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Sports, B8



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Our views, A6

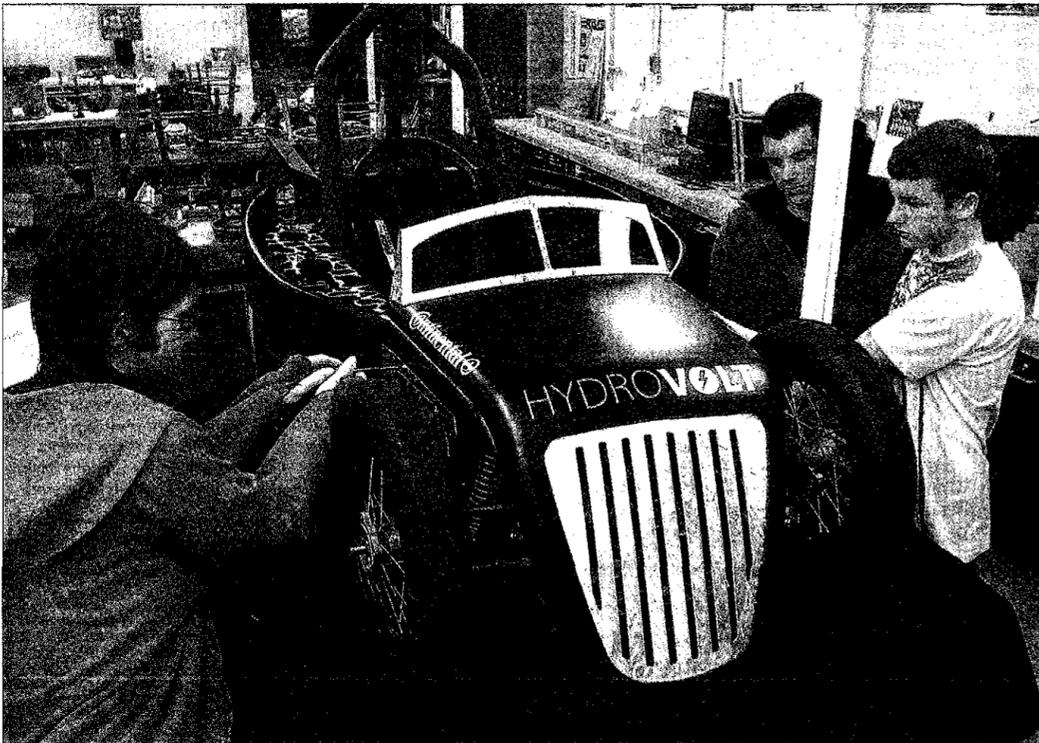
THURSDAY
December 11, 2008

WESTLAND
Observer

WINNERS OF STATE AND NATIONAL AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

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TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jon Fodal, an adult student from Westland (from left), Nathan Bovia, a senior at John Glenn High School, and Steven Decker, senior at Wayne Memorial High School prepare to remove the engine housing off the Hydro Volt that was built by students at the William D. Ford Career Technical Center.

Career tech students show style, smarts in designing vehicle

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The showcase in the commons of the William D. Ford Career Technical Center has more bling than Tiffany's. Six trophies fill the case, proclaiming the school's success in this year's Innovative Vehicle Design competition.

Hydro Volt, the student-built retro Rat Ride vehicle — a flat black scaled-down 1940s pickup that's a fuel cell/plug-in hybrid vehicle — received first-place trophies in innovation, engineering and

fabrication and Professionals' Pick, as well as second place for presentation, ambassadorship and vehicle performance.

"The students also really wanted innovation because of the uniqueness of the vehicle and they wanted fabrication because they worked so hard in building it piece by piece, but they were most pleased with the Professionals' Pick," said Sue Wilk, the IVD project coordinator. "They had to pitch it to the professionals for three days to convince them to vote for the car. They had to answer some good questions."

Two years in the making, the Hydro Volt was designed and fabricated from scratch by students in a variety of programs at the Career Technical Center. It features steer by wire, a data acquisition system, computerized driver information system and a 200W hydrogen fuel cell that recharges the batteries that power its electric motor. It has a top-end speed of 45 mph, but has been scaled back to 25 mph for safety reasons, Wilk said.

'CUTTING EDGE'

The frame and chassis of the one-seater IVD was from a student's CAD drawing, while the fiberglass body was made from a clay mold and was finished and painted by the Auto Body Shop. The HVAC class did the interior work, screwing sheet metal in the driver's compartment. Parts like an electric window motor from a Ford Windstar, the reverse switch from a go cart and the wheels and tires from a motor scooter also were used.

Please see **VEHICLE, A2**

Determined senior foils robbery

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A 69-year-old man got his money back after he chased down a self-described homeless man who robbed him Saturday evening outside a Westland grocery store, police said.

The incident happened about 5:45 p.m. outside the Aldi store at Wayne Road and Bayview, police Sgt. David Zucchetto said, and the suspect managed to escape on a bicycle.

The victim, accompanied by his wife, told police he was walking into the store when he encountered a stranger asking for change for a \$100 bill, police Sgt. Thad Nelson said.

"The citizen went inside the store, saw that he did have change, went back outside to change the \$100 bill and saw that it looked bogus," Nelson said.

The suspect then shoved him down, took his money and started to run away, but the victim chased him and caught him in a nearby yard where a

scuffle occurred, Nelson said.

Zucchetto confirmed that the suspect described himself as homeless and that he was briefly detained by the 69-year-old man, who was walking him toward Aldi when the suspect broke free and fled on a bike that he had left near the store.

No one was seriously injured during the incident, and the victim got his money back.

The suspect "told the victim that he was homeless and that was why he was trying to pull the scam on him," Zucchetto said.

The suspect was described as a tall, clean-shaven white male in his 20s with a medium build. He was last seen wearing layered clothing, including a dark blue or black hooded jacket or sweat shirt, and he was riding a dark-colored bike.

Anyone who has information is asked to call the Westland Police Department at (734) 721-6311 or (734) 722-9600.

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

Judge finds man can stand trial on murder charge

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

More than a year after he was accused of shooting and killing his deaf girlfriend as she lay in bed at the Westland home they shared, 45-year-old Timothy Catalano has been ordered to stand trial in Wayne County Circuit Court.

Catalano, also deaf, is facing trial for first-degree murder and felony firearm charges after Westland 18th District Judge C. Charles Bokos ruled Friday that Catalano was competent — a decision that culminated a long dispute over whether the defendant understood court proceedings against him.

The judge's ruling came after Catalano in June was referred for a second time to the Saline-based Center for Forensic Psychiatry, which found the defendant capable to assist in his own defense.

Catalano is accused of killing his girlfriend of 24 years, Tammy Susalla, as she lay in bed around 1 a.m. Aug. 27,

2007, at the three-bedroom ranch home the couple shared on Gloria, near Merriman and Cherry Hill. Police have said Susalla wanted to end the relationship.

The couple's daughter, 19 at the time, was in the basement when authorities said the killing occurred.

Catalano's competency ruling and new preliminary hearing came Friday after Bokos halted court proceedings in June, amid conflicting concerns by defense and prosecuting attorneys over whether Catalano was actually incompetent or might be faking his confusion through interpreters.

"I want to be sure the defendant isn't playing a game," Bokos had said in June.

But the judge found Catalano competent and ordered him to stand trial on Friday after receiving the latest report from the forensic center.

If convicted, Catalano faces life in prison.

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O&E customer service found in business park

Beginning Friday, Dec. 12, readers who wish to purchase back copies of the *Westland Observer* can do so at the circulation office at 41304 Concept D, in Plymouth Township. (see related map).

Customers can also place a classified ad and order photo and page reprints at the new office located in the Metro Plymouth Business Park off Haggerty Road between Schoolcraft and Plymouth roads.

The Observer office at 36251 Schoolcraft Road in Livonia is now closed.

Customer service representatives are available on site weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and until 6 p.m. on Thursdays in the new Plymouth Township office.

Customers also can call toll free (866) 887-2737 for delivery service and information regarding photos reprints weekdays and Sunday from 8:30 a.m. to noon or visit us anytime online at www.hometownlife.com (click on customer service at the top of homepage).

Readers can also use www.hometownlife.com to contact any member of the editorial staff, send a letter to the editor, community calendar item, photograph or press release.

Fax a letter to the editor, press release or item for the community calendar to (313) 223-3318.

The Observer also maintains a local retail advertising office in Plymouth Township. To contact an advertising representative, call (734) 582-8363.

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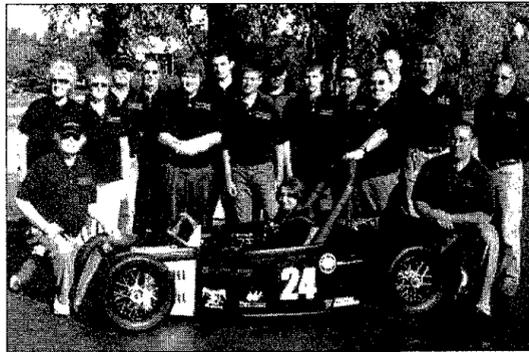
USA WEEKEN

Coming Sunday:
Will Smith's mature new mission

VEHICLE

FROM PAGE A1

"It's pretty cutting edge, the aim is to put out safer things for the environment," said Steven Decker, a Wayne Memorial High School student who helped do a lot of soldering on the car. "We use air and hydrogen to charge the batteries. If we could do it on a larger scale, it would be better for the environment and cheaper."



Students and staff from the William D. Ford Career Technical Center pose with the Hydro Volt which walked away with six trophies in the Convergence Education Foundation's Innovative Vehicle Design competition.

Jon Fodal, an adult student from Westland, was the last member to join the student team, getting on board to design the Web pages for the project.

"It took seven days and I talked to the team twice to come up with the pages," he said, adding that he built 18 Web pages involving 2,000 lines of code. The work was done in a Cascading style that he taught himself to do.

"I found out about it too late, I wish I'd been on it from day one," he added. "The next IVD I'm going to be a part of it."

Nate Bovia, a senior at John Glenn, also was late to join the team on the suggestion of teacher Zack MacLean. He told him it would be a good opportunity to get involved.

"It was just a frame when I started," he said. "I didn't think it would get done. There were a lot of pieces laying around the classroom. It came together all at once."

According to Wilk, Angela Czarniowski, one of three lead students on the IVD project, played a big role in the project. She had a dual enrollment and

was recruited for the project by the dean of the engineering department at Schoolcraft College.

"There's not one part of this car she didn't work on," said Wilk. "She even come up with the idea of a cow print for the driver's compartment, but we persuaded her not to put it on the roll bars. She was huge."

GETTING INVOLVED

Wilk has been helping with engineering projects at the center for 11 years and was involved with the Build Your Dream Car program when the center decided to switch to the IVD project.

"We wanted to get lots and lots of kids involved in producing an actual vehicle rather than a concept car," she said. "There 15 students involved in this, but it affected a lot of classes and a lot of kids because of its content."

The project is sponsored by the Convergence Education

Foundation which provides money to each participating team. William D. Ford's corporate partner was Continental Automotive Systems, but help also came from Ford Motor Co., National Instruments, Schoolcraft College and local businesses like Woolf Aircraft, Batteries Plus, Snap-On Tools, Keith's Muffler and Ovonic Hydrogen.

Students wrote the software for the data acquisition system, and National Instruments provided such things as the hardware, terminals and sensors for the speed, temperature and voltage.

The next two-year build cycle has yet to start, so the students and staff are busy retrofitting the first IVD, Thunderbolt II, with a remote-controlled gasoline engine to prove that the process can easily be taught. That's because the center is working with the foundation in writing a hybrid curriculum for middle and

MANY HELP CREATE IVD

The production of the Hydro Volt vehicle spanned two years and involved many people. Recognized for their contributions to the project were:

- Lead students Mike Paonessa, Angela Czarniowski and Frank Bazan.
- Critical team members Ryan Smith, Derrick Roulo, Kyle Facto, Denis Knight, Ryan Irwin, Joe Leschinski, Danielle Gunther, Donovan Roberts, Zach Ferris, James Holbrook, Jon Fodal, Leandra Caffee, Kyle Yarber, Kyle Bowman, Jeff Palmer, Nathan Bovia, Steven Decker, Thomas Wade, Ed Bailey, Paul Cox, Matthew Stakey, Jonathon Green and Tabatha Roberts.

- William D. Ford Career Technical staff members Sue Wilk, who led the team, Jim Schirmer, Mark Batko, Zack MacLean, JC Irvine and Kevin Ryska. Critical staff member support came from Keith Strickland, Nick Regets, Len Sheko, Bryan Zamorski, Mark Benglian, Steve Paulsen, Jeff Bloomer, Jim Holland, Ken Bobby, Stan Wildman, John Ramirez, Scott Heim and Al Nagy.

- Community and advisory members, including mentor Chris Piechocki of Continental AS, Milos Milacic, Ford Motor Co., Joe Jackson, Tom Rimatzki, Matt Anderson, Jim Grams, the Rod Ratters, Chris Parnin, formerly of Continental AS, Dean Bruce Sweet and professor John Schlick of Schoolcraft College and John Wilson of National Instruments.

- Local businesses Woolf Aircraft, Batteries Plus, Snap-On Tools, Keith's Muffler and Ovonic Hydrogen.

high schools.

"We would start teaching it in middle school so by the time the students get here they'll understand the concepts," said Wilk.

Hydro Volt, all of its trophies and five staffers also will be making a road trip to Wisconsin where staffers will make a presentation and receive the Showcase Program Award at a national career technical education convention.

Man gets probation in failed purse snatching

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A Westland man who tried to rob a 71-year-old woman of her purse outside a Kmart store has been placed on probation for two years.

Gary William VanHorn, 55, has avoided jail for an incident that happened about 9:45 a.m. Friday, Sept. 26, outside the Kmart store near the southeast corner of Wayne and Cherry Hill roads, according to the Michigan Department of Corrections.

VanHorn, originally charged with assault with intent to rob, was recently sentenced in Wayne County Circuit Court after he pleaded guilty to a lesser charge of larceny from a person.

VanHorn, a 6-foot-3, 210-pound man, was accused of approaching the 71-year-old woman while she was putting shopping bags in her car. He rode up on a bicycle, but the

woman braced herself and held on tightly to her purse, police Sgt. Thad Nelson has said.

VanHorn fled without the purse when a witness drove up, saw what was unfolding and started honking a car horn, Nelson said. Police officers searched the area, and with help from witnesses they found the suspect at a nearby apartment building, Nelson said.

VanHorn apparently didn't have a prior record, police said. As part of his probation sentence, VanHorn was ordered not to break any more laws, not to leave the state without permission, to receive outpatient substance abuse treatment, and to report monthly to a probation officer. He also has been ordered to pay certain fees and court costs.

If VanHorn violates his probation orders, he could be sent to jail to serve all or part of a two-year term.

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CORRECTION

The story that ran in Sunday's *Observer* about the Wayne County Commission passing a new ordinance that will transfer some of the county's parks millage back to local communities, indicated that the four commissioners who

voted against the measure were from Detroit, which is incorrect. Commissioner Joseph Palamara represents several Downriver communities, and Commissioner Ilona Varga's district includes Lincoln Park, as well as a portion of Detroit.

**CITY OF WESTLAND
NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION**

On Monday, December 22, 2008, various items of the City Westland DPW will be sold at public auction. The auction will be held at InsuranceAuto Auction 8251 Rawsonville Road, County of Wayne, at 10:30 a.m. The following items will be offered for sale to the highest bidder:

Stock	Year	Make	Model	VIN
4692402	2005	FORD	Crown Victoria	2FAHP71W05X114010

All vehicles are sold in "as is" condition. The referenced vehicles, as well as many others, may be previewed by prospective buyers on Friday, December 19, 2008, from 8:30 am - 4:30 pm. Vehicles may be deleted from this list at any time prior to the start of the auction.

Publish: December 11, 2008

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WESTLAND CAR CARE TOWING

6375 Hix Road, Westland, MI 48185

The following vehicle have been deemed abandoned and will be sold at public auction December 16, 2008 at 11:15 a.m. The auction will be held at Westland Car Care Towing, 6375 Hix Road, Westland, MI 48185. The Vehicles will be sold as is, starting bid is for towing and storage.

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	BODY	VIN#
1992	FORD	RANGER	P/U	1FTCR10X7NUA50769
1995	FORD	ESCORT	4/DR	1FASP14J4SW352551
1997	OLDS	ACHIEVA	4/DR	1G3NL52T4VM316079
1982	SEARS	TRAILER		NC61T69361
2001	KIA	SEPHIA	4/DR	KNAFB121515047056

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R. P's Repair & Towing
1686 S. Newburgh
Westland, MI 48186
(734) 721-6390

The following vehicle has been deemed abandoned and will be sold at public auction at 1686 S. Newburgh, Westland, MI December 12, 2008 at 9:45 a.m. A 1997 Nissan Quest Station Wagon. VIN#4N2DN1115V841809. Bidding will start at \$900.00 dollars.

Publish: December 07 and 11, 2008

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**CITY OF WESTLAND
SYNOPSIS OF MINUTES
MTG. 23 12/1/08**

Presiding: President Godbout
Present: Graunstadt, Kehrre, Pickering, Reeves, Stottliemyer
246- Appr. minutes of 11/17/08.
-Ext. of winter tax deadline 2/27/09.
- Council Mtg. dates for 2009.
-Traffic Control Order 2008-09: Install (2) signs: "HANDICAPPED CHILD IN AREA", (1) W/B at Hambleton, (1) E/B between Church & 35341 Marquette.
-Traffic Control Order 2008-10: Install (1) sign "NO PARKING HERE TO CORNER" at Treadwell & Glenwood.
-Traffic Control Order 2008-11: Install (2) signs: "NO PARKING BETWEEN SIGNS-SCHOOL DAYS 7-4" on Bentley Court.
-Traffic Control Order 2008-12: Install (3) "25 mph" signs: E/B Annapolis between Middlebelt & Inkster Rds.
-Appr. purch. of (6) 2009 Police vehicles, amt. \$148,304.16.
-Con. award to Gaglio PR Cement.
-Intro. Ord. 255, to add Chptr. 26, Art. XIII, Sect. 26-901 thru 26-906 to code.
-Adopted Amended 457 Deferred Comp. Plan.
-Granted Resource Recycling Sys. ability to send RFP & prices for recyc. Prog.
247-Bid for (2) Speed Radar Trailers, amt. \$16,850.00.
248-Appr. of Res. re: Taylor Towers.
249-Appr. rezoning from OB to CB-4, vehicle Service, #033-01-0040-000, S/W corner of Venoy & Warren Rds.
250-Confirm appt. of S. Durante to EDC/TIFA Bd. term exp. 1/22/2014.
251-Confirm appt. of S. Traver to DDA, term exp. 11/15/2012.
252-Appr. checklist: \$1,416,055.67 & Prepaid: \$1,888,931.81.
253-Meeting adj. at 8:50 p.m.
Minutes available in the Clerk's office.

James Godbout
Council President

Tina M. Stanke
Deputy City Clerk

Publish: December 11, 2008

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OHC-Garden City 734.762.3600	OHC-Southgate 734.246.8100	
OHC-Dearborn Hubbard Dr. ... 313.271.3801	OHC-Westland 734.727.1000	

Judge blocks release of e-mails sent by WWEA president

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A Wayne County Circuit Court judge has stopped the release of messages sent by the president of the Wayne-Westland Education Association to a west Michigan education watchdog group.

Last week, Judge Kathleen McDonald blocked the release of the e-mails to the Education Action Group which requested them through a Freedom of Information Act request

filed Nov. 11 with the Wayne-Westland Community Schools. "The EAG was completely bushwhacked," said Kyle Olsen, EAG vice president of strategy. "We did not obtain legal counsel because the issue was between EAG and the school district and the district never gave any indication that it would be unable to fill the request."

Olsen also called McDonald's decision "totally unfair" and "illegal," and said it denied the group due process.

EAG had requested copies

of communications WWEA President Nancy Strachan had sent using a "taxpayer-funded e-mail account." According to Olsen, the request was to determine the union's communications with the Michigan Education Association during a four-day teacher strike in October as well as the extent of union involvement in the recall effort of Wayne-Westland school board members Martha Pitsenbarger and Skip Monit.

"We have no interest in Strachan's communications

with teachers regarding the education of Wayne-Westland kids," he said. "We're simply trying to get to the bottom of the union's involvement in the recall effort the organizers say stems from the union's 'illegal withholding of services' related to the four-day strike."

The e-mails were set to be released last Friday, however, McDonald sided with the Michigan Education Association which filed a lawsuit against the school district last Wednesday to stop the release of the e-mails.

The MEA declined comment on the lawsuit, citing an agreement to refrain from comment engineered by administrative law Judge Doyle O'Connor of the Michigan Employee Relations Commission. The school district and the WWEA are engaged in fact-finding in an effort to hammer out a new contract.

McDonald issued a temporary restraining order last Thursday, a move Olsen called "unprecedented" in that a nongovernment plaintiff was given standing as a plaintiff in a FOIA case.

Referring to the text messaging scandal in Detroit, Olsen said the public's right to make fair judgments should outweigh the union's attempt to cover up their president's "careless use of taxpayer-funded equipment."

Olsen said that EAG is evaluating its options, adding that the nonprofit, nonpartisan group "will fight the union every step of the way" to get the information released.

smason@hometownlife.com

Police look for suspects who beat, robbed man

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A Westland man told police he was beaten with a hammer and robbed outside his house on the city's northeast side, police Lt. Dan Karrick said.

The victim told police he was smoking a cigarette on his porch when he saw two men walking from a bar toward his house, near Warren and Cavell, between midnight and 1 a.m. Dec. 2.

"He went to his vehicle to get more cigarettes, and they walked up behind him," Karrick said. "He said one of them struck him on the head with a ball peen hammer. He fell to the ground and was struck five more times," each time on the head.

The victim told police he was robbed of his money as he was losing consciousness.

After he awoke, the man

called 9-1-1, and he was taken to a hospital where he was treated for his injuries. He has since been released, Karrick said.

The victim described one of his attackers as a 6-foot-1, skinny black male in his 20s, wearing a black jacket and a red hat. The man wasn't able to provide a description of the second suspect who approached him.

The incident remains under investigation. Anyone who has information about the incident is asked to call Westland police at (734) 721-6311 or (734) 722-9600.

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Historic holiday

The public is invited to visit the city's historic Octagon House 2-4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, to enjoy refreshments and see Santa Claus. Cameras may be brought along. The house is located at the Westland Historic Village Park on Wayne between Marquette and Cherry Hill. The historic museum on the same site will be open 1-4 p.m. that day.

Bowling with Santa

Grab your ball and shoes and head for Town N' Country Lanes for Bowling with Santa, 3-5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20. The event is sponsored by the Grange 389, Westland Parks and Recreation, and Town-n-Country Bowl. Each child will

AROUND WESTLAND

ON THE WEB

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receive one game of bowling, shoes, hot dog, drink, a visit from Santa, and more. For more information, call Jeff

Goodfellow at (734) 722-8324. The event will help raise funds for the Grange's third-grade dictionary program for the Wayne-Westland Community Schools.

Holiday Cookie Walk

The First United Methodist Church of Wayne will hold its Holiday Cookie Walk 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 13, at the

church, 3 Towne Square, across from the Wayne Post Office.

Homemade holiday cookies, breads, pies and candies will be sold, as well as specialty gift baskets. Small containers cost \$5, medium containers \$9 and large containers \$13. Homemade candies will be sold by the pound.

Call the church office at (734) 721-4801.

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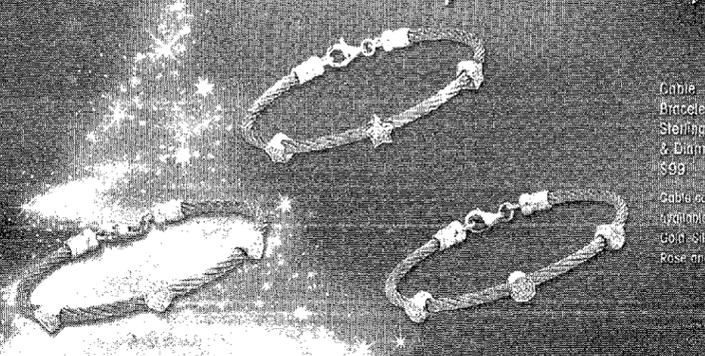
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*Minimum balance to open and obtain the Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is \$1,000.00 for the Linked-Rate CD, and requires the maintenance of another qualifying Huntington deposit account to which all interest earned on the account will be paid. This account is the Interest Receivable Account. Should the Interest Receivable Account be closed during the original term of the CD, the Alternate Interest Rate will be applied to the remainder of the original term. A penalty will be imposed for early withdrawal, which could reduce earnings on the account. For personal accounts of less than \$100,000.00. **Minimum balance to open and obtain APY for Huntington® Easy Access CDSM is \$15,000.00. A penalty will be imposed for early withdrawal during the original term on the amount of principal withdrawn within the first 60 days after the day of account opening. No penalty will be assessed for early withdrawal from the seventh day after the day of account opening through the end of the original term. A different early withdrawal penalty will apply during any renewal term. See "Huntington Easy Access CD - Fixed-Rate Certificate of Deposit Account Agreement and Disclosure of Account Terms and Rules and Regulations" for details about the early withdrawal penalty. Any withdrawal of principal during the original term of this account must be a withdrawal of the entire amount of the principal in the account. No partial withdrawal of principal is permitted during the original term. For consumer accounts only; maximum deposit amount \$250,000.00 per account. APYs are accurate as of the date of publication and subject to change at any time. Deposit products are FDIC insured up to applicable limits. Not valid with any other offers. Member FDIC. ® and Huntington® are federally registered service marks of Huntington Bancshares Incorporated. Huntington® Easy Access CDSM is a service mark of Huntington Bancshares Incorporated. ©2008 Huntington Bancshares Incorporated.



