mills, Matthew Mills, Nicholas Mills, Cassandra Miszak, Johnathon Mitter, Gabrielle Monit, Kristina Monty, Brent Moody, Dustin Moody, Jasmine Moody, John Moore, Shanaye Moore, Michael Morgan, Amber Morneau, Claire Moro, Alyson Mosher, Myesha Mott, Cory Mullins, Ryan Mummert, Dominique Mundy, Leonard Mungo.
 Amara Navarre, Ashlee Neely, Kevin Nees, Brittney Neighbor, Gary Neill, Andrew Neino, Dominick Nestor,

James Nettie, Gary Newell, Kenneth Newsted, Brian Nichols, Joseph Nichols, Krystal Nichols, Aaron Nielson, Rebekah Niemann, Jessica Novack, Jillian Novak Alexander, Allen Nugal, Jamilah O'Bannon, Jibree O'Bannon, Ryan O'Bleness, Stephanie O'Bleness.
 Colleen O'Brien, Kevin O'Brien, Serrina O'Brien-TarazandePou, Chelsea O'Mara, Tara O'Neil, Patrick O'Neil Jr., Amber O'Rourke, Christine Obomanu, Ana Ochoa, Melissa Oestreich, Sabrina Oestreich, Samantha Offerman, Steven Ogg, Melissa Ortiz, Kelsey Osborne, Utonia Overstreet, Ronald Packer, Candace Papineau, Cory Parendo, Jessica Park, Stephanie Park.
 Ashley Parker, Andrew Pate, Shira Patrick, Brent Patterson, Jackie Patterson, Mark Patterson, Paige Paulos, Laura Pegg, Emily Penner, Brenda Perales, Erica Perdue, Glendy Perez, Elizabeth Perusse, Joshua Perusse, Montae' Peterson, Malerie Petrello, David Phillips, Joshua Phillips, Daniel Pianowski, Amber Pierson, Nichole Pierson, Hannah Plumley.
 Meghan Plumley, Kristina Plummer, Amanda Poirier, Melissa Polen, Shawn Polite, Andrew Ponican, Shelby Porter, Heather Portis, Angela Potter, Renaldo Powell, Kayleen Preston, Rachel Prosser, Sarah Prosser, Tony Prough, Zachery Prudhomme, Ryan Przybyla, Jessica Ptaszynski, Karen Ptaszynski, Chloe Pyne, Kerrie Quarries, Chelsea Quintal, Chelsea Randles.
 Aaron Rankins, Jessica Raymor, Billie Raynes, Miranda Reichow, Johnny Reid, Lejohnna Reid, Virginia Reid, Olivia Rensel, Michele Reske, Brent Rexin, Ryan Reynolds, Brieann Rice, Heather Rice, Taylor Riggs-Buford, Ebony Riley, Dylan Ritter, Janelce Roberson, Emily Robertson, Eric Robertson, Justin Robinson, Emily Rodler, Andrew Rodriguez.
 Luis Rodriguez, Deviney Rogers, Stanley Rooksberry, Daniel Ross, Derrick Roulo, Nicole Roy, Emily Rudy, Timothy Rundell, Jerold Runion, Erica Runstrom, Florida Rus, Krystin Russell, Elizabeth Ryan, Ripley Sambrone, Tremor Sambrone, Joshua Samples, Kendra Sanders, Leah Savage, Nicole Scheurich, Melissa Schmidt, Eric Schmitt, Kelsey Schmittou.
 Jacob Schofield, Heather Schradler, Kendall Schroeder, Michael Schuch, Jennifer Schulte, Alex Schwartzberger, James Scott, Candace Seals, Kathryn Sequin,

Jaclyn Serna, Michael Sharp, Jasmen Sheffield-Sadle, Gage Shepherd, Mengdan Shi, Mark Shiemke, Rachel Shier, Aaron Shifferd, Yasmine Shitta, Michael Shock, Solomon Shurge, Timothy Siegfried.
 Andrea Sigler, Adam Simpson, Curtis Simpson, Desiree' Simpson, Prit Singh, Simranjit Singh, Lakia Singleton, Danielle Skolnik, Alexis Smith, Ashley Smith, Brittany Smith, Gabrielle Smith, Jacob Smith, Jamie Smith, Jessica Smith, Lauren Smith, Melissa Smith, Marise Smith, Tyler Smith, Zachary Smith, Tina Smyth, Daniel Snycerski, Michael Solarz, John Soltis.
 Cecily Sparks, Katherine Spehar, Camille Springer, Morgan Sprytzer, Jessica Spytko, Monica Stafford, Eric Staley, Ashley Stamper, Kyle Stamper, Laura Starr, Laura Stawasz, Jamie Stevens, Eric Story, Ashley Struppa, Sarah Sturm, Anwar Suleiman, Ashley Sullivan, Rachel Sullivan, Richard Sutton, Ashley Szabo, Kaitie Szostek, Adam Szydzik, Brittany Tabor.
 Wade Talbert, Nicholas Tarnowski, Naja Tatum, Brett Tavana, Corey Taylor, Jacob Tenerovich, Patricia Terrien, Chris Thalacker, Chantel Thomas, Dylan Thomas, Sharonda Thomas, Matthew Thompson, Kayleigh Thorne, Lindsay Thurman, Andrew Thyron, Benjamin Tibal, David Toms, DeJuan Travick-Felton, Kathryn Trudeau, Ryan Tumminello.
 Bobbi Turner, Natasha Turner-Owens, Amanda Turpen, Taylor Tuttle, Kristi Tyler, Nicole Tyson, Zainab Usmani, Amanda Vacheresse, Kyle Vacheresse, Christopher Vaerten, Jeremy Vandegrift, Jasmine Vandenbrook, Ann Veloz, Kneco Veres, Ashlee Vernon, Crystal Walker, William Walker, Xi Yan Wang, Joshua Ware, Jon Wasinski, Shelby Watts.
 Sean Waynick, Jordan Weatherwax, Bijan Weaver, Keytoria Weaver, Kiley Weber, Michelle Wehr, Lauren Weillau, Carla Weimert, Ashley Wellday, Jessica West, Amanda White, Brandon Whittenberg, Kevin Whittenberg, Kelly Wilkin, Anthony Williams, Evan Williams, Marissa Williams, Sada Williams, Thomas Williams.
 Justin Willis, Bryan Wilson, Daniel Wilson, Krysta Wilson, Lauren Wilson, Michael Wilson, Jessica Wimberly, Melissa Wincher, Kara Windsor, Crystal Wolfe, Amanda Wood, Nicole Woodart, Steven Woodruff, Robert Woodson, Mykia Wooten, Robyn Wright, Natalie Yambriek, Joseph Yodsnuikis, Cassie York, Torri York, Joshua Zerafa and Crystal Zimmerman.

Breakfast Special \$2.79

Maryanne's Kitchen Polish-American Cuisine

We invite you to join us for the authentic Polish favorites prepared the way they were by Maryanne's mother!

| | |
|---|---|
| Pierogi (6 pc) (potato cheese, kraut, & cheese)..... \$6.50 | City Chicken (2pc)..... \$6.50 |
| served w/soup or salad or slaw | (fresh pork cubes skewered, breaded & baked in sauce) |
| Potato Pancakes (2pc)..... \$4.50 | Nalesniki (Crepes) served w/soup or salad or slaw..... \$6.25 |
| Stuffed Cabbage (2pc)..... \$6.50 | Fresh Polish Kielbasa & Kraut..... \$5.95 |
| (homemade beef cabbage rolls topped with tomato sauce) | (grilled or boiled) |

Closed Monday
Open Tues.-Sat. 8-8
Sun. 8-3

31222 Warren • Westland, MI 48185 • (734) 293-5881

hurry! sale ends November 26

HUGE MATTRESS SALE

the great indoors®

50% OFF

Sealy Posturepedic, Serta, Simmons, Stearns & Foster and Vera Wang by Serta mattress sets

plus an additional 10% off select mattress sets

plus an additional \$100 off select mattress sets

- no interest, no payments until Jan. 2008
- free delivery and setup
- free bed frame
- free removal of your old mattress

the great indoors

ARIZONA Chandler 480-792-6000 Scottsdale 480-231-9000
 CALIFORNIA Burbank 818-260-8000 Chino Hills 909-972-6000 Irvine 949-340-6000
 COLORADO Broomfield 720-566-1000 Lone Tree 303-708-2500 ILLINOIS Lombard 630-873-8000
 Schaumburg 847-874-8000 MARYLAND Gaithersburg 240-599-1300 MICHIGAN Novi 248-679-1000
 NEVADA Las Vegas 702-949-6600 NEW JERSEY Woodbridge 732-956-2300 OHIO Columbus 614-880-8800
 TEXAS Farmers Branch 214-764-1000 Houston 832-476-8000

IMPORTANT DEFERRED INTEREST DETAILS: FINANCE CHARGES accrue on the promotional purchase from date of sale and all accrued FINANCE CHARGES for the entire promotional period will be added to your account if the purchase is not paid in full by the end of the promotional period or if you default under your card agreement. Making minimum monthly payments will not pay off the promotional offer in time to avoid FINANCE CHARGES. Available for qualifying purchases when you use The Great Indoors MasterCard® or a Sears card (Sears Commercial One® excluded). Subject to credit approval. May not be combined with any other credit rate offers. Promotional offers greater than 14 months require minimum monthly payments as disclosed in the offer. Sears card APRs up to 26.49%, but if your account has a variable APR, the APR is up to 32.24% as of 10/26/06 and may vary. Minimum monthly FINANCE CHARGE up to \$1. See card agreement for details including when the default rate applies. The Great Indoors MasterCard and Sears cards are issued by Citibank, (South Dakota), N.A.

All mail-in rebates exclude sales tax. Offers end 11/26/06 unless otherwise stated. ©2006 Sears Holdings Corporation

Let the Shopping Begin!



We will be open
Friday, November 24th at 7a.m.

Great savings can be found at all the stores in the the mall
along with great dining at your favorite restaurants.

WESTLAND

SHOPPING CENTER

Where we have the right store for you.

Macy's, JC Penney, Sears, Kohl's & Over 80 Specialty Stores
Corner of Wayne & Warren Roads • 734-421-0291
www.westlandcenter.com

Listings for the Community Calendar should be submitted in writing. They can be mailed to Sue Mason at 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150, by fax at (734) 591-7279 or by e-mail at smason@hometownlife.com. For more information, call (734) 953-2112.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Holiday concerts

The Oakland Community College Chorale with the Orchard Ridge Choral Society in Farmington, Michigan is presenting a series of two holiday concerts, featuring a mix of classical and contemporary favorites, including *Hodie Christus Natus Est, Gaudete, O Magnum Mysterium, Torches, Still Still, Still, Carol of the Bells* and many more. These 40 mixed voices will perform their repertoire under the direction of Gerald Custer, with piano accompaniment by MaryAnn Balduf.

Their first holiday concert will be at the Oakland Community College Smith Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2. The college is on the Orchard Lake Road exit, south of I-696. The second concert will be at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, at the First Presbyterian

Church, 26165 Farmington Road in Farmington Hills. For more information, call (248) 474-6170.

Explore Girl Scouting

Girls ages 5-17 can discover how much Girl Scouts has to offer all. Scouting isn't just about camping and cookies anymore. Girls learn a lot about themselves and the world around them, form lasting friendships, become more confident, independent, helpful and resourceful. Through Girl Scouting, girls learn the importance of community service and challenge themselves and develop value systems they use the rest of their lives. See what Girl Scouts has to offer. Call (800) 49-SCOUT (497-2688.)

New Year's Eve party

Urban Singles presents "Ring in the New Year," with live entertainment from Jimmy Howard and Company Sunday, Dec. 31. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.; the party goes until 1 a.m. The party takes place at the Livonia Elks, 31117 Plymouth Road in Livonia (between Merriman and Middlebelt). Tickets are \$50 per person until Dec. 8; \$60 after Dec. 8, and cover dinner and beverage. Dinner is served at 7:30 p.m. Overnight accommodations will be

available. Deadline for tickets is Friday, Dec. 22. For more information, call Linda, (734) 507-9173, or Mary Ann, (734) 654-0115.

FOR YOUR HEALTH

Eating Disorders

Get help, get real information and real expectations, at an eating disorder support group which meets 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesday in the auditorium of Garden City Hospital, 6245 Inkster Road, Garden City. All meetings are closed - for people of all ages with eating disorders and are free of charge. Family and friends support is on the second Wednesday of the month while parents support is on the fourth Wednesday of the month. For more information, call Darlene at (734) 324-3089.

Advocacy group

The Wayne-Westland Alliance for the Mentally Ill, a self-help and advocacy group, meets at 7 p.m. the first and third Thursday of the month at St. John's Episcopal Church, 555 S. Wayne Road, at Bayview, Westland. For more information, call (734) 362-8825.

TOPS

TOPS (Taking Off Pounds Sensibly) No. 28 meets at 7 p.m. every Tuesday at Good Shepherd Reformed Church, 6500 N. Wayne Road, Westland. Weight-in is 6-6:45 p.m. For more information, call Jackie at (734) 722-7225.

Menopause & More

A Menopause & More support group for women meets 7-9 p.m. the first Wednesday of the month in Classroom 2 of the west addition of the Marian Women Center of St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile, Livonia. No registration is necessary, and the group is free of charge. For more information, call (734) 655-1100.

Support group

A support group for people with chronic illness meets on Fridays every other week, at the Westside Mental Health Services, 32932 W. Warren, Suite 103, Westland. The support group is a service of Awareness Counseling Services. There is a \$10 for each meeting which will be facilitated by a professional. For more information, call (734) 513-8295 or (313) 562-2800.

AIM

Anxiety or panic attacks? AIM (Agoraphobics in Motion) meets at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays at Faith Lutheran Church, 30000 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Merriman in Livonia. AIM is a support group for those working on recovery from anxiety disorder or phobias. Call (248) 547-0400.

Childbirth classes

Garden City Hospital, on Inkster Road at Maplewood, is sponsoring classes for parents of newborns, weekend childbirth instruction, a refresher

childbirth education course and a new support group for expectant teens. For information on programs, call (734) 458-4330.

Childbirth Association

Classes for childbirth preparation are offered at several Wayne County locations. Morning and evening classes are available. Registering new classes every month. Newborn care classes and Cesarean birth preparation are also offered. Call (734) 459-7477.

Fibromyalgia

The Garden City area chapter of the Great Lakes Fibromyalgia and CFS Association Support Group meets 1-3 p.m. the first Thursday of each month at Merriman Road Baptist Church on Merriman south of Ford. There are guest speakers and discussion on a variety of topics. There is no membership fee, however a small donation is greatly appreciated. For additional information, call Tina Wing at (734) 338-2226 or Lucy Rowley at (734) 462-1768.

HISTORIC

Pioneer trek

The Nankin Township Pioneer Trek has been designed to introduce travelers to the history of the area. Travelers will visit sites that affected the development of Westland as a community. Those who complete the trek will receive an embroidered patch. To start the trek, first visit the Westland Historical Museum and pick up a packet. The museum is at 857 N. Wayne Road and is open 1-4 p.m. Saturdays, except before a holiday. The trek is sponsored by the Westland Historical Commission and the Friends of the Westland Museum. For information, call (734) 326-1110.

Friends of Eloise

The Friends of Eloise group meets 6 p.m. the third Tuesday of the month in the dining room of the Kay Beard Building, on Michigan between Middlebelt and Merriman. All are welcome. For information, call Jo Johnson, (734) 522-3918.

Friends of Museum

Friends of the Westland Historical Museum meet at 7 p.m. the second Tuesday each month except December at the Collins House, located at the museum complex, 857 N. Wayne Road. Call Jim Franklin at (734) 595-8119. Everyone is welcome.

BINGO

VFW Bingo

Veterans of Foreign Wars 3323 Auxiliary has bingo 6:30 p.m. every Thursday at 1055 S. Wayne Road, Westland. There is a snack bar. The post has bingo at 1 p.m. every Sunday at the same place. Call (734) 326-3323.

St. Mel Church

Bingo begins at 6:45 p.m. Fridays in St. Mel Church activities building, on Inkster-Road north of Warren. Doors open at 4 p.m. Food is available.

Shamrock Bingo

Bingo begins at 11 a.m. Wednesdays at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 35100 Van Born, east of Wayne Road in Wayne. Doors open at 9 a.m. Food is available. Proceeds go to charity. Call (734) 728-3020.

