

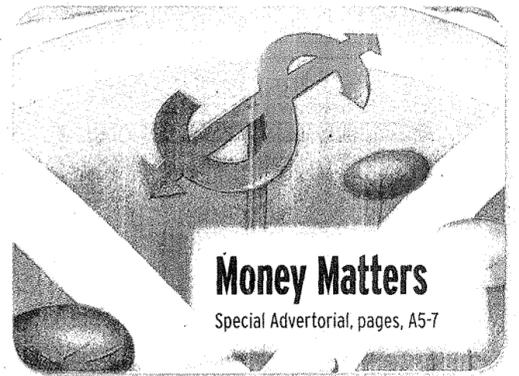
THURSDAY
November 5,
2009

The Observer & Eccentric
Newspapers

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Number 47
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WESTLAND OBSERVER

online at hometownlife.com



Money Matters
Special Advertorial, pages, A5-7

AROUND TOWN

Surplus food

The City of Westland established the day, times and locations residents can obtain surplus federal food for this month.

All residents north of Michigan Avenue can pick up their commodities from 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 19, at the Dorsey Community Center, 32715 Dorsey, north of Michigan Avenue and south of Palmer.

Residents living south of Michigan Avenue can pick up their commodities from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. the second Monday of the month at St. James United Methodist Church, 30055 Annapolis, between Henry Ruff and Middlebelt. For more information, call (734) 729-1737.

Senior citizens living in Taylor Towers can pick up their food at building. They need to call their building manager for the distribution day. Greenwood Villa residents also can pick up their food items at the complex.

The distribution will include frozen turkey breast, instant potatoes, peaches, vegetable mix, spaghetti, spaghetti sauce and possible additional items.

For more information, call the Dorsey Center's surplus food hotline at (734) 595-0366.

Book sale

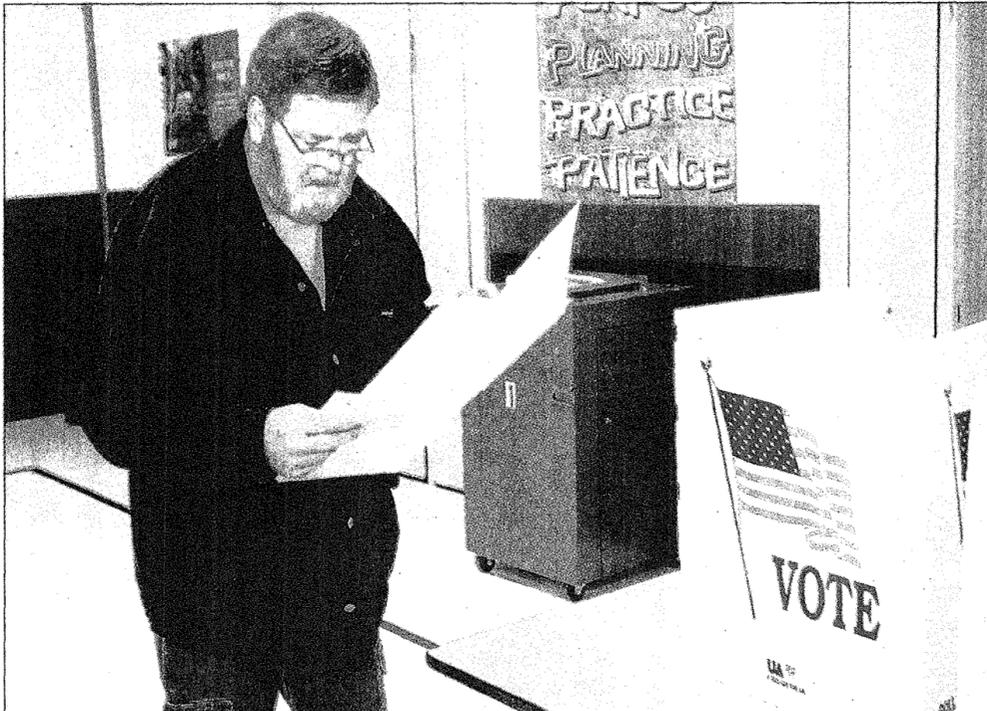
Stock up on books to read at the Friends of the William P. Faust Library of Westland's used book sale Thursday-Friday, Nov. 20-21.