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Joe's Holiday Menu! Enjoy the holiday and give thanks that Joe's chefs are preparing tasty traditional meals that your family and friends will enjoy! We have appetizers, side dishes, desserts and complete gourmet dinners with all the trimmings. Call 248-477-4333 ext. 226

Joe's December SPECIALS!

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\$5.99 lb.

Dole Golden Ripe Whole Pineapples
99¢ ea.

Fresh Asparagus
\$1.99 lb.

Florida Crisp & Sweet Grape Tomatoes
99¢ pkg.

Dietz & Watson Garlic Cheddar Cheese
\$6.99 lb.

Oldtime Provolone Cheese
\$4.99 lb.

Sweet Darling Clementines
\$5.99 case

Fresh Squeezed Florida Orange or Grapefruit Juice
\$3.99 1/2 gal.

Tommy Adkins Mangos
2/98¢
\$4.99 a case

Dietz & Watson Buffalo Chicken
\$6.99 lb.

Boarshead Honey Maple Turkey
\$7.69 lb.

Boarshead Honey Maple Ham
\$6.99 lb.

Dietz & Watson Hard Salami
\$4.99 lb.
Save \$3.00 a pound

Joe's Special! Dearborn Brown Sugar Ham
\$3.99 lb.

Joe's Special! Oldtime Golden Brown Turkey
\$4.99 lb.

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Gabbiano Pinot Grigio '07
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2 Westland men arrested in deadbeat parents sweep

Two Westland men were among 43 deadbeat parents that were arrested as the result of a joint three-day operation involving the Attorney General's Child Support Division and Wayne County Sheriff Warren Evans.

The sweep targeted individuals who owed past due child support in Wayne County but failed to pay despite having the ability to do so.

Arrested in the sweep were



Springer



Murtagh

Liam Murtagh, 52, who owes more than \$58,000 in back child support to one child, and Ronald Springer, 58, who owes

more than \$115,000 in back child support to three children.

"Every day thousands of Michigan children go without the support they deserve," Attorney General Mike Cox said. "Too often these families are forced to receive public assistance to survive. My office will continue to fight for these children and hold deadbeat parents responsible."

"The money that this initiative is helping to collect will

help custodial parents make sure that their children have the most basic things they need everyday, whether it's a new winter coat, school supplies or nutritious food on the table," Evans said. "In this tough economy, every dollar matters for these struggling families."

According to Cox's office, defendant, Glenn Hayes of Novi, took off the "\$800 boots" he was wearing to change into more modest tennis shoes

before being taken to the Wayne County Jail. He owes more than \$62,000 in back child support to one child.

Since its inception, Cox's Child Support Division has recovered more than \$64 million in unpaid child support and more than 60,000 children in Michigan now receive the support they deserve. This year, the division has recovered more than \$14 million has returned more than \$1.3 million directly

to the State of Michigan.

Preliminary exams for the defendants are scheduled throughout this week and the following week. A criminal charge is merely an accusation and the defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

Preliminary exams on the charges the defendants were to be scheduled throughout this week and next week for those apprehended in the sweep.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nutcracker Ballet
More than 70 dancers from Bunny Sanford's School of Dance perform the holiday classic at 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, at Stevenson High School, 33500 Six Mile Road (just west of Farmington). Tickets are available for \$5. This special production features original choreography and costumes from the Nutcracker Ballet that formerly appeared at the Fox Theatre and Detroit Opera House. Tickets are available at the door or by calling Bunny Sanford's School of Dance at (734) 464-7440.

Craft Shows
Crafters and vendors are being sought for Lathers Elementary School's second annual Holiday Craft and Vendor Show 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13. The cost of an 8-foot space is \$20. All of the proceeds going toward new playground equipment. Contact Lisa at craftler2007@yahoo.com.

New Year's Eve
AMVETS Post 171 is holding a New Year's Eve party 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31, at the AMVETS Memorial Hall, 1217 Merriman, south of Cherry Hill, in Westland. The bar opens at 6 p.m., with dinner served at 7 p.m. There also will be dancing, a bottle of champagne for each table at midnight and pizza. Tickets cost is \$30 per person or \$45 per couple and information, call (734) (721-9440)

Prison Family Support Group
Do you have a family member currently serving time in prison, a subject that you can't easily discuss with just anyone? Now, there's a place for help - for conversation - for understanding of what you are going through.

Hope-4-Healing is a free on-going support group for those who have loved ones in prison, providing a safe place to talk about it, share with and learn from others. The group meets the second Monday of every month beginning in January 2009 at Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church, 36660 Cherry Hill, in Westland. For additional information, contact Bonnie at (734) 646-2237 or e-mail hope4healing@rocketmail.com.

Friends of Rouge
The Friends of the Rouge are looking for people interested in helping with two programs taking place in 2009. The first is the Rouge Winter Stonely Search 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Jan. 24. Join a team to search Rouge tributaries for the sensitive winter stonely. The program takes place at the Environmental Interpretive Center at the University of Michigan-Dearborn. Preregistration required. Call Sally Petrella at (313) 792-9621 or by e-mail at monitoring@therouge.org. For more information and a flyer, go online to www.therouge.org/Programs/PI/Benthic_Monitoring%20events.html

Petrella also is accepting signups for the Rouge Frog and Toad Survey training workshops. Volunteer to survey wetlands for frogs and toads by listening for their calls. Surveys are done independently on warm damp evenings March through July. Workshops will be held 10 a.m. to noon Feb. 14 at Southfield Parks and Recreation, 26000 Evergreen Road, Southfield; 7-9 p.m. March 4 at Canton Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway, Canton; 10 a.m. to noon March 14 in the Farmington Hills Council Chambers, 31555 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills, and 10 a.m. to noon March 21 at the Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty, Plymouth.



Blooming good donation

The Texas Roadhouse on Ford Road in Westland is giving the 'gift' of a free Baby Blossom coupon to diners who bring in new, unwrapped toys and/or nonperishable food items for the Wayne-Westland Corps of the Salvation Army. Donations can be dropped off at the roadhouse's Gift Card Trailer or at the restaurant between 10 a.m. and 10 p.m. daily. The restaurant also is sponsoring two families for the holidays through the Salvation Army.

Sign up to attend one workshop; preregistration required. For more information or to obtain a and a flyer, go online to www.therouge.org/Programs/PI/frog_and_toad_Workshops.htm

Charity casino
If you are looking for a place to show your skills at Texas Hold 'Em, the hottest game in town, the Canton Charity Casino, Western Wayne County's only charity poker room at the Shark Club on

Ford in Canton every Thursday through Sunday. The Canton Charity Casino offers nightly tournaments as well as continuous cash games and a venue for players of all skill levels. Non-profit, charitable organizations are licensed by the State of Michigan to sponsor each weekend, allowing them to raise funds for their special causes. The hours are 7 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Thursday-Friday (tournament at 8 p.m.) and 2 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Saturday-Sunday (tournament at 5 p.m.) The Shark Club is at 42070 Ford, just west of Haggerty in Canton. Non-profit groups interested in sponsoring a fund-raising weekend can call (734) 502-7033 or send an e-mail to spokertb@gmail.com.

Class reunion
Garden City High School Class of 1989 will hold its 20th reunion 6 p.m. to midnight Aug. 29, 2009, at Joy Manor in Westland. Tickets are \$65 before March 1 and \$75 March 2-June 1. Tickets includes, dinner, premium open bar, DJ, door prizes, picture CD and other gifts. Tickets are available for purchase at www.gardencity89.com or by contacting Paula at gch-1989reunion@hotmail.com.

Fish Dial-A-Ride
Fish Dial-A-Ride of Western Wayne County is seeking volunteer driv-

ers. A nonprofit community service group, it provides door-to-door rides to non-emergency medical and other necessary appointments for senior and disabled residents of Garden City, Livonia and Westland who are unable to drive and have no alternative transportation. Volunteers can specify days, times, and areas they're willing to drive. For additional information, call (888) 660-2007 and leave a message.

Higher Rock Cafe
The Wayne-Westland Salvation Army presents the Higher Rock Cafe the second and fourth Fridays of the month at its facility at 2300 Venoy, south of Palmer, Westland. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. Live bands perform beginning at 8 p.m. Admission is free, however, a free will offering will be taken to support the bands. Check out Higher Rock on the Web at www.tsa.higherrockcafe.4t.com or call (734) 722-3660.

FOR YOUR HEALTH

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. Call (734) 362-8825.

Substance abuse support
A SAFE PLACE meets at 7 p.m. Thursdays in the Fellowship Hall at Merriman Road Baptist Church, 2055 Merriman, Garden City. A SAFE PLACE is based on the Alcoholics for Christ program. For more information, call Russ Weathers at (734) 422-1995.

Menopause & More
A Menopause & More support group for women meets 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. Call (734) 655-1100.

Counterpoint
Counterpoint Shelter and Crisis Center offers free counseling and respite services for people ages 10-17 and their families. For more information, call (734) 563-5005.

Toughlove
A Toughlove support group meets 7:30-9:30 p.m. Tuesdays at Northwest Wayne Skill Center, Ann Arbor Trail between Merriman and Farmington roads. Newcomers welcome. Call (734) 261-7880 or (248) 380-7748.

CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

On December 16, 2008, the Westland Police Department will conduct a public auction of impounded, abandoned vehicles. The auction will begin promptly at 11:00 am at Westland Car Care, 6375 Hin Rd, Westland, MI County of Wayne, where the following vehicles will be offered for sale to the highest bidder:

YEAR	MAKE	BODY STYLE	COLOR	VIN
1993	Mercury	Gd Marquis/4D	White	2MELM75W3PX663015
2001	Ford	Escort/2D	Blue	3FAPP11321R138425
1997	Saturn	4D	Green	1G8ZH5280VZ132592
1997	Mercury	Mountaineer/4D	Green	4M2DU55P9VUJ31723
1992	Saturn	SC2/2D	Red	1G8ZH1472NZ105309
1999	Ford	Contour/4D	Burg	1FAPP6633XK109616
1990	Chevrolet	Cavalier/2D	Red	1G1JC14G6LJ109806
1995	Buick	Regal/2D	White	2G4WB12L7S1472037
1992	Olds	88/4D	Blue	1G3HN53L0NH345464
1993	Buick	4D	White	1G4HP53L7PH405104
1996	Mercury	Gd Marquis/4D	Red	2MELM75W6TX672219
1994	Mercury	Topaz/2D	Black	1MEP31X2RK615861
1994	Dodge	Dakota/Pickup	Red	1B7FL26X5RW148074
1995	Pontiac	Grand Am/2D	White	1G2NE15D8SM550698

All vehicles are sold in "as is" condition. Bidding on all vehicles will start at the amount due for towing and storage. Vehicles may be deleted from this list at any time prior to the start of the auction.

Publish: December 11, 2008

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2009 FIRE AND POLICE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION MEETING DATES

NOTICE OF SCHEDULE OF REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE WESTLAND FIRE AND POLICE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION TO BE HELD DURING THE CALENDAR YEAR COMMENCING JANUARY 14, 2009 AND ENDING DECEMBER 9, 2009:

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

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT THE WESTLAND FIRE AND POLICE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF WESTLAND, 36601 FORD ROAD, WESTLAND, MICHIGAN, (734) 467-3190, WILL HOLD REGULAR MEETINGS AT THE FOLLOWING DATES, TIMES AND PLACES DURING THE 2009 YEAR, COMMENCING JANUARY 14, 2009 AND ENDING DECEMBER 9, 2009:

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
01/14/09	9:00 A.M.	WESTLAND CITY HALL, 36601 FORD ROAD
02/11/09	9:00 A.M.	WESTLAND CITY HALL, 36601 FORD ROAD
03/11/09	9:00 A.M.	WESTLAND CITY HALL, 36601 FORD ROAD
04/08/09	9:00 A.M.	WESTLAND CITY HALL, 36601 FORD ROAD
05/13/09	9:00 A.M.	WESTLAND CITY HALL, 36601 FORD ROAD
06/10/09	9:00 A.M.	WESTLAND CITY HALL, 36601 FORD ROAD
07/08/09	9:00 A.M.	WESTLAND CITY HALL, 36601 FORD ROAD
08/12/09	9:00 A.M.	WESTLAND CITY HALL, 36601 FORD ROAD
09/09/09	9:00 A.M.	WESTLAND CITY HALL, 36601 FORD ROAD
10/14/09	9:00 A.M.	WESTLAND CITY HALL, 36601 FORD ROAD
11/18/09	9:00 A.M.	WESTLAND CITY HALL, 36601 FORD ROAD
12/09/09	9:00 A.M.	WESTLAND CITY HALL, 36601 FORD ROAD

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

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

EILEEN DeHART
WESTLAND CITY CLERK

Publish: December 11, 2008

080886498 - 24.7



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
10am-7pm Dec. 7	10am-9pm Dec. 8	10am-9pm Dec. 9	9am-9pm Dec. 10	9am-9pm Dec. 11	9am-9pm Dec. 12	8am-10pm Dec. 13
8am-10pm Dec. 14	8am-10pm Dec. 15	8am-10pm Dec. 16	8am-10pm Dec. 17	8am-10pm Dec. 18	8am-11pm Dec. 19	7am-11pm Dec. 20

Holiday Hours!

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OUR VIEWS

Rail station is good for city

Westland's selection as a train stop for a proposed commuter rail service between Detroit and Ann Arbor is good news any way you look at it. There's nothing to scoff at when you're talking about the potential for new jobs, businesses and housing in a relatively underdeveloped area of the city.

Even the fact that it hinges on funding and an agreement with Canadian National Railroad to use a stretch of its tracks from the New Center area of Detroit to near Dearborn shouldn't put a damper on the enthusiasm for the project.

The site is a logical choice. The railroad tracks run parallel to Michigan Avenue, a main east-west artery for travelers headed from Westland, Wayne and Canton to Detroit and communities in between or west to Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti. Merriman Road to the west is a main north-south artery to Detroit Metro Airport. Airport shuttles could help get travelers to Ann Arbor or Detroit via the Henry Ruff train station.

Granted, the funding may be a bit iffy right now, considering the state of the economy at the local, state and federal level, but where there's a will, there's a way, especially with more and more people parking their cars and turning to mass transit to get around.

The metropolitan area has never really been big on mass transit. Many years ago, people relied on street railways and buses to get around. But our love affair with the automobile has now left us with an inadequate transit system in need of improvements at a time when people are looking for alternatives to driving their cars.

You need only look to this summer when gas prices topped \$4 a gallon and people were scrambling to find different modes of transportation to see that. At the time, Hayes Jones, general manager of SMART (Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation), said the bus system saw ridership explode to more than 42,000 riders per week.

Gas prices have plummeted since then and we have yet to hear what ridership is now for SMART, but it's apparent that if the service is readily available and reliable, people will use it. And let's face it, cheap gas isn't going to last forever.

We say thank you to all the people who had an active role in getting the commuter train station. It's through the efforts of Mayor William Wild and his staff, state Sen. Glenn Anderson and state Rep. Richard LeBlanc and others that the city was picked. And we're confident that they will find the perfect mix of development for the area to showcase the city and cater to the needs of travelers.

All we need now is the sound of a train whistle and a round of "All aboard."

Put that flu shot at the top of the list

It's not too late to get a flu shot.

Even though Dr. Heather Jackson reports no official cases of influenza at Beaumont Hospital it's just a matter of time before patients start coming into the ER complaining of muscle aches, fever and headaches.

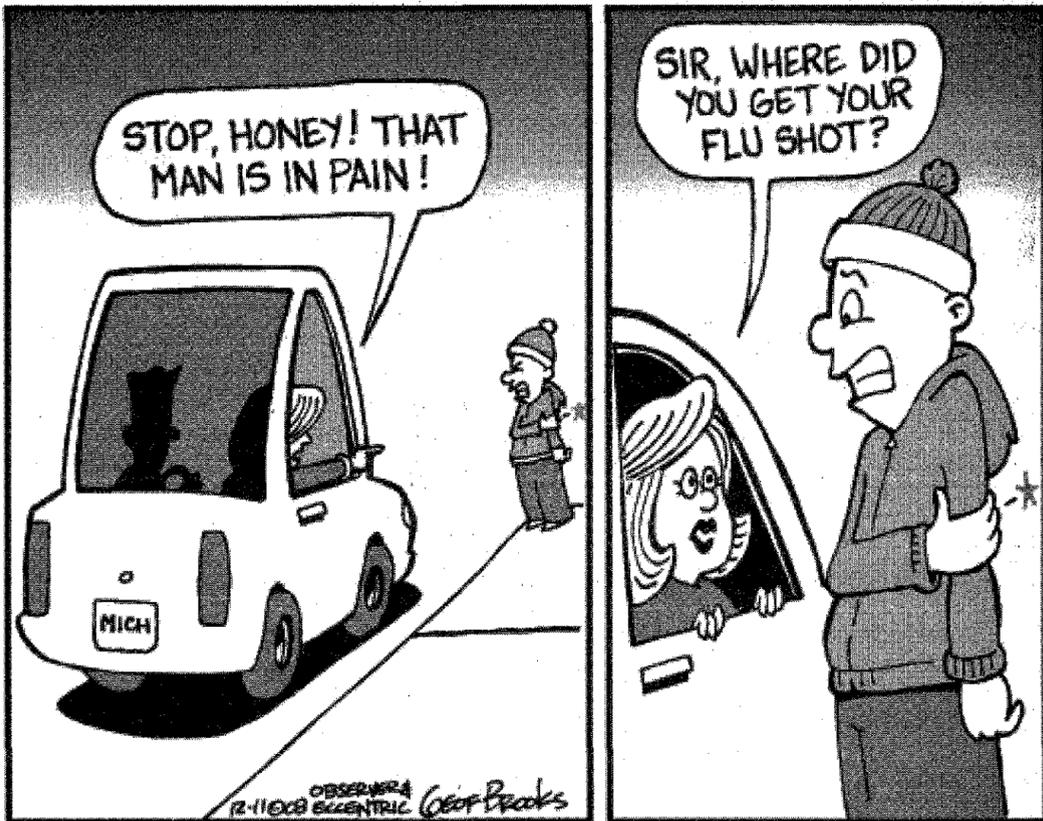
Misery isn't the only price we pay for catching the flu. While lost productivity costs employers, the flu can also be deadly. Some 36,000 people die annually from influenza, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

This year, the CDC is expanding its recommendations for vaccinations from the elderly and chronically ill to children ages 6 months to 18 years. But the warning doesn't stop there. Jackson, who practices family medicine in Southfield, says parents as well as anyone who works around children should get a flu shot as well.

And remember flu season runs all the way through the beginning of April so we still have a long road ahead of us. Many people wisely rush to the doctor in October when the serum arrives, but there's still time.

It's especially important to protect ourselves from the infectious disease during the holidays. With all of the hustle and bustle of the season it's easy to push making that appointment to the bottom of the list, but if you've ever been sick with the flu it's not a wise move. It usually takes about two weeks to develop protection from this nasty bug.

Flu season runs all the way through the beginning of April so we still have a long road ahead of us. Many people wisely rush to the doctor in October when the serum arrives, but there's still time.



LETTERS

Country needs EFCA

There is a simple way to quickly restore the economic power of America's working families. It's time to restore workers' freedom to form unions. Our nation's working people are struggling to make ends meet these days and our middle class is disappearing. The best opportunity working people have to get ahead economically is by uniting to bargain with their employers for better wages and benefits. Recent research has shown that some 60 million U.S. workers would join a union, if they could.

But the current system for forming unions and bargaining is broken. Every day, corporations deny workers the freedom to decide for themselves whether to form unions to bargain for a better life. They routinely intimidate, harass, coerce and even fire workers who try to form unions and bargain for economic well-being.

The Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA), soon to be reintroduced in the new 111th Congress, is supported by a bipartisan coalition of legislators. President-elect Barack Obama has promised to sign EFCA when it reaches his desk.

It would level the playing field for workers and employers and help rebuild America's middle class. Enactment of this sensible legislation would restore workers' freedom to choose a union by establishing stronger penalties for violation of employee rights when workers seek to form a union and during first-contract negotiations. EFCA also provides for mediation and arbitration for first-contract disputes, thus ensuring an equitable resolution for both employer and employees.

EFCA mitigates corporate coercion and intimidation by allowing employees to form unions by signing cards authorizing union representation. This is informally known as "card check." If a majority of the employees at a work site voluntarily sign authorization cards, the employer must recognize and negotiate with the union.

The Employee Free Choice has its detractors, but they are "who's who" of those most responsible for the current economic meltdown - namely conservative politicians and their corporate benefactors. For instance, low-wage, anti-worker monoliths like Wal-Mart, which is obsessed with keeping workplaces union-free.

Additionally, we can count on right-wing hate radio (Limbaugh and his ilk) and Fox "News" to lie about EFCA as part of their ongoing assault on anything truthful. The inevitable result is a further erosion of the American middle class that unions created - the engine that drives our economy.

With great economic suffering comes great opportunity. The Employee Free Choice Act represents a tremendous opportunity to restore America's economic vitality.

Joe Golonka
Westland

Big 3 doesn't want free money

People (mostly politicians) continue to discuss the U.S. automakers and their bailout. Congress only knows one thing - money; how to take it from others and

what to throw it at.

The U.S. automakers don't really want free money from Washington. They want customers. Customers buy cars. The car companies hire workers to design, assemble and sell those cars.

That's their plan; sell cars to customers, pay their workers, and try to make a dollar doing it. When the customers don't buy the cars, it messes up their "model." They lay off workers and they shut down plants. Read the newspapers. It's been going on for 10 years. Downsizing.

Idea No. 1: The government (federal, state, and local) all decide to buy U.S. made vehicles (from Ford, General Motors and Chrysler). Those companies make more cars and stay in business.

Idea No. 2: The government begins to encourage Americans to hire Americans, by buying American products. It worked in financing World War II, by getting millions of Americans to buy U.S. Savings Bonds.

It's "un-American" to buy foreign-made products. You can't be an active American by acting in ways detrimental to helping America.

America cannot survive without jobs. We've lost tens of millions of jobs in the last 20 years due to the North American Free Trade Agreement and the increase of global commerce, especially from China. No one has been talking about replacing them. We've lost whole industries.

Where's our plan to help American companies create manufacturing jobs? Japan has successfully used a special group of scientists, business and government leaders to plan five and 10 years out for what industries they should develop. And their government helps grow those industries.

Do you think the Japanese government has been buying Chrysler 300 cars for their employees? No way.

America is suffering because we don't have a long-term plan to employ our workers. Our wages have been driven up too high, and our companies cannot compete with foreign companies due to our high wages. Point fingers and blame someone else. This approach hasn't worked and it won't fix this problem. Leaders will, if they set their minds to it.

Idea No. 3: One quick step which we the people can do is to start buying more American-made products. By buying more American-made products, the companies that make them will need to hire more workers (Americans) to meet the higher demand. Those workers will take their wages and buy items. They will pay taxes. They also will not need welfare monies.

Speak up. Demand better. Buy American-made.

Paul A. Daniel
Livonia

Here's your sign

After having watched the Senate "hearings" on the request by our automakers for a bridge loan, I can easily understand why the "approval" ratings for Congress have remained consistently in the low double-digit (teens) range.

I have never seen such a group of arrogant, pompous, self-aggrandizing clowns in my life. The insulting, condescending remark about cutting the executive pay

to \$1 a year struck a hollow note, coming from a bunch of incompetent ying-yangs charged with running our government efficiently.

The last time I checked, these wonderful folks have boosted the national debt to over \$10 trillion (our citizens have to pay over \$400 billion a year to service this squandering). If anyone should have their salaries cut to a buck a year ...

To borrow a phrase from the Blue Collar Comedy Tour, I hope the auto types parted with a "Here's Your Sign, guys!" on their way out the door.