K of C Bingo

Pope John XXIII Assembly of the Knights of Columbus Council 1536 hosts bingo games at 6:45 p.m. Thursdays. The games are in the Livonia Elks Lodge, 31117 Plymouth Road, one block east of Merriman in Livonia. Call (734) 425-2246.

FOR SENIORS

Friendship Center

The Senior Resources Department (Friendship Center), 1119 N. Newburgh, Westland, offers a variety of programs for older adults. The Web site www.ci.westland.mi.us offers more information. Call (734) 722-7632.

Senior dinners

The Wayne Ford Civic League hosts Senior Dinner Dances with live entertainment several times each month for couples and singles 50 years and older. The cost is \$8 donation for members of the league and \$10 donation for non-members. All dances start at noon and run until 3-3:30 p.m. Meals include beer, wine, and fountain pop. For information and schedules, call (734) 728-5010.

Crochet & Knit

A crochet and knit group meets 9:30 a.m. every Friday at the Friendship Center on Newburgh near Marquette. Beverly Kaminski is the instructor. Participants should bring a type "G" crochet hook. Those interested can sign up at the center's front desk or call (734) 722-7632.

Visually Impaired

The Visually Impaired Persons (VIPs) support group meets 12:30 p.m. every Friday at the Friendship Center, 1119 N. Newburgh, Westland. Participants share information and meet others. Those interested in joining can be scheduled on a bus route for transportation. For information, call (734) 722-7632.

Hearing checks

Every third Tuesday of each month, a representative from Personalized Hearing Care of Westland will check and clean hearing aids free, 2-3 p.m. by appointment only. Call (734) 722-7632 for more information.

Exercise

Simply Jazzercise is designed for exercisers older than 50. The program provides a low to moderate workout. The

exercise improves strength, flexibility, balance, posture, coordination and cardiovascular endurance. It incorporates simple dance routines with walking or jogging patterns and resistance exercises. Wear loose-fitting clothing and comfortable shoes. Light weights and an exercise mat are suggested. Classes are 10:15 a.m. Monday, 5 p.m. Wednesday, 10:15 a.m. Friday, at \$3 per person per class. Sign up at the front desk at the Westland Friendship Center or call (734) 722-7632.

Travel Group

The Friendship Travel Group meets 1 p.m. the second Friday of each month (unless a large event is scheduled) in the Westland Friendship Center, 1119 N. Newburgh. Programs include celebration of birthdays, door prizes, description of new classes or programs, speakers from tour companies, overview of day/ overnight trips and refreshments. Call (734) 722-7632.

Dyer Center

The Wayne-Westland school district's Dyer Senior Adult Center offers activities Monday-Thursday at the center, on Marquette between Wayne and Newburgh roads. Mondays, Senior Chorus at 1:30 p.m.; Tuesdays, arts, crafts and needlework at 9:30 a.m.; Wednesdays, kitchen band, 10 a.m.; bingo at 1 p.m.; Thursdays, ceramics, arts, crafts at 9:30 a.m.

ORGANIZATIONS

Toastmasters

The Westland Easy Talkers Toastmasters Club can help people overcome their fear of speaking in front of people by teaching public speaking in a friendly and supportive atmosphere. The club meets at 6:30 p.m. Thursday evenings at Denny's Restaurant, 7725 Wayne Road at Cowan. Call John Elbe at (734) 414-3401 or Curt Gottlieb at (734) 525-8445.

Vietnam Vets

The Plymouth-Canton Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 528, meet at 7:30 p.m. the second Monday of every month at the Plymouth VFW Post 6695, on S. Mill Street, just north of Ann Arbor Road. If you served in the U.S. military between 1964 and 1975, even, if not, "in country" (combat zone) you are still eligible to become a member. Visit the Web site at www.mihometown.com/oe/PlymouthCantonVVA for more information.

Friends of library

The Friends of the William P. Faust Public Library organization meets at 2 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month at the library, 6123 Central City Parkway. Call (734) 326-6123. Meetings last about one hour and are open to the public. The group also holds a book sale during regular library hours at the library.

Baby's First Christmas!

A perfect addition to baby's scrapbook!

Place your baby's photo in the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers for Christmas. This special page of "cuties" will run in our papers on December 24.

Just \$15*

Deadline is 12/15/06

Send picture and info to:
"Baby's First Christmas"
Classified Dept.
36251 Schoolcraft
Livonia, MI 48150

or email to:
oeads@hometownlife.com

THE
Observer & Eccentric
NEWSPAPERS

CLASSIFIED ADS: 1-800-579-7355
HOMETOWNLIFE.COM • OEAADS@HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

* Must be Prepaid. Photos may be mailed or e-mailed but must be received by 12/15/06. No photos will be returned.



John Smith
1st Christmas
Born 9/12/2006
Proud Parents
John & Sue
Livonia, MI

"That's it! That's our new home!"



They logged on to our website, hometownlife.com and then clicked on HOMES in the menu bar at the top of our home page. They selected a Realtor® and looked at a whole lot of listings and—bingo!—they found their next home. As easy as that. They never left the house. They discovered that hometownlife.com's HOME site is user-friendly, interactive and has tens of thousands of local listings from area Realtors. Are you looking for a home? Log on to hometownlife.com and get ready to have a "That's it!" moment.

Your next home is just a click away

THE
Observer & Eccentric
NEWSPAPERS

ONLINE AT

FIND YOUR
HOME ON...

HOMETOWNlife.com

AREA REALTORS • MORE LOCAL HOMES • MORE LISTED FEATURES • MORE PHOTOS • VIRTUAL TOURS • INTERACT WITH YOUR REALTOR

U-M-Dearborn lauded for prison program

The American Association of University Women's Legal Advocacy Fund granted the University of Michigan, Dearborn the 2006 Progress in Equity Award for its efforts to educate women in a local prison.

The university's College Level Courses at the Scott Correctional Facility for Women offers university-certified courses in women's studies, composition, sociology, African American studies, and other subjects to women at the prison. Courses are taught by university professors on a volunteer basis.

"We are honored to recognize this innovative program," said AAUW Educational Foundation President Barbara O'Connor. "We continue to be impressed by the important work it does to advance women's educational opportunities in a critically underserved population."

The program's effects are two-fold - giving female prisoners hope to overcome life's obstacles, and compelling the community to challenge conventional stereotypes about women in prison. The program will receive \$5,000 from AAUW.

"Women who receive a college education or begin the degree process while in prison fare better when they rejoin society than those

who do not," said Program Director and University of Michigan at Dearborn Professor Lisa Lempert. "College builds a context for transformation and responsibility that the women take with them as they leave the facility."

The Progress in Equity Award recognizes a college or university program that promotes equity for women with a cash reward. Since 1987, the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund has recognized more than 38 programs throughout the country for progressive and innovative advancements on behalf of women.

"When the Michigan legislature made it illegal to use tax dollars for inmate college tuition, this enterprising group of volunteers stepped in to fill a critical need and give a second chance to women in prison," said Lisa Maatz, interim director of the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund.

The University of Hawaii, Honolulu received an honorable mention for its Bridge of Hope program, which provides on-campus student employment and support programs for welfare recipients.

An awards presentation was held Nov. 16 at the University of Michigan, Dearborn campus to honor the Scott Prison project.

McCotter elected chair of Policy Committee

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
STAFF WRITER



McCotter

U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter, R-Livonia, was elected by his colleagues to serve as chairman of the Republican House Policy Committee during Republican Conference Leadership elections Friday.

The position is the fourth highest leadership position in the Republican House Caucus.

McCotter defeated U.S. Rep. Darryl Issa of California, 132-63, for the spot. The policy committee has been part of the Republican leadership since the late 1940s. The committee helps shape Republican policy positions in general and on specific key issues.

"Especially coming from our area you could tell they were ideologically adrift and the corruption was more a symptom of lacking a principled agenda to push," McCotter said Monday about the scandals involving GOP House members and the subsequent loss of the House majority to the Democrats.

Without that agenda, he said, some members of the Republican party were tempted to succumb to the temptations offered to members of Congress.

He said he was able to win the support of junior House members and "backbenchers" who haven't been in the Congress for 10 or 12 years during the GOP's dominance of the House.

"We came in as true believers," McCotter said. He was first elected in 2002.

He said his first task will be structural, promoting more interaction between party members on issues they can unite behind.

"You have to talk to each other, you have to put forward the conclusions you reach," he said.

He compared himself to a conductor bringing the members together.

He said two issues are at the forefront, health care and the war in Iraq.

"No doubt (health care) will be a contentious issue between the two parties, between universal coverage and universal access," he said.

He said he would push for universal access through private insurance rather than a government program.

On Iraq, McCotter said the "Fresh Eyes Committee," which he supported, will be issuing its report shortly.

"It's important to remember that this is not to be the final word on the subject," he said.

He said it will be important for Republicans to clearly articulate their differences.

McCotter also said he wants to find a way to work with the Democratic majority.

"The key for my party is that they not only offer loyal opposition but also loyal cooperation and not oppose just to oppose," he said.

McCotter said he learned a valuable lesson when he was a minority member of the Wayne County Commission. He said then County Executive Ed

McNamara always demanded that the Republicans on the commission offer a better alternative. McCotter joked that the alternatives were always dismissed but he learned the importance of presenting another option.

McCotter said he had expected John Boehner of Ohio to be elected minority leader, as he has only been the majority leader for eight months. He said Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert "took a hit" for the party by stepping aside from the leadership election and allowing the party to move forward with a new slate of leaders.

hgallagher@hometownlife.com
(734) 953-2149

We're Having a Huge Holiday Sale
Save 10 to 40% on 1000s of Toys, Dolls & Activities

- Michigan's Largest Specialty Toy Store
- 30,000 Items 800 Brands
- Free Gift Wrap!
- Convenient Parking!
- We Ship!

The Doll Hospital & Toy Soldier Shop
3947 W. 12 Mile Berkley 248-543-3115
Ends 12/10/06. In-stock items. Complete details astore. M-W, Fri & Sa 10-5:30 Th 10-9:30 Su 12-4

Disc Herniation?

New FDA Approved Technology Treats Herniated Discs Without Drugs or Surgery

Suburban Detroit - A new free report has recently been released that reveals an amazing new medical breakthrough that has proven 86% successful treating debilitating back pain. Even with multiple herniated discs. Find out how space travel solved astronauts back pain and how this accidental discovery has led to the most promising back pain treatment today. For your free report entitled, "How Space Age Technology Is Solving Back Pain Without Drugs Or Surgery!" call 1-800-469-3618 and listen to the toll-free 24 hr. recorded message for all the details. If phone lines are busy, visit: www.midischerniation.com

Send in your Family Favorite
HOLIDAY
Recipes

Cookies...Pie...Stuffing....

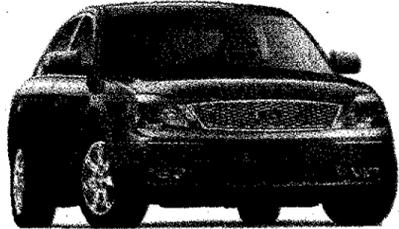
We all have holiday recipes that are **Family Favorites**, recipes that are loved and cherished and passed down from generation to generation. This year The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers wants to put those recipes in print! **Starting on Thursday, November 30th and running each Sunday through December 10th, we will print a page featuring these special recipes.**

Send yours in today!

Send in your Family Favorite Recipe complete with cooking time and temperature (and maybe a bit of history or origin) to:
classified@hometownlife.com
and maybe yours will be picked to print!

It's time to share your Family Favorite Recipe with your Observer & Eccentric Family!

YOUR SUBURBAN FORD DEALERS



Eligible Ford Employees can Lease a 2007 Ford Five Hundred SEL Chrome Edition

For as low as **\$229**

A month(1) with a 24 month low mileage Red Carpet Renewal Lease.

With \$2,259 customer cash due at signing.

Includes acquisition fee; security deposit waived.** Excludes tax, title and license fee. Cash due is after \$495 Chrome Package bonus cash and \$500 RCL renewal cash.

Chrome Package Includes:

An all new Chrome-Mesh Grille...
And 18 inch Chrome-Clad Wheels...

SIRIUS Satellite Radio is now available as a factory-installed option on the 2007 Ford Five Hundred. Get more than 125 music, sports, news and talk channels at your fingertips



fordvehicles.com



Eligible Ford Employees can Lease a 2007 Ford Freestyle SEL

For as low as **\$218**

A month(1) with a 24 month low mileage Red Carpet Lease.

With \$1,913 customer cash due at signing.

Includes acquisition fee; security deposit waived.** Excludes tax, title and license fee. Cash due is after \$1,000 RCL cash back and \$1,000 bonus cash.



BOLD MOVES
Your Suburban Ford Dealers

VARSITY
3480 Jackson Rd. 1-800-875-FORD
ANN ARBOR

ATCHINSON
9800 Belleville Rd. 734-697-9161
BELLEVILLE

GENE BUTMAN
2105 Washtenaw 734-482-8581
YPSILANTI

BRIARWOOD
7070 Michigan Ave. 734-429-5478
SALINE

HINES PARK
I-96 at Milford Rd. 248-437-6700
LYON TWP.

FRIENDLY
2800 N. Telegraph, 734-243-6000
MONROE

OPEN SATURDAYS

OUR VIEWS

Board fails by not sharing retreat info

There are minimum requirements and there are expectations.

Last week, the Livonia Public Schools Board of Education met the minimum requirement in announcing a school board retreat meeting. What they didn't do, however, is meet the community's expectations.

This community expects, and has every right to demand, that the school board do a better job in communicating with it. The irony here is that the subject of this board retreat was working with and communicating with the community.

The fact that the board canceled its committee of the whole meeting, that had been scheduled for Nov. 13, and replaced it with a retreat isn't a big deal. The fact that officials posted that notice on the board office doors, as required by the Michigan Open Meetings Act, met the law. Posting the cancellation of the committee meeting on the district's Web site certainly made sense. But why then, didn't the Web site include anything about the retreat being scheduled?

It has been well-documented that the community's reaction to the Legacy Initiative and the subsequent recall effort had a lot to do with the feeling by many that the board and school administrators was an exclusive club, that the general community wasn't really invited to participate. School officials surely know that, just because nobody may have visited board retreats in the past, things are different now. Members of the Citizens for Livonia's Future and others in the community have said quite specifically that they will be attentive, ask questions and attend these meetings, and they have certainly kept that pledge.

This community expects its board members and school administrators to do their part to go beyond the legal minimum requirements by, in this case, at least using their Web site to share information about its meeting plans.

Traditions make Thanksgiving everyone's favorite holiday

Thanksgiving is everyone's favorite holiday.

It hasn't been diminished by commercialism or robbed of its true meaning, as have the three-day summer holidays.

Thanksgiving remains a day for family, friends, good food and a sincere sense of gratitude for the blessings of life in this great country.

In southeast Michigan, Thanksgiving has long been both a public and a private holiday. The city is host to one of the largest, most colorful and high-spirited parades in the country. It's a parade of magical floats and balloons designed by children, local high school bands and a legion of volunteer float builders, marchers and clowns.

For generations, the little children of this area have always marked the beginning of Christmas magic with the arrival of Santa's sleigh down Woodward at the Thanksgiving Day Parade.

Since 1934, the Detroit Lions have also been part of Thanksgiving. In that first Thanksgiving confrontation, the Lions lost to the Chicago Bears 19-16. But through good years and bad, the Lions have made their place into millions of homes for the holiday.