Prices will be \$1 for hardcovers, DVDs and CDs, 50 cents for large paperbacks, 25 cents for small paperbacks, videos, cassettes and records and 10 cents for magazines. Reusable green bags also will be for sale at \$2 each.

The Friends preview sale will be from 3-7 p.m. Thursday. People can join the group that evening. Hours Friday will be from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday and Saturday, with a \$6 holiday special Saturday bag sale. Bring your own brown paper grocery bag or comparable-sized reusable bag. Bring your own bag on Sunday for the noon to 4 p.m. \$4 bag sale.

Money raised helps support programs at the library. The library is at 6123 Central City Parkway, north of Ford. For more information, call (734) 326-6123.

Kadi tops the city council race



James McKendrick looks over his ballot before voting Tuesday at Madison Elementary School in Westland.

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Westland voters gave incumbent Mayor William Wild a double victory after the votes were counted Tuesday — he was unopposed on the ballot in a bid for re-election and his slate of endorsed candidates were all elected.

Jumping from a fifth-place finish in the August primary election, Meriem Kadi was the top vote-getter, followed by Christine Cicirelli Bryant who was the first-place finisher in the primary, the sole incumbent in the race Dewey Reeves and Adam Hammons. All but



Wild



Kadi



Bryant



Reeves



Hammons

Hammons earned four-year terms on council — the fourth-place candidate serves a two-year term.

"Words can't really express how I'm feeling. I'm so thankful and so blessed. My wonderful family — my heart is full.

I'll do my best," said Kadi, who became choked up as she spoke to the crowd of supporters gathered at the Friendship Center.

Elected in her second effort, Bryant said she hadn't expected to be so emo-

Westland ELECTION RESULTS	
The following vote totals are unofficial. Overall winners are denoted with a ☑	
WESTLAND MAYOR ONE FOUR-YEAR TERM	
☑ William Wild (i)	6,291
Totals (write-ins)	183
WESTLAND CITY COUNCIL THREE FOUR-YEAR TERMS AND ONE TWO-YEAR TERM	
☑ Christine Cicirelli-Bryant ...	4,057
Sam Durante	1,908
☑ Adam Hammons	3,707
☑ Meriem Kadi	4,322
Kenneth Mehl	3,489
☑ Dewey Reeves	3,739
Mark Rodriguez	2,131
Janet Frederick-Wilson	1,426
LIVONIA PUBLIC SCHOOL (Totals include Livonia vote totals)	
OPERATING MILLAGE	
☑ Yes	15,002
No	4,065
SINKING FUND MILLAGE	
☑ Yes	13,905
No	4,949

tional while speaking to the crowd. "Congratulations to all three (winning candidates). I look forward to working with you," said Bryant, who thanked her children and husband, along with incumbent Councilman Charles Pickering, who didn't seek re-election. "Chuck helped me a lot. I also thank the

Please see **ELECTION, A2**

Traffic at polls: 'No too many or too slow'

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Stationed outside Madison Elementary School passing out candidate campaign literature Tuesday, Kate Wojtowicz and Gary Ference were mostly talking to each other due to low voter turnout and people who seemed to have their choices already made.

"You get the people who aren't interested — they pull right up to the door," Wojtowicz said, referring to the 100-foot distance campaigners must keep from the polling place.

"They've all been very friendly," Ference said.

Wojtowicz was passing out literature



Kate Wojtowicz and Gary Ference handed out campaign literature election day outside Madison Elementary School in Westland.

for Dewey Reeves, the only incumbent in the council race, while Ference was handing out literature and pencils for his niece, council candidate Christine Cicirelli Bryant.