Frederick J. Libbing
Plymouth

From the Web

The following comments were posted on the Westland Observer home page of our Web site at www.hometownlife.com.

■ Regarding Wayne County Commission restructuring the county's parks millage to redistributed a portion back to local communities:

Ronaele wrote:
It is not correct to say that four Detroit commissioners opposed the resolution. In fact, Joey Palamara represents Downriver communities i.e. Grosse Ile and Brownstown, and Ilona Vatga represents only a portion of Detroit as well as some bordering communities. Three Detroit commissioners supported the resolution.

Wayne County Commissioner
Ronaele Bowman

■ Regarding Westland's selection as a train stop for a proposed commuter rail service between Detroit and Ann Arbor:

JustaNumber wrote:
Before the first subdivision, apartment, or business is built in this proposed area, a LOT of thought should go into the planning. Rather than approving development plans one at a time, the city would benefit from a good design plan drawn up at one time. There needs to be a good mix of retail, residential, dining, etc. with a "walkable" plan. Make it someplace where people would want to visit even if they are not train passengers. Plan it like downtown Plymouth or Northville, where even if you have to park a ways away, there are plenty of shops to keep you interested in walking around.

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) 459-4224

E-mail:
smason@hometownlife.com

QUOTABLE

"I'm always amazed. When things seem the worst people respond. I'm humbled and blessed that people are giving so much."

- Capt. Derek Rose of the Salvation Army's Wayne-Westland Corps about this year's annual Red Kettle campaign.

WESTLAND
Observer

GANNETT

Sue Mason
Community Editor

Susan Rosiek
Executive Editor

Hugh Gallagher
Managing Editor

Jeannie Parent
Senior Director of
Sales & Marketing

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.

When you're the employee, bankruptcy is very painful

I took advantage of time last week to get caught up on wrapping presents while my kids were in school. Usually, I'm up late Christmas Eve, wrapping presents while the pope says Mass in St. Peter's Basilica. Not so this year. It's all done, all wrapped up, and instead of the pope, my company was the presidents of the Big Three and a group of congressmen and senators who reminded me of my kids — mad because they hadn't gotten their way and taking out on the first person to come into sight.

Sue Mason

You will never hear me say I'm a financial expert, but after listening to the hearings, I'm wondering who made these lawmakers experts on running a big business. They have that responsibility with this country, but from where I stand, they've managed to put us \$1 trillion in the hole and have no plan for getting us out of it.

But what I found most astounding was the expert witness who told the Senate committee that bankruptcy was the answer because the auto companies could tap into DIP loans. I'm very aware of the initials. It stands for debtor in possession. It's nasty and demoralizing, if you happen to work for a company that files for bankruptcy. I know, I worked for one during the recession of the 1980s. It wasn't a big company, but bills exceeded revenue and when things went from bad to worse, the owner filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy.

One day we were called to a meeting. As we stood there, the second in command explained what had happened and what the judge expected of the employees — a 10 percent cut in wages. We had a union, but we weren't given time to meet and hash it out, the decision needed to be made that very moment.

None of us wanted to lose our jobs, so we agreed. But we forgot to ask one simple question. Our contract had us receiving our annual pay increase in quarterly installments, one way we had tried to help the company. We had deferred three installments, a total of 6 percent. That wasn't factored into the 10 percent, so when all was said and done, we took a 16 percent hit.

True, you don't miss something you've never had, but when you're only making \$400 a week, a 10 percent pay cut is painful ... very painful. We kept working and got paychecks, but they couldn't be released until the payroll was covered. Payday was Friday, but it was soon bumped to Monday and then Tuesday.

Beside the owner's signature were the initials DIP. When we went to cash our checks at the bank where they were drawn, the teller made a big deal about the initials, asking what that meant and then sending us to see a bank officer. It felt like every eye in the place was looking at

Bankruptcy is ugly and it's even uglier when our lawmakers think it's OK. On Sunday, Barack Obama spoke about the need for accountability among the Big Three's CEOs. I hope the same is being asked at AIG, Citibank and the other financial institutions that have been bailed out by the government. They are the poster children for businesses behaving badly. They showed no scruples in suckering people in with their slick American dream schemes. I also find it amazing that these executives are being hammered for mismanagement. They've made mistakes, they been slow to respond to changes in the market. But is it worse than what the banks have done? No.

you as you made the walk to the other side of the room. The bank wouldn't cash the check until it made sure there was money in the account. Needless to say, no one wanted to be the last one to the bank.

One Christmas, the court allowed the owner to do a trade-out, so we had a potluck Christmas dinner and everyone received a turkey. When the business prepared to exit bankruptcy, we received a \$100 gift, also approved by the court.

The bankruptcy went away eventually, but its effect lingered for a long time after. Disgruntled employees ended up decertifying the union and striking out on their own. They felt betrayed, but in looking back, it wasn't the union that had betrayed us, it was our employer who was looking for flexibility. A union contract didn't offer that.

Bankruptcy is ugly and it's even uglier when our lawmakers think it's OK. On Sunday, Barack Obama spoke about the need for accountability among the Big Three's CEOs. I hope the same is being asked at AIG, Citibank and the other financial institutions that have been bailed out by the government. They are the poster children for businesses behaving badly. They showed no scruples in suckering people in with their slick American dream schemes.

I also find it amazing that these executives are being hammered for mismanagement. They've made mistakes, they been slow to respond to changes in the market. But is it worse than what the banks have done? No. The automakers sell cars, and at least those cars come with warranties. The mortgages the banks peddled came with nothing but grief and we're all suffering because of it.

Sue Mason is editor of the Westland and Garden City Observer newspapers. She lives in Westland. If you have a comment, send her an e-mail at smason@hometownlife.com.

Self-directed IRA is best option for transferring retirement money

The U.S. economy lost over 500,000 jobs last month. So far this year, over one million Americans have lost their jobs. Unfortunately, next year doesn't look much better. Even if the auto companies receive bailout money, about 90,000 Michiganders will lose their jobs.



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

Those who lose their job face a variety of issues. Not only do they have to be concerned about paying bills, but health care and retirement accounts need to be addressed. My general rule is when you leave an employer, you should take your retirement money. There are a number of reasons and factors that enter into the decision, but for the great majority of people it pays to take the money.

One issue that has come up regarding 401(k) plans is what happens if your employer files for bankruptcy protection or just goes out of business. It is important to recognize that a retirement account is not an asset of the employer. Creditors of an employer cannot go after a retirement account. Worrying that your employer's financial health could impact your retirement account is not an issue.

When you leave a company — retirement or job loss — you have a number of options for retirement accounts. Most employers will allow you to keep your money in the current retirement account. In those situations you can't add new money to the account, however, you can continue managing it with the investment options. You will continue to receive statements on a regular basis. You are still subject to the employer's rules. If the employer decides to change the investment options, you would be subject to that change. At that point, you would have the option of moving your money.

Another option, for those lucky to find a new job, is the potential to directly transfer the money from their former employer into the new plan. Although employers are not required to allow new employees to transfer existing retirement money, many employers are accommodating. To complete this transaction, have the money from the old retirement plan directly transferred into the new plan.

The third option — and the one that I recommend — is to transfer retirement money into a self-directed IRA. A self-directed IRA may be opened at companies like Schwab, Fidelity and Vanguard. There are no tax consequences and the money is totally under the

When you leave a company — retirement or job loss — you have a number of options for retirement accounts. Most employers will allow you to keep your money in the current retirement account. In those situations you can't add new money to the account, however, you can continue managing it with the investment options. You will continue to receive statements on a regular basis. You are still subject to the employer's rules. If the employer decides to change the investment options, you would be subject to that change. At that point, you would have the option of moving your money.

individual's control.

The different options each have pros and cons. The pros of leaving your money with your former employer are that you are familiar with their plan and it is easy because you do not have to make any changes. The downside is that employers frequently make changes to their salary deferral programs and you would be subject to those changes. In addition, your former employer may only have limited investment options that no longer fit your individual situation and you have no control over expenses.

The benefit of transferring to a new employer's plan is one consolidated portfolio. This may make it easier in managing your account. The downside is your new employer's plan may have limited investment options, it could be expensive and once again you are subject to the rules of the employer.

Directly transferring into a self-directed IRA means you are in total control of your money and can select a portfolio that best matches your situation. In addition, you can select investments with low costs and no commissions. The downside of a self-directed IRA is you fall prey to financial salespeople who are concerned with generating a commission.

Be very careful about where you transfer your retirement money. Don't let anyone pressure you or intimidate you and always find out about the costs.

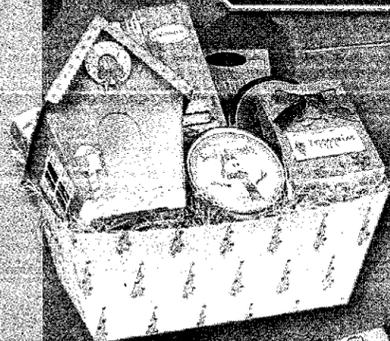
Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at moneymatters@hometownlife.com. For more information, visit Rick's Web site at www.bloomassetmanagement.com. You can hear Rick noon to 3 p.m. Sundays on WDTK 1400 AM.

KNOW THE SCORE: Check out the numbers in today's sports section

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Westland/Garden City Strictly Business

BUSINESS MILESTONES

SPECIAL EVENTS

Trunk Show

You can put a little bling under and on your Christmas tree during Orin Jewelers' PANDORA trunk show Friday-Saturday, Dec. 12-13. Purchase \$75 or more of the special charms, bracelets and assorted jewelry and receive a free PANDORA tree ornament. There's a limit of one ornament per person per day while supplies last. You'll find Orin Jewelers at 29317 Ford at Middlebelt in Garden City. The PANDORA name is synonymous with its classic yet modern charm bracelet that can be customized through the addition of more than 600 charms. Each charm is made to symbolically capture life's "charmed" or unforgettable moments - such as a cake for a special birthday, a flower to remember a particular summer, or a heart for the love of one's life.

Money saver

Thinking about giving a gift card this holiday season? Westland Shopping Center is offering a Free Gift Card Day Tuesday, Dec. 16. For every Discover Mall gift card you purchase on that day, the \$2 fee will be waived. Purchases can be made during mall hours at the Customer Service Center. The offer isn't valid for previous gift card purchases or for the worldwide Discover card.

SEND IT

Get in on the Strictly Business Page of the Westland and Garden City Observer by sending us your business news, promotions, events or milestones. It's simple. Just e-mail all of the details to Sue Mason, editor, at smason@hometownlife.com and she'll take care of the rest. Our new local business page runs each Thursday in your Westland and Garden City Observer. We welcome comments and suggestions, too. We look forward to hearing from you.

Expanded hours

Not enough time in the day to get it all accomplished? The Westland Shopping Center will keep its doors open even longer as the holiday season progresses. The longest days will be the Friday and Saturday prior to Christmas, Dec. 19 and 20, when the shopping center will be open from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., respectively. For a complete schedule, as well as the latest information regarding promotions, entertainment, and events, go online to www.westlandcenter.com. Westland Shopping Center

is at 35000 W. Warren Road at Wayne Road.

Warm Coats, Warm Hearts

Have a coat hanging in the closet you don't know what to do with? Why not donate it to the second annual Warm Hearts and Warm Coats Drive taking place through Jan. 16. You can drop off coats for men, women and children at the Burlington Coat Factory store at 35555 Warren Road, west of Wayne Road, Westland. Coats should be in good condition with working fasteners, no rips and no stains. Donors will receive a receipt for tax purposes. The coats will be distributed to the needy by the Detroit Rescue Mission.

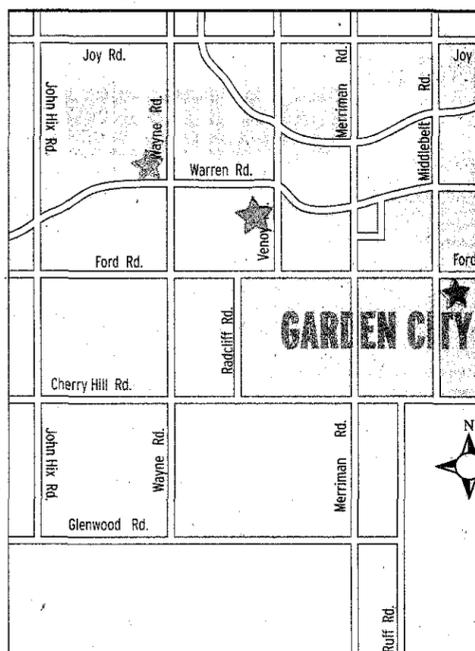
Toy drive

Century 21 Castellini is sponsoring its annual Garden City Goodfellows Toy Drive. New, unwrapped toys will be collected through Dec. 21 at the office at 1812 Middlebelt, south of Ford. For more information, call Barb Carreon-Haworth at (734) 644-2402.

GOINGS

Value City

There's deals to be had at the Value City Department Store on Warren Road in Westland, which is expected to close its doors by year's end. Next door, Value City Furniture will not be affected by the closing, according to store manager Amy Staub. They're "two completely different companies."



IT'S YOUR BUSINESS Q&A



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

As the new owners of Joy Manor, Chris Higgins (from left), mother Diane and father Dave are working on making improvements to the longtime banquet center.

New owners eager to please

BY JULIE BROWN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Joy Manor in Westland has hosted its share of wedding receptions and other memorable occasions, and its new owners are eager to carry on that tradition.

Dave Higgins and son Chris Higgins took over ownership in October of the longtime banquet facility which has four ballrooms — the Grand Room, Victorian Room, Wine Room and Mahogany Room.

Observer: Tell us about your business, including the types of services and/or products you feature.

We handle wedding receptions, cocktail parties, birthday and holiday parties and all-occasion events.

Observer: What makes your business unique?

We like to make our food a spectacular presentation. The stuffed beef rouladen is popular and everybody loves (staffer) Jackie's salad. We want to make a lot of improvements here. We want to get a new sign out front. We're already having a new bar built for the main ballroom. We're looking at doing wine

JOY MANOR

Business name: Joy Manor Banquets and Facilities
Address: 28999 Joy, Westland, 48185

Name and title: Chris Higgins, general manager

Hometown: Westland

Business opened: Chris Higgins and father Dave took over Joy Manor on Oct. 27.

Employees: family members, veterans Jackie Luong and banquet manager Jessie (21-year staffer)

Business Specialty: Wedding receptions and banquets

Hours of Operation: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, closed Sunday.

Business phone and Web site: (734) 525-0960 or at its Web site, www.joymanor.com

tasting. That's going to be my plan for in the spring, bring in all the Michigan wines, have food stations and band music. We're waiting to set a date after hearing from more vendors. The wine tasting should be a hit, too.

Observer: How did you decide to open your own business?

Diane Higgins, Dave's wife, had been a bartender at Joy Manor for 10 years and the previous owners were ready to sell. We knew the Joy Manor staff well.

Observer: Why did you decide to locate in the Westland community?
It was already an existing

business. We almost bought Joy Manor when earlier co-owner Scott Lopez sold. We were looking for financial stability for the family when Joy Manor came up for sale again.

Observer: Do you have a funny tidbit to share with our readers about your experience so far as a small business owner?

Not yet, but it's been real fun so far. We did get a thank-you e-mail from a couple who recently had their wedding reception here. It's rewarding to make sure everybody's wedding is memorable for them.

BUSINESS NEWSMAKERS

Crystal Bell

Crystal Bell has been named Adult Recruitment and Education Executive for the newly formed Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan. Bell served as Membership Team Leader for Girl Scouts of the Huron Valley Council before the merger of five Girl Scout Councils headquartered in Saginaw, Lansing, Ann Arbor, Jackson and Kalamazoo.

She has 14 years experience in team building, program development and management for GSHVC, Girl Scouts of Macomb County-Otsikita Council and Michigan Neighborhood Partnership. She holds a bachelor of science degree in public relations from Eastern Michigan University.

Bell is past Steering Committee Chair for the Metropolitan Detroit Volunteer Administrator Network and a Christian Education Department trainer and Instructor for Second Ebenezer Church, in Detroit. She also serves as manager for the Ann Arbor Regional Center of Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan.



James Jabero

Wireless Toyz, a multi-carrier wireless retailer, recently recognized wireless expert James Jabero, owner of the Garden City Wireless Toyz, 30406 Ford, Garden City, with a "Raving Fan" award for the store's commitment to customer service.

Of the nearly 200 Wireless Toyz stores located throughout the country, Jabero's store was one of five to receive the honor at the company's national conference. The award is based on exceptional customer feedback the company received about the store.



Six doctors join GC Hospital

Six doctors have joined the staff of Garden City Hospital, expanding and supplementing services available to the public. The new staffers are Dr. Nwosu B. Blessing, Anesthesia, with offices at 6245 Inkster Road, Garden City; Dr. Daniel A. Heinen, Emergency Medicine, with offices at 16001 W. Nine Miled, Southfield; Dr. Jeffrey H. Soffa, Family Practice, with offices at 30141 Cherry Hill, Inkster; Dr. Douglas R. Johnson, Internal Medicine, with offices at 9377 Haggerty, Plymouth; Dr. Christopher J. Schoenherr, Physical Medicine/Rehab, with offices at 28455 Haggerty, Suite 200, Novi; Dr. Andrew M. Lofman, Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, with offices at 23975 Novi Road, Suite A102, Novi, and Dr. Matthew H. Greenspan with offices at 23100 Providence Dr., Suite 420, Southfield.

CHAMBER CHAT

GARDEN CITY CHAMBER

While 2008 was definitely a year of ups and downs, our business community has managed to prevail and is striving for new opportunities that will create better outcomes in 2009.

Membership for the Chamber has dropped a little, but the continued support of our business community has given us promise. Although the city has experienced some

decrease in the number of businesses, we have been able to rejoice in some existing business renovations.

The Chamber is confident that new rental leases, lease renewals and lease extensions will help mitigate the number of building vacancies and will ultimately be beneficial to our commercial market.

In 2009, the business community will continue to dis-

cover creative ways in which we can become more efficient at sharing services and products to meet common goals and objectives. The Chamber looks forward to working with organizations; businesses and municipal groups on projects that share common interests and will make our community continue to prosper.

Amelia Oliverio
director

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Wayne can't cage Tigers In season opener

State-ranked Belleville controlled the glass Tuesday night en route to a season-opening 70-62 boys basketball triumph over visiting Wayne Memorial.

Mohamed Conde, a 6-foot-7 junior center, paced the victorious Tigers with 21 points, while senior guard Booker Stoudmire and Ricky Love added 13 apiece.

Wayne senior guard Robert Woodson paced all scorers with 25 points, while junior forward Derric Horton contributed 13. Senior guard Jimmel Bennett chipped

BOYS BASKETBALL

in with 11.

Belleville led 29-28 at halftime and stretched its slim lead to 45-35 after three quarters before holding on for the win.

"The first half we were able to hang in there, but the third quarter they beat us on the boards — that was our downfall," Wayne coach Wayne Woodard said. "They got us on the backboards and hit shots. And free throws (16-of-33) hurt us."

Despite being outrebounded, Wayne pulled to within four with less than a minute remaining.

"We just couldn't get that last stop," said Woodard, whose team was 10-of-16 from the foul line.

FRANKLIN 64, KETTERING 59: Livonia Franklin used the long ball Tuesday night to garner a season-opening victory at Waterford Kettering.

The Patriots, connecting on seven 3-pointers on the night, were led by juniors Andy McCaffery and Mike Gadsby, who finished with 15 points apiece. Senior Jeff Poole added 13, while senior Connor Leidal contributed eight.

Gadsby led the way with three triples. "It was a great opener and a good high school basketball game," Franklin coach Jeremy Rheault said. "We had different guys hit some key threes, we were able to execute in transition and got some key steals."

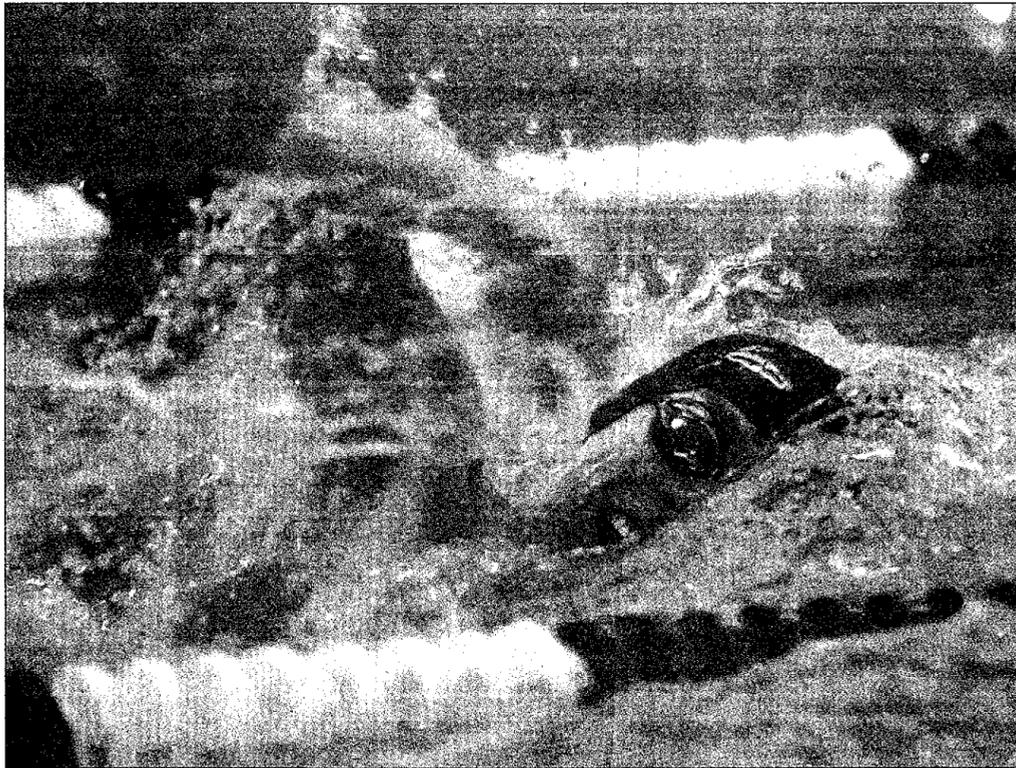
Senior guard Kevin Truitt paced the Captains, who led 29-28 at halftime, with 12 points. Senior forward Steve Rogers added 10.

Franklin was 13-of-24 from the foul line, while Kettering went 4-for-6.

DEARBORN 52, CHURCHILL 49: With a chance to tie, Livonia Churchill came up empty three times from beyond the 3-point line during the final 34 seconds Tuesday as the host Pioneers held on for the season-opening victory.

Senior forward Danny Dent and senior guard Michael Hatcher paced

Please see **WAYNE, B6**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Stevenson senior captain Mike Cruce is a standout in the 500 freestyle (4:49.33) and also took a 10th in the 2008 Division 1 state finals in the 100 butterfly (53.67).

Tons of experience

Stevenson swimmers should be formidable again

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Area coaches should be envious of Livonia Stevenson's Jeff Shoemaker entering the 2008-09 boys swimming and diving season.

That's because the ninth-year coach returns a trio of first-team All-Observer performers and a quintet of second-team selections from a squad which finished 11th at last year's Division 1 state finals.

Stevenson is coming off a championship season in the now-defunct Western Lakes Activities Association. But the Spartans now find themselves in a challenging Central Division of the new KLAA Kensington Conference, which includes Northville, sixth last year in Division 1; South Lyon Unified, 14th; Salem, 25th; and Novi, 31st.

"Our overall goals include winning the KLAA (Kensington) Conference championship and placing top 10 at the state level," Shoemaker said. "We have a number of teams with similar goals that will stand in our way."



Wingett



Behler



Bielicki

Capsule outlook of area teams, B3.

backstroke (28th overall in the prelims).

Another standout is senior Mike Cruce, who placed 10th overall in Division 1 in the 100 backstroke (53.67).

The second-team All-Area selection is joined by senior Ryan Scott, who went 22.93 in the 50 freestyle; junior Aaren Marecki, who took a seventh in the 200 freestyle at the WLAA meet; sophomore Kellen Schoff, who ranked fourth in the area in the 100 backstroke (58.06); and junior Daniel Schoff, who took seventh in the WLAA meet in the 500 freestyle (5:03.02).

All three Stevenson relay teams — the 200 medley, 200 freestyle and 400 freestyle — should also be strong with three of the four team members returning this season.

Another swimmer to watch this season is a diver — senior Travis Holt of Livonia Churchill, who took third in last year's WLAA meet.

John Glenn grapplers start fast

Westland John Glenn's wrestling team didn't shy away from the competition Saturday as the host Rockets emerged with a team title.

Steve Wakeford (103 pounds), Anthony Pavlich (112) and Josh Austin (119) all went undefeated on the day as Glenn finished first in the 10-team dual-match format.