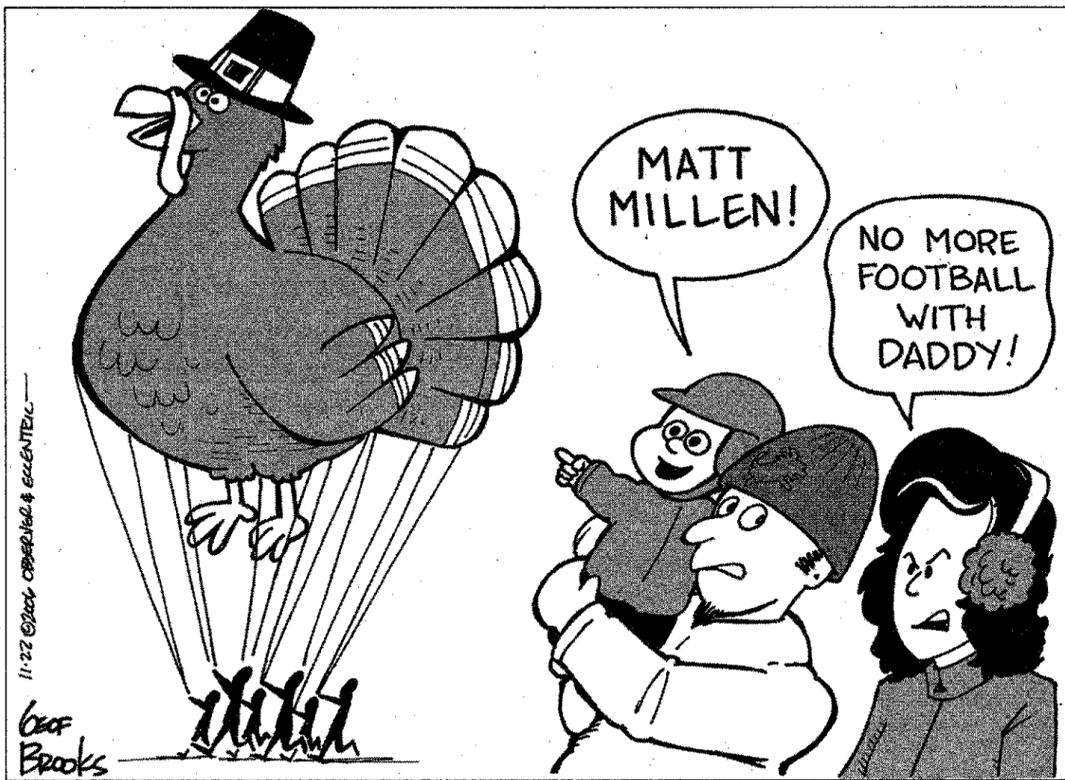
But as important as these public traditions are, it is the special family traditions that matter most: the special recipes that make their way to the holiday table whether anyone really enjoys them or not; the college students who return to the family hearth for the first time since leaving for campus and then head out to meet with friends, making the night before Thanksgiving the most lucrative for taverns; the ritual moments at every dinner — the moment for grace, the carving of the turkey, the choosing between the pumpkin and the apple pie; and, best of all, the flood of memories of all those past gatherings of family and friends. Even the inevitable family squabbles have their place in our Thanksgiving memories.

We have much to remember and much for which to be grateful.

Keep hope alive and have a happy Thanksgiving!



Bears 19-16. But through good years and bad, the Lions have made their place into millions of homes for the holiday.



LETTERS

Thanks for support

I wish to say thank you and to express my sincere appreciation to the Westland community for supporting my state representative candidacy on Nov. 7. I am truly grateful for the opportunity to serve our residents in the Michigan House of Representatives.

Our team of supporters, volunteers, friends and family members worked hard to ensure a solid victory, with emphasis on my 12-year record of elective service and a focus on the issues that matter most to the citizens of Westland. It was a pleasure to campaign in an issue-oriented election, and my opponents, Mr. Dunn and Mr. Durante, deserve credit for their campaigns, too.

Special thanks go out to Senator-Elect Glenn Anderson. My good friend of nearly two decades is as selfless as a person can be. Always looking out for those who need assistance, Glenn also believes in the importance of encouraging others to contribute to a better community. It was with his guidance that I became elected to the City Council, and most recently to gain your support for his current State Representative seat. I look forward to working with him at the other end of the State Capital and I am very excited at how beneficial this will be for our city.

As we move toward 2007 and the new term of this elected office, my pledge is that I will continue to represent you in the same way I have for more than 12 years as a councilman and as a school board member. You can expect that I will uphold the honor that my predecessors have established and that I will cast votes that are absolutely in the best interests of Westland, its business community and its residents.

Richard LeBlanc
councilman and
state representative-elect,
18th District

Buck stops with mayor

In the most recent council meeting, Mr. Pickering said if he would have been confronted by a newspaper reporter, he would have talked to the mayor. Mr. Pickering, you've got it backward. The mayor knew about the lead at the park. It was her responsibility to let the council and the public know about the problem. If she had been forthright and not derelict in her duties, there would have been no need for the reporter to contact Mrs. Graunstadt.

A few of the councilmen have on more than one occasion been sarcastic and belittled Mrs. Graunstadt when they have not agreed with her opinion. However, they did not point fingers in this instance.

You, Mr. Pickering, on the other hand, chose to pass the buck to Mrs. Graunstadt. The buck stops with the mayor, and she should have to answer as to why she kept the information a secret, jeopardizing the health of children and adults who frequented the park. This should be done before she leaves her position as mayor.

Shirley Tenney
Westland

1st leaf pickup was too early

I could not figure out why Mr. Tom Wilson and Kevin Buford scheduled the first leaf pickup so early in the month of October. There weren't any leaves on the ground yet.

Instead of pulling the crews and expensive equipment that day and put them on

another detail/job, you let them go through the entire Norwayne project for a whole day picking five leaves at a time.

This time your crews scraped up the leaves very well, and the leaf vacuum workers hardly even tried to swing that vacuum anywhere.

If you need advice, please contact me.

Joseph Owen-Jarvis
Westland

Difficult situation for district

The Citizens for Livonia's Future Organization is saddened by the reported loss of student population within the district. The numbers go well beyond the original amount budgeted for a loss of approximately 160 students, and are an indication of more difficult times yet to come. These losses, and the subsequent statements by the board of education, and the superintendent, that are often conflicting and confusing, only indicate that further monies are going to be depleted from the fund equity as stated by Dr. Liepa. This threatens to plunge the district into further financial stress and is not solid financial planning for the long- or short-term.

This is the same fund equity that was quoted by the administration and the BOE as being so low, and whose financial data was used to justify the passing of the Legacy Initiative, and at the time as quoted by a few of the BOE Trustees, "We may not have a high school in a few years," or "We are 'this close' to receivership," that now has enough in it to supplement what may amount to millions of dollars in losses. The continued deficit budgeting, poor financial decisions and management, and the lack of clear, concise data to support these decisions, has made this a very difficult situation for the entire Livonia Public Schools School District community. When many of our surrounding communities report increases in enrollments, or losses that are less than have been budgeted for, the community cannot ignore the true reasons for the losses within our own district.

It is our sincere hope that these budget shortfalls, and the further erosion of the fund equity do not lead to any further staff reductions, or deter the efforts of many concerned citizens who are working hand in hand with the district on programs such as the DARE, anti-bullying, and drug prevention in an effort to protect and enhance the total learning experience for all students. Our goal should be for all citizens, business owners, community leaders, board of education, and LPS administration to work together to determine what is best for the long-term retention of students, as well as providing a high-quality school configuration that will draw increased enrollment to a once proud and thriving school district.

Brad Wolkan
Citizens for Livonia's Future

Return neighborhood schools

As the district has not yet released the official student count, but has stated in the Nov. 2 *Observer* "the estimate was about 2.5 percent," which equals 425 students, I am deeply concerned with the district's financial situation under the Legacy Initiative.

If you subtract approximately 160 students, which represents the district's anticipated loss, we are still at an additional loss of 265 students.

The original concern over the Legacy Initiative was if 174 students (\$1,484,000

legacy minimal savings/\$8,537, the 2006/2007 student expenditure) have left this district, the 1 percent Legacy savings is gone. At 265 students lost, we are at a huge deficit of \$2.2 million dollars. (\$265 x \$8,537 = \$2,262,305). That is 1.5 times greater than the 1 percent savings. And that figure does not include the numerous additional Legacy costs (parking lot paving/roads, \$1 million possible).

Do we have a plan "B" in place? What will the district do "if" these students do not return? If a high percentage of those that left the district attend private schools, those homes will not be available for new students. Thus, the savings is gone for good.

I am not asking this question because I wish the Legacy to fail, I am asking this question as it has been a genuine concern from day one. During the election last May, members of this board were quoted as stating our fund equity was dangerously low and we may be close to receivership. To say now that "finances were not the biggest issue we were facing" is just a shell game.

How is it in May and June of this year we were broke, now just a few months later, our district has so much money in our fund equity that we can borrow millions to balance the mid-year budget deficit.

I would hope if the Legacy is not the plan it was thought to be, our district would do the right thing and return to the neighborhood school system Livonia has always been proud of.

Ed and Kim Naccashian
Livonia

Coleman out of line

The day after elections, I was amazed at the arrogance of Mary Sue Coleman, the University of Michigan president, on television telling the taxpayers of Michigan how she and her lawyers are going to fight the installation of Prop. 2.

Who pays for this? The citizens who just voted in the proposal? I thought U-M was a state university supported by the citizen taxpayers of Michigan who passed a proposal by a wide margin to eliminate entrance discrimination. Who is this person telling the Michigan taxpayers that she is going to do what she wants, didn't we hire her and pay her salary? She's not the CEO of a private company but the president of a great state university. The citizens of Michigan do not want the University of Michigan to be the "left coast" university of the Midwest.

Richard Giles
Canton

SHARE YOUR OPINIONS

We welcome your letters to the editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask that your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content.

Mail:
Letters to the editor
Westland Observer
36251 Schoolcraft
Livonia, MI 48150

Fax:
(734) 591-7279

E-mail:
smason@hometownlife.com

QUOTABLE

"It assumes that the entire area is used like the back yard of a house. If you contact the soil, you may have an issue."

- James Harless, a senior soils and material consultant representing Wayne County, about testing being done at Central City Park.

WESTLAND Observer

PUBLISHED THURSDAY AND SUNDAY

GANNETT

Sue Mason
Community Editor

Susan Rosiek
Executive Editor

Peter Neill
Vice President
General Manager

Hugh Gallagher
Managing Editor

Marty Carry
Advertising
Director

Richard Aginian - Publisher Emeritus

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.

Michigan needs big ideas — from leaders of both parties

So now that the votes are counted, the victors promoted and the losers sent off to weep, what do we make of the election results?

A lot. Let's start with a quick look at the numbers. Turnout was way up: A total of 3,833,535 people voted, nearly half a million more than predicted. The turnout was higher still than in 2002, and Gov. Jennifer Granholm won five out of six of those new voters.

To the astonishment of everybody (including the Democrats!) control of the Michigan House of Representatives flipped, with Democrats gaining six seats for a 58-52 majority.

Senate Republicans, who had looked more vulnerable than their House allies before voting day, wound up keeping control by 21-17, although two of them won by just a few hundred votes. Had the Democrats won those two races, they'd have had effective control.

I'd guess the increased turnout was a result of massive spending by all parties (it was the most expensive election in Michigan history, hands down). GOP challenger Dick DeVos spent more than \$41 million of his own money. Ironically, it appears the new voters his spending brought out voted overwhelmingly for Granholm.

Sen. Debbie Stabenow crushed her Republican rival, Oakland County Sheriff Mike Bouchard, by an even bigger margin.

So was the election a "tsunami" in favor of the Democrats? Only ... sort of. Though Granholm won re-election by a whopping 56 to 42 percent and Democrats overall were hot to vote against the Bush administration, elections expert Mark Grebner thinks the core Democratic vote was not much larger than usual.

If anybody can be said to have won, it was the moderates, the centrists, the muscular middle, the sensible center — take your pick of names. One compelling fact: Of voters who call themselves independents, Granholm and Stabenow took around 70 percent.

For the last several election cycles, the prevailing wisdom amongst politicians has been that you should concentrate on turning out your committed partisan base and forget about the folks in the middle. Wrong! Swing voters do matter. Persistently disrespecting them is a recipe for political trouble, as this year proved.

The big mistake Democrats could make from this big win is to figure they've got a lock on the future and they can go back to being subservient to their traditional labor and liberal paymasters. Wrong again!

Many of the successful Democratic candidates were moderates, not ideological lefties. Democrats may have banked the majority of votes, but those votes were loaned by middle-of-the road voters.

That loan can be called in, pronto, if the Democrats screw up.

As for the Republicans, there appears to be an emerging split between those who think it would be wiser to moderate their approach and try a little bipartisanship and those who think the GOP conservative message needs to be sharpened, if anything.

Tom Shields, a smart Republican pollster and strategist, told the annual postelection "pundit summit" in Lansing last week that "Republicans really have to sharpen the differences between the two parties in order to succeed."

We'll get a pretty good idea of where the GOP is headed when talk turns to what to do about the repealed Single Business Tax.

Granholm last year proposed a fairly moderate package that was arguably revenue-neutral; Republicans trashed it in the Legislature and dumped on it in hearings all over the state. Spearheaded by the state Chamber of Commerce, some business types in recent months have been beating the drum for a net business tax cut of around \$500 million in any SBT replacement.

Granholm's hand will be strengthened after the turn of the year when Democrats take control of the House. For the sake of the state, I hope moderates of both parties in the House and the Senate will decide to work with Granholm on the SBT.

Certainly, our business tax system needs big-time reform. But yanking another \$500 million out of state tax revenues, on top of a pre-existing billion-dollar-plus structural budget deficit, is just irresponsible. We are already a below-average tax state. And if Michigan is going to put in place a serious restructuring plan to get through our current economic crisis and lay the foundation for a more prosperous future, we're going to have to think boldly.

We need to move toward a knowledge economy. We've got to develop a public investment program to accentuate our state's enduring competitive assets such as our research universities and our environmental wonders. We must change our culture of dependency, entitlement and avoiding risks at all costs.

And we certainly have to change the workings of our dysfunctional political system. Big problems call for big ideas. But big ideas need to be broadly acceptable across a spectrum of Republicans and Democrats, in both the governor's office and the Legislature. Thanks to this remarkable election, we now have a prospect of doing that, if we and our leaders step up to the plate.

Phil Power is founder of The Center for Michigan, a moderate think-and-do tank based in Ann Arbor. These opinions and others expressed in his columns are his own and do not in any way represent official policy positions of The Center for Michigan. Power welcomes reader comment at ppower@hcn-net.com.

Funeral was about a Marine's honor, and a mother's love

As hundreds of people filed past the coffin of Sgt. Bryan Burgess on Saturday at St. Bernardine of Siena Catholic Church in Westland, representatives of a couple of different support groups waited nervously for his mother, Evelyn, to arrive.

They were there to make presentations honoring her son, who died Nov. 9 when a sniper's bullet caught him in the cheek, killing him instantly while on patrol with the 1st Battalion of the 24th Marines in Fallujah. They were there to offer support to Evelyn Burgess, whom they'd never met.

But it was Evelyn Burgess, a Westland mother there to bury her son, who did most

of the supporting, stoically accepting the embraces of these groups, most of whom were moved to tears. Evelyn suffered them gladly, a grateful smile adorning her face, the tired face of a mother who'd just lost her only child.

Summoning the strength maybe only a mother can have, she then made her way to the coffin. She caressed Bryan's face, held his hand

for just a moment, let him know one last time she loved him. And then she let him go.

There was no outward bitterness, no anger at the senseless loss — emotions to which she certainly is entitled. But you got the sense watching her, and listening to his friends and fellow Marines talking about him, that that's not what Burgess, a Westland native who went to Franklin High School, would have wanted.

"He loved being a Marine ... I'm very proud of him," she said.

Loved it so much he went to Iraq when it wasn't really necessary. He'd served around the world, taking part in Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003 and spending time training against terrorists in Africa and with soldiers from other countries in South America.

But when his unit — the largest Michigan contingent to serve in Iraq — was going back, Burgess, 35, wanted to make sure the younger guys had guidance.

"He wanted to go to Iraq to make sure the younger guys, who didn't have the experience, were OK," said Sgt. Bradley Compton, 26, a Marine Reserve veteran who had deployed with Burgess before. "He worked really well with the younger Marines, and they had an enormous amount of respect for him. He had outstanding leadership ability."

When I was a youngster, my mother used to tell me, "Mommies know everything." Burgess' mom knew something was wrong

when three Marines showed up at her doorstep. When you've got a son deployed overseas in a war, that's the last sight you want to see.

"He had only been in Iraq for six weeks and I was afraid for him ... he was on my mind 24 hours a day," Evelyn Burgess said. "But he wanted to serve his country and be with his fellow Marines. I knew something was wrong; I knew he was gone."

Mommies know everything. There were rumors that the group associated with Fred Phelps, the leader of the Westboro Baptist Church in Topeka, Kan., that has been protesting at soldiers' funerals, espousing anti-gay views, planned to show up Saturday. One of Phelps' beliefs is that the war in Iraq is going so badly as a way of God punishing the United States for being tolerant of gays. Ironically, as despicable as such a protest would have been, it's entirely possible Burgess, who died serving a country that wholeheartedly embraces the concept of freedom of speech, would have said, "Let them have their say."

Thankfully, we'll never know, because the group didn't show up, allowing the day to be solely about honor, about a soldier who died doing a job that wasn't his, because that's how he was, by all accounts.