"It has been a very light turnout. It was 35 or 36 voters a little while ago," Ference said shortly after 1 p.m. "I think there are no major contests and that is keeping the turnout low. People seem to know who

Please see **POLLS, A2**

Charter amendments, most millage questions pass easily

Westland voters were largely in the mood to say yes to ballot questions Tuesday.

Two amendments to the city charter easily passed. The question that will allow candidates for city office to pay a \$100 fee in lieu of nominating petitions was approved with 3,919 yes votes to 2,810 no votes or a 58.2 percent margin.

The second question which amends the charter to set the candidate filing deadline to 12 weeks prior to the primary election was approved by a larger margin — 5,296 yes votes to 2,810 no votes for a 79 percent margin. The change puts the city charter in compliance with state election law.

Westland residents also approved Proposition O, an operating millage renewal for Wayne County, by a high

margin — 74.9 percent. There were 5,212 yes votes and 1,745 no votes.

Also receiving approval were two Livonia Public Schools millage renewal requests. An 18.45 mills operating millage was approved with a 73.9 percent margin — 1,832 yes votes to 646 no votes.

The second question for renewal of a 1.2 mill building and site fund was approved by a slightly smaller margin with 70.2 percent and 1,725 yes votes. The no votes were 732.

Westland residents living in the Garden City School district followed the trend of voters throughout the district in rejecting a proposed building and site sinking fund. There were 9 no votes and 3 yes votes on the sinking fund question. District-wide, the question failed with 1,322 no votes to 1,213 yes votes.

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Share your memories, Santa letters with us

The pumpkins are gone, now thoughts turn to turkey and tinsel. The holiday season is upon us and through the hustle and bustle, we want our readers to let us be a part of their celebration.

We're asking that you send us your favorite holiday memories and photos to the *Observer* for a special holiday edition we are planning for Thursday, Dec. 24.

Did you get a favorite gift for Christmas, or do you have a special memory of Hanukkah? Is there a special tradition your family has that makes the season merry and bright?

Share those memories with your neighbors through us. Send your items — be sure to include a photo, if you can — to *Westland Observer* Editor

Sue Mason at smason@hometownlife.com.

It is our intention to make that issue a "keeper," something that our readers will save.

Santa Claus also has started to make his list, although sources tell the *Observer* that while he's far from checking it twice, he is waiting by his mailbox for youngsters' gift lists and letters.

The *Westland Observer* wants to make sure Santa Claus knows what children would like this Christmas and is asking youngsters to send us letters to him. We will publish the letters in the newspaper during December before sending them on to the North Pole.

The letters should be sent by e-mail and include a snapshot of the letter writer. They

can be a list of toys, a holiday greeting for the Jolly Old Elf or whatever information youngsters want Santa to have.

Send Santa correspondence to smason@hometownlife.com and be sure to put Letter to Santa in the subject line. They can also be mailed to Letter to Santa Claus, c/o Sue Mason, 615 W. Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226.

The *Observer* will publish letters through out the month of December. And not to fear. The letters also will be sent on to the big guy in the red suit.

Don't delay, kids. Get out the Wish Book and start making your lists. And parents, you can send in your wish lists, too. Santa delivers to all who believe.

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615 West Lafayette, Detroit, MI 48226

Hospital's 25th reunion upcoming

Former and retired employees of Wayne County General Hospital will gather for a 25th reunion Tuesday, Dec. 8, at Cafe Marquette in the William D. Ford Career Technical Center on Marquette west of Wayne Road in Westland. Doors open at 5 p.m. and the party will go until 9

p.m. A buffet meal will be served. Tickets are \$16 each and include a gratuity. They will be available at the door. For more information or reservations, contact Kay Shafi at (734) 427-3437 or by e-mail at chknlit@wideopenwest.com; Dennis Abraham at (734) 721-2917 or by e-mail at fightingirish316@sbcglobal.net,

or Pat Ibbotson at (734) 331-9291 or by e-mail pibbotso@aol.com. Operated by Wayne County, the hospital was on Merriman on the southern edge of the sprawling Eloise complex. It officially opened in 1962 and was closed in 1984. The recognizable green building was razed in 1999.