"It's a great way to start, but it's early and we have a lot of work to do to prepare for the end of the year," Glenn coach Bill Polk said. "Our guys performed well, but we took a few injuries wrestling so many tough matches in a row. Hopefully, we'll improve and finish even stronger than we started."

The Rockets were followed by Roseville, Clarkston, Livonia Franklin, Romeo, Wyandotte, Belleville, Walled Lake Central, Dearborn and the Rockets' 'B' team.

"I was pleased with our performance and for an opening weekend tournament, it was very tough," Polk said. "One of our goals was to beat Clarkston

starting out the season because they are usually ranked (eighth in Division 1 this year), and we did. Romeo and Roseville gave us everything we could handle after we defeated Clarkston."

Spartans finish third

Livonia Stevenson launched its season Saturday by going 3-2 in the Flushing Team Duals.

The Spartans defeated Burton Bendle (50-25), Flint Beecher (57-26) and the host Raiders (50-26), while losing to eventual team champ Mount Clemens Chippewa Valley (43-30) and runner-up Lapeer East (45-27).

Mitch Gonzales went 5-0 on the day for the Spartans at 135, while teammates Josh Siebert (160) and Matt Greenman (215) each finished 4-0. Going 4-1 were Ash Alhaj (103), Raz Markosian (145) and Jake Burns (171).

"Our boys wrestled well considering this was the first time out for over half of the lineup," Stevenson coach Dan Vaughan said.



Wolfpack success

Wayne Memorial coach Steve Vasiloff hoists the team trophy after his wrestlers took home the Blissfield Invitational title. For more on the story and weekend mat results, see page B6.

Sidelines

Waza Flo opener

Detroit Waza Flo Pro, a member of the Professional Arena Soccer League, will play its first home match against the Springfield (Ill.) Spirits beginning at 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20 at Plymouth's Compuware Arena.

All home matches will be double-headers with the Detroit Ignition of the Xtreme Soccer League.

Waza Flo Pro is currently 0-4 heading into a pair of weekend matches Friday against the host St. Louis (Mo.) Illusion and Saturday at Springfield.

Waza Flo Pro's roster is comprised almost entirely of home-grown talent with players from both Schoolcraft College and Madonna University.

The PASL-Pro circuit is the largest pro indoor soccer league in North America. In its inaugural season, the PASL-Pro encompasses eight teams from the U.S., three from the Canadian Major Indoor Soccer League, and four teams from Liga Mexicana.

For ticket information, call Dave Valente at (888) 436-4625 (mention the code Waza). You can also visit www.wazafc.com/PASL/index.htm.

MHSAA airs games

The Michigan High School Athletic Association Network Featured Programming will rebroadcast all the Girls Semifinal Volleyball semifinals via Comcast Cable Channel 900 including the Class A match between Livonia Churchill and Jenison at 10 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, and 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 15.

The Class D semifinal between Lutheran High Westland and Pellston will also air on the same network at 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14.

MU volleyball tryout

The Madonna University women's volleyball team will stage an open tryout for the 2009 season from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 14 at the MU Activities Center.

The tryout is open to any high school senior or transfer student with collegiate eligibility.

For more information, call Brian McClain at (248) 495-5307.

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FRI, 12/19 vs. JAZZ • 8 PM	WED, 12/31 vs. NETS • 3 PM
TUE, 12/23 vs. BULLS • 8 PM	FRI, 1/2 vs. KINGS • 8 PM

Additional holiday tickets available for \$22.25 each. Call for lower-level ticket availability.

FOR TICKETS, CALL 248-377-0100 OR VISIT PISTONS.COM/HOLIDAYS

Rice stops Stevenson Showcase

Livonia Stevenson couldn't take advantage of its scoring opportunities Tuesday night, falling to visiting Birmingham Brother Rice, 5-2, in the Michigan Interscholastic Hockey League Showcase at Edgar Arena.

Luke Jackson led Rice, now 2-1, with a pair of goals. Jon Elliott, Andrew Szutka and Adam Messina also tallied goals for the Warriors, who led 2-1 after one period and 4-2 after 30 minutes. Stevenson outshot Rice,

BOYS HOCKEY

28-17, and had three more power-play chances including a 5-on-3.

"Our power-play was terrible and we did not capitalize on our chances," Stevenson coach David Mitchell said. "You can't do that against a team like Rice."

Justin Shureb notched his fifth goal of the season for Stevenson in the opening period on an assist from Jake Poynter.

In the second period, R.J. Kierdorf scored his second of the year from John Strauch and Jake Wilson.

Rice goaltender Jareth Glanda stopped 26-of-28 Stevenson shots.

Richie Dunphy started in goal for the Spartans before being lifted in the second period for Danny Sager.

CHURCHILL 4, W.L. WESTERN 1: Freshman goalie Alex Estes earned his first varsity win Saturday as Livonia Churchill (1-1-1, 1-1-1) turned back host Walled Lake Western (2-5, 0-4) in a KLA

Kensington Conference crossover at the Lakeland Ice Arena.

Churchill outshot the Warriors, 46-8.

The Chargers led 1-0 after the first period on goals by Scott Hamill and Drew Sieber.

Steven Klisz added a second period goal from Kody Strong and Stefan Kubus, while Robert Louwers completed the scoring in the final period from Dan Bostick and Alex Smythe.

"We played with much more purpose and energy," said Churchill coach Pete Mazzoni, whose team was coming off an 8-0 mercy-rule loss to Northville. "Hopefully we learned a lesson from the previous game."

Kucharski's 10 goals lifts Blazers

Livonia Ladywood's Shelby Kucharski certainly knows how to put the biscuit in the basket.

The first-year senior forward had a total of 11 goals in two games as she helped the Blazers bounce back from a 7-1 season-opening loss Thursday to Grosse Pointe South to win Suburban Classic Girls High School hockey tournament held last weekend at Suburban Ice Arena in Farmington Hills.

The Blazers defeated rival Farmington Hills Mercy in Saturday's championship final, 6-5, as Kucharski notched four goals and one assist.

Lane Kolpacke also scored twice for the Blazers, while Brittany Galvin, Erin Doyle and Emann Freij collected two assists each for the Blazers, now 2-1 overall. Julie Bushart also had an assist in the win.

Kristen Maloure paced Mercy with two goals, while Jessie Buckley, Maura Malone and Jackie Buckley added one apiece.

Mercy outshot the Blazers, 28-20.

GIRLS HOCKEY

Jessica Pavela was in goal for Ladywood, while Alessi Nehr was in net for the Marlins, who advanced to the finals with a 3-2 win Friday over Northville.

On Friday, Ladywood defeated Walled Lake, 10-4, as Kucharski scored seven goals and had one assist.

Kolpacke added two, while Freij added one goal and two assists. Other assist went to Bushart, Doyle and Katie Folk.

In Thursday's season opener at City Arena in Detroit, Grosse Pointe South got two goals apiece from Tara Bolton and Lorna Burns en route to a 7-1 victory.

Marissa Monforton, Emma Hull and Elizabeth Clem each collected two assists for the Blue Devils.

Kucharski had the lone Ladywood goal in the second period from Kaitlin Gaule.

Pavela stopped 67-of-74 shots, while South goaltender C.J. Jarboe faced just eight Ladywood shots.



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Ladywood rally stuns Edsel Ford

Down 13 points at the half Tuesday, host Livonia Ladywood made a stirring comeback to earn its first girls basketball victory of the season against Dearborn Edsel Ford, 56-51.

Freshman guard Cara Miller and junior guard Mary Fitzgerald each scored 15 points for the victorious Blazers, who outscored the Thunderbirds 35-17 in the second half after trailing 34-21 at intermission.

Senior forward Caitlin Szczytko added 11. "We made some adjustments at the half as far as getting over screens - we got into the passing lanes," said Ladywood first-year coach Pat Cannon, whose team is 1-2 overall. "We got passionate about defense. We got on them tougher and that made them make mistakes."

Ladywood was 21-of-31 from the foul line, while Edsel Ford hit 10-of-18.

Charisse Carr scored 16 and Michelle Gaedke added 18 for the T-Birds, who fall to 1-1 overall.

GARDEN CITY 57, WAYNE 21:

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Carley Shattleroe scored 14 points Tuesday to propel the visiting Tigers (1-2) to a non-league win over host Wayne Memorial (0-2).

Garden City jumped out to a 21-4 first-quarter advantage and stretched its lead to 33-5 at halftime before invoking a running clock.

Lauren McCallum scored eight for the Zebras, who shot just 6-of-28 (21.4 percent) from the foul line.

The Cougars hit 10-of-17 from the foul stripe.

LUTH. SOUTH 65, HURON VALLEY 25: On Tuesday, visiting Westland Huron Valley Lutheran (0-3) turned the ball over 29 times in a non-conference setback against Newport Lutheran South (2-1).

April Broska scored a game-high 28 points for the Saints, who employed a trapping 1-3-1 zone defense to befuddle Huron Valley.

Senior Samantha Barber and junior Claire Wood each scored six for the Hawks, who

couldn't recover after falling behind 19-4 after one quarter and 41-15 at halftime.

JOHN GLENN 54, CLARENCEVILLE 21: On Monday, Westland John Glenn evened its record at 1-1 with a non-league triumph over host Livonia Clarenceville (1-2).

Chanel Payne and Brittany Holbrook scored 13 and 11 points, respectively, for the Rockets.

Shaunte Roberts and Nyah McReynolds added nine and seven as Glenn led 32-11 at halftime and outscored the Trojans 22-0 in the third period to invoke a running clock.

"We worked hard on defense all week and we created turnovers, which led to some scores on our end," said Glenn coach Mike Schuette, whose team was 10-of-17 from the free throw line.

Clarenceville (1-2) got seven points from junior guard Kristen Jolly and six from senior center Megan Tallman.

"Defensively, we didn't stop the drive," said Trojans' coach Julie Patterson. "We also had trouble with their size."

Red-hot Shepherd spurs Ocelots

The Schoolcraft College women's basketball team defeated visiting Kalamazoo Valley Community College, 95-62, in Saturday's championship game of the Schoolcraft Classic. The Ocelots advanced to the title tilt by ousting Lakeland (Ohio) CC, 74-54, on Friday.

The pair of victories improved the No. 7-ranked Ocelots' overall record to 8-1. Kalamazoo slipped to 6-2 while Lakeland dropped to 6-3.

Antania Shepherd paced the winners in Saturday's blow-out victory as she piled up 21 points, five rebounds and four assists. Shepherd was red-hot from the field, connecting on 9-of-13 field goals.

A trio of SC players also

hit double-figures scoring: Jasmine Brown (14 points), April Goins (14 points, six rebounds) and Salem grad Tayler Langham, who contributed 12 points.

SC outrebounded Kalamazoo Valley, 55-31.

Jeannie Clossun led Kalamazoo with 13 points and seven rebounds.

Schoolcraft led 43-28 at the half and was never threatened thereafter.

In Friday's semifinal contest, Langham sparkled, ripping the nets for a career-high 23 points.

Shepherd (12 points, six rebounds) and Sheray Brown (11 points, 11 rebounds) also excelled for the Ocelots, who led 34-25 at the break.

Schoolcraft's relentless pres-

sure forced 27 Lakeland turnovers.

Both teams combined to his just 2-of-19 shots from beyond the three-point arc.

SCHOOLCRAFT 86, MACOMB CC 50: On Dec. 3, April Goins scored 17 points and grabbed eight rebounds as Schoolcraft College (6-1, 2-0) rocked visiting Macomb Community College (4-2, 0-1).

Salem grad Tayler Langham also sparkled for the winners, registering 15 points and eight boards.

Jasmine Brown (13 points) and Shannon Collins (10) also reached double-digits scoring for SC.

Meredith Smith tallied 21 points for Macomb, which couldn't overcome a 41-17 half-time deficit.

MU earns first win as Sims nets 27

Cedric Sims was the catalyst Saturday with a game-high 27 points as the Madonna University men's basketball team earned its first victory of the year and snapped a nine-game losing streak with a 71-61 triumph Saturday over host Alma College.

MU (1-9) made 57 percent of its shots from the floor in the first half to build a 35-27 lead in the MIAA-WHAC Challenge. The Crusaders finished 28-of-58 from the floor (48.3 percent).

Sims, a 6-foot senior guard from Wayne Memorial, hit 9-of-14 shots from the floor, including a pair of three-pointers, and was a perfect 7-of-7 from the foul line.

Junior center Leroy Allen added 16 points and nine rebounds, while Bryant

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Slaughter (Westland) chipped in with nine points.

Jordan Redditt led Alma (0-7) with 25 points. Cory Schneider added 13.

OLIVET COLLEGE 70, MADONNA 66: The Crusaders, despite shooting 50.9 percent from the field, dropped their ninth straight Friday night to Olivet College (3-4) in the MIAA-WHAC Challenge in a game played at Alma College's Cappaert Gym.

Cedric Sims paced MU with 20 points and eight rebounds, while Leroy Allen and Bryan Slaughter contributed 10 each as MU fell to 0-9.

MU came out strong in the first half, connecting on 16-of-27 first-half shots to build a

36-31 lead. Slaughter's three-pointer with 1:41 remaining in the game gave MU a 65-64 lead, while teammate Kevin McLoughlin tied the game at 66 when he made the second of two free throws.

But Joel Kerns (11 points) score with 12 seconds remaining to give the Comets (3-4) a lead it would not relinquish.

Michael McClary scored 20 points and grabbed 17 rebounds for Olivet. Brother Brandon McClary added 19 points and four assists.

MACOMB CC 69, SCHOOLCRAFT 61: On Dec. 3, visiting Macomb Community College (9-0, 1-0) remained unbeaten with an MCCA Eastern Conference victory over Schoolcraft College (4-5, 1-1).

MU's McIntyre named as NAIA All-American

Senior midfielder Shannon McIntyre was among two Madonna University women's soccer players to receive 2008 Brine NAIA All-America recognition.

The Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference Defensive Player of the Year from Woodhaven, a transfer from Eastern Michigan University, earned third-team All-America honors after scoring three goals and adding four assists.

Earning honorable mention honors was junior forward Jessica Austin (Livonia Franklin), who had 15 goals this season for the WHAC regular season champions.

Named to the NAIA All-American Scholar Athlete team from MU were: Dina Allie (Livonia Stevenson), a senior midfielder; Lauren Hess (Livonia Ladywood), a junior

WOMEN'S SOCCER

midfielder; Andrea Johnson (Canton), a senior defender; and Ashley Stoychoff (Salem).

Allie is a double major in English and family and consumer science; Johnson is an integrated science major; Stoychoff, a math for elementary education major; and Hess, a nursing major.

To be named to the Scholar Athlete team, you must be a junior or senior and carry a cumulative 3.5 grade-point average or better.

MU's Draï recognized

Madonna University senior midfielder Doron Draï, a native of Kfar-Yona, Israel, earned 2008 Brian NAIA All-America honorable mention honors in men's soccer.

Draï, the Wolverine Hoosier Athletic Conference Offensive Player of the year, had three goals and nine assists as the Crusaders won both the WHAC playoff and regular season titles before being ousted in the Sweet 16 of the NAIA Nationals.

Draï was also named to the NAIA All-America Scholar-Athlete team along with juniors Mark Pikula and Isaac Saint John, both of Dearborn.

Draï, a business major, is making his second appearance on the squad, while Pikula, a TV and video communication major, and Saint John, a business major, are both making their first appearances.

To be named to the Scholar Athlete team, you must be a junior or senior and carry a cumulative 3.5 grade-point average or better.

BOYS SWIMMING CAPSULE OUTLOOK

LIVONIA CHURCHILL
Head coach: Aaron Rieder, fifth year.
League affiliation: KLA A Kensington Conference (South Division).
Last year's finish: tied for ninth (Western Lakes Activities Association meet).
Notable losses to graduation: Steve Jones, Matt Castell, Joey Liberati.
Leading returnees: Travis Holt, Sr., diving (second-team All-Area); Andrew Richards, Sr. (diving); Greg Van Corp, Sr. (distance freestyle); Nathan Larsen, Sr. (breaststroke); John Yurgil, Jr. (breaststroke-distance freestyle); Ricky Scully, Jr. (butterfly-backstroke); Jacob Rimalzki, Soph. (freestyle-backstroke).
Promising newcomers: Brandon Guild, Sr.; Michael Hodges, Sr.; Seth Klein, Sr.; Alex Lamerand, Sr.; Augusto Silva, Sr.; Jeffery Stevens, Sr.; Rushi Patel, Jr.; Lance Kortesoja, Jr.; Mikhail Burshetyn, Jr.; Daniel Matthey, Soph.; Brian Sharp, Soph.; Christopher Sharp, Soph.; Matthew Stevens, Soph.; Erik Vingness, Soph.; Linus Ziemba, Soph.; Derik Atzinger, Fr.; Bradley Johns, Fr.; Matthew Soules, Fr.; David Vincentini, Fr.

2008-09 outlook: Holt is an experienced diver who took third in the WLA meet last year with a score of 270.45, while Richards added a 10th with 237.60. The Chargers did not have any other individuals crack the top 12 last year. Churchill joins the South Division of the Kensington Conference and will compete against Canton, Plymouth, Livonia Franklin, Wayne Memorial and Westland John Glenn.

LIVONIA FRANKLIN
Head coach: Kevin Hafner, ninth year.
League affiliation: KLA A Kensington Conference (South Division).
Last year's finish: tied for seventh (WLA meet).
Notable losses to graduation: Nick Anthony (second-team All-Area); Shane Shelton, Sean Wilson.
Leading returnees: Brandon Larkins, Soph. (IM-breaststroke); Scott James, Soph. (freestyle); Joe Michniewicz, Sr. (sprint freestyle); Scott Ansteth, Jr. (butterfly-backstroke); Eric Madaj, Sr. (butterfly); Brett Woods, Sr. (freestyle-butterfly); Tyler Lee, Jr. (sprint freestyle).
Promising newcomers: James Fite, Soph. (freestyle-butterfly).
Hafner's 2008-09 outlook: "We have about 21 guys. I think our division gives us a great opportunity to be competitive against teams we can race against. We can have more success than what we experienced in the WLA. This is the beginning to the start of being more competitive and building for this year and next year. We won't have the top-end kids like we had last year, but our depth will be better. With (Brandon) Larkins, we'll see if he can make a state cut in the IM and breaststroke. And (Scott) James has looked good early. We'll keep our fingers crossed to see if he'll make a cut along with our 200 freestyle relay team."

LIVONIA STEVENSON
Head coach: Jeff Shoemaker, ninth year.
League affiliation: KLA A Kensington Conference (Central Division).
Last year's finish: First place (WLA meet); 11th place (Division I state meet).
Notable losses to graduation: Kyle Hermann (first-team All-Area); Robert Luke (first-team All-Area); Kellen Schoff (second-team All-Area).
Leading returnees: Joey Wingett, Sr., breaststroke-freestyle (first-team All-Area); Chris Behler, Sr., freestyle (first-team All-Area); Mike Cruce, Sr., captain, butterfly-freestyle (second-team All-Area); Jeff Kinsvater, Sr., diving (state qualifier); Eric Schuman, Sr., breaststroke; Bryan Blielicki, Jr., IM-backstroke (first-team All-Area); Aaren Marecki, Jr., freestyle (second-team All-Area); Ryan Scott, Sr., sprint freestyle (second-team All-Area); Daniel Schoff, Soph., freestyle (second-team All-Area); Jimmy Vavis, Sr., backstroke; Adam Dabkowski, Jr., butterfly-freestyle; John Loria, Jr., breaststroke; Mohamed Ghofemi, Jr., backstroke-freestyle; Charles Turjo, Sr., freestyle (state qualifier); Kellen Schoff, Soph., all-around.
Promising newcomers: Jake McHamara, Fr., breaststroke-freestyle; Brandon Blielicki, Fr., backstroke-freestyle.
Shoemaker's 2008-09 outlook: "We return a pretty strong team with 19 swimmers at the helm. We have a lot of experience and are looking forward to a very successful season this year. We will continue to work hard and hopefully have some great success throughout the year."



Mike Cruce Stevenson



Ryan Scott Stevenson



Aaren Marecki Stevenson



Kelen Schoff Stevenson



Daniel Schoff Stevenson



Travis Holt Churchill

WESTLAND JOHN GLENN
Head coach: Bob Harding, third year.
League affiliation: KLA A Kensington Conference (South Division).
Last year's finish: 12th (WLA meet).
Notable losses to graduation: Jon Burgess, Dennis Knight, Shawn Long.
Leading returnees: Cody Rowe, Jr. (diving-regional qualifier); Bill Lyons, Sr. (sprint freestyle); Paul Gutu, Soph. (freestyle-butterfly); Promising newcomers: Joey Wakeford, Fr. (distance freestyle); Jake Ferguson, Fr. (butterfly-backstroke); Levi Cavender, Jr. (breaststroke-IM).
Harding's 2008-09 outlook: "Our numbers are up - we have 26 this year. Most teams' numbers are up this year overall because of the Olympics. We only have one senior. Most of the successful teams have seniors because they're bigger, stronger and more experienced. We are hosting the South Division meet. We're looking forward to that."

WAYNE MEMORIAL
Head coach: Mike Greuber, 12th year.
League affiliation: KLA A Kensington Conference (South Division).

Last year's finish: tied for ninth (WLA meet).
Notable losses to graduation: Jordan Holland, Kevin Erdmann, Jacob Schofield.
Leading returnees: Steven Ogg, Sr. (IM-butterfly-backstroke); Jacob Barnes, Sr. (distance freestyle-backstroke); Adam Carson, Jr. (sprint freestyle-backstroke); Josh Higgs, Jr. (middle distance freestyle); Brandon Hicks, Jr. (IM-butterfly).
Promising newcomers: Zachary Williamson, Fr. (freestyle-backstroke); Sean Stewart, Fr. (freestyle); Vinny Garza, Soph. (freestyle-breaststroke); Corey Robbins, Soph. (freestyle-backstroke); Josh Lowe, Jr. (freestyle); Cody Elliott, Fr. (freestyle); Willie McGlow, Jr. (freestyle); Bobby Frough, Fr. (freestyle-butterfly); Nick Williams, Fr. (freestyle-butterfly).
Greuber's 2008-09 outlook: "I've got more kids this year on my side, and because of depth, I think we could get a win or two. Last year we had some good kids, but we didn't have enough depth. Ogg and Barnes are the co-captains, four-year varsity swimmers and our most talented kids. Both qualified for the MCCA meet last year. Ogg's goal is a state cut and maybe a school record in the 100 backstroke."

CITY OF LIVONIA PUBLIC NOTICE FOREFEITED VEHICLES AND MISCELLANEOUS CITY VEHICLES AUCTION

Under Provisions of Sections 2.32.070 and 3.05.1006 of the Livonia Code of Ordinances, the Police Department will be conducting an Auction of Forfeiture and Miscellaneous City Vehicles.

Friday, December 12, 2008
Inspections begin at 8:30 a.m.
Auction begins at 10:00 a.m.

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Linda Grimbsy, City Clerk
Published December 4, 7 and 11, 2008

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THE WEEK AHEAD

BOYS BASKETBALL
 Friday, Dec. 12
 Stevenson at Churchill, 7 p.m.
 Milford at Franklin, 7 p.m.
 Belleville at John Glenn, 7 p.m.
 (St. Joseph Mich. Lutheran Tourney)
 Howardsville vs. Academy of Flint, 6:30 p.m.
 Huron Valley vs. Mich. Lutheran, 8 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 13
 Luth. Westland at Ply. Christian, 3:30 p.m.
 Mich. Lutheran Tourney, 5:30 & 7 p.m.
GIRLS BASKETBALL
Thursday, Dec. 11
 Hartland at Franklin, 7 p.m.
 Ladywood at Monroe St. Mary, 7 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 12
 Churchill at Stevenson, 7 p.m.
 Farmington at John Glenn, 7 p.m.
 Wayne at Milford, 7 p.m.
 Clarenceville at S'field Christian, 7 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 13
 Luth. Westland at Ply. Christian, 2 p.m.

PREP HOCKEY
 Friday, Dec. 12
 Churchill vs. South Lyon
 at Edgar Arena, 6 p.m.
 Stevenson vs. Canton
 at Arctic Edge, 8:30 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 13
 Ladywood vs. Ply.-Canton-Salem
 at Arctic Pond, 6:30 p.m.
 Churchill vs. G.P. North
 at Mt. Clemens Ice Arena, 5:45 p.m.
PREP WRESTLING
Thursday, Dec. 11
 Clarenceville, Gab. Richard, Clawson
 at Lutheran Westland Quad, 5:30 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 13
 Howell Invitational, 9 a.m.
 Avondale Invitational, 9 a.m.
 EMU Duals, 9 a.m.
 Garden City Invitational, 9:30 a.m.
BOYS SWIMMING & DIVING
Thursday, Dec. 11
 John Glenn at Lincoln Park, 7 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 13
 Rocket Relays at John Glenn, noon.