It was a trait the Rev. Sal Briffa, pastor of St. Bernardine, extolled during Saturday's Mass, when he talked about Burgess' penchant for helping others, from fellow Marines to next-door neighbors to total strangers in a culture thousands of miles removed from his own.

"We know Bryan's death is not meaningless," Briffa said. "Bryan offered his very life to bring peace and freedom to millions of people in Iraq."

Saturday was about honor, from the Marine procession that stopped in front of Evelyn Burgess' Westland home and rendered her a salute, to a mother who gave her only son in service to his country.

And when it was over, after tears had been shed and *Taps* and *Amazing Grace* had been played and the 21-gun salute had been rendered, this was about a mother who let her son go, secure in and comforted by the knowledge he'd died his way — serving his country, with honor.

Mommies know everything.

Brad Kadrach is community editor of the *Plymouth Observer* who spent 15 years in the U.S. Air Force. He can be reached via e-mail at bkadrach@hometownlife.com or by phone at (734) 459-2700. Staff writer Tony Bruscatto contributed to this report.



Phil Power



Brad Kadrach

READY... SET... SAVE!

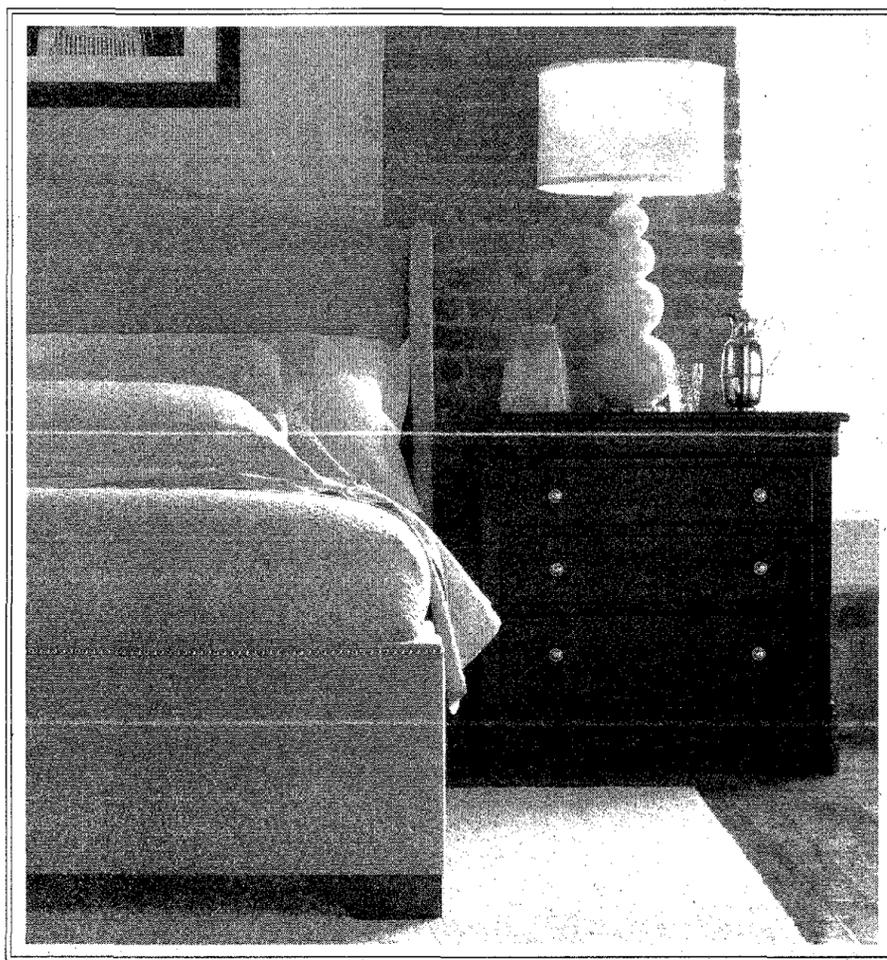
Save 20-50%*
AT THE TYNER
After
Thanksgiving
Sale.

It's open season for holiday shopping, and we're starting it off with a bang — 20 to 50% off* storewide, **PLUS an extra 10% off your entire purchase OR take 12 months to pay with no interest!*****

So start your holiday shopping season off with great big savings. At our After Thanksgiving Sale.

SPECIAL 4-DAY SALE HOURS:

Friday 10 -9
Saturday 10 -6
Open Sunday! Noon - 5
Monday 10 -9



ANN ARBOR SHOWROOM

3900 S. State Street
(2 blocks south of I-94)

734/995-3900

TYNER FURNITURE

Your home. Your way.
1-866-GO-TYNER

YPSILANTI / CANTON AREA SHOWROOM

1050 E. Michigan Avenue
(1/2 mile east of Ypsilanti)

734/483-4500

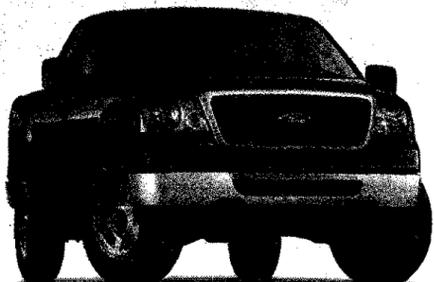
INTERIOR DESIGN SERVICE AVAILABLE. *Discounts taken from "Compare At" prices. **Cannot be combined with any other offer. Sale excludes products from Ekornes, Ultimate Value, Thomasville, Clearance Product and past or pending orders. With approved credit, minimum purchase \$999, no payments required. 0% interest when paid within financing term, see store for details. Not responsible for any typographical errors. Not all product shown in all stores.



YOUR SUBURBAN FORD DEALERS

GET **0%** APR Financing* or up to **\$3,000** Cash Back*
 on selected 2007 models...

OR LEASE ONE OF THESE VEHICLES



Eligible Ford Employees can Lease a 2007 F-150 SC 4x4 XLT

For as low as

\$229

A month(1) with a 24 month low mileage Red Carpet Renewal Lease.

With \$1,799 customer cash due at signing.

Includes acquisition fee; security deposit waived.** Excludes tax, title and license fee. Cash due is after \$1,500 RCL cash back and \$1,000 RCL renewal cash.



Eligible Ford Employees can Lease a 2007 Ford Escape XLT FWD

For as low as

\$198

A month(1) with a 36 month low mileage Red Carpet Renewal Lease.

With \$2,143 customer cash due at signing.

Includes acquisition fee; security deposit waived.** Excludes tax, title and license fee. Cash due is after \$1,500 RCL cash back and \$500 RCL renewal cash.



Eligible Ford Employees can Lease a 2007 Ford Focus SES 4dr

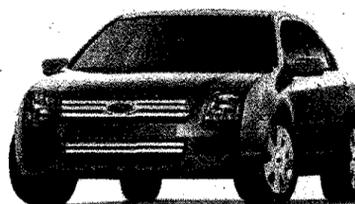
For as low as

\$169

A month(1) with a 36 month low mileage Red Carpet Renewal Lease.

With \$1,464 customer cash due at signing.

Includes acquisition fee and security deposit. Excludes tax, title and license fee. Cash due is after \$1,000 RCL cash back and \$500 RCL renewal cash.



Eligible Ford Employees can Lease a 2007 Fusion SE I4

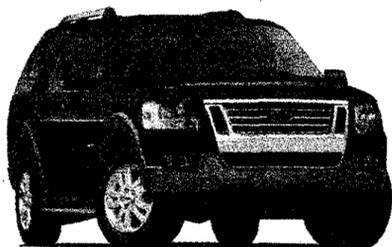
For as low as

\$178

A month(1) with a 24 month low mileage Red Carpet Renewal Lease.

With \$1,523 customer cash due at signing.

Includes acquisition fee; security deposit waived.** Excludes tax, title and license fee. Cash due is after \$500 RCL cash back and \$500 RCL renewal cash.



Eligible Ford Employees can Lease a 2007 Ford Explorer Eddie Bauer 4x2

For as low as

\$229

A month(1) with a 24 month low mileage Red Carpet Renewal Lease.

With \$974 customer cash due at signing.

Includes acquisition fee; security deposit waived.** Excludes tax, title and license fee. Cash due is after \$2,500 RCL cash back, \$1,000 bonus cash and \$1,000 RCL renewal cash.



Eligible Ford Employees can Lease a 2007 Ford Freestyle SEL

For as low as

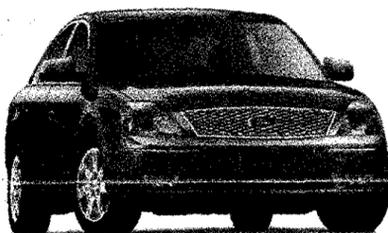
\$218

A month(1) with a 24 month low mileage Red Carpet Lease.

With \$1,913 customer cash due at signing.

Includes acquisition fee; security deposit waived.** Excludes tax, title and license fee. Cash due is after \$1,000 RCL cash back and \$1,000 A-plan bonus cash.

SIRIUS Satellite Radio is now available as a factory-installed option on the 2007 Ford Five Hundred. Get more than 125 music, sports, news and talk channels at your fingertips



Eligible Ford Employees can Lease a 2007 Five Hundred SEL Chrome Edition

For as low as

\$229

A month(1) with a 24 month low mileage Red Carpet Renewal Lease.

With \$2,259 customer cash due at signing.

Includes acquisition fee; security deposit waived.** Excludes tax, title and license fee. Cash due is after \$495 Chrome Package bonus cash and \$500 RCL renewal cash.

Chrome Package Includes:
 An all new Chrome-Mesh Grille...
 And 18 inch Chrome-Clad Wheels...



BOLDMOVES
 Your Suburban Ford Dealers

fordvehicles.com

(1) Not all buyers will qualify for Ford Credit Red Carpet Lease. Payments may vary. All payment examples are for Current Ford Employees and eligible family member Lessees. Residency restrictions apply. For special lease terms, RCL Cash, and bonus cash, take new retail delivery from dealer stock by 11/30/06. Supplies are limited, not all dealers will have all featured models. See dealer for qualifications and complete details. Customers must finance through Ford Credit. **Not all buyers qualify for Ford Credit limited term financing, limited term financing or cash back, available on selected 2007 models only. See dealer for qualifications and complete details. Take new retail delivery from dealer stock by 11/30/06. *** Security deposit waived. Lease renewal cash only available to customers terminating their Ford Division Red Carpet Lease and re-lease for 24 months by 1/2/2007.

VARSIITY
 3480 Jackson Rd. 1-800-875-FORD
 ANN ARBOR

ATCHINSON
 9800 Belleville Rd. 734-697-9161
 BELLEVILLE

GENE BUTMAN
 2105 Washtenaw 734-482-8581
 YPSILANTI

BRIARWOOD
 7070 Michigan Ave. 734-429-5478
 SALINE

HINES PARK
 I-96 at Milford Rd. 248-437-6700
 LYON TWP.

FRIENDLY
 2800 N. Telegraph, 734-243-6000
 MONROE

OPEN SATURDAYS

Area educators visit China on bridge-building mission

Knowledge is power! Most of us have heard this statement sometime in our life. Yet, it could not be more true as we enter the 21st-century "knowledge" economy where technology has knocked down walls and political boundaries like no other time in human history.

It was this quest for knowledge that led 18 metro-area educators and business officials to accept an invitation to visit China from Hanban, the executive body of the Chinese Language Council International, a non-governmental and non-profit organization affiliated with the National Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China.

The goal of Hanban is "making the Chinese language and culture teaching available to the world to contribute to the formation of a world of cultural diversity and harmony."

Our delegation's goal is to continue to find ways to build bridges with Chinese educators and to secure English-speaking Chinese teachers who will come to Michigan to teach Chinese language, history and culture to our students to help prepare them for the transformational, disruptive, technological-driven global economy they will face.

As educators and business leaders, the participants of this education delegation to China believe that if Michigan wants to survive and thrive in the flattened world economy it is critical to find ways to build bridges and not dig moats with our Chinese colleagues. It was toward this end that we embarked last month on a 10-day, three-city tour of China (Beijing, Tianjin, and Xian) as the guests of the Office of Chinese Language Council International (www.english.hanban.edu.cn).

This was my ninth trip to China since 1989. A great elementary teacher opened my eyes to China many years ago and I have been fascinated ever since. I co-lead this delegation along with Lily Yen, COO of the Center for Management Training and Development and her husband Dr. Louis Yen. This is our second delegation in the past two years and we will continue to seek to build language, cultural and economic bridges between China and the state of Michigan.

AREA DELEGATION

Our delegation consisted of two former state board of education members, two local school board members, an Intermediate school board member, an Oakland County Circuit Court judge, principals from public and private schools, a superintendent, two



Tom Watkins

assistant superintendents and a representative from the Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce.

If you concur with the statement that "knowledge is power," ask yourself how much you know about China? Did you know that China is home to 1.3 billion people, with more than 100 cities that have a population of more than 1 million people?

I wrote this while sitting in my hotel room in Beijing, the capital of the People's Republic of China, which is a city with more than 12 million people. To put that number in perspective, there are 10 million people living in the entire state of Michigan. Imagine everyone in Michigan jammed into Wayne County, plus 2 million people, and you can perhaps begin to comprehend the sheer magnitude of the humanity I could see as dawn broke in this capital city. There is so much building going on in China that the joke is that the nation's bird is the "building

crane!"

Did you know that more people know or are studying English in China than there are people in the United States? Did you know that more than 300 million people, the same number of U.S. citizens, have risen from poverty in China during the last quarter of a century?

Mandarin Chinese is the most widely spoken language in the world and yet it is not offered as a language in most schools across this county. The national governments both here and in China are attempting to catch up with the reality that China has awakened and will be a superpower economically and in other ways in the 21st century.

TEACHING MANDARIN

The Novi school district has broken out of the pack and taken the lead in offering Mandarin Chinese at the high school level this year. John Lawrence, principal of Novi High School, said, "the world is shrinking, and it is critical that we prepare our children and students to thrive in a global economy. Knowing the Chinese culture and language is another tool that will better prepare our kids to compete in the 21st century knowledge economy."



A delegation of educators from the United States met with Chinese educators and visited Chinese schools.

Peter Dion, superintendent of Novi School District added, "currently 23 percent of our school population is Asian (Chinese, Korean, Japanese and Indian). We are proud that the Novi School board is forward-thinking and always striving to provide a world-class education to our children. Offering Mandarin Chinese is just another example of our progressive school district."

Mary Blackmon, president of the Wayne Regional Educational Service Agency

that provides educational support services to the 34 school districts in Wayne County said: "Clearly China is on the rise economically. Educationally it is our responsibility as leaders to prepare our students to be competitive in an ever-changing world."

"Meeting and hearing Chinese students from kindergarten to high school speak English was astonishing and demonstrates that we have our work to do to make sure our students are prepared to pros-

per," Blackmon said.

Northville Public Schools sent two board members — Karen Paciorek and Marilyn Price — on the trip. Both see tremendous potential in educational exchanges with China.

"Wow would be an understatement!" Paciorek said. "I was impressed by the quality of the preschool and kindergarten programs I saw and it is amazing to see such young

PLEASE SEE CHINA, A20



bcbsm.com
MIBCN.com

Commitment to the Community

Since 1939, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan has honored our nonprofit commitment to the people of Michigan by providing unparalleled access to health services, working in partnership with physicians and hospitals to improve health care quality and supporting initiatives to expand access for people in need.

Today, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network together provide more than 4.7 million people with the security and peace of mind that come from knowing they will have access to quality health care, wherever and whenever they need it.

We are proud of our partnerships with the state of Michigan to expand health coverage to lower-income children and ensure seniors are fully covered under Medicare. We are dedicated financial supporters of free community clinics across Michigan, providing access for the uninsured. We are partners with the Michigan Health & Hospital Association's acclaimed Keystone Center, working to improve quality through evidence-based medicine.

At Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network, we dedicate ourselves every day to honoring our nonprofit heritage and commitment to Michigan. We also commit ourselves to providing affordable health benefit solutions that meet the needs of our customers, information and assistance to meet the needs of our members and innovations to improve service and reduce cost.

As we welcome Jeanne Carlson as the new President and CEO of Blue Care Network, we look forward with excitement to playing a more prominent role in your community. As we go forward, you have our commitment that we will approach our business with the integrity you demand, the service you expect and the commitment we all share to improving health care for everyone.