Ex-Westland director was 'fine gentleman'

A former Westland city staff member was remembered with a moment of silence at the start of Monday's council meeting. Michael Gorman, city finance director under former mayor Charles "Trav" Griffin, died Oct. 27 at age 65 after battling pancreatic cancer. Gorman, who had also worked for Canton Township, retired from Westland and took a position with the Archdiocese of Detroit from which he retired. "He was certainly a fine gentleman. He lived in Westland before he worked for the city and was very involved in the city," Councilman Charles Pickering said. Most recently a Novi resident, Gorman is survived by his wife of 42 years, Margaret; children Monica (Bobby) Stiddom and Matthew (Brooke) Gorman; and three grandchildren. No services were held at his request.

ELECTION

FROM PAGE A1

mayor and all the city staff. I think this is a positive move." Reeves began by thanking Wild for putting together a slate of candidates that he said would keep the city moving in the right direction. "I thank you (the other candidates) for running. It's a big commitment," Reeves said. "I thank my wife for allowing me the time to pursue this. And to the mayor and the staff and everyone else for all their efforts and energy." Hammons also thanked his wife for keeping their home together while he has been campaigning. "I want to thank the residents of Westland for their faith in me," he said. "I'll start working tomorrow and give 110 percent." Challenged only by write-in candidates Jeffrey Hayton and Angelo Stocchi, Wild received 6,291 votes and was the first Westland mayor to run for reelection without opposition on the ballot. "I was fortunate not to have to do much campaigning. I was able to help the other council candidates," said Wild, whose remarks to the crowd were preceded by a recording of "Wild Thing." "It is very humbling to be the mayor of Westland. It's such a great city. I grew up in this town and I'm raising my family here." With incumbent Councilmen James Godbout, Bill Johnson and Michael Kehrer joined by the newly elected council members, Wild said it was going to be a positive experience. "It's a tough time for the state of Michigan. If we're going to turn the state around, it will have to be one city at a time," he said. "Westland, the All-American City, will lead by example."

Irogers@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-5428

POLLS

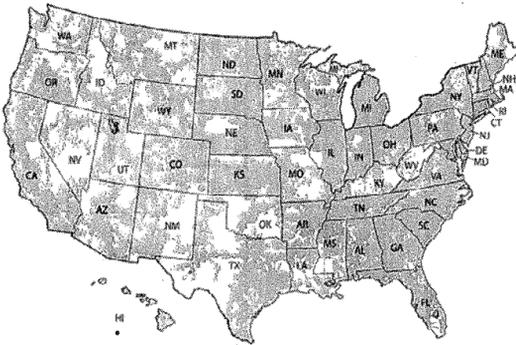
FROM PAGE A1

they are voting for — they've got their minds made up. That's good — they're committed." "I'm really surprised at the turnout," Wojtowicz said. Madison hosts two precincts: Precinct 1 for those living south of Avondale and Precinct 19 for voters north of Avondale. Precinct 1 has 1,396 registered voters, while Precinct 19 has 1,361 registered voters. "It has been steady — that's very nice for the workers. Not too many or too slow," said MaryRose Cartwright, precinct chairperson. "Since there is no school today, a lot of parents are bringing their children to observe. That's very educational." After casting her ballot, Sharon Jones said she had come to vote during her lunch hour. "I vote all the time. I usually vote after work, so I can't compare (the turnout)," she said.