BOYS & GIRLS BOWLING
Saturday, Dec. 13
 John Glenn vs. Pinckney,
 Wayne vs. Lakeland,
 at Whitmore Lanes, noon.
GIRLS FIGURE SKATING
Sunday, Dec. 14
 Team Competition at Hartland, 8 a.m.
GIRLS COMPETITIVE CHEER
Saturday, Dec. 13
 Ladywood at Harrison, TBA.
MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Friday, Dec. 12
 (Mich. Edu. Credit Union at Madonna)
 Taylor-Ft. Wayne vs. Rochester, 6 p.m.
 Madonna vs. Holy Cross (Ind.), 8 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 13
 Mich. Educational Credit Union
 Tourney at Madonna, 6 & 8 p.m.
WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Wednesday, Dec. 10
 Madonna at Marygrove College, 6 p.m.
 TBA - time to be announced.

MU spikers Tihomirova, Fuelling garner honors

Madonna University seniors Lubovj Tihomirova and Whitney Fuelling were both named to the 2008 Tachikara-NALA Volleyball All-America teams. Tihomirova, a first-team selection from Riga, Latvia, ranked 11th nationally with 4.08 kill per set and sits fifth all-time at MU with a total of 2,413 kills. In her final season, Tihomirova finished with 616 kills this fall as the Crusaders finished 35-7 overall and captured their 12th straight Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference title and earned its seventh straight trip to the

NAIA Nationals. Tihomirova also led MU in aces with 43 this season and hold the single season record for kills (967) set in 2007. Fuelling, a native of Milford, earned second-team honors after ranking 10th in the nation with a .385 atgtack percentage. The senior middle hitter also paced the WHAC in blocks with 1.3 per set and ranked 18th nationally. Four Crusaders also earned NAIA All-America Scholar-Athlete honors including Fuelling, along with juniors Inta Grinvalds (Portage Central),

Mary McGinnis (Fraser) and Byrnn Kerr (Livonia Churchill/Schoolcraft College). To be selected, a student-athlete must be a junior or senior and carry a cumulative grade-point average of 3.5 or better. Grinvalds, a nursing major, was second nationally with 10.83 assists per set, while Kerr, majoring in math and education, led the Crusaders with 513 digs in her first season as the team's libero. McGinnis, majoring in art and education, was second on the team and in the top-ten in the WHAC in kills with 474.

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 Chicago Washington Atlanta Tennessee Indianapolis Green Bay San Diego Miami New York Jets St. Louis Arizona New England Carolina Pittsburgh New York Giants Philadelphia



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 Chicago Washington Atlanta Tennessee Indianapolis Green Bay San Diego Miami New York Jets St. Louis Arizona New England Carolina Pittsburgh New York Giants Philadelphia



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Ronnie Williams Perfect Floors
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 Chicago Washington Atlanta Tennessee Indianapolis Green Bay San Diego Miami New York Jets St. Louis Arizona New England Carolina Pittsburgh New York Giants Philadelphia



Tom Flory Shelton Pontiac Buick GMC
 12-4 116-60
 Chicago Washington Atlanta Tennessee Indianapolis Green Bay San Diego Miami New York Jets St. Louis Arizona New England Carolina Pittsburgh New York Giants Philadelphia



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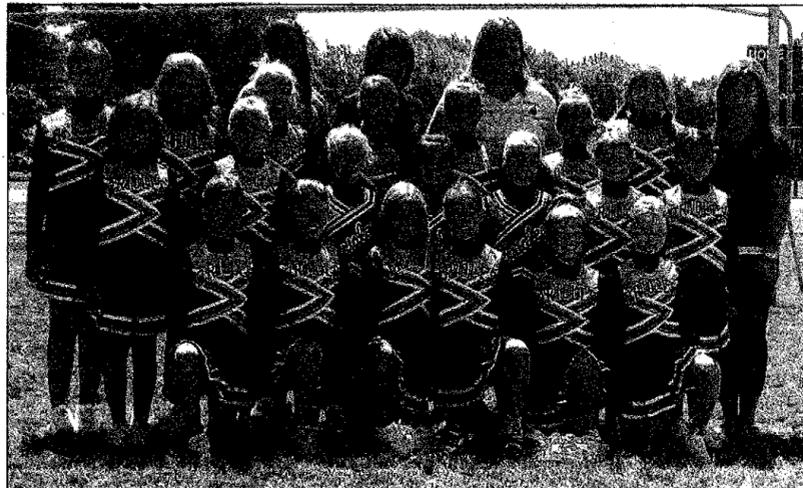
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WEEK #15 GAMES

Thursday, December 11, 2008
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 Sunday, December 14, 2008
 Washington at Cincinnati
 Tampa Bay at Atlanta
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 Detroit at Indianapolis
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 Denver at Carolina
 Pittsburgh at Baltimore
 New York Giants at Dallas
 Monday, December 15, 2008
 Cleveland at Philadelphia



Orioles cheer champs

The Livonia Orioles freshman squad took home a first-place cheer round medal in the 2008 Cheerfest competition held Nov. 15 at Walled Lake Western High School. Team members include: Kennedy Carrier, Alyssa Davis, Emily Eichbrecht, Katie Fournier, Megan Gendjar, Julia Hebert, Anna Lashbrook, Jenna Mansfield, Emma Norwood, Charlene Phillips, Hannah Robinson, Hanna Schloemp, Madison Sewell, Alyssa Shatter and Olivia Smith. The Orioles are coached by Karen Adkins, Stephanie Hebert and Jennifer Lashbrook, along with junior coaches Rachel Hebert, Lauren Karnesky, Alaina Lashbrook and Chelsea Socha.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Glenn baseball training

Westland John Glenn High School will host a six-week Spring Training 2009 baseball program for players in grades 1-12 from Jan. 18 through Feb. 22. John Glenn varsity coach Tom Wakefield will direct the program in conjunction with the Midwest Baseball Academy. Sessions are offered in advanced hitting, pitching and catching with a cost as low as \$99 for six weeks. Space is limited and registration is underway.

For more information, call toll-free at (866) MBA-HITS; or visit www.baseballacademy.net.

MU softball hitting camps

The Madonna University women's softball program will stage two sessions of hitting camps from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 20 (I) and Sunday, Dec. 21 (II). The cost for each session is \$30.

For more information, or to register, call MU coach Al White at (734) 432-5783; or visit www.madonnacrusaders.com.

Baseball Academy

The Pro Secrets Baseball Academy will be conducting showcase sessions for high school players as well as skill sessions in power pitching, hitting and fielding.

The latest pro pitch trainer will be used and former Phillies pitcher Mark Rutherford will be the featured instructor.

For more information, call (734) 421-4928.

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Wayne grapplers rule invite, committed to win

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Steve Vasiloff is trying to put the Wolfpack back on the area wrestling map.

The fourth-year coach calls it a "New Era" for the Wayne Memorial matmen, who started the season Dec. 3 with dual-match wins over host Berkley (52-26) and Detroit Cesar Chavez (56-21), coupled with a first-place finish Saturday at the Blissfield Invitational.

The numbers are encouraging this season with Wayne's roster ballooning from 15 to 50 wrestlers (including 25 freshmen).

"So far things have great," Vasiloff said. "I'm not saying that we're going to be the team

to beat, or that we're going to make noise in the KLAA (Kensington Lakes Activities Association), but we have made so many steps in the right direction.

"We went from a team who has never filled a roster to a team that is three-deep in almost every weight class. We went from a team plagued with academic ineligibility to a team that has 13 wrestlers above a 3.5 GPA, and 19 above a 3.0."

Wayne took just nine wrestlers to Blissfield and came away the team title as 125-pounder Mike Wallace, a sophomore, garnered an individual first place.

Meanwhile, sophomore Darryl Ison (112), sophomore Jalen Jones (135), junior

Brandon Whittenberg (152), junior Josh Mills (160) and junior Dylan Korzetki (285) earned runner-up honors. Third-places went to senior Tevin Hines (140) and Mike Gallagher (189).

Vasiloff credits the team's early success to off-season efforts, which included trips to BorderWars and AAU tournaments; participation at a six-week summer league in Milan, and 10 members attending a team camp at Eastern Michigan University.

"Some of our veterans got in 40 matches during the off-season," Vasiloff said. "We are just so excited to have a team that is so hungry and coachable. We have some really great kids."

Vasiloff said he has received

great support from parents, along with Wayne athletic director Greg Ambrose and new varsity football coach Kevin Weber.

He also believes in his staff of assistant coaches, which includes Rich Donahoe and Robert Freeman.

"I attribute our new-found success to them because they give it their all, and the believe in me and my vision," Vasiloff said of his assistants. "We went from a team with coaches all fighting that were going in different directions, to a team with everyone on the same page. And most importantly, we have turned into a team that wants nothing more than to go out on the mat and win."

Kennedy's Hogan hero in victory over Trojans

Livonia Clarenceville had no answer for Taylor Kennedy's Breland Hogan.

The 6-foot-1 senior guard torched the Trojans for a game-high 34 points to lead the host Eagles to a season-opening 60-51 boys basketball victory.

Hogan had a pair of three-pointers as Kennedy took a 26-25 halftime lead and stretched it out to a 45-38 advantage after three quarters.

"They were the hungrier team, more prepared and that's probably my fault," Clarenceville coach Corey McKendry said. "Hogan was very good and there was no doubt they (Kennedy) deserved to win the game."

Senior Nathan Clark scored a team-high 19 points for the Trojans, who made 13-of-20 free throws.

Senior standout Jamie Stewart was held to 14 points,

BOYS BASKETBALL

while 6-7 sophomore center Jalen Reynolds made his varsity debut with nine points and seven blocks.

Kennedy made only 12-of-25 free throws on the night.

LUTH. WESTLAND 52, ROEPER 49: On Tuesday, Sam Ahlersmeyer scored 24 points as host Lutheran High Westland overcame a sluggish first half to edge Birmingham Roeper in the season-opening contest for both squads.

Josh Kruger contributed 11 for the Warriors, while Ryan Zinser led Roeper with 15.

After trailing 25-19 at halftime, the Warriors grabbed control with a 17-9 third quarter and then held on down the stretch.

"We started to pressure the ball (in the third) and create some turnovers that resulted in some easy baskets," Lutheran Westland coach Brandon Bekins said. "I thought the kids played much better in the second half and did what was necessary to win the game."

Clarenceville goes 3-1 in own tournament

It was a solid beginning of the season for Livonia Clarenceville's varsity wrestling team on Saturday, going 3-1 at the Trojans-hosted invitational tournament.

The Trojans reeled off impressive wins over Southfield-Lathrup (60-21), Harper Woods (60-24) and Dearborn Divine Child (62-3) but Livonia Churchill turned the tables on the hosts - earning a 63-18 victory over Clarenceville.

Following are results from the Clarenceville Invitational:

LIVONIA CLARENCEVILLE 60 SOUTHFIELD-LATHRUP 21
103: Jorell Young (SL) decisioned Brad Martin, 19-12; 112: Rin Pham (SL) wins by void; 119: Brent Gilman (C'ville) pinned Miles Allen, 1:01; 125: Jake Ruth (C'ville) p. Gordon Hall-Amerson, 0:49; 130: Coy Sillanpaa (C'ville) wins by void; 135: Patrick Walker (C'ville) p. Tito Kromer, 1:59; 140: Cody Sillanpaa (C'ville) p. Lawrence Monker, 0:14; 145: Brendan Groves (C'ville) p. Brandon Somo, 3:41; 152: Marcus Long (SL) wins by void; 160: Eche Keowume Kwabuskot (SL) wins by void; 171: Derek Robbins (C'ville) p. Brandon Petty, 1:25; 189: Tim Siecinski (C'ville) p. Jalen Slater, 3:25; 215: Andrew Jasmer (C'ville) p. Matt Boyd, 2:56; 285: Anthony Giordano (C'ville) p. Malcolm Rutledge, 1:11.

LIVONIA CLARENCEVILLE 60 HARPER WOODS 24
103: Brad Martin (C'ville) wins by void; 112: Bankhead (HW) wins by void; 119: Brent Gilman (C'ville) wins by void; 125: Eric

Gallagher (HW) p. David Gibson, 1:01; 130: Jake Ruth (C'ville) p. Desmond Jackson, 0:28; 135: Coy Sillanpaa (C'ville) p. Shaquill Coleman, 1:14; 140: Patrick Walker (C'ville) p. Anthony Perry, 0:29; 145: Cody Sillanpaa (C'ville) p. Devonte Kennedy, 1:17; 152: Myles Douglas Wilbur (HW) wins by void; 171: Derek Robbins (C'ville) p. Octavius Moore, 1:00; 189: Tim Siecinski (C'ville) p. Brandon Stewart, 0:24; 215: Joseph Haapala (C'ville) p. Eric Silver, 1:32; 285: Anthony Giordano (C'ville) p. Roccick Garfield, 0:32.

LIVONIA CLARENCEVILLE 62 DEARBORN DIVINE CHILD 3
103: Brad Martin (C'ville) wins by void; 112: double Void; 119: Brent Gilman (CV) p. Sam Miller, 2:50; 125: Jake Ruth (CV) won by technical fall Jamie Jakes, 15-5; 130: Coy Sillanpaa (C'ville) p. Jon Constan, 3:33; 135: David Gibson (C'ville) wins by void; 140: Pat Walker (C'ville) wins by void; 145: Brendan Groves (C'ville) wins by void; 152: Cody Sillanpaa (C'ville) wins by void; 160: double

void; 171: Derek Robbins (C'ville) p. Mike Childs, 4:26; 189: Tim Siecinski (C'ville) won by tech. fall over Zach Vakeris, 18-5; 215: Devin Kachinosky (DC) dec. Andrew Jasmer, 8-2; 285: Anthony Giordano (C'ville) wins by void.

LIVONIA CHURCHILL 63 CLARENCEVILLE 18
103: Jacob Meadows (Churchill) p. Brad Martin, 0:48; 112: Kane Kanouse (Churchill) wins by void; 119: Matt Hecksel (Churchill) dec. Brent Gilman, 12-5; 125: Jake Ruth (C'ville) p. 3:51 Anthony Sewell, 1:30; John Bannoura (Churchill) p. Coy Sillanpaa, 1:52; 135: Brett Appel (Churchill) p. Patrick Walker, 3:44; 140: Bryan Fortney (Churchill) p. Cody Sillanpaa, 3:41; 145: Ben Hesskamp (Churchill) p. Brendan Groves, 1:26; 152: Josh Gustitus (Churchill) wins by void; 160: Grant Morgan (Churchill) wins by void; 171: Curtis Castleberry (Churchill) p. Derek Robbins, 4:25; 189: Tim Siecinski (C'ville) p. Emmett Sheppard, 0:09; 215: John Shekell (Churchill) p. Travis Edwards, 1:25; 285: Anthony Giordano (C'ville) wins by void.

WAYNE FROM PAGE B1

Dearborn with 16 and 13 points, respectively.

Senior guard Scott Senczysyn led the Chargers with 13, including 3-of-7 from beyond the arc. Adam Bedell, a 6-6 junior forward, grabbed a game-high 20 rebounds and added six points, while junior guard Tony Frezzell contributed eight points and six steals.

"We had opportunities to make plays in the fourth quarter," Churchill coach Jim Solak said. "They packed it in with a zone (defense). We moved the ball well and had good looks."

The Pioneers outscored the Chargers 15-11 in the first quarter and 14-4 in the third by hitting their first four shots. Churchill, meanwhile, went a combined 0-for-8.

"We did not come out flat, we just did not hit shots," Solak said. "But we played hard."

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Attractive SBPF, 35, NS, N/Drugs, would like to meet respectable, happy SBPM, 25-30, to enjoy life together. **2300680**

BLACK BEAUTY SEEMS...

White Knight, Spontaneous SBF, 35, brown eyes, in search of adventurous, honest, attractive WM, 25-50, with great sense of humor, I enjoy movies, reading, working out, more. **2226202**

LET'S GET TOGETHER!

Sassy SBF, 40, NS, mature, financially secure WM, 35-50, for friendship first, maybe more. **2270132**

LONELY VIRGO

SBF, 47, with a young heart, enjoys cartoons, music, dancing, good food, good fun, looking for SF, 30-55, with same interests. **2285875**

BEAUTIFUL

BBF, 37, beautiful, classy and open-minded, looking for BF, 25-40, nice open, DID free, H/W proportionate. You must be confident with who you are. **2227188**

HEART OF GOLD

SBF, 36, 5'6", average build, smoker, enjoys crossword puzzles, old-school lifestyle, movies, dining. Seeking athletic, active SM, 30-35, 5'8"-5'9", smoker, for friendship, possible romance. **2236452**

DOWN-TO-EARTH AND HONEST

SBF, 36, 5'10", NS, short hair, no children, looking for SM, 35-50, who enjoys activities, travel, spending time together. **2236550**

LET'S DANCE IN THE RAIN!

Petite SBF, 36, 120lbs, brown eyes, mother of two, enjoys cooking, music, church. Looking for SM, 35-75. **2281372**

GREAT-LOOKING BF...

35, seeks serious, mature, financially secure man for LTR. Call me, you won't be disappointed! **2238372**

HOPE TO HEAR FROM YOU

WWMF, 37, homeowner, independent, a little knobby, dog owner, enjoys quiet times, good talks and togetherness. Seeking a kind man to share life with. **2211336**

HARD WORKER SEEKS SAME

SBF, 44, NS, mother, seeks old-fashioned SM, 29-49, NS, homebody, to explore old life has to offer! I enjoy reading, like rides, playing tennis. **2274519**

MUSICAL GIRL

Christian W/F, 19, enjoys playing guitar, singing, going to church and more. Looking for SM, 19-25, who enjoys the same things. **2229228**

VERY DOWN-TO-EARTH

SBF, 37, 5'5", 125lbs, athletic build, enjoys walks in the park, movies, bowling, basketball, gaming. Seeking SM, 30-43. **2299111**

ARE WE A MATCH?

SBF, 38, very shapely, NS, light drinker, very independent, loves movies, enjoys dining out, traveling. Seeking SM, 35+, very independent, who enjoys life, movies, etc. **2229793**

WHY NOT CALL?

SBF, 44, NS, seeks a SM, 37-50, for friendship, possible LTR. Call me, let's get together and get to know each other. **2217234**

I NEED LOVE

Fun-loving, down-to-earth, outgoing, smart SBF, 20, loves having fun. Seeking SBWM, 19-30, who shares my life for life. **2200110**

GREAT EXPECTATIONS

Good looking SBF, 36, intelligent, mature, spiritual, seeking a SM, 37+, 40-50, physically fit, good looking, active, sports, outdoors, enjoys traveling, for friendship first leading to LTR. **2214706**

SINGLE DAD WELCOME

PBF, 40, looks younger, attractive, independent, loving, caring, enjoys working, dining out, quiet times at home. Seeking handsome, well-built, warm-hearted, considerate WM, 35-43, to share what life has to offer. **2256002**

HAVE A GOOD HEART?

W/F, 53, 5'9", blonde, seeking WM, 22-45, who loves NASCAR, classic rock and more. **2238230**

HONEY BLONDE

SBF seeks down-to-earth SM, 25-35, with morals and values, who knows how to have fun in life, is family-oriented. **2234623**

IN THIS BOX I CAN FIND...

A 42-year-old SWF, ISO SWM, 38-45, for friendship and possibly more. I'm sociable, fun-loving, intelligent, mature, the parks walk, travel and in general. Friendship first. **2241298**

JUST A NICE PERSON...

looking for a nice man. Tall SBF, 45, 5'8", long hair, glasses, seeks SM, 40-55. **2243320**

TAKE A CHANCE

SF, 48, 5'7", 210lbs, medium brown/blue, NS, NS, no children, enjoys drama films, shooting pool, playing cards, sports, dining. Seeking SM, 45-55, who enjoys the same. **2253036**

LOOKING FOR MR RIGHT

Outgoing, laid-back SWF, 40, sincere and light-hearted seeks easygoing, fun SM, who knows how to enjoy life, to share talks, dates, friendship and possible LTR. **2259010**

LET'S GET TOGETHER

Sexy, mature, intelligent BF, 35, 5'5", 130lbs, seeks mature, intelligent men, for casual dating and friendship. **226784**

DOWN-TO-EARTH

Easygoing DW/F, early 50s, would like to meet a really nice WM, 30-55, with the same qualities, minimal baggage to share the ups and downs of life. Seeking possible LTR. **2279171**

GOOD SENSE OF HUMOR?

WF, 48, 5'3", brown/brown, has pets, NS, great sense of humor, looking for WM, 45-55, who likes dining out, museums, movies, reading and more, to do things with. **2280581**

HOMEBODY SEEKS SAME

SBF, 44, 5'2", 165lbs, black hair, brown eyes, light complexion, NS, NS, enjoys movies, bowling, dining, plays, concerts, reading. Seeking SM, 39-51. **2284336**

ARE YOU THE ONE?

SF, 41, 5'4", dark complexion, brown eyes, short hair, looking to meet an honest, loyal, funny man, 37-55, to spend a lot of time together. **2289947**

ARE YOU LONELY?

Attractive female, 5'8", 120lbs, fun-loving blonde, retired, would love a little of your time to enjoy each other's company. Seeking pleasant gentleman, 55-75. **2291247**

SEARCHING FOR A MAN...

40-60, who's looking for commitment, love and laughter. I'm a 47-year-old who's bright, spry and pretty. Only Jewish man please. **2296237**

CURVACEOUS

SWF, 47, 5'7", 150lbs, hazel eyes, dimples, enjoys r&b music, jazz, dancing. Seeking SM, 35-55, who enjoys SM, 21-42, with similar interests, for friendship first, possibly more. **2228306**

CALLING ALL GOLDFERS!

W/F, 62, seeking polite, well-read, 65-70, must be honest, NS, and active. Looking for LTR, don't delay call now. **2297814**

CLASSY LADY

I am in my early 60s, 5'2", brown/brown, I enjoy dancing, outdoors, and travel. Seeking a companion, 60-70, and maybe a relationship. Please call. **2298205**

SEEKING LOW DRAMA

SWF, 36, long brown/green, NS, athletic build, pretty, attractive, in search of attractive, fit, funny, easygoing SM, 27-45, with no children, for dating, possible LTR with right man. **2288634**

KEEP COOL

SBF, 19, 5'3", looking for cool, down-to-earth, attractive SBHM, 18-25, who keeps it real. **2287598**

DOWN-TO-EARTH

Asian woman, 5'2", 110lbs, slim, attractive, independent, loving, caring, enjoys movies, fine dining, travel, quiet times at home. Seeking very handsome W/M, 47-58, NS, clean-shaven, H/W proportionate, for friendship first. **2281223**

IN SEARCH OF

a man with a positive outlook for dating, dining out, and companionship. I'm a SWF, 58, 5'8", H/W and I enjoy walks, cycling, hiking, snowshoeing, and more. **2285886**

ARE YOU HERE?

SBF, 61, enjoys going to bars, dancing, playing, laughing, and enjoying life. Seeking an honest SM, 56-62, with varied interests, for possible LTR. **2286770**

TAKE A CHANCE!

SWF, 30, middle school art teacher, likes nature, music and learning new things. ISO nice gentleman, for dating and to share life together. **2283845**

HEY GUYS

SBF, 20, 5'9", slim, long black hair, enjoys movies, concerts and just having fun looking for nice, respectful man, to enjoy talks, casual dates, and see what happens next. **2235610**

TRY THIS ONE

Loving, sincere SBF, 58, easygoing, looking for a good-looking, Christian, enjoys movies, has a lot of fun, best times to share life, laughter, happiness and possible LTR. **2242234**

WORTH A CALL

SWF, 55, loves movies, trying new things, sporting events, and just having fun. Looking for nice, respectful SM, with similar interests, to share the special times in life. Friendship first, possible LTR. **2245606**

ARE YOU OUT THERE?