Daniel J. Loepp

Daniel J. Loepp
President & CEO
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan

Jeanne Carlson

Jeanne Carlson
President & CEO
Blue Care Network

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network are nonprofit corporations and independent licensees of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

Marco Island

Florida

Vacation

Homes and Condos

800-325-3524

Flagshipvacations.com

FLAGSHIP
VACATION PROPERTIES

OE08487088

THINKING ABOUT...

A
**NEW
FURNACE?**

LENNOX
Innovation never felt so good.™

**FREE
ESTIMATES**
(734) 525-1930

18 Months - No Payments
Deferred Interest
Expires 12/23/06

• 0% Financing Available
• 5 Years Parts & Labor
Warranty

Our 32nd Year!

UNITED TEMPERATURE

8919 MIDDLEBELT • LIVONIA

OE08489615

We're #1 with a lot of people.



That's because we consistently put thousands of people just like these in touch with recruiters just like you.

If you're looking to hire qualified candidates we're the place to start.

Our partnership with **CareerBuilder.com**® also adds a powerful web dimension to your search.

So, the next time you have a vacant cubicle, office, or desk, call us, we'll double your hiring power.

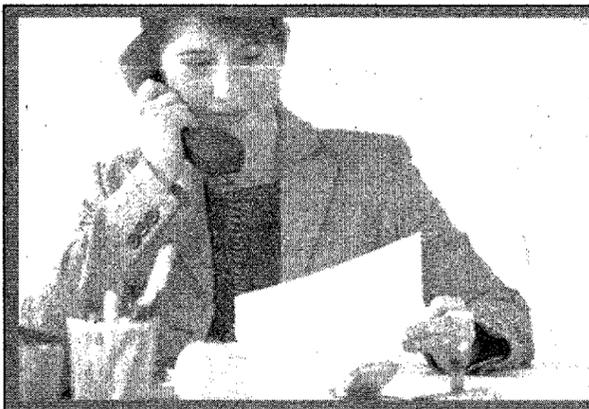
Print plus Web.

A powerful combination.

hometownlife.com

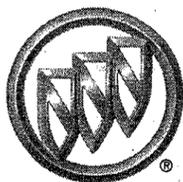
THE
Observer & Eccentric
NEWSPAPERS

WHERE HOMETOWN STORIES UNFOLD



CALL TODAY

800-579-7355



JUST ANNOUNCED: \$500 LOCAL AREA BONUS CASH THROUGH NOVEMBER 30 ONLY!



2007 BUICK LACROSSE® CX SPECIAL EDITION
with Chrome Enhancement Package

GM employees who are current Buick owners/lessees:
Low Mileage Lease for Qualified Lessees

\$189/month for 27 months

\$1,029 due at signing after all offers*

No security deposit required.

Mileage charge of \$.25/mile over 22,500 miles.
Tax, title, license and dealer fees extra.



2007 BUICK RENDEZVOUS® CX

GM employees who are current Buick owners/lessees:
Low Mileage Lease for Qualified Lessees

\$179/month for 27 months

\$1,229 due at signing after all offers*

No security deposit required.

Mileage charge of \$.25/mile over 22,500 miles.
Tax, title, license and dealer fees extra.



2007 BUICK LUCERNE® CX

GM employees who are current Buick owners/lessees:
Low Mileage Lease for Qualified Lessees

\$259/month for 27 months

\$859 due at signing after all offers*

No security deposit required.

Mileage charge of \$.25/mile over 22,500 miles.
Tax, title, license and dealer fees extra.



100,000-MILE WARRANTY
5-YEAR POWERTRAIN**



**ONE-YEAR STANDARD ONSTAR® TURN-BY-TURN
VOICE-GUIDED NAVIGATION†**

The world's simplest and smartest navigation system.

AND NOW

SEE SOME **RED.** SAVE SOME **GREEN.**

The price on the tag is the price you
pay at your participating Buick dealer.††



FOR THE DEALER NEAREST YOU, VISIT METRODETROITBUICKDEALERS.COM!

*Payments are for a 2007 Buick LaCrosse CX Special Edition with Chrome Enhancement Package with an MSRP of \$23,360, 27 monthly payments total \$5,078, a 2007 Buick Rendezvous CX with an MSRP of \$25,795, 27 monthly payments total \$4,813, and a 2007 Buick Lucerne CX with an MSRP of \$25,990, 27 monthly payments total \$6,967. Option to purchase at lease end for an amount to be determined at lease signing. GMAC must approve lease. Lessee pays for excess wear. Not available with other offers. Must show proof of current Buick ownership or lease. Limit one Loyalty Offer per eligible transaction. Residency restrictions apply. Take delivery by 11/30/06.

**2007 models. Whichever comes first. See dealer for limited warranty details.

†Turn-by-Turn not available in certain markets. See your Buick dealer for details. Call 1-888-466-7827 for system limitations and details.

††Tax, title and license are extra. Take delivery by 1/2/07. See dealer for details.

©2006 GM. All rights reserved.

MCCANN ERICKSON

360 West Maple Road
Birmingham, MI 48009
248-203-8000

Client: Buick NC

Job #: LMNC GEN 2N 60900

Ad #: 60900C

Ad Description: Bonus Cash \$500 off Coupon
GDNN Publications feat.
Lucerne, LaCrosse & Rendezvous

Unit: 6 col x 21
Colors: B/W
Safety (Live): None
Bleed Size: None
Trim Size: 11.5 in x 21 in

Art Director: None
Copywriter: —

Account Coordinator: Randy
Production: K. Kaminski



Route #: 2

Studio Designer: Lynne Drake
Print/Export Time: 11/20/06 12:56 PM
Last Save Time: 11/20/06 12:56 PM
Document Name: 60900C_FinInd

Line Screen: 85
Engraver: McGraphics
Font Family: Times, Avenir

Publication(s) & Insertion Date(s):
11/22 Lapeer County Press, Greater De-
troit Newspaper Network, Grosse Pointe
News, Heritage Newspapers, Observer
& Eccentric

Links: 06 Buick RTE_BW.eps, 02GMCP021.eps, onstar-BW.eps, 07BULU00076_GS.eps, 07BURZ00042_GS.eps, 07BULA00069_GS.tif, BUehldHTaps

Area agencies stretch dollars to provide food, aid to needy

BY SHARON DARGAY
STAFF WRITER

A dollar can make a difference in a needy person's life.

"One dollar to Gleaners gets 16 meals. We leverage the dollars. Because of the scope of the operation and logistics we can get a dollar to stretch much farther," said Gerry Brisson, vice president of development for Gleaners, southeastern Michigan's food bank.

"We do a lot of work with canned food drives and things of that nature, where people collect a barrel or two of food. It's not as efficient as cash, but it gets people involved. For some people a can of food is all they can donate. But because a dollar gives 16 meals, it's the easiest thing to do."

Cash - it's on all relief agencies' wish lists as the holiday season kicks into high gear starting Thanksgiving Day.

It's the most economical way to meet increasing demands which agencies experience at the holidays and have begun to see even earlier this year because of the state's poor economy.

"Money gives us the flexibility to address needs in terms of hunger and homelessness and utility costs. It helps throughout the year," said Don Czaplicki, divisional social services director for the Salvation Army in southeastern Michigan.

The corps kicked off its annual kettle campaign Friday, Nov. 17, at Campus Martius in Detroit. On Thanksgiving Day, it will serve break-

fast at Masonic Temple to the homeless. The corps also will distribute food boxes and toys to needy families at Christmas.

"I encourage people, if they see a red kettle, please donate," Czaplicki said. "The economy has been stalled and it's hard because we have lots of people who need assistance and it's getting harder to give because they are losing jobs or are concerned about losing their jobs."

FROM FOOD BANK TO PANTRY
Brisson said Gleaners' Livingston County center has distributed 20 percent more food over the past few months in response to summer layoffs. Gleaners distributes food at low cost and in some cases for free through five centers to 400 local partners including soup kitchens, food pantries - 70 percent are faith-based - shelters and crisis centers.

"There's a lag time between layoffs and the increase in demand. Even though people live paycheck to paycheck, they find a way to scrape by for a while, but unemployment isn't near what they need to survive. That's when we see a spike in demand," Brisson said.

"When you see who is served by emergency food services, so few are bums on the street. They're people you'd be surprised need help. They're your neighbors."

At Lighthouse Emergency Services in Clarkston, Connie Stapleton, manager, has seen former donors become Lighthouse recipients over the past few years.

The agency serves 10 north Oakland communities and is allied with Lighthouse Emergency Services in Pontiac, which serves communities north of 14 Mile, between M-23 and Dequindre.

"We've had real estate agents coming in, builders coming in, contractors coming in. We have people who had good jobs and lost them. Or people trying to sell their house, they can't and the house goes into foreclosure," said Stapleton.

"The face of our clients changed over the past year. It's been dismal. Our donors are coming in for assistance."

And that means donations are down.

Meanwhile, demands have increased. Stapleton said even those earning middle-class wages tend to cut back on little luxuries - dinners out, professional hair service - when times are tight. That, in turn, affects people in the service industry who depend on tips to make ends meet and who end up turning to agencies like Lighthouse to survive.

GIVE CASH

"What we need most is money. That will help us pay utility bills or help someone get to work if the plate on their car is expired. Or purchase food at the food bank," Stapleton said.

Lighthouse Clarkston gave food to

approximately 400 people in September 2005. This year, it fed 894 people.

Lighthouse Pontiac helped 900 families and 2,867 individuals in 2005. Those numbers jumped to 1,172 households and 3,595 individuals this year.

Christine Burk, spokeswoman for Lighthouse Pontiac's holiday program, said the agency needs another 150 donors to "adopt" a family and buy Christmas gifts for its members.

"As we reach out to the community for help, people are responding if they can. People seem to recognize the need and they are rallying around their neighbors," she said.

Susan Vidican, director of Rochester Area Neighborhood House, said canned food drives at local schools have begun to replenish her agency's pantry shelves that had been empty since August.

"We had to purchase food," she said. "I think one thing all agencies are doing is we recognize that our resources are limited, so we're doing a lot of partnering to make the dollars go farther."

WORKING TOGETHER

The Farmington Area Goodfellows group, for example, partners with Farmington Schools, which conducted a canned food drive this month. The Goodfellows will include the donations in its holiday distribution on Dec. 16.

"We do a lot of work with Toys for Tots. We partner with stores that we use gift certificates through," said Lisa

Ellis, a Goodfellows board member. "We work with senior citizens in Farmington."

"There is greater demand this year. More families and seniors are in need. But our community mailing has been successful for us," she said, referring to a community-wide appeal mailed to residents earlier this month.

"People have been very generous. I see every donor card that comes in. We have a lot of people who give \$5 or \$10 and it all adds up."

The Rev. Vincent Reyes, pastoral director of Capuchin Soup Kitchen in Detroit, said the organization's two dining rooms in Detroit are serving "a few more people" than it has in the past.

"We do our best to make donations stretch," he said. An average meal - which might include chicken, sweet potato, salad, barley taboulee, cookies and a beverage - costs the Capuchins \$1.17.

"We've been around since 1929 and we've never gone two days without serving. We've never run out of food. We've been blessed. The people of this area are generous," he said. The non-profit ministry distributes more than three million pounds of food in its pantry packs each year, in addition to serving hot meals and running various programs on Detroit's east side.

"I've never seen such generous people as those in Detroit. Not a day goes by that I don't remember them all in prayer."

sdargay@hometownlife.com

CRYSTAL MOUNTAIN
SKI RESORT

50th Anniversary Ski Package
From \$87^{per adult}
Kids Sleep & Ski FREE!
Receive a FREE commemorative poster

For 50 years, making every moment count.

It's about much more than our 45 masterfully groomed runs and the fastest lift in northern Michigan. It goes well beyond exquisite lodging and superb dining. It's more than award-winning family programs and the best instruction in the Midwest.

It's the way every moment comes together in an inspired blend of excitement and satisfaction. For 50 years we've been known as a place where lasting family traditions are born.

Moments matter. Make them count. Come visit your mountain, Crystal Mountain, just 28 miles SW of Traverse City.

Named #1 Resort in the Midwest by Ski Magazine.
crystalmountain.com 800-YOUR-MTN

*This rare available early season, midweek, in hotel accommodations with double occupancy. Please call for additional rates. Up to three kids 8 and under sleep and ski free anytime, up to three kids 17 and under sleep and ski free midweek (excluding holidays) when sharing accommodations with two paying adults. Minimum night stay required on peak weekends and holidays. Taxes and resort fee extra.

FORD EMPLOYEES
Have a buyout pending? Lawrence Tech can:

- Identify professional development and skill enhancement opportunities
- Develop career and educational plans

MEET COUNSELORS AT ON-THE-SPOT ADMISSION DAYS:
Nov. 29, 30 • Dec. 5, 12 • Jan. 4, 9, 11
8 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Bring your resume and/or your unofficial transcripts and waive your application fee!

Call 800.CALL.LTU to make your appointment.

- Day, evening, weekend, and online convenience
- Professional skill development
- Over 60 programs in Colleges of Architecture and Design, Arts and Sciences, Engineering, and Management

LAWRENCE TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY
Your Future in the Making

21000 West Ten Mile Road, Southfield, MI 48075-1058
800.CALL.LTU • admissions@ltu.edu
www.ltu.edu

2006 Best of Michigan East Coast Colleges 2006

Finally, a card college students can't tax out

By Drew Reed
Taubman Today

Gift Cards taking local mall by storm. www.findyourgo.com

It's true. Some college students have trouble with credit card spending. For the holidays you can give them a card that can't go over the limit. Once dubbed the last-minute gift option, Twelve Oaks Mall Gift Cards are topping lists nationwide. "If you're short on ideas that they want for you're short on ideas," says a Twelve Oaks Mall Gift Card is one of your best options," says the mall manager.

Hailed as the king of options, Twelve Oaks Mall Gift Cards allow the receiver to choose whatever they want from almost any store in the mall. Perfect for any occasion, a Twelve Oaks Mall Gift Card allows users to choose exactly what they need (or want) from hundreds of first-class retail stores.

Admittedly, Twelve Oaks Mall Gift Cards are not always the best gift option. For instance, if you've recently had a spat with your significant other and you show up on Christmas morn armed with a Twelve Oaks Mall Gift Card, you might be in a bit of trouble. In that particular case, it might be better to reference the corresponding Twelve Oaks Holiday Gift Guides for gift ideas with a tad more "tree presence." There are Gift Guides for nearly every type of person on your list this year. From Holiday Gift Guide for Moms, Dads, Kids and Teens

Gift Guides at a Glance

- Gift Ideas for Moms, Dads, Kids and Teens: Stocking Stuffers: Gift Ideas for \$25 and Once-in-a-lifetime Gift Ideas
- FREE to all mall shoppers
- Conveniently located at multiple locations throughout Twelve Oaks Mall

URCE. www.findyourgo.com

to Stocking Stuffer Holiday Gift Guides and the ever-popular Holiday Gift Guide for Gifts Under \$25. And don't forget the Gift Guide for Unforgettable Gifts, loaded with exciting gifts they'll tell their grand-kids about. "There's a Holiday Gift Guide for everyone," said another mall spokesperson, and all of the Holiday Gift Guides can be referenced, in detail, online at www.findyourgo.com. The mall was scoured top to bottom, store by store, to find the best gifts for every person on your list, then categorized and compiled in pocket-sized brochures for easy reference as you shop. "I used a Holiday Gift Guide for every person on my list and polished off all shopping in a matter of hours. It was a relief," said one shopper as she left the mall Friday afternoon.

But for those who are short on ideas, it is too much or too little. "I used a Twelve Oaks Mall Gift Card as my best option," said one shopper.

When you're short on ideas, it's certain that certain gifts are better than others. "It's better than buying the wrong gift," said one shopper. "I'd rather let them pick out what they want. And best of all, a Twelve Oaks Mall Gift Card fits right into a gift list so I can easily mail it or come in and pick it up last second."

So there you have it. A Twelve Oaks Mall Gift Card fits right into a gift list so I can easily mail it or come in and pick it up last second. So there you have it. A Twelve Oaks Mall Gift Card fits right into a gift list so I can easily mail it or come in and pick it up last second. So there you have it. A Twelve Oaks Mall Gift Card fits right into a gift list so I can easily mail it or come in and pick it up last second.

Reindeer Schmeindeer. We've got Penguins.

IN THEATERS NOVEMBER 17

Visit the Snow Globes in Center Court till December 24. Only at Twelve Oaks Mall.