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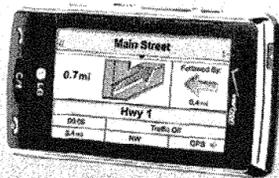
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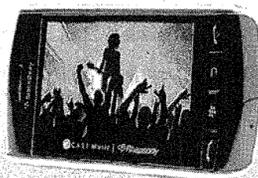
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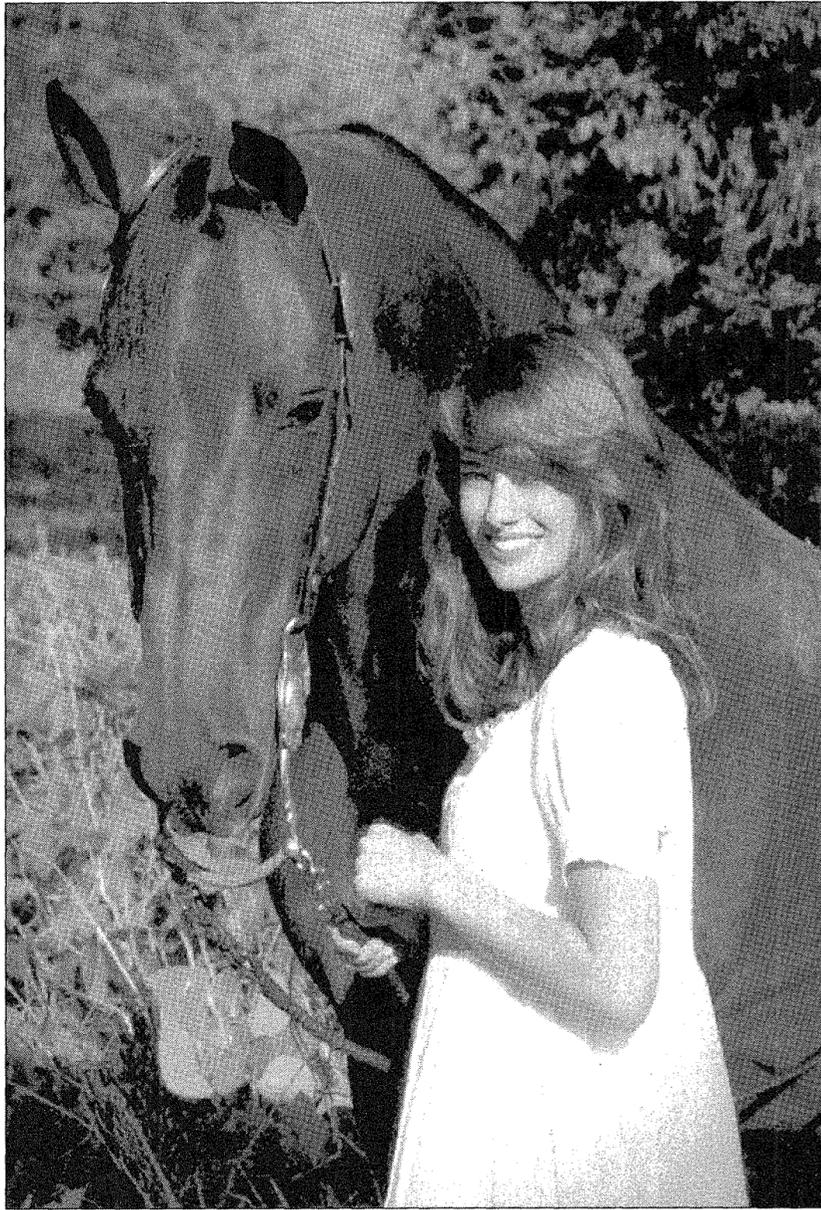
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ABCD



Melissa Torok, 18, of Westland recently competed at the Grand National & World Championship Morgan Horse Show in Oklahoma City.

Westland teen vies for AMHA youth title

A Westland college student was among 15 young women who competed in the 2009 American Morgan Horse Association (AMHA) Youth of the Year Contest.

Melissa Torok, 18, qualified at local and regional contests to compete for a month-long trip during this year's Grand National & World Championship Morgan Horse Show at the Oklahoma State Fairgrounds in Oklahoma City Oct. 10-17.

Torok earned a spot in the national contest by qualifying at the Michigan All Morgan Horse Show in July.

The contestants participate in a rigorous four-part test throughout the course of two days. Included were a written exam, an oral presentation and interview, a ridden or driven horsemanship pattern, and a judging division with a reasons

portion.