SBF, 53, long hair, student, seeking a SM, 19-23, handsome, W/F, good personality, for friendship and more. **2248542**

WORTH A LOOK

SBF, 30, 5'7", 195lbs, nurse, love music, trying new things and just having fun. Looking for good-looking, open-minded man to share the good times in life, friendship and maybe more. **2253634**

TAKING A PEEK

Attractive SWF, 20 years old, loves to be outdoors and have fun, enjoys clubs, movies, relaxing at home, ISO male who likes the same, and wishes for friendship, maybe more. **2254474**

LADY IN THE WOODS

SWF, 50, looks younger, blonde/hazel, 5'5", average build, educated, dog lover, classy, easy and fun, seeking compatible, outdoorsy, rugged, good-hearted man who enjoys the good things in life. Livingston county. **2210247**

CHOCOLATE TREAT

Refined, romantic, creative divorcee, enjoys an eclectic lifestyle. Professionally employed, very youthful and fun loving 60x, enjoys dining, travel, music, the arts, family and friends. Seeking if not working gentleman, 50+. **2211157**

ENJOYS THE OUTDOORS

BF, 55', 150lbs, lives cooking, learning to music, camping and more. Would like to meet a man to enjoy life with. **2228438**

ONE GOOD WOMAN LEFT

SBF, 47, 5'7", tall, friendly, NS, likes traveling, canoeing, exercise, tennis, travel. Seeking a gentleman, 40-70, who is healthy, fun-loving, financially secure, looks decent. **2228785**

A POLISHED DIAMOND

Attractive, sexy SF, 24, seeks a SM, 20-30, who won't be disappointed when we meet! **2287057**

ONLY SERIOUS NEED REPLY

Voluptuous SBF, 42, would like to meet a nice, serious SM, 35-50, who would like to become acquainted with a woman who is ready, willing, and able to commit. **2273600**

A NEW BEGINNING

SBF, 47, 5'4", likes action movies, swimming, dancing, plays, outdoors, just having fun. Seeking SM, 45-55, for friendship or more. **2289151**

PETITE AND CUTE

SBF, 35, great sense of style, very friendly, would like to meet a SM, 35-45, who will love me for me. **2294943**

THAT SPECIAL ONE

SBF, 36, enjoys movies, walks in the park, picnics, just chilling. Looking for SM, 30-45, for possible relationship. **2259826**

SEEKING STRONG BM

Can you handle me? SF, 25, 120 lbs, healthy and beautiful, seeks strong, bald BM, 40-62, who knows how to handle his own business. I'm laid-back, gentle, soft. **2295588**

COULD YOU BE THE ONE?

Bright, sporty, sexy SF, 43, enjoys outgoing, pretty eyes, wishing to meet a kind Jewish man, 45-60, who seeks looking for commitment, love and laughter. **2230894**

READY FOR A FRESH START?

DW/F, 61, 5'9", 120lbs, long blonde/haired, well-proportioned, feminine, friendly, outgoing, friendly. Seeking 45-57, 6'1", 225lbs+, good sense of humor, energetic, traveler, outdoorsman, adventurer, many gentleman. **2292259**

MATURE MAN WANTED

SBF, 33, 5'4", 115lbs, casual complexion, brown eyes, short blonde hair, wears glasses. Seeking tall, muscular SM, 25-40, who enjoys bookstores, movies, dining, water. **2287256**

WARM SMILE

SBF, 21, NS, looking for SM, 21-40, for friendship first, possibly more. Call me, let's talk and get to know each other. **2271877**

AWAITING YOUR CALL

Honest, attractive SBF, 25, 5'8", 120 lbs, mother, enjoys shopping, looking to meet outgoing, child-friendly, respectful Christian man to enjoy dinner dates, good talks, family, friendship and more. **2237322**

LET'S HAVE FUN!

SWF, likes camping, fishing, hiking, motorcycles, seeking a SM, 35-55, who enjoys the same, for friendship first, possible LTR. **2243983**

LIVE LIFE TO THE FULLEST

SF, 18, enjoys music, architecture, and trying new things. Seeking SM, creative and fun, with passion for the same, to share friendship, good times and then who knows? **2247152**

ACTIVE WOMAN

SBF, dark hair and eyes, NS, social drinker, likes bowling, bingo, garage sales, funny movies and more. If you would like to meet for coffee, let me know. **2262181**

HELLO THERE

Asian woman, 5'2", 160lbs, slim, attractive, health-conscious, vegetarian, NS, ISO, enjoys dining, movies, quiet times. Seeking clean-cut, fit, attractive, respectful, professional Asian or White male for dating and possibly more. **2211029**

A WOMAN OF CLASS

SWF, 68, looks younger, in search of a SM, 62-69, who likes movies, dining, theater. Is it you? **2271055**

GREAT SENSE OF HUMOR

SWF, 27, mother, enjoys swimming, walking, nature, banjo playing, seeking similar SM, 29-45, for companionship. **2282578**

LET'S GET TOGETHER

SBF, 24, 5'4", NS, enjoys life's simple pleasures. Seeking SWM, 48-82, NS, for friendship or more. **2282444**

OUTGOING

BF, 24, student, looking for SM, 35-45, to go out and have fun with. Friendship first, hopefully leading to LTR. **2282940**

PRETTY EYES

SBF, 33, voluptuous, NS, social drinker, enjoys life, king walks, intellectual conversation. Seeking SM, 30-50, similar interests. **2286970**

ATTRACTIVE BLONDE

SWF, 55, 5'8", NS, H/W proportionate, active, fun-loving, likes bike rides, hiking, walking, water, autumn. Seeking SWBM, 45-63, for dating, possible LTR. **2296774**

IT'S WORTH THE CALL

SBF, 20, 5'3", 250lbs, hard-working student, no kids, seeking a cool guy, to chill with, get to know, have good times and see where it goes. **2259779**

GORGEOUS SMILE!

SBF, 26, 5'6", 130lbs, slim build, smoker, DD-free, seeks BF, 18-80, smoker, for friendship, possible romance. I enjoy movies, dining, television, outdoors. **2277689**

FUN & OUTGOING

SBF, 18, 190lbs, brown eyes, lives on the beach, movies, basketball. Seeking SM, same age, for friendship or more. **2257908**

GET TO KNOW ME

BF, 57, multi-faceted, brown eyes, NS, social drinker, looking for a gentleman, 45-60, to share good, clean fun with. **2260758**

SEEKING SAVED MAN

SBF, 27, NS, seeks one good man, 29-51, NS, no games, who enjoys movies, bowling, church, for friendship first. **2285559**

HI THERE!

Mature SBF, 50, seeks sexy,

Area's best spikers excel antenna to antenna

FIRST TEAM

Becca Refenes, Sr., MH, Luth. Westland: Refenes stood taller than her 6-foot-2 frame this season, sparking the Warriors to the Class D volleyball finals for the first time in school history.

An All-State first-teamer for the second year in a row and repeat Metro Conference MVP winner, Refenes made it happen in many categories — 740 kills, 106 blocks, 392 digs, 93 aces and 299 serving points, for example.

"Becca is a phenomenal player, probably the best I have ever coached in any sport," Warriors coach Kevin Wade said. "She is very strong and explosive and very fun to watch. She is also very good in the back row, which surprises a lot of teams."

Because Refenes is such a complete player, she becomes the first Division 1 athlete out of Lutheran Westland "and I know she will do great things at the next level (the University of Cincinnati)."

Kristen Nalecz, Sr., OH, Churchill: The 5-10 senior outside hitter helped the Chargers to the Class A state semifinals while earning second-team All-State honors from MIVCA. Nalecz, who finished with 595 kills (4.5 per set), also was named All-Region and All-KLAA, as well as co-team MVP. She also earned MIVCA Academic All-State recognition.

"Kristen is a great leaper, who is strong and very athletic," Churchill coach Mark Grenier said. "There was no secret who we were giving the ball to when Kristen was on the front row. She was our workhorse all year, and a huge part of our success came from Kristen's ability to put the ball to the floor."

Lindsay Graciak, Sr., Libero, Churchill: The 5-6 senior libero earned first-team All-State honors by MIVCA after racking up a Churchill career-best 749 total digs (5.7 per set).

Graciak, who also had 48 aces (serv-

2008 ALL-OBSERVER VOLLEYBALL

FIRST TEAM

Becca Refenes, Sr., MH, Lutheran Westland
Kristen Nalecz, Sr., OH, Liv. Churchill
Lindsay Graciak, Sr., L. Liv. Churchill
Jordan Kiefty, Jr., OH, Canton
Jansan Falcusan, Sr., S. Salem
Brittany Holbrook, Sr., MH, John Glenn
Briana Beyer, Sr., L. Plymouth
Shannon Pietruszka, Sr., L. Garden City
Katie Ramthun, Sr., OH, Lutheran Westland
Danielle Campbell, Sr., MH, Garden City
Kelly MacDonald, Sr., OH, Salem
Meg Iafraite, Sr., MH, Liv. Stevenson
Loran Stenzel, Sr., OH, Redford Union
Claire Dezelski, Jr., OH, Liv. Ladywood
Katie Matz, Sr., OH, Liv. Churchill

SECOND TEAM

Racy Moran, Sr., S. Canton
Nicole Mergel, Soph., MH, Salem
Lauren Gieschen, Sr., S. Lutheran Westland
Rachael Fuller, Sr., MH, Liv. Ladywood
Stacey Truskowski, Sr., OH, John Glenn
Kellyn O'Brady, Jr., OH, Garden City
Cory Urbats, Soph., S. Liv. Churchill
Sarah Sanders, Sr., OH, Redford Union
Kristen Muir, Fr., OH, Canton
Brooke Knochel, Sr., OH, Liv. Stevenson

THIRD TEAM

Megan Greve, Sr., OH, Plymouth Christian

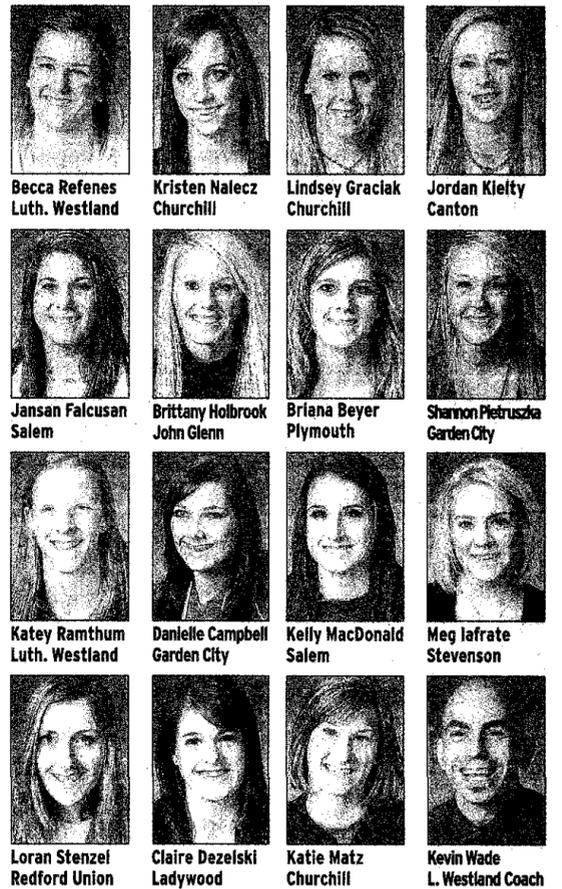
Gierra Yeltes, Jr., MH, Liv. Churchill
Abi Gieschen, Sr., L. Lutheran Westland
Stephanie Stevens, Jr., OH, Garden City
Megan Quinlan, Sr., MH, Plymouth
Julie Rhodes, Jr., S. Liv. Ladywood
Danielle Sweeney, Sr., S. Redford Union
Halie Baker, Soph., OH, John Glenn
Mariene Azar, Sr., OH, Clarenceville
Ratie Saio, Jr., S. Plymouth

COACH OF THE YEAR

Kevin Wade, Lutheran Westland

HONORABLE MENTION

Churchill: Sarah Suppelsa, Kat Krupsky, Kristy DeClercq, Jessica Stroud; Franklin: Ashly Butkowsky, Liz Hollaway, Chelsea Williams; Stevenson: Christine Armstrong; John Glenn: Brooke Zywick, Jennifer Michalek; Wayne Memorial: Caitie Badrak, Emily Rudy; Ladywood: Katy Rooney, Pippi Hogg, Caitlin McClorey; Garden City: Sam Zaleski, Brittany Bejma, Amanda Quertz; Redford Union: Alex Smedley, Tory Hehner, Kristine Yula; Redford Thurston: Rebecca Burgess, Ashley Rone, Jessica McBay; Clarenceville: Kat Hall, Laisha Patterson, Katie Blacker; Lutheran Westland: Rachel Stork, Allyson Yankee; Huron Valley Lutheran: Kayla Stockdale, Leah Miller; Canton: Gina Walle, Janelle Burdiss, Shelby Anthony; Salem: Kerry MacDonald; Plymouth: Kelly Smoltz, Mandy McManus, Lauren Scott; Erin O'Connor; Plymouth Christian: Kristin Malcolm, Jessica Murphy.



Becca Refenes Luth. Westland, Kristen Nalecz Churchill, Lindsay Graciak Churchill, Jordan Kiefty Canton, Jansan Falcusan Salem, Brittany Holbrook John Glenn, Briana Beyer Plymouth, Shannon Pietruszka Garden City, Katie Ramthun Luth. Westland, Danielle Campbell Garden City, Kelly MacDonald Salem, Meg Iafraite Stevenson, Loran Stenzel Redford Union, Claire Dezelski Ladywood, Katie Matz Churchill, Kevin Wade L. Westland Coach

ing at 96 percent), was also named to the All-Region and All-KLAA teams, as well as MIVCA Academic All-State.

"Lindsay is everything you look for in a libero," Grenier said. "She is quick to the ball, she's great at reading the hitter, and she's a tremendous competitor."

Jordan Kiefty, Jr., OH, Canton: The junior racked up All-State, All-Region and All-Conference honors as she set a school record for kills and kill percentage with 612 and 43.2, respectively. Kiefty added 56 blocks, 71 aces and 432 digs while registering a 94.4 serve percentage.

"Jordan has been a tremendous addition to the varsity team and program for the past three years," Canton coach Jen Barnes said. "She is a hard worker and is always striving to improve. She not only works on her skills, but she takes the time to work with the younger players in our program as well. She is the type of player that every coach wishes for — she makes my job very easy."

Jansan Falcusan, Sr., Setter, Salem: A two-time All-State honoree, Falcusan also earned All-Region and All-Conference laurels following a sensational senior season. Falcusan has earned an athletic scholarship to Division 1 University of New Hampshire.

"Jansan is the best setter in the area, and one of the best in the state in my opinion," Salem coach Amanda Suder said.

Brittany Holbrook, Sr., MH, John Glenn: The 6-foot middle hitter, bound for Oakland University, finished the season with 313 total kills (3.5 per set) with a kill efficiency of 467 percent.

The Class A All-Region and All-KLAA selection also served 49 aces and had 389 total digs (4.7 per set) to go along with 63 solo blocks.

"Brittany has done her best over three years to build John Glenn volleyball into a successful program," Glenn coach Julian Wargo said. "She works hard every day — on and off the court — to be a role model for our volleyballers."

Briana Beyer, Sr., Libero, Plymouth: Beyer enjoyed a stellar senior season, recording 556 digs and a 90-percent serve reception mark while serving at a 90-percent clip. She earned All-Conference, All-Region and her team's "Defensive Player of the Year" award for the second consecutive season.

"Being one of our captains, Bri was called upon to help lead the team both on and off the court," Plymouth coach Kelly McCausland said. "As our libero, she was our defensive leader and one of our primary passers."

Shannon Pietruszka, Sr., Libero, Garden City: Pietruszka's coach, John Pace, described her as simply one of the area's top players and the statistics seem to back up such lofty praise. She successfully received 830 out of

856 balls (97 percent) and chalked up 693 digs, providing the foundation of Garden City's defense — sparking the Cougars to the Mega Red co-championship. For her efforts, Pietruszka was an All-Region and All-League selection.

"Her desire and tenacity are what separates her from all the other liberos," Pace said. "She was our primary defender and led by example."

Katey Ramthun, Sr., OH, Luth. Westland: Although Refenes was at the top of the bill, Ramthun was right there with her to lead the Warriors to their best season in school history.

"A lot of teams breathe a sigh of relief when Becca (Refenes) goes to the back row, thinking they have it made," Wade said. "But Katey has the athleticism and strength to put the ball down and (she) burned a lot of teams that way this year."

Ramthun, named to the first-team All-State and All-Conference squads, delivered in many ways — 312 kills, 42 blocks, 406 serving points (97 percent serving efficiency), 59 aces and 319 digs.

Danielle Campbell, Sr., MH, Garden City: Another All-Region, All-Conference Cougar, Campbell provided a tough presence in the middle and tallied 268 kills along with 95 blocks. When healthy, Mega Red opponents couldn't solve her.

According to Pace, the Cougars "only lost when we couldn't get the ball to her." Campbell's shoulder injury during the districts probably also contributed to an early ouster from the postseason.

"Danielle has a passion for the game ... she was always aggressively looking for the ball to block," her coach said.

Kelly MacDonald, Sr., OH, Salem: MacDonald was voted All-Conference and All-Region after finishing second on the team in kills and digs, and first in aces.

"Kelly is an explosive outside hitter and has one of the best vertical jumps I have ever seen," Suder said. "She is an all-around great player."

Meg Iafraite, Sr., MH, Stevenson: The senior middle hitter is a three-year varsity starter and two-time team MVP who made All-KLAA and Class A All-Region 18 as a senior. She finished with a total of 234 kills and had 74 blocks while serving at 86 percent.

"From the first year she played at the varsity level I knew she was going to become a dominate volleyball player," Stevenson coach Kelly Graham said.

Loran Stenzel, Sr., OH, Redford Union: Stenzel, named to the first All-Conference team, sparked as the Panthers finished 26-14-4 and made a strong bid for the Mega White title.

"Although I haven't been her coach all four years (of Stenzel's prep career), I

have watched her become such a great volleyball player," RU head coach Rachel Clor said.

Also a scholar athlete and team co-captain, Stenzel registered 238 kills and 115 serving aces, at or near the top of the list in those categories among Mega players. Her intensity also contributed to 318 digs and 42 blocks.

Claire Dezelski, Jr., OH, Ladywood: The 5-10 junior outside hitter made All-Catholic A-B Division and Class B All-Region 18 after averaging 2.94 kills, 4.7 digs and 0.82 aces per set for the Blazers.

"Claire really stepped up this year and was one of only a few all-around players," Ladywood coach Erin Craggs said. "She has a tremendous vertical jump and became a real offensive threat as an outside hitter."

Katie Matz, Sr., OH, Churchill: The 5-8 senior outside hitter displayed her all-around skills with 136 kills, 296 assists and 294 digs. She also serve-received over 300 balls at 91 percent en route to honorable mention All-State honors.

Matz also earned All-Region, All-KLAA and honorable mention MIVCA Academic All-State recognition.

"Katie is a throwback player," Grenier said. "She's a great example of a six-rotation athlete. Katie does it all. Her biggest asset was her versatility. A lot of our success was because of Katie's hard work, her selfishness and being a true team player."

COACH OF THE YEAR

Kevin Wade, Lutheran Westland: It's been quite a year for Wade, who last spring coached the Warriors' baseball team to the Class D finals and followed up doing the same with the volleyball team. As a result, he earned his second Observer Coach of the Year Award for 2008.

Lutheran Westland finished 46-6-5 and breezed to the Metro Conference championship, then followed up with impressive district and regional titles.

But with a deep roster of talented players, spearheaded by Becca Ramthun and Katey Ramthun, the coach downplayed his own contributions to the most successful volleyball season ever at the school.

"I am very humbled to be chosen Coach of the Year," Wade said. "There are so many great coaches in this area and to be given this award is truly an honor. Any success I have had is only because of the great players I was privileged to coach."

"This will go down as the best (volleyball) team in the school's 22-year history and I am happy to have had the opportunity to coach them. They truly embodied what it meant to be a team."

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PURE PICKS Check out our entertainment best bets for this weekend.



PAGE D3

COOKIES



Here are more easy cookie recipe ideas

PAGE D2

DATE - D6

D

Thursday, December 11, 2008

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

Oils and Minerals



Howard Nordlund's paintings shimmer with the use of real, raw minerals.



Holiday Happenings

Events

Christmas in the Village: Tour decorated homes and enjoy carriage rides, hot cocoa, Santa Claus, and carolers, all while raising money for the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Michigan, from 4-8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, at Cherry Hill Village of Canton, 500 N. Ridge Road, Canton. Tickets \$15, visit www.canton-mi.org/villagetheatre or call (734) 394-5460.

The Big, Bright Light Show: Downtown Rochester lights the night with its dazzling display of more than 500,000 lights coating all the buildings along Main. The free event, through Jan. 4, 2009 attracts more than 1 million visitors. Expect a traffic jam but it's still a sight to behold.

Wayne County LightFest: Drive through more than four miles of light displays along Hines Drive, beginning at Merriman. Cost is \$5 per car, call (734) 261-1990 for details. The display runs to Jan. 1, 2009.

Winter Wonderland: A cast of more than 100 performers celebrate the holidays, 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 12-13 and 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, at the Detroit Film Theatre at the Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward, Detroit. Tickets \$10. Call (313) 833-4005 or visit www.mosaicdetroit.org.

Holiday Nights: Greenfield Village will transform into a living Christmas card with its candle-lit paths, Model T and carriage rides, ice skating and decorated home tours for this seasonal favorite, 6:30-10 p.m. Friday-Sunday, Dec. 12-14, Friday-Tuesday, Dec. 19-23, and Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 27-28. Tickets \$12.50-\$17, children under 4 enter free. Add dinner at the Eagle Tavern for \$64.50 to \$68.50. Parking costs \$5. The Henry Ford is at 20900 Oakwood Blvd. in Dearborn. Visit www.thehenryford.com.

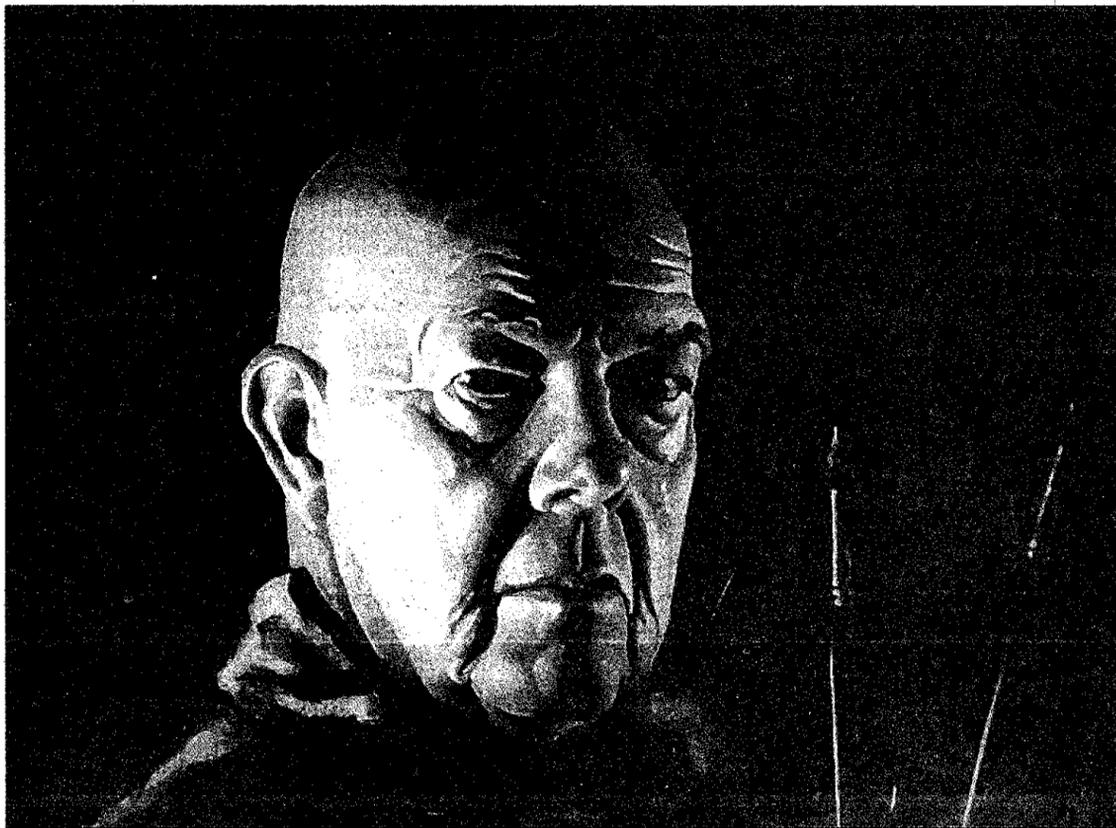
With Music
Christmas Flourish: The Birmingham Concert Band teams with the Chancel Choir of Redeemer Lutheran Church, for an inspirational and fun holiday concert, 3:30 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 14, at the church, 1800 W. Maple, Birmingham. The concert is free, but donations to the band's scholarship fund will be accepted.

Messiah: The Oakland Choral Society presents this classic, 3 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 14, at Nativity Episcopal Church, 21220 W. 14 Mile, Beverly Hills. Tickets are \$15, available by calling (248) 852-9395.

Trans-Siberian Orchestra: Talk about uplifting and re-inventing holiday songs. Catch one of these two shows on Dec. 21, at St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. Call (248) 645-6666.

Christmas in Concert: See Tony O'Brien with Casali Holiday Dancers, 8 p.m. Dec. 13, at Redford Theatre, 17360 Lahser, Detroit. Tickets \$10. Visit www.redfordtheatre.com.