HAPPY FEET

PG PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED
www.happyfeetmovie.com
WARNER BROS. PICTURE
©2006 Warner Bros. Ent. All Rights Reserved. CE06490422

HOW TO HELP

DONATIONS NEEDED

■ Gleaners Community Food Bank is the third largest in the nation. It distributes free and low-cost food to soup kitchens, shelters, food pantries, crisis centers and other relief agencies, totaling 400 partners. It accepts nonperishable foods through donation drives or individual donations, cash and volunteer help at its five distribution centers, which are located in Detroit, Howell, Pontiac, Warren and Taylor. Visit www.gcfb.convio.net to donate online, arrange for a food drive or to volunteer. By mail: 2131 Beaufait, Detroit, MI 48207. Or call (866) GLEANER. Look for donation appeals at local grocery stores that allow shoppers to add a gift to Gleaners to their shopping bill. "We don't want to hot all the money. Help anyone you know doing food distribution, because times are tough," says Gerry Brisson, vice president of development. To find a food pantry nearest you, visit www.pantrynet.org.

■ The Salvation Army, eastern Michigan division, aided 480,000 people in the tri-county area through its annual holiday kettle program last year. Proceeds bought more than two million meals for the needy, as well as Christmas gifts for children, food baskets, personal care items and year-round aid. The Salvation Army hopes to raise \$7 million through kettles this year. Visit www.salvationarmymich.org to find out about volunteering as a bell ringer or to participate in the mini-kettle program, which allows individuals to collect donations at home or work, private parties and other gatherings. Other ways to donate:

Donate a child's coat or cash to the Salvation Army's Coats for Kids at the Detroit Lions-Miami Dolphins game at Ford Field on Thanksgiving Day. Or call (866) 985-COAT. Buy a toy for the Salvation Army's annual holiday toy shop. Call the eastern Michigan division in Southfield at (248) 443-5500 to find a corps near you.

Donate used goods to a Salvation Army store. For pickup and store information, call (313) 965-7760.

Donate money online or send a check to the

Salvation Army, Eastern Michigan Division, 16130 Northland Drive, Southfield, MI 48075.

■ Farmington Area Goodfellows helps people year-round, but will distribute toys and food for the holidays on Dec. 16. To donate cash or items, call the Goodfellows office at (248) 871-2848 before Nov. 27 and (248) 473-1360 afterward. Or visit www.farmingtonareagoodfellows.org.

■ COTS, (Coalition on Temporary Shelter) is headquartered at 26 Peterboro, Detroit, but runs housing programs at various locations, offering emergency shelter, transitional housing and permanent, supportive housing. Check its Web site at www.COTSdetroit.org for an updated list of needs, including linens, clothing, children's items, gift certificates and toiletries. Or call Robyn Smith at (313) 831-3777.

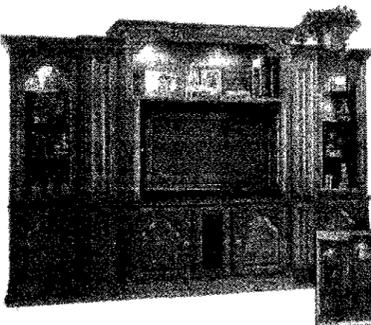
■ Redford Interfaith Relief, located in Pearson Education Center, 19990 Beech Daly, serves senior citizens, the disabled, the working poor and families in a crisis, within the Redford area. The organization needs cash, personal care items, canned goods and volunteers. Call (313) 387-9802 or visit on the Web at www.redfordinterfaithrelief.org.

■ Capuchin Soup Kitchen has two dining rooms in Detroit, maintains a pantry, clothing and household distribution center, offers substance abuse treatment as well as children's programs. Send donations to the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, 1820 Mt. Elliott, Detroit, MI 48207. Donate on the Web at www.cskdetroit.org or call the development office at (313) 579-2100, Ext. 1875.

■ The THAW fund gives emergency energy assistance to low-income families, individuals and senior citizens throughout Michigan who are in danger of losing heat or electricity. Donation appeals are enclosed with some gas and electric bills. Or send a check to THAW at 1212 Griswold, 10th floor, Detroit, MI 48226. Or contribute by phone at (800) 866-THAW or online at www.thawfund.org.

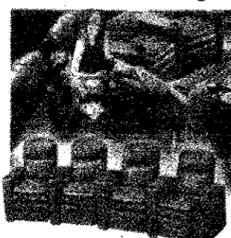
No Matter What Size Your TV Is
or How Many Components You Need Storage For...

WE SPECIALIZE IN CUSTOM WALL UNITS!



Best of all...
we will do this
at about the
same price
as production-
made systems,
but with the
finest oak and
cherry woods-
NO
particle
board!

"Large Selection of
Home Theatre Seating"



There is nothing better than
"Front Row Center"



Wm. C. Franks
FURNITURE

Store Hours:
Mon., Thurs., Fri. 9-9
Tues., Wed., Sat. 9-6
Sun. Noon-5 pm

2945 S. Wayne Road (4 Blocks N. of Michigan Ave.)
Wayne • 734-721-1044

www.wmcfurniture.com

OE08488791

One of the Area's Largest...

Winter Wonderland
ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW

Friday, December 1st, 2006
Saturday, December 2nd, 2006
9am-4pm
\$2.00 Admission

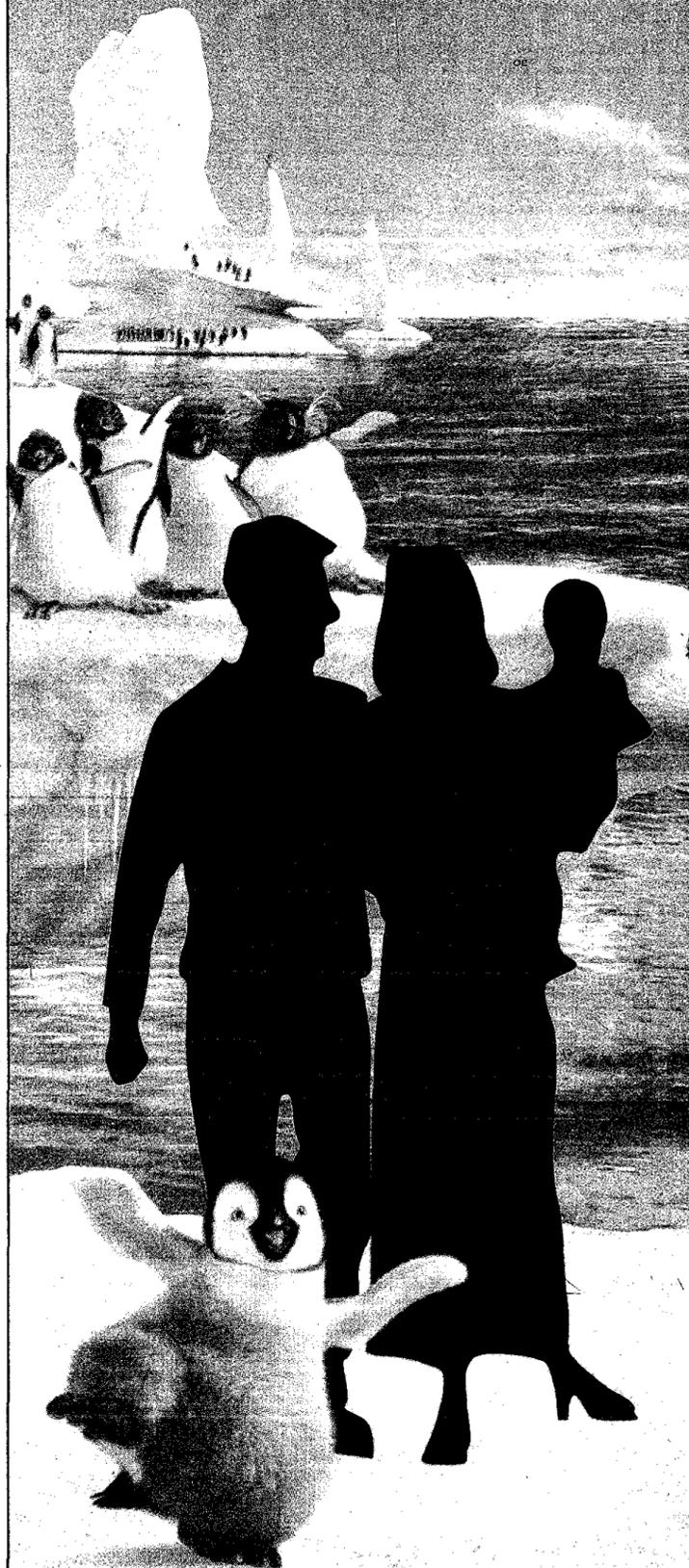
All Items Handcrafted • Juried Show
Lunch, Bake Sale, Kids Activities
Hourly Door Prize Drawings
Strollers Welcome!

Find Great, Unique Christmas Gifts!

LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL WESTLAND
33300 Cowan Rd. (1/2 Mile East of Westland Shopping Center)
For More Information Call 734-422-2090

OE08488848

TAKE THIS YEAR'S
FAMILY PHOTO
IN ANTARCTICA.



**HAPPY
FEET**

IN THEATERS NOVEMBURRR 17

Visit the Snow Globes in Center Court
and choose from two scenes from the
new animated movie, *Happy Feet*. You'll have
the coolest holiday cards on the block.

Twelve
Oaks

TM & © 2006 WARNER BROS. PICTURES
PG

www.happyfeetmovie.com

WARNER BROS. PICTURES
PRESENTS
A TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX FILM
HAPPY FEET
STARRING
MEL BROWN
DANIEL BOULANGER
AND
MELISSA MCCARTHY
CASTING BY
JENNIFER LEE
COSTUME DESIGNER
JENNIFER LEE
HAIR BY
JENNIFER LEE
MAKEUP BY
JENNIFER LEE
PRODUCTION DESIGNER
JENNIFER LEE
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS
JENNIFER LEE
PRODUCED BY
JENNIFER LEE
WRITTEN BY
JENNIFER LEE
DIRECTED BY
JENNIFER LEE

OE08488847



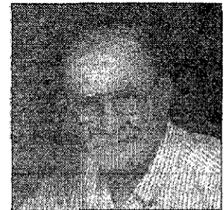
Passages

Obituaries, Memorials, Remembrances

1-800-579-7355 ♦ fax: 734-953-2232
e-mail: OEObits@oe.homecomm.net

DOUGLAS STEVENS

Frankfort. Age 73, died November 14, 2006 at Munson Medical Center in Traverse City. He was born on August 26, 1933 the son of Richard and Ann Stevens in Highland Park, Michigan. Doug married Norma J. Eustice on February 10, 1998. He served the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict as a Staff Sgt., shooting instructor and armorer. He was a member of the American Legion Frankfort Post No. 221 and the Cedar Rod & Gun Club. He was also a lifetime member of the NRA. Doug attended Blaine Christian Church and was employed with AAA for 29 years. Surviving is wife, Norma; children Linda Stevens of Grand Blanc and Scott (Jennifer) Stevens of Shelby Twp.; two grandsons, Jacob and Daniel; stepson, Jeffrey Butler of Frankfort; brother, Godfrey (Delores) Stevens; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and an infant sister. A celebration of Doug's life will be Saturday, November 25th at 3PM at the Benzonia Chapel of McElduff-Jowett Funeral Home, 7223 South St., Benzonia, MI, 49616, with Rev. Bob Larimer officiating. The family will receive friends from 1PM until the time of the service. Burial will be in Blaine Twp. Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the Benzie County Animal Welfare or the NRA. The Benzonia Chapel of McElduff-Jowett Funeral Homes & Cremation Service is handling the arrangements.



GARY ALAN MILZ

Age 58. Born May 26, 1948, went to be with the Lord peacefully on November 18, 2006, with his family by his side. Preceded in death by his parents Clarence and Marjorie and sister Gail. Survived by his wife of 28 years, Diane; seven children, Eric (Debra) Mellissa (Jay) Gajewskie, Renee (John) Thompson, Mathew, Stephen, Christopher, Jacob; ten grandchildren, Joshua, Amelia, Levi, Taylor, Kennedy, Zackery, Ashton, Sawyer, Jaymen and Jackie; brother-in-law Joe (Brenda) Limonte; two nephews Joey and David. Memorial service will be held at the First Baptist Church of Wayne, 36125 Glenwood Rd., at 11:00am November 24th.

GEORGE A. CLIFFORD

Age 77, of Redford, November 20, 2006. George is survived by Iris, his beloved wife of 48 years; children Linda (Ed) Landess, Julie Gentry, Joanne (Rob) Hendricks, and David. Mr. Clifford is also survived by eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Funeral service Saturday, November 25, 11:30am, at the Heeneys-Sundquist Funeral Home, 23720 Farmington Rd., between 9 and 10 Mile Roads, just north of Grand River, downtown Farmington, 238-474-5200. Visitation Friday, 2-8pm. Memorial tributes suggested to American Cancer Society, or cancer.org.

heeneysundquist.com

HAROLD VERNON COLLINS

Age 65, of Westland, died November 20, 2006, at Garden City Hospital. He had been seriously ill for three weeks. Born June 13, 1941, in Paintsville, Kentucky, the son of Conrad and Gladys Mae (Wells) Collins. He was married to Judy Perry in August of 1963. For more than 20 years, he was employed by Clark Oil and managed several service stations in the Downriver area. He enjoyed coin collecting and playing his guitar and banjo. For the past twelve years, he made his home with Lisa Dukes. He is survived by two sons, Jeffrey of Monroe, and Timothy of Ypsilanti; three brothers, Christopher Columbus (Betty) of Taylor, Jesse (Jewel) of Van Lear, KY, and Colvert (Peggy) of Greenup, KY; a sister, Verdine Mollette of Milan; and four grandchildren. Friends may call Friday, November 24, at the UHF Funeral Home, Westland, 734-721-8555. Funeral service will be held at 2pm, Saturday, November 25. Mr. Collins' nephew, Doug Mollette, will officiate. Graveside services will be held Monday, November 27, at 12pm at Highland Memorial Park in Staffordville, KY. Friends may attend graveside service from 11-12pm. In lieu of flowers, those desiring may make donations to the family.



JACK VITO MIGLIORE

April 30, 1922-November 20, 2006. Jack Vito Migliore, a resident of Sterling Hts. and former longtime resident of East Pointe, died Monday morning in William Beaumont Hospital of Royal Oak at the age of 84 years. Jack was born in Detroit on April 30, 1922 a son of the late Sebastian and Rosa (Giordano) Migliore. He Owned and operated Jacks Produce Market on Wheels. Jack was a charter member of Detroit Produce Vendors Association. He did not retire until age 81 as he lived for and loved his work. As a hard worker, it was important that he provided for his family and he loved what he did for those many years. Jack also enjoyed all gambling of any kind and enjoyed playing cards. He will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him. Jack is survived by his loving wife, Magdelina; his devoted daughters, Marianne Stevens and her dear friend Lawrence Thompson and Rose (David) Edgeworth; his grandchildren, Jackie (nee Stevens)(Steve)Cansler, Nykol & Brooke Edgeworth; his great grandchildren, Eric & Trever Stevens and Alex & Alyssa Cansler and his sister, Rose (Joseph) Ferri & brothers, Sam (Lena) and Augustine (Josephine). He was preceded in death by sister, Phyllis and brother, James. Visitation will be held at the Faulmann & Walsh Golden Rule Funeral Home, 32814 Utica Rd., Fraser, Wednesday 1pm till 9pm and Friday 10:30am till time of Mass at 11am from St. Anastasia Catholic Church 4571 John R., Troy. Share memories with the family at faulmannwalsh.com

LAMAR M. RUSSOM

Age 90, November 19, 2006. Beloved husband of Ethel. Dear father of Carol (Manuel) Yacoub, Thomas (Jo) and Ronald (Debra). Dearest brother of Frances McPherson. Also survived by eight grandchildren. Funeral service Wednesday 1:30 p.m. from R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home, 15451 Farmington Rd., Livonia. Visitation Tuesday 2-9 p.m. Memorials suggested to American Lung Association.