Torok is a freshman at Central Michigan University, where she plans to major in communications and minor in Spanish. She has been riding and exhibiting Morgan horses since she was four years old, and hopes to join her college's equestrian team in the future.

"Though there is only one champion, it was obvious throughout the contest that each participant had dedicated a tremendous amount of energy, time, and enthusiasm to her performance," said Amanda Ryan, AMHA's Membership Services and Promotions Coordinator. "I am very proud of our Youth of the Year contestants and of the continued growth of this program brought about by the hard work and dedication of so many volunteers, sponsors, and alumnae of the program."

The Youth of the Year program offers participants an opportunity to improve their skills in the area of horsemanship, sportsmanship, public speaking, decision-making, and judging. The senior (ages 14-21) winner of local contests qualify to compete in the Youth of the Year Finals, with the national he winner receiving a month-long trip, during which he or she acts as an ambassador for the Morgan breed. The winner's trip is sponsored by the Cynthia Elaine Epperson Trust.

Founded in 1909, the American Morgan Horse Association is a non-profit organization serving more than 50,000 Morgan horse owners, breeders, exhibitors and enthusiasts throughout the United States. Learn more about AMHA online at www.morganhorse.com.

Anderson to host movie for veterans

In recognition of the tremendous sacrifice and service of America's military veterans, State Sen. Glenn Anderson, in cooperation with AMC Theaters of Livonia, is hosting the second annual Veteran's Day Movie Celebration.

This year's event will feature a free screening of the film *Valkyrie*, starring Tom Cruise.

"I am proud that the community can come together again to offer this important recognition for those men and women among us who have sacrificed so very much," said Anderson. "Last year's event was a huge success and I am sure that this year's event will

be even better. It's the least that we can do for our veterans who deserve to be recognized every day for what they have given to their country."

The movie will be shown at 3 p.m. Veteran's Day, Wednesday, Nov. 11, at the Livonia AMC 20, 19500 Haggerty Road, north of 7 Mile Rd.

Anderson has made veterans' issues a priority during his tenure. He has proposed legislation providing significant property tax relief for Michigan's veterans and offered a proposal that resulted in a one-stop Web site for veterans' services. This year he

successfully added language in the higher education budget to allow recipients of the new GI Bill to be eligible for in-state tuition rates in Michigan.

In addition to the free screening, concessions will be provided free of charge, courtesy of AMC Theaters of Livonia. Seating is limited and a reservation prior to the event is required for admission. Veterans can save a seat for themselves and one guest by contacting Michelle Makarewicz in Anderson's office by e-mail at mmakarewicz@senate.mi.gov or by calling toll free (866) 262-7306.

AROUND WESTLAND

Spaghetti dinner

The monthly spaghetti dinner at the Dyer Senior Center in Westland will be 4-7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 13. Enjoy spaghetti, salad and desert, as well as entertainment, for just \$6.

The center also has pinochle and euchre games at 1 p.m. Wednesdays and pinochle is played at 1 p.m. Fridays.

The Dyer Center is at 36745 Marquette, east of Newburgh, in Westland. For more information, call (734) 419-2020.

Stay fit

The Mind, Body and Spirit Institute is offering a cardio-kickboxing/aerobics class at the Bailey Recreation Center.

The class is taught by a professional fighter who will teach self-defense, improve self-esteem and self-confidence, and increase mental discipline while toning and losing weight. The total body workout is designed to burn up to 800 calories per session.

Classes are 6-7 p.m. and 7-8 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays and 6-7 p.m. Sundays. The class is for those age 15 year and older and all skill levels. Middle school students can attend if accompanied by a parent and with the instructor's permission.

The Bailey Recreation Center is in the civic center complex at Ford and Carlson, west of Wayne Road. Call (734) 686-9882 for more information.