A Prairie Home Christmas: Go A-Wassailing with Garrison Keillor and the DSO for this "Under the Mistletoe" presentation, 8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 16, 3711 Woodward, Detroit, (313) 576-5111 and online at www.detroitssymphony.com.



This portrait of artist Howard Nordlund was painted by his son, Hans Nordlund.

Bloomfield Hills artist featured at Cranbrook Institute of Science

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
ORE STAFF WRITER

OILS AND MINERALS

What: Fine artist Howard Nordlund displays his oil paintings incorporating minerals, sand and stones
When: The exhibit runs through Dec. 31
Where: Cranbrook Institute of Science, 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills
Tickets: Exhibit free with museum admission, \$7-\$9, children under 2 admitted free

Bloomfield Hills-based artist Howard Nordlund doesn't hide his fascination for sparkling crystals and minerals of all varieties. Instead, he incorporates them into his own works — mostly large-scale oil paintings showcasing stunning clusters of quartz, shining bits of sand, smooth pebbles and sharp stones. Since October, about 10 of his works have been on display at the Cranbrook Institute of Science, appropriately adorning walls in the Every Rock has a Story area. His exhibit, *Oils and Minerals*, marks a melding of art and science which Director Michael Stafford said will continue over the next year. Stafford was responsible for bringing Nordlund's work into the science institute. "I'm thrilled to be here," said Nordlund, a wide smile on his face. "I'd rather be exhibited here than in any other gallery." Coming from a professional artist with more than 40 years of experience, that's quite a statement. Nordlund's work has been shown and sold in galleries from



Bloomfield Hills resident and artist Howard Nordlund used quartz crystal in this oil painting, among those now on display at Cranbrook Institute of Science.

Please see **OILS, D5**

DSO family concert is Slatkin's top debut for some young pianists

BY SUSAN STEINMUELLER
ORE STAFF WRITER

While Leonard Slatkin's long-awaited debut as conductor of the DSO is tonight, the more anticipated concert for some area youth is Saturday.

The 11 a.m. Dec. 13 free family concert, "Civic Holidays with Leonard Slatkin," will include the DSO Civic Youth Orchestra and the five winners of the DSO Student Piano Competition. The competition was hosted by the DSO and Michigan Music Teachers, and was open to all middle school pianists in the metro area.

Slatkin will lead the concert, which features the first perfor-

mances of a new set of his own arrangements of classic holiday tunes for piano and orchestra.

Beth Rhoades, 13, of Rochester Hills, one of the young winners, is thrilled to have the opportunity to perform on the Orchestra Hall stage.

"I am really honored to be chosen, because I know many people auditioned," said Rhoades, the daughter of Rick and Allison Rhoades. She is also a percussionist in her band class at West Middle School.

Her family subscribes to the DSO so she said she knows of Slatkin's top reputation in the music world.

"I am really grateful to my piano teacher," added Rhoades, referring

to Gail Gebhart of Lathrup Village.

Gebhart has a second middle school student, Kara Komer of Chesterfield Township, who also won one of the coveted five spots on stage.

FIRST PERFORMANCES

Each of the piano contest winners will perform in two carols. Rhoades will play in the *12 Days of Christmas* and *Moonlight Carol*. "The *Moonlight Carol* has some of the *Moonlight Sonata* in it," she said.

Slatkin, who has won several Grammys, was inspired by his 13-year-old son to create the arrangements a year ago. His son, who plays the piano, asked his school's music teacher if he could perform



Slatkin

something for the annual holiday concert.

"This started me thinking about writing an arrangement that would be appropriate for his age group," said Slatkin. "If you are in middle school and play a string, wind or percussion instrument, most likely you can be in an ensemble. But when you play the piano, you are alone. There are few



Beth Rhoades, 13, of Rochester Hills will perform Saturday, Dec. 13 at Orchestra Hall in Detroit.

outlets for interaction with your fellow musicians at that point in your education."

The new series fills in the gap for keyboard students he said. "Some of the pieces are humorous and some are serious, and

Please see **CONCERT, D2**

CONCERT

FROM PAGE D1

there are references to works and styles from the classical canon." The 10 selections are included in *Holidays for Piano and Strings*, the first educational collection published by the Hal Leonard Corp. as part of the Leonard Slatkin Youth Orchestra Series. It's available at the DSO retail store. Marni Raitt, assistant director, public relations, DSO, said that Slatkin's involvement with youth is part of the reason they are so excited to have him there. "Education is one of his top

priorities," she said. "He's doing another concert in April." Among Slatkin's diverse achievements: He is the founder and director of the National Conducting Institute, an advanced career development program for rising conductors; he founded the Saint Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra; and he has worked with student orchestras across the U.S. and abroad. Tickets for Civic Holidays with Leonard Slatkin are free and must be reserved at (313) 576-5111. Tickets for the National City Young People's Concert Slatkin's All-Stars on Jan. 10, 2009, start at \$10; box seats are \$46. Visit www.detroitssymphony.com.

Easy cookie recipes

Correction: the flour from the sugar cookies was omitted last week and placed in the rum ball recipe, here are the recipes again.

AUNT DEE DEE'S SUGAR COOKIES

By Dean Henry of Livonia
I have literally made thousands if not a million of these, once you make and try it you will see why. Makes about 120.

- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 1 cup butter
- 1 cup oil
- 2 eggs
- 5 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon cream of tartar

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Cream sugars and butter together until fluffy, slowly pour in oil while mixing. Add eggs, vanilla, salt, soda, tartar, mix to incorporate. Scrape down bowl, add flour while mixing on low in stages. Scoop out small amount of dough — about 2 tablespoons. I use an #70 ice cream scoop to make this part of the process really easy. Place dough on cookie sheet. Once you have the dough scooped onto your trays, you will need a cookie press or flat surface such as the bottom of a jelly jar or glass. Dip the press into sanding sugar, red, green, or white, and press/flatten the dough to ¼" thickness. Bake 8-10 minutes.

151 RUM BALLS

By Dean Henry of Livonia

- 2 cups graham cracker crumbs
- 2 tablespoons cocoa powder
- 1 cup powdered sugar
- ½ teaspoon salt

1 cup ground nuts (I use ground pecans that I grind myself, you may want to use pecan meal)
Combine all with 2 tablespoons honey and ¼ cup 151 proof rum. You may need more than ¼ cup of rum.
Consistency is right when all holds together. Pinch off small pieces, about 1 teaspoon, shape/roll in your hand, toss in powdered sugar and set aside to ripen in covered container at least 12 hours.

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S A COOKIE, COOKIE

By Debbie Jones of Southfield

- 1 cup sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 cup peanut butter
- Brachs Chocolate Stars — about 18

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Mix all ingredients together. Drop with a teaspoon onto cookie sheet. Press a Brach's chocolate star into the center of each cookie. Bake 11 minutes.

MY EASY CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES

By Lori Fillmore, Royal Oak

- 1 cup flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- ½ teaspoon baking soda
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ cup maple syrup
- ½ teaspoon molasses
- 1½ teaspoon vanilla
- ½ cup canola oil
- ½ cup chocolate chips
- ½ cup chopped nuts (optional)

Preheat oven 350
Sift flour, baking powder, baking soda.
Add sugar and salt. Stir.
In a separate bowl stir syrup, molasses, vanilla and canola oil.

Add wet ingredients to dry and stir. Add chocolate chips and nuts. Do not over mix. Bake 12 minutes or one minute longer for slightly crisper cookies. Cool one minute before removing from pan.

MACAROON KISSES

by Chef Kelli Lewton of Pure Food 2U

- 1 14-ounce can of sweetened condensed milk
- 2 teaspoons of vanilla extract
- 1 teaspoon of almond extract
- 2, 7-ounce packages of flake coconut (5½ cups)
- 48 solid milk chocolate stars or drops

Preheat oven to 325. Line baking sheets with parchment and spray with cooking release spray. In large bowl combine sweetened condensed milk, vanilla and almond extract. Stir in coconut. Drop by rounded teaspoons or scoop onto cookie sheet. Slightly flatten each mound. Bake for 15-17 minutes or until golden brown. Remove from oven and immediately press chocolate star or kiss into center. Cool. Store at room temperature or freeze.
Yields 4 dozen

MEXICAN WEDDING CAKES

By Chef Kelli Lewton of Pure Food 2U, Royal Oak

These cookies have a rich tradition of being served at weddings (hence the name) they are also a favorite served with rich Mexican hot chocolate
Yield 15 dozen

- 2 cups toasted pecan halves
- 4 cups powdered sugar
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 2 pounds butter
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 7 cups all-purpose flour

Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Grind pecans and sugar until they are fine. Cream butter and sugar together until creamy. Add vanilla. Add salt and

flour. Chill dough and scoop into 1-inch balls and place on lined cookie sheet 2 inches apart. Bake at 325 until edges are brown, cool and roll in powder sugar.

POPPY SEED SPIRALS

By Chef Kelli Lewton of Pure Food 2U, Royal Oak

A generous sprinkling of poppy seed gives these lemon-flavored cookies a highly distinctive, beautifully blue-hued spiral

- 1 cup butter, softened
- ¾ cup sugar
- ½ teaspoon baking powder
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2½ cups all purpose flour
- 3 tablespoons poppy seed
- 1 teaspoon finely shredded lemon peel

Beat butter for 30 seconds. Add sugar, baking powder, and salt. Beat until combined, scraping sides of bowl. Beat in the egg and vanilla. Beat in as much flour as you can using the mixer. Using a wooden spoon, stir in any remaining flour.
Divide dough in half. Stir poppy seed and lemon peel into one dough half until combined. Leave remaining half plain.
On a lightly floured surface, roll each half of dough into a 9- by 6-inch rectangle. Carefully roll poppy seed rectangle around rolling pin; unroll on top of plain rectangle.
Make sure edges are aligned; press down gently with rolling pin to seal. Tightly roll up, jelly roll style, starting from a long side. Wrap in plastic wrap and chill for 4-24 hours or until very firm.
Cut dough into ¼- to ⅜-inch thick slices. Place slices about 1 inch apart on ungreased cookie sheet.
Bake at 375 for 8-10 minutes or until edges are browned. Transfer cookies to wire rack to cool.

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Pooh's Christmas

Nancy Penrose is piglet, Beth Wingert is Winnie the Pooh and Chris Shepard is Eeyore in the production of "A Winnie The Pooh Christmas Tail" at the Millennium Center in Southfield, Saturday Dec. 13. Everyone's favorite bear is starring in a new live musical stage adventure with all the Hundred Acre favorites including Winnie, Tigger, Piglet, Eeyore, Owl, Rabbit, Kanga and Roo. The musical is based on the stories of A.A Milne and is presented by Michigan-based entertainment company Off Broadway Productions. The theater is located at 15600 J.L. Hudson Drive, Southfield Michigan. Showtimes are 1 and 4 p.m. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$8 for kids, 10 and under. Available at all Ticketmaster outlets, www.ticketmaster.com, or at the Millennium Box Office (248) 769-5198 www.millenniumboxoffice.com.



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Pierre Auguste Renoir (French, 1841-1919). *Romaine Lacaux* (detail), 1884. Oil on fabric, 81.3 x 65 cm. The Cleveland Museum of Art, Gift of the Hanna Fund, 1942.1065. © The Cleveland Museum of Art. Amedeo Modigliani (Italian, 1884-1920). *Portrait of a Woman* (detail), c. 1917-18. Oil on canvas, 65 x 48.3 cm. The Cleveland Museum of Art, Gift of the Hanna Fund 1951.358. © The Cleveland Museum of Art.



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OILS

FROM PAGE D1

Laguna Beach, Calif. to Hilton Head, S.C. His works grace the walls of rock stars like Richie Sambora of Bon Jovi, John Mellencamp and Neil Diamond.

SEEKING PATH

But long before Nordlund earned the title "an Artist's Artist" he was seeking his path. He began to explore his talent for drawing as a high school freshman. Though he attempted to follow in his older brother's footsteps and study business at East Commerce High School, after just one day he transferred to Cass Technical High School in Detroit and devoted his studies to the arts.

Nordlund later began working as a clay modeler for Chrysler Corp. Once a year the company would host an exhibit to showcase the creative hobbies of its employees. "I put my paintings in that and they were always snapped up," he recalled. Because his works sold so quickly, they were not available to be transferred to J.L. Hudson Co. in Detroit for display, like other pieces in the show.

As a result of the interest, Nordlund was granted five separate one-man exhibits at the esteemed department store between 1964 and 1968. "Because of J.L. Hudson, I realized I had a market for my work," he said. "I put down my modeling clay and picked up my paint brush."

USING MINERALS

His work has changed over the years — from vignettes to pointillism to the abstract pieces he creates now that incorporate his fascination of raw minerals. "One day I just put some in my painting," he said. Nordlund is inspired by the way the materials he uses catch the light. "I just love the energy they give," he said. "They are how God created them."

The results can be seen on both large canvases, and smaller sets. Nordlund prefers to stick to a neutral palette, the earthy bronzes, beiges and creams mirroring the natural materials that mingle with them on canvas. But flashes of color and bold, dark canvases are also part of the show. Some evoke the movement of an ocean, a shoreline, or even the ruddy surface of the moon.

He purchases his minerals at shows and collects found objects on his travels — everything from crushed glass to shimmery sand.

Nordlund considers the placement of these objects very carefully before affixing them to his canvas with paint and epoxy. It takes more than one month to complete and this work must be done outdoors.

Crystals can be sharp and sometimes cut his hands in the process, but the end effect is captivating. Even the artist admitted he sees something new each time he looks at one of the paintings. The public is welcome to experience these works on exhibit until Dec. 31.

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 Prime Rib of Beef and Stuffed Chicken Roulade, Parmesan Encrusted White Fish, AuGratin Potatoes, Wild Mushroom Risotto, Vegetable Medley, Cheese Tortellini Carbonara, Homemade Breads and Rolls.

Desserts:
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RELIGION CALENDAR

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. Deadline for an announcement to appear in the Thursday edition is noon Monday.

UPCOMING

Christmas music

"Repeat the Resounding Joy" Christmas Dinner Theater Dec. 12-14, at Memorial Church of Christ, 35475 Five Mile, Livonia. The Friday-Saturday, Dec. 12-13, performances begin at 7 p.m. and a full dinner will be served. Sunday night's program, Dec. 14, begins at 6 p.m. with a dessert table only. For tickets, visit www.5milechurch.org or call (734) 464-6722.

Glory of Christmas

The theatrical production runs weekends through Sunday, Dec. 14, at NorthRidge Church, 49555 N. Territorial at Ridge, Plymouth. Tickets \$16 and \$18. Call (734) 414-7777 or visit www.northridgechurch.com. Curtain times are 7:30 p.m. Thursday-Friday, 1 p.m. Saturday, and 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Sunday.

Detroit Lutheran Singers

Celebrate CHRISTMAS concerts 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12, at St. Michael Lutheran Church, 7000 Sheldon Road, Canton, and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, at Antioch Lutheran Church, 33360 W. 13 Mile, Farmington Hills. Tickets \$10 (\$7 for seniors and students age 12 and older) and will be available at the door. For advance tickets, call (248) 988-6715. For more information, visit www.detroitlutheransingers.com.

Evenings of Evangelization

With Rev. Alex Kratz, 7 p.m., Friday, Dec. 12, at St. Michael the Archangel Church, 11441 Hubbard, south of Plymouth Road, Livonia. The evening begins with a Holy Hour followed by small-group discussions, teaching and fellowship. All interested Catholics welcome. Call (734) 261-1455, Ext. 200.

Holiday cookie walk

9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 13, at First United Methodist Church of Wayne (across from Wayne Post Office). Holiday cookies, breads, pies and candies, specialty gift baskets. Cost is \$5 for small container, \$9 medium, \$13 large. For information, call (734) 721-4801.

Christmas Cookie Walk

Too busy to bake? Buy cookies by the pound from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 13 at St. Michael's Orthodox Church, 26355 West Chicago Road, between Beech-Daly and Inkster Road, in Redford. (313) 937-2120.

Choirs concert

The Choirs of St. Michael the Archangel Parish of Livonia invites the public to a special Christmas concert, "Ring In The Holidays," 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, at the church, 11441 Hubbard, south of Plymouth Road. The concert features the Felician Sisters Choir as well as St. Michael's Handbell Choirs and the Mikapellas, a women's acappella choir. No charge. For more information, call (734) 261-1455, ext. 200, or visit www.livoniastmichael.org.

Bethany monthly dance

8 p.m. to midnight Saturday, Dec. 13, at Don Hubert V.F.W. Hall, 27345 Schoolcraft (this is the I-96 service

drive), east of Inkster road, Redford. Dance lesson this month, dancers choice, cost \$10, refreshments included. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. DJ is Dick Gerathy. Call (734) 261-5716 for details.

Christmas season events

Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville, is hosting events for the Christmas Season at no charge in the sanctuary. Events include "A Gift of Hope" Christmas concert featuring the Ward Chancel Choir, Teen Choir, Orchestra, Ensembles and Handbells is 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, and 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, includes audience singalong of favorite Christmas carols. The Combined Choirs and Orchestra with guest conductors and soloists perform 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21.

Adult choir concert

The St. Aidan Adult Choir, directed by Ray Schmidt, presents its 27th Annual Christmas Concert 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, at St. Aidan Parish, 17500 Farmington Road, north of Six Mile, Livonia. The cost is \$5 and two nonperishable food items. This event is held annually to assist the St Aidan Christian Service Commission to aid those in need during the holiday season. Call (734)425-5950. Tickets will be available at the door on the day of event.

Christmas concert

Celebrate the birth of Jesus with Steven and Deborah Thomas (saxophone and Praise Dance) 3-3:45 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, at Greenmead Historical Park, 20501 Newburgh at Eight Mile, Livonia.

Christmas worship

Special Christmas service 10 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, with the choir at First United Methodist Church of Wayne singing "Music from around the World." All welcome. Church is located at 3 Towne Square, across from Wayne Post Office. Regular services 9 a.m. traditional, 10:30 a.m. contemporary. Call (734) 721-4801.

Caregiver's support group

St. John's Support Group for the Caregiver's of Alzheimer's patients or patients with other forms of dementia meets at 10 a.m., the first and third Friday of each month at St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 South Sheldon, Plymouth. Respite care for your loved one will be provided. Call Connie McNutt at (734) 895-1426 for more information. This group is authorized by the Alzheimer's Association.

All-you-can-eat pancakes

The Ushers' Club of St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Livonia continues its more than 30-year tradition of all-you-can-eat pancake breakfasts 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on the third Sunday of each month in the school cafeteria at 11441 Hubbard, south of Plymouth Road, with an expanded menu that features pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, bacon, hash browns, and assorted breakfast beverages. Meals are served buffet-style at family friendly prices: \$5, adults, \$3 children ages 4-11, free for children under age 3, \$15 a family (2 adults and all children). Everyone is welcome.

Christmas Eve services

7 p.m. and 11 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 24, at Good Hope Lutheran Church, 28600 Cherry Hill, between Inkster Road and Middlebelt, Garden City. All are welcome. Call (734) 427-3660.

Christmas Eve worship

8 p.m. and 11 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 24, at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church on Five Mile, one block west of Inkster road in Livonia. The services will include candlelight and communion. All are welcome to attend. For more information, call (734) 422-1470.

Christmas worship

5:30 p.m. family worship, children's pageant; 7:30 p.m. candlelight communion service (Contemporary Worship Ensemble); 10:30 p.m. Christmas music prelude, and 11 p.m. candlelight community service with Chancel Choir and Trinity Bells Wednesday, Dec. 24, and 10 a.m. Christmas worship Thursday, Dec. 25, at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 39020 Five Mile, Livonia. All are invited.

Clothing bank

Free clothing (men, women and children) for those in need 10 a.m.-noon on the fourth Saturday of each month (Dec. 27), at Canton Christian Fellowship Clothing Bank, 8775 Ronda Drive, south of Joy between Haggerty and Lilley. For information, call (734) 404-2480, visit www.CantonCF.org or send e-mail to info@cantoncf.org.

Sunday school

Takes place at 9:30 a.m. with worship service and communion at 10:30 a.m. each Sunday, at Good Hope Lutheran Church, 28600 Cherry Hill, between Inkster and Middlebelt roads, Garden City. Bible study 6:30 p.m. every Wednesday. Call (734) 427-3660.

Hall rental

Volkmar Hall located in Good Hope Lutheran Church, 28600 Cherry Hill, between Inkster and Middlebelt roads, Garden City, is available for rent. For information, call (734) 427-3660.

UPCOMING

Worship service

The Wayne-Westland Ministerial Association is sponsoring a worship service to remember the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity on Sunday, Jan. 18, 2009, at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 37775 Palmer, Westland. There will be a combined choir from several churches led by Steve Holbrook. The preacher for the evening will be the Rev. Mike Wilson of the New Beginnings Church in Wayne. The public is invited. If you have any questions, call Neil Cowling at the Kirk of Our Savior, at (734) 728-1088.

Music at St. John's

Collegium Musicum performs cantatas and instrumental works, 6 p.m. Sunday, March 29, 2009, and The Saline Fiddlers, 6 p.m., Sunday, May 17, 2009, at St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 S. Sheldon, Plymouth. All concerts are free except The Saline Fiddlers (\$7 and available in advance or at door). Call (734) 453-0190.

ONGOING

Parkinson Support

Western Oakland Parkinson Support Group meets 7-9 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month except January, July and August, at Farmington Hills Baptist Church, 28301 Middlebelt, between 12 Mile and 13 Mile. Enter at rear of church. For more information, call (248) 433-1011.

Overeaters Anonymous

Meet 7 p.m. Thursdays in the Courtyard Room at Unity of Livonia

Church, 28660 Five Mile, between Middlebelts and Inkster roads, Livonia. And 7 p.m. Sundays at the Marion Professional Building at St. Mary's Hospital, 14555 Levan at Five Mile, Livonia, in Classroom 1. Call Wendy first at (313) 387-9797. Anyone who wants to stop eating compulsively is welcome. For more Greater Detroit Overeaters Anonymous information visit www.oa.org or call (248) 559-7722.

Mid-week Service

Hosanna-Tabor Lutheran Church offers a Wednesday evening service at 7 p.m. in the church at 9600 Levee, Redford. Communion is offered on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month. Sunday services are at 9:30 a.m.

ENDOW

St. Michael the Archangel Parish is hosting two different courses of the Archdiocese of Detroit's ENDOW program, a continuing women's study group focused on the dignity of women of all ages and faiths. Based on Pope John Paul II's "Letter to Women", the Course I groups meet 9:30-11 a.m. Mondays, and 7-8:30 p.m. Thursdays. Course V, called "Aquinas for Beginners", is a new addition to the ENDOW curriculum and available locally only at St. Michael's 9:30-11:15 a.m. Tuesdays. All meet in the convent basement meeting room. Women of all ages and faiths welcome. \$60 charge for materials, but no woman will be turned away because of inability to pay. Register by calling (734) 261-1455, Ext. 207, or online at www.endowonline.com. St. Michael's is at 11441 Hubbard, south of Plymouth Road, Livonia.

Choral rehearsals

Oakland Choral Society has begun Tuesday evening rehearsals for its Christmas concerts with professional soloists and orchestra. On Dec. 6 the group performs Benjamin Britten's "St. Nicolas," and J.S. Bach's "Cantata Wachet auf," and on Dec. 14 Handel's "Messiah." Registration begins at 7:00 p.m., with rehearsal 7:30-9 p.m., at Birmingham Unitarian Church, 38651 Woodward, Bloomfield Hills. All singers who can read music are welcome. Membership dues \$55 for fall season (\$30 for students age 30 and under). Music cost additional. For information, call (248) 391-0184.

New worship schedule

Worship 8 a.m. Sunday, Faith Forum & Other Options at 9 a.m., and Worship and Sunday school at 10 a.m. Wednesday Worship at 7:30 p.m. in the chapel at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), 30650 Six Mile, Livonia. Visitors welcome. For information, call (734) 427-1414 or visit www.holycrosslivonia.org.

Bible study

St. Michael the Archangel Church, located at the southwest corner of Plymouth and Hubbard Roads, continues its regular evening Bible Study program with an in-depth study of The Gospel of Luke 7 p.m. on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month in the rectory. The informal classes are open to all interested persons regardless of religious affiliation. To register, call (734) 261-1445, Ext. 200.

Time change

Faith Lutheran Church, 30000 Five Mile, west of Middlebelt, Livonia, returned to its fall-spring worship schedule. Services are at 8:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m., with Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. for all ages. For information, visit www.livonfaith.org.

Wednesday activities

Have resumed at 7 p.m. at Grace Christian Fellowship, on the west side of Middlebelt, one block south of Six Mile. The special four week study focuses on the Hebrew Roots of Our Christian Faith, taught by Yvonne Moore. For information, visit www.gcfellowship.org or call (734) 525-6019.