PETER CHARLES ZEMNICKAS

Age 89, of Beverly Hills, died Sunday, November 19, 2006, at Stone Bridge Medical Complex in Flint. He was born July 16, 1917, son of Peter and Anastasia Zemnicks. He was predeceased by Donna, his beloved wife of 65 years. Peter was an active member of St. Regis Catholic Church. Through the years his interests took him in many directions. He was a member of the Birmingham Senior Men's Club and the Michigan Chapter of the Rolls-Royce Club. For many years, he did volunteer work at Henry Ford Health Systems of West Bloomfield where he was known as the "Angel Man". Father of Robert (Carol) Zemnicks of Mt. Pleasant, SC; Gordon Zemnicks of Howell; and adopted daughter, Ann Zemnicks of Farmington Hills. Grandfather of Karen (Chris) Ochs of Fairborn, OH; Kevin Zemnicks of Mt. Pleasant, SC; Mark Zemnicks of Beverly Hills; and Christine of West Bloomfield. Great Grandfather of Shane and Sarah Ochs and Tyler and Michael. Funeral Mass was Tuesday, November 21, 2006, at St. Regis Catholic Church, Bloomfield Hills. Burial, Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, 25800 W. 10 Mile, Southfield. Memorial contributions can be made to the Parkinson Disease Foundation and/or Avalon Hospice. Share your memories at www.sawyerfuller.com

JEAN ANN (MCMICHAEL) RUHL

Age 67, of Farmington Hills, MI passed away on November 20, 2006. Jean was the beloved wife of the late Dr. George Ruhl and is survived by her brother, Russell McMichael; her three children, Melody Alfthar, Ed and Greg; grandchildren, Miles, Devin, Joshua and Jordan. A celebration of her life will be held at Prince of Peace Catholic Church in West Bloomfield. The church is located at 4300 Walnut Lake Road, West Bloomfield, MI 48323, phone (248) 681-9424, on Saturday, November 25 at 10:30am. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts in Jean's name to Angela Hospice in Livonia, MI are greatly appreciated.

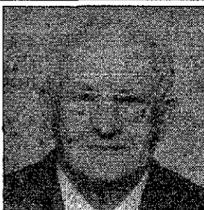
RUTHANN JOHNSON

Beloved wife, mother & grandmother passed away on Monday, Nov. 20, 2006. She is survived by her husband, Richard, of Bloomfield Twp. She is also survived by her children Alan (Pat) Johnson of Holly, MI, Susan Johnson of Bloomfield Twp., Carol (Fiance Terry Burke) Bernardi of Lancaster, PA, James (Deborah) Johnson of Muskegon, MI, Judy Johnson of Las Vegas, NV and Melinda (Robert) Smith of Beverly Hills, MI. She is also survived by her eleven grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren and a host of other family and friends. She loved gardening and was a member of the Troy Garden Club. She was a member of Birmingham Sr. Women's Club and a member of St. Thomas More Church. She loved music and spending time with her family and many grandchildren. Family will be receiving friends Wednesday, Nov. 22, from 5-8PM with Scripture Service at 7PM, at A.J. Desmond Funeral Home, 32515 Woodward. Funeral Mass will be Friday, Nov. 24 at 10AM at St. Thomas More Church, 4580 Adams Rd., Troy.

TOM MOSHIMER

Age 71, November 21, 2006. Beloved husband of Nancy. Loving Father of Duncan (Cheryl) Mike, Jim (Nicki), Kelly (Phil). Dear Grandfather of Ryan, Sarah, Zach and Patrick. He was a high school teacher and football coach for 42 yrs., (8 yrs. in Dundee, MI and 34 yrs. at Plymouth Salem). He retired in 2000. Visitation on Friday, November 25th, 10am-9pm at McCabe Funeral Home, 851 N. Canton Center Rd., Canton, MI 48187. Service on Saturday, November 26th, 10am at St. Thomas a'Beckett of Canton.

Paying Tribute to the Life of Your Loved One



PIERRE LOUIS DEPORRE

Age 74, of Bloomfield Hills, died November 20, 2006. Devoted husband of Virginia (Teppert) - 49 years. Caring father of Pierre (Deborah) DePorre, Louise (James) Westcott, Julianne (Efrin) Padilla, Mary (Craig) Sturza, Paul (Janie) DePorre. Loving brother to Juliette (the late Casimir) Zaranek, the late Denise DePorre, the late Jules (Carolyn) DePorre, James (Janet) DePorre. Brother-in-law to the late John Teppert, Sally Teppert. Proud grands of 14. Beloved by all who knew him, including countless nieces and nephews. Family will receive friends at A. J. Desmond & Sons Funeral Home, 2600 Crooks Rd., (brwn. Maple & Big Beaver), Friday 1-9 PM, with Scripture Service Friday 7 PM. Funeral Mass Saturday 10 AM at St. Thomas More Church, 4580 Adams Road, Troy. Prayers at the funeral home Saturday 9:15 AM followed by procession to church. Memorial Tributes to the Companion Animal Fund, CVM Development, Michigan State University, F-130 Veterinary Medical Center, East Lansing, MI 48824. Pierre was a great man devoted to caring for all of God's creatures - great and small. View obituary and share memories at: www.DesmondFuneralHome.com

OBITUARY POLICY

The first five "billed" lines of an obituary are published at no cost. All additional lines will be charged at \$4 per line. You may place a picture of your loved one for an additional cost of only \$6. Symbolic emblems may be included at no cost (example: American flags, religious symbols, etc.)

Deadlines:

Friday 4:30 PM for Sunday
Wednesday Noon for Thursday
Obituaries received after these deadlines will be placed in the next available issue.

e-mail your obit to
oeobits@hometownlife.com
or fax to:
Attn: Obits c/o Charlotte Wilson
734-953-2232
For more information call:
Charlotte Wilson
734-953-2070
or Liz Keiser
734-953-2067
or toll free
866-818-7653
ask for Char or Liz

RELIGION CALENDAR

If you want to submit an item for the religion calendar, fax it to (734) 591-7279 or write: Religion Calendar, Observer Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150. The deadline for an announcement to appear in the Thursday edition is noon Monday.

NOVEMBER

Thanksgiving service

10 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 23, at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville. For information, call (248) 374-7400. The church's traditional celebration features the Chancel Choir, Orchestra, Teen Choir and Children's Choir. Special presentation of the Battle Hymn of the Republic. Childcare provided to age 4.

Unity of Livonia

VegMichigan Thanksgiving Potluck Celebration features traditional and festive fare that is free of meat, dairy and other animal products noon to 6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 23, Unity of Livonia, 28660 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster. Vegetarians, vegans and anyone trying to eat less meat are welcome to attend this celebration of the season's abundance. In addition to the feast, the day features gratitude readings by children, origami demonstration, children's coloring contest, a pianist and other entertainment. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own instruments and talents and join in the celebration. Admission to the event is a vegan (no animal products) dish sized for 8, or first-time attendees may bring \$10 in lieu of a dish though food is preferred to ensure a day-long feast.

VegMichigan, formerly Veggies in Motion, promotes awareness of the health, ecological and ethical benefits of a plant-based lifestyle. The group hosts the local Great American Meatout each spring and sponsors numerous educational classes, lectures, potlucks, dinner club and social outings plus a monthly e-newsletter. For details, visit www.vegMichigan.org or call (toll free) (877) 778-3464.

Lighthouse cafe

7-10 p.m. Friday, Nov. 24, at Ward Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville. Tickets are \$5 at the door. Call (248) 374-5920.

Anniversary kick off

Garden City Presbyterian Church celebrates its 175th anniversary in February 2007. To kick off the observance, the church will have marchers and floats in the Santaland Parade on Saturday, Nov. 25. Everyone is welcome to join in the celebration in 2007. For information, call (734) 421-7620.

Church fund-raiser

Cherry Hill United Methodist Church, 321 S. Ridge Road in Canton, is having a Fund-raiser 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 25. Several vendors will be selling their products. What a great time to shop for Christmas gifts or birthday presents for your loved ones. No charge. Refreshments and Bake Sale are available. For more information, call (734) 495-0035.

Messiah

4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 26, at the historic Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament, 9844 Woodbridge at Trowbridge, Detroit. The concert is performed by the Archdiocesan Chorus and orchestra. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$15 at door. Call (313) 865-6300, Ext. 227, or visit www.aod.online and click on calendar.

Celebrate Christmas season

At Detroit First Church of the Nazarene in Northville 6 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 26, a Red Sweater Night starts the Advent season with Christmas music, fellowship and refreshments (nursery available for children from newborns to 36-months; 10:50 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 3 the Children's Choir presents A Christmas Carol based on the traditional Christmas Carol story-line; 10:50 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 10 Baby's First Christmas invites families to include their baby in the morning worship service, call (248) 348-7600 by Dec. 3, children's programs will be available for birth to elementary age; 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 15, and 10:50 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 17 the Sanctuary Choir, instrumentalists and drama team present Journey to the Manager, a musical drama, the nursery is available for children birth to age three for both dates, and 10:50 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 24 Christmas Eve service includes communion and ends with a traditional candlelight service, nursery available for children birth to 36-months, at the church, 21260 Haggerty. For information, call (248) 348-7600.

Toy train show

11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 26, at St. Albert the Great School, 4855 Parker, Dearborn Heights. Admission is \$3 per person, \$6 per family. The kitchen will be open with food and refreshments. For information, call (313) 277-2419.

Blood drive

Red Cross blood drive 2-8 p.m. Monday, Nov. 27, at St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 South Sheldon, Plymouth. Call Carolyn Libeau at (734) 455-5395 to make an appointment of just drop in.

Christmas luncheon

Fellowship luncheon 12:15 p.m. Friday, Dec. 1, at Farmington First United Methodist Church, 33112 Grand River, second block east of Farmington Road at Warner. Cost is \$7, reservations required. Call Betty Haines by Tuesday, Nov. 28 for reservations and if baby-sitting is needed. Program includes the Cass Ambassadors Choir, installation of Church Women United officers, and Right Family Christmas game (bring wrapped new \$5 gift to exchange during the game). Bring canned and boxed foods for local food bank.

Christmas Hope tour

The Nov. 28 concert, which was to be presented at Faith Lutheran Church in Troy, has been canceled by the promoter.

Worship service

All are welcome to attend 11 a.m. worship service Sundays, at Good Shepherd Reformed Church, 6500 N. Wayne at Hunter, Westland. Join us at 7 p.m. Tuesdays in November and December as Pastor Louise Monacelli introduces The Jesus Experience, a series of videos offering insight into the people and situations God used to expand the church around the world. For more information, call (734) 721-0800.

St. Nicklaus Breakfast

9:30 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 2, at Church of the Savior, 38100 Five Mile. There will be a pancake breakfast, craft table and a program by St. Nicklaus himself telling about the origins of Santa Claus. Free will offering. RSVP to (734) 464-0527 by Nov. 29. All ages welcome.

Bridging the holidays

A program designed to help families work through the holidays and special occasions without their loved one, includes a small memorial 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 29, at St. Cletus Catholic Church, 26256 Ryan, Warren.

Winter memorial 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2, at Best Western Hotel, 16999 South Laurel Park Drive, Livonia. Come to honor and celebrate the lives of your loved one. All programs are non-denominational. No charge. RSVP requested by Nov. 27. at (800) 770-9859. Refreshments provided.

Grief and the holidays

Workshop focuses on facing the holidays after the death of a loved one 7-8:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 30, at Ward Presbyterian Church, 4000 Six Mile, Northville. Registration at the door, no fee. For information, call (248) 374-5920.

Hanukkah gift shoppe

Congregation Beit Kodesh Sisterhood Hanukkah/Judaic gift shop opens from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Sundays through Dec. 10. Selection includes holiday gift wrap, chocolate coins, dreidels, candles, electric and traditional menorahs and many Judaic gift items. Congregation Beit Kodesh is located at 31840 W. Seven Mile, Livonia.

UPCOMING

Concert

Performance by Andy Chrisman, one of the founding members of the group 4HIM, 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 1, pre-concert dinner for singles only at 6 p.m. in Parlor C317, at Ward Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville. Cost is \$10 for dinner and concert (must be purchased in advance), and \$5 for concert. For information, call (248) 374-5920.

Irish Christmas Craft Bazaar

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2, and noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 3, at AOH Hall, 24242 Grand River, one block west of Telegraph, Detroit. For information, call (313) 565-3317.

Classic senior singles

Get-a-way to Olde World Canterbury Village, Lake Orion, departs at 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 2 from Ward Presbyterian Church Parking Lot 7, 40000 Six Mile, Northville. Tickets are \$20 and includes transportation and lunch. For details, call (248) 374-5920.

Monthly dance

Presented by Bethany Suburban West, a Catholic organization providing peer support for the divorced and separated of all faiths, 8 p.m. to midnight, Saturday, Dec. 2, at Don Hubert VFW Hall, 27345 Schoolcraft (eastbound I-96 service drive), east of Inkster, Redford. All separated, divorced and singles welcome. Cost is \$10, includes refreshments. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. For details, call (734) 261-5716.

Covenant Players

7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2, and Sunday, Dec. 3 during 10:30 a.m. service, at New Beginnings United Methodist Church, 16175 Delaware at Puritan, Redford. For information, call (313) 255-6330.

Crafters wanted

For the St. Thomas a' Beckett Church Christmas Craft Show to be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2, at 555 S. Lilley, Canton. The church is accepting applications for handmade crafts only. Call (734) 981-1333.

Christmas craft show

Featuring more than 85 crafters 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2, at St. Thomas a'Beckett Catholic Church, 555 S. Lilley at Cherry Hill, Canton. Admission is \$2, under age 12 free. Bake sale and lunch available. Call

(734) 981-1333.

Christmas concert

Presented by the Friends of the Opera of Michigan and features Karin White, soprano, and Quinto Millito, baritone, accompanied by pianist Jeanne Muraski 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 3, at St. Aidan Catholic Church, 17500 Farmington Road, Livonia. No charge. Donations are welcome. For information, call (313) 582-0997.

Christmas music

Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols, 7 p.m. Dec. 3, at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville. For details, call (248) 374-7400. Through Scripture and beautiful music, this quiet and reflective candlelight service will help prepare your heart for Christmas. Childcare provided to age 4. No charge.

Choral concert

Concert of Advent and Christmas music including part I of Handel's Messiah Featuring Kirk in the Hills Chancel Choir and The Detroit Chamber Winds and Strings 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 3, at Kirk in the Hills, 1340 West Long Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills. Tickets are \$18, \$15 seniors, \$12 students, and available by calling (248) 626, 2515, Ext. 109, or at the door. 0800.

Vespers and Nativity concert

Sponsored by the Council of Orthodox Christian Churches of Metropolitan Detroit (COCC) 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 3, at St. Clement Ohridski Macedonian-Bulgarian Orthodox Church, 19600 Ford Road, Dearborn. The evening begins with a Vespers service concelebrated by priests from COCC member churches and sung by the COCC's Inter-Orthodox Choir. Following the service, the choir will sing a concert of Orthodox liturgical and para-liturgical music for the Nativity season and selected Eastern and Western European Advent and Christmas carols. The story of St. Nicholas and gifts for children will follow the concert. Refreshments will be served.

The evening is free of charge and open to the public. A freewill offering will be collected. For more information, call (313) 366-0677 or send e-mail to KopicistanskyVickie@sbcglobal.net.

Traditions of Christmas

Multi-event open house with carols, stories, musical performances, model train layouts, cookie decorating, crafts, displays, film, and The Best Christmas Pageant Ever 3-8 p.m. Thursday-Friday, Dec. 7-8, and noon to 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, at First Presbyterian Church, 1669 West Maple, Birmingham. A gift to the community. No tickets, donations or reservations necessary. Call (248) 644-2040.

Men of Grace

A special night of worship featuring Christmas songs, spirituals, hymns, traditional and contemporary, original music, and arrangements performed by Men of Grace from Grace Centers of Hope (Pontiac) 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 8, at Risen Christ Lutheran Church, 46250 Ann Arbor Road, one block east of Beck, Plymouth. Free will offering will be taken to benefit seminary study Scott Eberlein. Call (734) 453-5252.

Crosswalk

A lively discussion for singles on a topic of current interest 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 8, at Ward Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville. Learn how the Bible addresses modern day events. Free childcare provided. For details, call (248) 374-5920.

Cookie walk

Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church's 13th Annual Cookie Walk takes place Saturday, Dec. 9, at 36075 W. Seven Mile, 3/4 mile east of Newburgh on south side of street, Livonia. Doors open at 8 a.m., sale starts at 9 a.m. and lasts until we are sold out. Pierogi, stuffed cabbage, bread, nut and poppyseed rolls, and over 50 different varieties of ethnic (kiesle, kolachy, rugela, koulourakia, biscotti, linzer) and traditional cookies and candy will be for sale.

Christmas cookie walk

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, at St. Michael's Orthodox Church, 26355 W. Chicago, between Beech Daly and Inkster, Redford. Cookies are sold by the pound.

Live Nativity

During open House noon to 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, at Ward Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville. Please join us for cookies, juice and coffee in Knox Hall as the Live Nativity is displayed. Call (248) 374-5932.