Wrestling Club

Westland Bottle Rockets will hold registration 6-7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 3, in Gym 4 at John Glenn High School, 36105 Marquette, Westland. The wrestling club is for ages 4-14 and meets December through March. The club fee is \$25. For questions or more information, contact Judy at judyawl122@yahoo.com or by calling 734-634-4595. Information also is available online at www.glennwrestling.com and selecting the Bottle Rockets Wrestling Club link.

Coffee hours

State Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, will hold local

coffee hours in Westland and Redford Monday, Nov. 9.

Anderson will be at the William P. Faust Public Library, 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland 9-10 a.m. and at the Redford Community Center, 12121 Hemingway, Redford, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Constituents who would like to address an issue with Anderson but are unable to attend may contact him by mail at P.O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI, 48933; by phone at (517) 373-1707; or by e-mail at SenatorAnderson@senate.michigan.gov.

Bowling benefit

The Plymouth-Westland Grange will hold a bowling benefit for Autism 1-3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 8, at Town 'n' Country Lanes on Wayne Road at Avondale in Westland. The event is for both adults and children. The cost is \$7. To pre-register, call Jeff at (734) 673-4033 or send an e-mail to plymouthwestland.grange@ymail.com.

Bowling fund-raiser

The John Glenn High School Wrestling Program will hold its first annual Bowling Fund-raiser Sunday, Nov. 22, at Vision Lanes on Ford Road in Westland. The cost is \$20 for three games of bowling, shoes, pizza and pop. For further information or to register on-line, visit the Web site at glennwrestling.com. For more information, call Judy at (734) 634-4595.

Yoga classes

The Bailey Recreation Center is offering yoga classes. All levels of ability are welcome, and participants don't need to be strong, flexible, in shape, or relaxed for the class, however, attendance will improve these qualities and probably many more.

The class is for those 13 years and older and are offered 7-8:30 p.m. Thursdays or 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturdays. Upcoming sessions are Saturday, Oct. 31-Nov. 21, and Thursday, Nov. 19-Dec. 17.

The cost for a four-week session is \$20 for Westland residents per session and \$25 for

non-residents. For more information, call the Bailey Center at (734) 722-7620.

Church Fair

"Snow Fashioned Christmas," the theme of the 63rd church fair at the First Congregational Church of Wayne, 2 Towne Square, will be held 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday and Friday, Nov. 5-6.

The fair will feature the Christmas Shop with many handmade items for decorating your home or for gifts, the Candy Booth with homemade candies and sweets, and the country store with home canned vegetables, jellies and pickles. The boutique offers handmade quilts, sweaters, blankets and much more. Other shops with unique goods are the Specialties Shop, the Secret Closet, Attic Treasures, Book Store, Men's Booth and the Variety Shop.

In addition, meals will be served. Lunch (soup, salad, sandwiches, cake and beverage) will be served both from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday and Friday. Dinner will be served both days from 5-7 p.m. On Thursday, dinner will feature turkey or ham, and on Friday it will feature turkey dinner or Swiss steak. Cost for meals is \$8 for adults, and \$4 for children age 3-11.

Raffle tickets will be available for a quilt made by the church's quilters, a wooden bird house made by a church member and a doll house made by church members. Tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5.

The Coffee Shop is open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Come and enjoy a cup of coffee or tea and some goodies before and after you shop.

American Legion

The American Legion, Westland Post 251 meets at 7 p.m. first Tuesday of each month at the AMVETS Post 171 on Merriman Road between Avondale and Palmer. All veterans, male and female with a honorable discharge are welcome to join. Visit the post Web site at www.post251.org or call (734) 326-2607 for more information.

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*Offer includes standard no-line Instinctive bifocals. Additional charge may be applied for strong prescription. Other progressives, specialty lenses and lens options are additional. Designer sunglass frames not included. Complete pair purchase required. **Selected designer frames 25% off. Some special orders excluded. See optician for details. Cannot be combined with any other offer, vision care plan, package pricing or prior orders. Selection varies by location. Not valid where prohibited by law. †Eye exams performed by independent state licensed Doctors of Optometry. Offer ends November 19, 2009.