Thursday fellowship dinner

All are welcome, 6 p.m. dinners catered by The Cookie Lady, Susan Navarro, at St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford. Cost is \$8. Call (313) 534-7730.

Eucharistic adoration

St. Michael the Archangel Church in Livonia continues its monthly program of Prayer and Eucharistic Adoration on the third Wednesday of each month. The church is open for prayer and private worship from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Benediction service in the evening. Call (734) 261-1455.

Worship schedule

11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Sunday (9:45 a.m. Sunday School), at Community Free Will Baptist Church, 33031 Cherry Hill, west of Venoy, Westland. Wednesday prayer and Bible study is 7 p.m. Youth fellowship every other Friday at 7 p.m.

Sunday worship

The early service for the Anglican Church of Livonia is at 7:45 a.m. at Trinity Church, 34500 Six Mile, west of Farmington Road and next to Stevenson High School, Livonia. The 10 a.m. service will continue to be at the Livonia YMCA at 14255 Stark Road, between Lyndon and the I-96 service drive. The Web site is www.hischurch.us.

Reformed Protestant services

The doctrines and teachings of solid, Reformed Protestantism are preached by the Rev. Sean Humby 3:30 p.m. Sundays at the Detroit Preaching Station of the Free Church of Scotland

(Continuing), at Cherry Hill School, 50440 Cherry Hill, corner of Ridge, Canton. For information, call (734) 402-7186, send e-mail to sean.humby@att.net, or visit www.members.aol.com/rsiworship/detroit.html.

Sanskrit chanting

An ongoing, weekly class taught by Ania Kopczyński, 7-8:30 p.m. Thursdays, at Renaissance Unity, 11200 E. 11 Mile, Warren. No pre-registration required. A free-will collection taken at the session. For information, call (586) 353-2300 or visit www.renaissanceunity.org.

Church schedule

Garden City Presbyterian Church continues its 10 a.m. Sunday worship service with traditional hymns, scripture readings and choral music (fellowship follows). Youth Sunday School and nursery care also available at 10 a.m. Adult Sunday School at 8:30 a.m. Informal gathering 6 p.m. every Sunday with scriptures and discussion at the church on Middlebelt, one block south of Ford Rd. Call (734) 421-7620.

Single Place Ministry

Single Place Ministry continues to meet Thursdays 7:30-7:45 p.m. for social time, 7:45-8 p.m. opening, 8-9 p.m. program, at First Presbyterian Church, 200 E. Main St., Northville. Call (248) 349-0911 or visit www.single-place.org. Cost is \$5.

Prince of Peace Church

Recovery, Inc., meets at 10 a.m., every Wednesday at the church, Walnut Lake Road and Green, West Bloomfield. Recovery, Inc., is an international, non-profit, self-help community based service organization that helps people with nervous and emotional disorders reduce their suffering and improve their quality of life. Call Martha Paul at (248) 682-9362 or e-mail her at marthapaul@sbcglobal.net.

Tai Chi and strength classes

Orchard United Methodist Church is hosting a Tai Chi class 7-8:30 p.m. Mondays in the Mac at the church, 30450 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills. The cost per class is \$10 or \$40 prepaid for five classes. The strength class takes place 9:30-10:30 a.m. Monday and Wednesday. Cost is \$5 per class. Drop-ins welcome. For information, call (248) 626-3620 or visit www.orchardumc.org.

Tai Chi class

Orchard United Methodist Church, 30450 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills, is hosting a Tai Chi Class by Sam Purdy, Wu Style Tai Chi. This meditative form of Martial Arts is great for reducing stress and is great for over-all health memory and balance. Everyone is welcome from beginning to experienced participants at any time. Classes continue every Monday. Cost per class depends on number of participants. For information or to reserve your space, call (248) 701-1587 or (248) 626-3620. Visit www.orchardumc.org for updates.

Thrift store

Open Wednesdays 9:30-11:30 a.m. and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford. Call (313) 534-7730.

New schedule

9 a.m. Sunday school for all ages and Faith Forum, 10 a.m. Worship Service with Communion and nursery, at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), 30650 Six Mile, Livonia. All visitors welcome. For more information, call (734) 427-1414 or visit www.holycrosslivonia.org.

Day of service

A Day of Service and Spirituality is available by the Capuchin Soup Kitchen and the Solanus Casey Center. The purpose of the day is to serve, meet and have one's faith grow. The day allows groups to help at the Capuchin Services Center and dine with guests at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen. A tour of the Earth Works urban garden, which provides six tons of produce each season, will also be made available. The day concludes with a self-guided tour of the Solanus Casey Center, a spirituality center dedicated to the Capuchin friar who is credited with miraculous cures and valued for his wise and compassionate counsel. The minimum age is 7th grade and the maximum size of the group is 30. The day starts at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 2:30 p.m. There is no cost. Lunch included. For information, send e-mail to ccrane@thecapuchins.org.

To learn more about the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, visit www.cskdetroit.org.

Worship Service

10:30 a.m. Sunday, Adult Bible Class at 9:30 a.m., Children's Sunday School during worship at 10:30 a.m., at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 27035 Ann Arbor Trail, Dearborn Heights. For more information, call (313) 278-5755.

Worship

Sundays: 10 a.m. Worship Service with nursery, 9 a.m. Sunday School for tots through high school and Adult Faith Forum at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), 30650 Six Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 427-1414 or visit www.holycrosslivonia.org. Visitors welcome.

Worship service

10:45 a.m. Sundays, Adult Sunday School at 9:30 a.m., Children's Sunday School during worship, Youth Group

5-7 p.m. and Catechism for Grown-ups 5:30-6:30 p.m., at Trinity Church of Livonia, 34500 Six Mile. For information, call (734) 425-2800.

F.I.R.E. ministries

With theme scripture, He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire (Luke 3:16), is organizing in Livonia at Living Water Church, 11663 Arcola in the Inkster and Plymouth roads area at 7 p.m. Fridays under the leadership of Luke Willis. F.I.R.E. Ministries. For more information, call (734) 425-6360.

New worship schedule

Regular church service 10 a.m. Sundays with Communion and Nursery, 9 a.m. Sunday School for all ages and Faith Forum, at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), 30650 Six Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 427-1414. All visitors welcome. Visit www.holycrosslivonia.org.

Sunday worship

11 a.m. Sunday worship service, 9:30 a.m. Sunday school, 7 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study, at Good Shepherd Reformed Church, 6500 N. Wayne Road at Hunter, Westland. For information, call (734) 721-0800.

Worship services

10 a.m. Sundays Divine Liturgy followed by a fellowship/coffee time, at Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church, 36075 W. Seven Mile, between Newburgh and Wayne roads, Livonia. Church school for children and adults begins at 9 a.m. Sunday. Vespers are celebrated 5 p.m. Saturdays. Visitors are always welcome. For more information, call (248) 476-3432 (church), (248) 477-4712 (rectory) or Web site at www.orthodoxlivonia.org.

Men's breakfast

Ham & eggs, hash browns, pancakes, and more when you come to the Men's Breakfast at 8 a.m. on the first Saturday of every month at The Senate Restaurant, located off Haggerty Road between Five Mile and Six Mile in Northville. All men are invited for fellowship and food. Sponsored by Riverside Park Church of God, 11771 Newburgh, Livonia. Call (734) 464-0990.

MOPS meetings

The Hosanna-Tabor Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) group began meeting this fall at a new time at the Lutheran church, 9600 Levee, Redford. Meetings continue the first and third Thursdays of the month at 9:30 a.m. Join in for teaching, discussion, creative projects and presentations. For more information, call (248) 470-5202 or send e-mail to nikki.tiernan@gmail.com.

MOPS groups

Mothers of Preschoolers meets on the first and third Friday mornings or first and third Wednesday evenings at Calvary Baptist Church, 43065 Joy Road, Canton. Call (734) 455-0022, Ext. 4, or send e-mail to cbcwomenministries@hotmail.com.

LOGOS Youth Club

Calling all youth grades 4-12 to join the LOGOS Youth Club at Northville First United Methodist Church. Recreation, dinner, Bible study and music Wednesdays, 5:15-8:15 p.m. began Sept. 26. For registration, visit www.funorthville.org or call (248) 349-1144.

HeartCry

The support group provides hope and help for mothers of prodigals at 7 p.m. on the second, fourth and fifth Wednesdays of each month, at Calvary Baptist Church, 43065 Joy Road, Canton. They use "The Hope of a Homecoming," by O'Rourke and Sauer (S12). To register, call (734) 455-0022, Ext. 4.

Women of the word

Bible study meets 9:15 a.m. and 6:45 p.m. Tuesdays, at Calvary Baptist Church, 43065 Joy Road, Canton. Choose from Covenant, a Precept Upon Precept class, or The Truth Project (new from Focus on the Family). To register, call (734) 455-0022, Ext. 4 or visit www.vchurches.com/cbc-women.

Bible study

Get a new life, study Scripture 9-10:30 a.m. Saturdays at Blessed Sacrament Monastery on the northwest corner of 13 Mile and Middlebelt in Farmington Hills. Focus of study is Romans. Call (248) 626-8253 for more information.

Fellowship Dinners

6 p.m. Thursdays. Dinner catered by The Cookie Lady, Susan Navarro. \$6. At St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford. Call (313) 534-7730.

Thrift Shop

9:30-11:30 a.m. and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays at St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford.

Registration

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Early Childhood Center is now taking registrations for the fall program at 14175 Farmington Road, north of I-96, Livonia. It is open from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Friday. Loving and caring programs are offered for toddler, preschool, pre-K, and child care. Call (734) 513-8413.

Morning prayers

7:30 a.m. Tuesday-Friday, at New Beginnings United Methodist Church, 16175 Delaware, corner of Puritan, Redford. Please join in as participants

Please see CALENDAR, D7



Passages

Obituaries, Memorials, Remembrances

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SHIRLEY E. BARTHOLOMEW

December 8, 2008. Age 87. Life long resident of Birmingham. Retired in 1989 after 46 years as a clerk for Fisher Body, Pontiac and Buick, Oldsmobile, Cadillac Plant in Lake Orion. Wife of the late Glenn A. Mother of the late Kay Susan. Daughter of the late Ernest and Edna Luth. At her request, services were held privately, Interment White Chapel Cemetery. A.J. Desmond & Sons (248) 549-0500.

View obituary and share memories at www.DesmondFuneralHome.com

In Memory Of



IN MEMORY OF
DEBBIE HARB KELLER
August 24, 1960-December 11, 2007

God saw you getting tired, when a cure was not meant to be. He closed his arms around you and whispered "Come with me!". In tears we saw you sinking, we watched you fade away. Our hearts were almost broken, you fought so hard to stay. But when we saw you sleeping so peaceful, so free of pain, we could not wish you back to suffer so again. So keep your arms around her Lord and give her special care. Make up for all she suffered and all that seemed unfair. We loved and miss you Debbie. Tony, Jamie, Jeni, Mom, Dad, Michelle, Robert and Dana

OBITUARY POLICY</

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE D6

start day with prayer. Call (313) 255-6330.

J.O.Y. meeting

The J.O.Y. Builders (Just Older Youth, ages 50 plus) meet 11:30 a.m. the third Thursday of the month for lunch, fellowship and fun, at Riverside Park Church of God, 11771 Newburgh at Plymouth roads, Livonia. Call (734) 464-0990. All are welcome to join in. There is no charge, although organizers ask that you bring a luncheon dish to share.

Higher Rock Cafe

Second and fourth Friday of the month, doors open at 7:30 p.m., live bands begin at 8 p.m. presented by Salvation Army of Wayne/Westland, 2300 S. Venoy, between Michigan Avenue and Palmer. For information, call (734) 722-3660 or visit www.tsa.higherrockcafe.4t.com.

Worship service

10 a.m. Sundays, at The Lutheran Church of Our Saviour, 29425 Annapolis, Westland. Sunday School for children. For information, call (734) 728-3440.

Sunday worship

10 a.m. at Lutheran Church of Our Saviour, 29425 Annapolis, Westland. For information, call (734) 728-3440.

Sunday services

Pastor Dan Strength leads services at Living Water Church (Pentecostal Church of God), 11663 Arcola, one block west of Inkster Road on Plymouth Road. Sunday School is 10 a.m. followed by worship at 11 a.m. Bible study 7 p.m. Wednesdays. Call (734) 425-6360.

Farmington Women Aglow

Meets the second Monday of each month 7-9:30 p.m. at the Longacre House on Farmington road between 10 Mile and 11 Mile, Farmington Hills. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Call Vikki for more information at (248) 497-7755. A Christian women's group.

Worship services

Sunday worship services are at 8 a.m. (traditional) and 10:30 a.m. (contemporary), at Grace Lutheran Church, 46001 Warren, between Canton Center and Beck, Canton. For more information, call (734) 637-8160. Sunday school and Adult Bible Study at 9:15 a.m. Adult Bible Study series: Heaven Can't Wait.

Worship services

Praise and worship 10 a.m. Sunday, at Westwood Community Church, 6500 Wayne Road and Hunter, Westland. Contemporary music and casual dress. Children church and nursery. Call (734) 254-0093. Doughnuts and coffee served.

Celebrate Recovery

Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Northville launches Celebrate Recovery, a Christ-centered recovery program helping men and women find freedom from hurts, habits and hang-ups (addictive and compulsive behaviors), meets every Friday for 6 p.m. dinner (optional), 7 p.m. praise and worship, 8 p.m. small group discussion, 9 p.m. Solid Rock Cafe (optional coffee and desserts). Child care during Celebrate Recovery is free and available by calling (248) 374-7400. For information, visit www.celebratercovery.com and www.wardchurch.org/celebrate.

Sunday service

All are welcome to attend worship service at 10 a.m. Sunday in the sanctuary at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, 27475 Five Mile, one block west of Inkster, Livonia. For more

information, call (734) 422-1470.

Worship service

At 10:30 a.m. Sundays at New Beginnings United Methodist Church, 16175 Delaware at Puritan, Redford. Congregation is hearing lessons from 1 Peter. Call (313) 255-6330.

Adult literacy classes

Adult and English as a Second Language literacy classes are available for those wishing to improve reading, writing and English conversational skills. Open to age 18 and over. Trained tutors available for day or evening. For information, call Merriman Road Baptist Church in Garden City at (734) 421-0472. Leave your name and phone number and someone will contact you.

Personal ministry

Due Season Christian Church is a nondenominational, multicultural, full gospel church that offers Sunday worship services at 10 a.m. and Tuesday night Bible study at 7:15 p.m. Services are currently held at Stevenson High School on Six Mile, west of Farmington Road, Livonia. All are welcome. For information, call (248) 960-8063 or visit www.DueSeason.org.

Scripture studies

From 7-8:30 p.m. Mondays in the lower level of Our Lady of Loretto Church, Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford. Call (313) 534-9000.

TOPS

Stands for Take Off Pounds Sensibly, meets at 7 p.m. every Thursday evening at St. Thomas a' Becket Church, 555 S. Lilley, Canton. Weigh-in is from 6:15-6:55 p.m. It is a weight support group that encourages members to lose weight and keep it off. Call Margaret at (734) 838-0322.

Learner's Bible study

At 7 p.m. Mondays, in Room A101, at Ward Presbyterian Church, 40000

W. Six Mile, Northville. Call (248) 374-5920.

Church service

Loving God by loving people, meets at 10 a.m. Sunday at Westwood Community Church, 6500 N. Wayne Road at Hunter, Westland. Doughnuts and coffee served. Call (734) 254-0093 for information.

Eucharistic adoration

The monthly program of Parish Prayer and Eucharistic Adoration continues the third Wednesday of each month at St. Michael's Church of Livonia, corner of Plymouth and Hubbard roads. The church will be open for worship from 10 a.m. until 7 p.m. followed by Benediction service. For information, call (734) 261-1455.

Unity of Livonia

Services at 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sundays at 28660 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster roads. Call (734) 421-1760.

Shabbat services

The doors of Congregation Beit Kodesh, a Conservative synagogue at 31840 W. Seven Mile, between Farmington and Merriman, Livonia, are open to the Jewish community of southeastern Michigan. Call (248) 477-8974.

Bet Chaverim

Services open to all in the western counties including Canton, Plymouth, Livonia, and Northville. The congregation follows traditions of Reform Judaism. Interfaith families welcome to services at 321 S. Ridge, south of Cherry Hill, Canton. Call (734) 646-3864 or visit www.betchaverim.com.

Detroit World Outreach

A nondenominational church with cutting edge drama productions, energized contemporary music, high-tech video and lighting, programs for kids and teens, for college students, singles, married adults and seniors.

Services are at 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sunday (6:30 p.m. the first Sunday of the month), Sunday school for all ages at 10 a.m. and Wednesdays at 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. Call (313) 255-2222.

Trinity Episcopal Church

Sunday services at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m., Wednesday service at 6:15 p.m., Bible Studies and Worship Center for all ages, at 11575 Belleville Road, (four miles south of Michigan Avenue), Belleville. Parents with Young Children Bible Study at 6 p.m. Sundays, includes dinner, child care. Call (734) 699-3361.

Shabbat Rocks

A musical celebration precedes traditional Shabbat service once a month at Adat Shalom Synagogue, 29901 Middlebelt in Farmington Hills. For more information, call (248) 851-5100 or visit www.adatshalom.org.

English classes

Conversational English as a Second Language classes are being offered for adults of all ages and backgrounds at 7 p.m. Monday and Tuesday at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia. Tutors will work on a one-to-one ratio to help students better understand and speak the English language. No charge. To register, call (734) 525-0191 or (734) 522-6830.

Sunday school

Congregation Beit Kodesh, at 31840 Seven Mile, between Farmington and Merriman, Livonia, is registering children, age 4 and up, for Sunday school. Financial assistance available. Special discounts for new members. For more information, call (248) 477-8974.

Services

St. John Lutheran Church, 23225 Gill Road, Farmington Hills, invites the community to a new worship service at 5:30 p.m. Saturdays. Also, Sunday traditional worship services are at

8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.; contemporary service is at 9:50 a.m.; and Sunday school hour for all ages is at 9:45 a.m. Call (248) 474-0584 for more information.

Single Point Ministries

For ages 30 and older, join more than 350 single adults at 11:30 a.m. Sundays for fellowship and related topics in Knox Hall at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville. Coffee, doughnuts, conversations are present. Call (248) 374-5920. Tennis continues from 1-5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, and 4-7 p.m. weekdays any time the weather is above 45 degrees, at Rotary Park, Six Mile and Hubbard, Livonia.

Bible talks

4 p.m. Sundays at the Friendship Center, 1119 Newburgh, Westland. Call (734) 728-9157.

The Gap

A new youth Sunday School (God Always Present) at Garden City Presbyterian Church, 1841 Middlebelt, south of Ford Road. Lessons are taught using various media, computers, storytelling, games, cooking, music and art, and a small theater complete with popcorn-making machine. Adult Bible study at 8:30 a.m. with a traditional service and The Gap at 10 a.m. Child care available. Mustard Seed contemporary service at 6 p.m. with refreshments served afterward. Call (734) 421-7620.

Qigong

The ancient form of Chinese energetic medicine. A safe and effective way to rid the body of toxic pathogens and years of painful emotions. Learn the art of natural movement and breath to cultivate vital life energy. Classes at Livonia Unity, 28660 Five Mile, Monday movement Qigong, 7-8:30 p.m.; Thursday Qigong meditation, 10-11:15 a.m., and Friday Therapeutic Qigong, 7-8:30 p.m. Call (810) 813-4073 for more information or send e-mail to gary@energeticarts.org.

Your Invitation to Worship

Directory of religious services including Catholic, Evangelical Covenant, United Methodist, Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, Seventh-Day Adventist, Churches of the Nazarene, Plymouth Church of the Nazarene, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Presbyterian, Fellowship Presbyterian Church, Bell Creek Community Church, Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church, St. James Presbyterian Church, Christian Science, and others.

For Information regarding this Directory, please call Donna Hart at 734-582-8342 or e-mail: dhart@dnp.com

CHARITY EVENTS

Many retailers have charitable events this time of year in order to brighten the season for others. Here are a few:

Toy Shop
Century 21 Hartford, 35615 Grand River, Farmington, is a drop-off site for The Salvation Army's Toy Shop, now through Friday, Dec. 12. The Toy Shop is an alternate Christmas program for every family that is not adopted through the Adopt-A-Family Program. The adult representative from each family can go through a mock toy shop and choose unwrapped gifts for each child in the family. New, unwrapped toys, stuffed animals, games, clothing for kids up to age 14, will be collected. All items will be delivered to The Salvation Army, 27500 Shawassee Road, Farmington Hills, (248) 478-6000

Toys for Tots
Dress Barn is launching its first Toys for Tots Drive, through Dec. 12. Local Dress Barn stores will encourage residents to donate new, unwrapped toys for the cause. The store will give customers who donate a toy a 15 percent coupon off a regular priced item. Area Dress Barn locations include Auburn Hills, Canton, Clawson, Farmington, Livonia, Rochester Hills, Southfield and Troy.

In good hands
The Pistons and Allstate Insurance Co. are again teaming up to help Michigan families through the "Good Hands, Warm

Hands" Mitten Drive. All donations benefit Orchards Children's Services, a foster care and adoption agency located in Detroit and Southfield.

Fans may bring mittens, gloves, scarves and other winter accessories to all Pistons home games until Dec. 31 at The Palace of Auburn Hills. Drop-off locations include the West Atrium and the Comcast Pavilion. Fans who donate will receive a \$2 off coupon for concessions and be entered to win a Pistons VIP package, with tickets to the Jan. 23 Pistons vs. Dallas game, VIP parking and dinner at The Palace Grill restaurant. Fans can also purchase Allstate/Pistons mittens for \$5 to keep or donate back to the drive.

Toys and coats
Play It Again Sports locations in Metro Detroit have teamed up with Real Life Santa Jim Tuman to collect donations of toys and coats for Tuman's charitable organization, Jimmy's Kids. The organization helps special needs kids from 4 years to 11 years of age who are indigent, physically or emotionally challenged, or forgotten. (http://www.jimmyskids.com/The_Dream.htm). Play It Again Sports has 10 locally owned and operated metro Detroit locations, including in Canton, Clawson and Livonia. The store buys and sells quality new and used sports and fitness equipment as part of a trade in, trade up program. Donations will be accepted until Dec. 24. Visit www.playitagainsports.com.

Salon styles hair fashion show that's for a good cause

BY SUSAN STEINMUELLER
STAFF WRITER

When Flip hosts a hair fashion show in Detroit on Sunday, it will be about more than glamorous pony tails and fabulous Afros.

The 8 p.m. Dec. 14 event at Cliff Bells in Detroit also benefits Freedom House of Detroit, which houses and helps political refugees.

Irene Petts, owner of the Ferndale hair salon, said stylists are happy to have fun and raise money for a worthy cause.

"It's a creative outlet for us because we can do different hair styles that we don't do every day in the salon," she said of the first-time show.

"At the same time, the way things are going with the economy, it's great to mix doing something creative and doing something fun with an organization that needs help."

The idea to have their show help Freedom House came from salon client Alexa Stanard, a grant writer and volunteer there. Up to 35 political refugees live in a former convent under the auspices of the group.

"There are so many groups



Flip salon owner Irene Petts, styling the hair of Sheila Maples, is looking forward to staging a hair fashion show for Freedom House.

in need," said Petts, "but then I started thinking about the organization and what the people have been through...I had no idea it was so close to home."

RETRO, MODERN, FANTASY

"Hair Fashion Music," will feature three hairstyle segments, retro, modern and fantasy, all done by the salon's seven stylists.

There'll be entertainment by Esquire, The Haunted Beat

Band, The Hentchmen and DJ Anytime.

Clothing is being provided by Mother Fletchers and House of Chants and local designers Femilia and Wound Menswear.

Hairstylist Marci Bolen of Ferndale helped organize the show. She said that each hairstylist will do several styles for the different segments. Her styles will include a finger wave from the 30s.

"We wanted to do something where everyone could showcase their craft," she said. Bolen, who also plays in a

band, is excited that the show also includes area musical talent.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Stanard, a Royal Oak resident, said the much needed money will be likely be used at Freedom House for various immediate needs, from winter clothing to medical care.

"It all makes a difference," she said. "The thing that is special about Freedom House is it is the only place in the country that offers comprehensive services, from housing, to legal services, to employment training, all of the things that someone might need if they are coming to this country to seek a refugee claim."

Stanard said an added benefit of the show is that people will become more familiar with Freedom House.

"I think it's wonderful," she said of retailers that help others during the holidays. "It really says a lot to put this type of effort in at a time when people are struggling."

Tickets at the door are \$10. Doors open at 8 p.m.; entertainment starts at 9 p.m. Cliff Bells is located at 2030 Park in Detroit. For more information, visit www.flipsaloninc.com. Or call Flip at 248-544-1400

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