Christmas play

Journey to Bethlehem returns for a sixth year, a walk-through play of the birth of Jesus 4 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 5 p.m., 5:30 p.m., 6 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, and 2 p.m., 2:30 p.m., 3 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 4 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10, at Unity of Livonia, 28660 Five Mile, between Inkster and Middlebelt. Call (734) 421-1760.

Christmas music

Christmas Jazz Vespers Service 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10, at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville. For information, call (248) 374-7400. Jazz in the Spirit, from First Presbyterian Church in Birmingham, will present a musical, poetic and prayer filled worship experience. Child care provided to age 4. No charge.

May peace
be with
you in this
time of
sorrow.

Your Invitation To Worship

BAPTIST

NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH
 33640 Michigan Ave. • Wayne, MI
 (Between Wayne Rd. & Merriman Rd.)
 (734) 728-2180
Virgil Humes, Pastor



Sunday Morning Worship 9:00 a.m.
 Sunday Evening 7:00 a.m. • 10:00 a.m. • 11:00 a.m.
 Wednesday Prayer Service 6:00 p.m. • Wednesday 1:00 p.m. • Thursday 10:00 a.m. • Friday 7:00 p.m.

UNITED METHODIST

Clarenceville United Methodist
 20300 Middlebelt Rd. • Livonia
 248-474-3444
 Pastor James E. Britt
 Worship Service 9:30 AM
 Sunday Evening Service 6:00 PM
 Nursery Provided
 Sunday School 11 AM

Redford Aldersgate
 2 blocks South of Plymouth
 10000 Beech Dale • 313-937-3170
 9:30 - Trad. Worship & Sun. Sch.
 11:00 - Contemp. Family Worship
www.redfordaldersgate.org

LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church
 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia Just north of I-96
 734-522-6830

Sunday Worship
 8:15 & 11:00 am - Traditional
 9:45 - Modern
 Staffed Nursery Available

Sunday School
 9:45 & 11 am
 Early Childhood Center
 Phone 734-513-8413

Making disciples who share the love of Jesus Christ
 Pastors: Robert F Bayer and Anthony M. Creeden

Canton Christian Fellowship
 "Where the Word is Relevant. People are Loved and Christ is the Key"
 Join us for Worship Service at 10:30am
 Sunday School and/or New Members Orientation: 9:00am
 Located at 8775 Ronda Drive, Canton, MI, 48187
 Between Haggerty Road and Lilley Road
 SW corner of Joy Road and Ronda Drive
 734-404-2480
www.CantonCF.org
 It's not about Religion, it's about Relationships.
 Come to a place where lives are changed, families are made whole and ministry is real!



More than Sunday Services
 Worship Service
 9:00, 10:30 & 11:00 a.m.
 • Dynamic Youth and Children's Programs
 • Excellent Music Ministries
 • Small Groups For Every Age
 • Outreach Opportunities
 Pastor:
 Dr. Dean Klump
 Associate Pastor: Rev. David Wichert

First United Methodist Church of Plymouth
 45201 North Territorial Road
 (West of Sheldon Road)
 (734) 453-5280
www.fumc.org

NEWBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 "Open Hearts, Minds & Doors"
 36500 Ann Arbor Trail
 between Wayne & Newburgh Rds.
 734-422-0149
 Worship Service and
 Sunday School
 9:15 & 11:00 a.m.
 Rev. Marsha M. Woolley
 Visit our website: www.newburgumc.org

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD
 25630 GRAND RIVER at BEECH DALE
 313-532-2266 REDFORD TWP.

Worship Service
 9:15 & 11:00 A.M.
 Sunday School
 9:15 & 11:00 A.M.
 Nursery Provided
 The Rev. Timothy R. Halboth, Senior Pastor
 The Rev. Dr. Victor F. Halboth, Assistant Pastor

HOSANNA-TABOR LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL
 9600 Levee • So. Redford • 313-937-2424
 Rev. Jonathan Maror, Sr. Pastor
 Sunday Morning Worship
 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
 Education Hour 9:45 a.m.
 Christian School
 Pre-Kindergarten-5th Grade
 For more information call
 313-937-2233

CATHOLIC

ST. ANNE'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
 Immemorial Latin Mass
 Approved by Pope St. Pius V in 1570
 St. Anne's Academy - Grades K-8
 28310 Joy Road • Redford, Michigan
 5 Blocks E. of Telegraph • (313) 534-2121

Mass Schedule:
 First Fri. 7:00 p.m.
 First Sat. 11:00 a.m.
 Sun. Masses 7:30 & 9:30 a.m.
 Confessions Heard Prior to Each Mass
 Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions
 Tuesdays at 7:00 P.M.

CHURCH OF CHRIST

CHURCH of CHRIST WEST
 291 East Spring Street • Plymouth 48170
 Sunday Worship • 11am & 6pm
 Bible Lists
 Sunday 11am & Wednesday 7pm
 734-451-1877 Michigan Bible School
 Tuesday & Thursday 7pm
 Minister John Nattie
www.hunholchirst-west.org

JEWISH

CONGREGATION BEIT KODESH
 1-248-477-8974
 31840 W. Seven Mile Rd., Livonia
 Rekindle your Jewish roots with us.
 Friday Night Services 8:00 pm
 Saturday Services 9:00 am
 Sunday School 9:30 am Sept.-May
www.beitkodesh.org

PRESBYTERIAN (U.S.A.)

Worship in Downtown Plymouth
First Presbyterian Church
 Main & Church Streets • (734) 453-6364
 8:30, 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.
 visit us at www.fpcp.net

Risen Christ Lutheran LC-MS
 David W. Martin, Pastor
 46250 Ann Arbor Road • Plymouth
 (1 Mile West of Sheldon)
 (734) 453-5252
 Sunday Worship 8:15 & 10:45 am
 Sunday School (Children & Adults) 9:30 am
 All are Welcome Come as you are!
www.risenchrist.info

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

Timothy Lutheran Church
 A Reconciling in Christ Congregation
 8820 Wayne Rd.
 (Between Ann Arbor Trail & Joy Road)
 Livonia • 427-2290
 Jill Hegdal, Pastor
 10:00 a.m. Family Worship
 (Nursery Available)

EVANGELICAL COVENANT

FAITH COVENANT CHURCH
 14 Mile Road and Drake, Farmington Hills
 (248) 661-9191
 Sunday Worship and Children's Church
 9:15 a.m. Contemporary
 11:00 a.m. Traditional
 Child Care provided for all services
 Youth Groups • Adult Small Groups

EPISCOPAL

RESURRECTION CATHOLIC CHURCH
 48755 Warren Rd., Canton, Michigan 48187
 451-0444
 REV. RICHARD A. PERETTO
 Weekday Masses
 Tuesday & Friday 8:30 a.m.
 Saturday - 4:30 p.m.
 Sunday - 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.

ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
 16360 Hubbard Road
 Livonia, Michigan 48154
 734-421-8451
 Wednesday 9:30 A.M. Holy Eucharist
 Saturday 5:00 P.M. Holy Eucharist
 Sunday 7:45 & 10:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist
 Office Hours 9 A.M. - 3 P.M.
www.standrewschurch.net
 The Rev. John W. Henry II Rector

NON DENOMINATIONAL

BELL CREEK
 Casual, Contemporary, Excellent Children's Program
 Meets at Franklin H.S. in Livonia on Joy Road
 (Between Merriman & Farmington Roads)
 at 10:00 a.m.
 734-425-1174
 Join us for coffee, bagels and donuts after the service!

Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church (USA)
 9601 Hubbard at W. Chicago, Livonia, MI
 (Between Merriman & Farmington Rds.)
 (734) 422-0494
www.rosedalegardens.org
 Contemporary Service 9:00 am
 Traditional Service 10:30 am
 We Welcome You To A Full Service Church
 Rev. Richard Peters, Pastor
 Rev. Kellie Whitlock, Associate Pastor

LUTHERAN CHURCH WISCONSIN SYNOD

ST. PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL
 17810 FARMINGTON ROAD
 LIVONIA • (734) 261-1360
 SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES
 8:30 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.
 PASTOR JAMES HOFF
 PASTOR ERIC STEINBRENNER

CHURCHES OF THE NAZARENE

PLYMOUTH CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
 48801 W. Ann Arbor Road • (734) 453-1525
 Sunday School - 9:45 A.M.
 Sunday Worship - 11:00 A.M.
 Sunday Evening - 6:00 P.M.
 Family Night - Wed. 7:00 P.M.
 NEW HORIZONS FOR CHILDREN LEARNING CENTER
 (734) 456-3195

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

First Church of Christ, Scientist, Plymouth
 1100 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth, MI
 734-453-0970
 Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.
 Sunday School 10:30 a.m.
 Wed. Evening Testimony Meeting 7:30 p.m.
 Reading Room located at church
 Saturday 12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.
 734-453-0970

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
 574 S. Sheldon Road
 Plymouth, Mich. 48170
 734-453-0190
 Spoken service at 11:15 a.m.
 Contemporary service at 9:00 a.m.
 Traditional service with choir at 11:00 a.m.
 Education for All at 10:00 a.m.
www.stjohnsplymouth.org

EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN

WARD
 40000 Six Mile Road
 "just west of I-275"
 Northville, MI
 248-374-7400
 Traditional Worship 9:00 & 10:20 A.M.
 Contemporary Worship 11:40 A.M.
 Nursery & Sunday School During All Morning Worship Services
 Evening Service • 7:00 P.M.
 Services Broadcast 11:00 A.M. Sunday WMUZ 560 AM
 For additional information visit www.wardchurch.org

THE Observer & Eccentric NEWSPAPERS
 WHERE HOMETOWN STORIES UNFOLD

In addition to our weekly Worship Directory, the Observer and Eccentric Newspapers publishes a traditional holiday directory before Christmas. If you are interested, please call 734-953-2153 for more information.

For Church Directory changes and information regarding advertising in this directory, please call Donna Hart (734) 953-2153 the Friday before publication.
 To mail copy: The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150 or Fax to (734) 953-2121

CHINA

FROM PAGE A13

children speak both English and Chinese. Clearly the Chinese value education and see the connection between a solid education and a strong economic future."

Price, vice president of the Northville Board of Education, added, "We can be proud of the quality of the education we offer, but the Chinese are obviously driven to learn and improve. As educators, we need to understand that our children will be competing against the children of the world, and staying even is falling behind."

EYE-OPENING TRIP

Our days began at 7 a.m. and often ended the day with lavish banquets with our Chinese hosts. The food was good, different (when is the last time you ate jellyfish, sea urchin or chicken feet?), and plentiful.

The trip also included time for shopping and touring. We took in the awe-inspiring Great Wall of China, Tiananmen Square, Forbidden City, a pagoda, the Temple of Heaven and the Terra Cotta Warriors, not to mention the eye-popping education you can take in with a walk around the block or simply using a Chinese squat toilet.

Ask yourself why, if China has the fastest-growing economy and is likely to surpass the U.S. as the largest economy in the world over the next two decades, its language, culture, history and language are not taught in more of our schools today?

The Chinese government attaches great importance to the promotion of Chinese language throughout the world. In order to enhance mutual understanding and friendship between the Chinese people and peoples of the world, the Chinese government has embarked on "efforts to promote economic and trade cooperation as well as scientific, technological and cultural exchanges between the Chinese and other countries."

China's achievements since Deng Xiaoping have opened

the country to the world and are remarkable and universally acknowledged, particularly when put in a historical perspective. Deng Xiaoping is credited with providing the political support to help remake China into the giant it is today.

Yet, while Deng set the stage, it is through the hard work and focus of the Chinese people and academic, professional, economic, cultural and scientific exchanges that China has flourished. Some Americans still harbor ill feelings toward the "communist" government that brought the horrors of the Cultural Revolution and massacre in Tiananmen Square in 1989. Yet it is my firm belief that it is through the open exchange of ideas and interaction between Chinese and western people at multiple levels that freedom and democracy will find fertile ground to flourish.

With this exchange group, we have planted seeds that will take root in both Chinese and Michigan soil that will provide a bounty of knowledge to benefit our children for centuries to come.

China is a giant that has awakened. Its educational and economic systems are on steroids and they are moving aggressively to catch up with the West. Their goal is not simply to be the cheap factory for the world, but to be the innovators, creators and entrepreneurs of the world. They know that their future is inextricably tied to the quality of the educational system.

"We all know what a tremendous impact China's manufacturing sector is having on our economy. This was a great opportunity to get a firsthand look at their education system which will ultimately have an even greater impact on the American and world economy," said Gregory Handel Sr., director of Workforce Development for the Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce.

KNOWLEDGE COMPETITION

Michigan will never be able to compete with China on cheap labor. However, we can and should compete with

China by making our children the best-educated students in the world. Michigan will succeed when we are exporting knowledge, creativity and innovation on the world stage. We cannot do that by thinking our past success is a predictor of future success. It is only through hard work, innovation and seeking new knowledge that we can truly prepare our children for the future.

Former state school board member and current Oakland County Circuit Court Judge Michael David Warren Jr. sums it up best when he says: "China is clearly undergoing a fundamental economic and related cultural transformation. They undoubtedly are attempting to become a new superpower."

"Unlike the other threats we currently face, we can confront this one best by engagement and building bridges. They appear to be anxious to learn from and about Americans, and to become cooperative partners. By such engagement, we can foster in China the way of life we cherish here — freedom, representative democracy, and justice. The opposite approach — building walls — will only exacerbate our differences and degrade our influence."

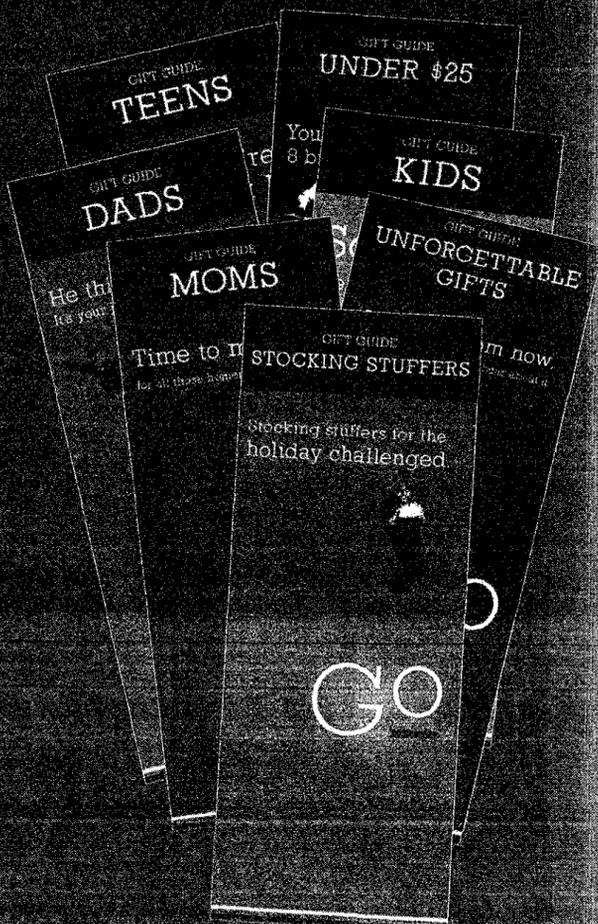
There are naysayers that fear the rise of China. I believe it is important that we engage China and the rest of Asia on a economic, cultural, scientific and educational level in ways that will benefit Michigan and America.

The person who says it cannot be done should not interrupt the persons doing it.
— Chinese proverb

Go online at www.hometownlife.com to read Watkins' full report. Look for the second installment of the China experience next week on these same pages and online.

Tom Watkins is a business and education consultant and the former state superintendent of schools. Read his internationally recognized report: (now translated into Chinese) The New Education (R)evolution at www.nacol.org.

Holiday Gift Guides now available.



We searched every store in the mall for the best gift ideas and put them into handy guides for everyone on your list. Get yours today.



Turkey Sale!

20% off*

Friday, November 24th thru Sunday, December 3rd

Christmas Eve 2006 Annual Star Border Collection by Spode

Heslop's
China & Gifts

Novi Town Center • 26020 Ingersol, Novi, MI • (248) 349-8090

HAPPY FEET

TAKE THIS YEAR'S FAMILY PHOTO IN ANTARCTICA.

Choose from two scenes from the new movie *Happy Feet*, and send the coolest holiday cards on the block this year.

IN THEATERS NOW

PG PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED
www.happyfeetmovie.com
WARNER BROS. PICTURES