For the location nearest you, call 1-888-889-EYES

PUBLIC SAFETY

Man finds door open, money missing

Home invasion

A resident in the 29400 block of Dover told police Oct. 27 that he returned to find someone had been inside his home. He said he had been gone about three hours.

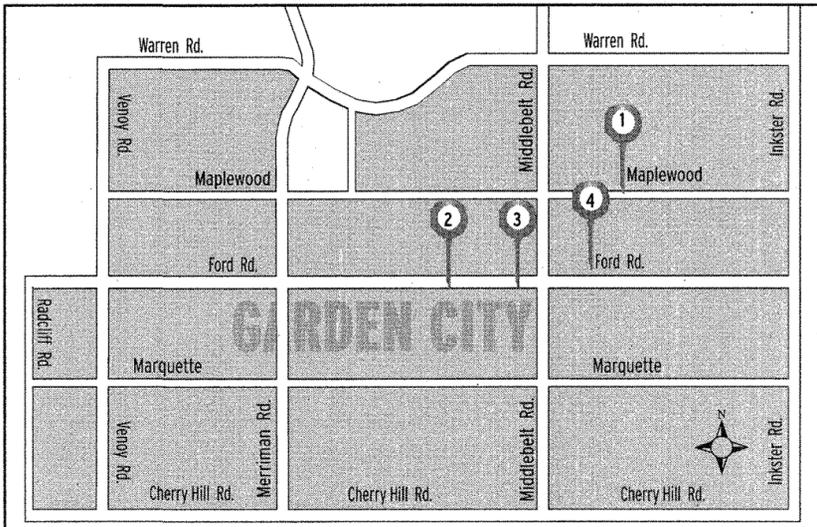
When he returned home, he said he saw that the back door was open. About \$200 was reported missing along with \$20 in loose change.

A person in the area said that he saw a man at the house who had a beard and wore grungy clothes.

The thief later admitted to being inside the home because he was looking for empty cans that he could redeem, police said.

Retail fraud

Police arrested a 38-year-old Redford Township woman Oct. 28 after she reportedly shoplifted 10 lipsticks and one bottle of nail polish at Kmart, 29600 Ford. She had paid for two plastic Halloween bags, store employees said, but didn't pay for the cosmetics which she had



removed from their packages.

Larceny

A Westland woman who was at a fund-raiser at Albert's on the Alley said that a man she knew took \$80 from her purse, police said.

When she was getting ready to leave from the restaurant on Middlebelt, north of Ford Road she looked inside her purse and she was missing money, police said. She remembered that she saw a man looking through her purse which she left near the

pool tables, police said.

Stolen car

A 1999 Plymouth Voyager was reported stolen Oct. 28 in the 29000 block of Block. Entry was gained through an unlocked car door.

Bandit robs gas station employee

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

An employee reported he was robbed early Sunday as he was leaving the Marathon gas station at Warren and Lilley, Canton authorities said.

The worker told police he already had locked the door and was outside the station when a lone bandit approached him, implied he had a gun and robbed him, Detective Sgt. Dave Schreiner said.

No weapon was actually revealed, and no one was injured.

The incident happened shortly before 1 a.m. Sunday on the township's north side.

The bandit didn't enter the station, police Sgt. Mark Gajeski said, and authorities indicated he had likely been waiting outside for the

employee to leave.

Police said the clerk described the perpetrator as an African-American male, 6-foot-1 to 6-foot-2, with a medium build. He was wearing a gray hooded sweatshirt.

The man fled the area in an unknown direction. Canton police officers and a K-9 unit checked the area but couldn't locate the suspect.

The incident remains under investigation by Canton's detective bureau.

Anyone who has information about the incident is asked to call Canton police at (734) 394-5400. Anonymous tips for a possible cash reward up to \$1,000 also may be made to Crime Stoppers of Michigan at (800) SPEAK-UP.

dclem@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2238

GARDEN CLIPPINGS

Holiday show

Lathers Elementary School will hold a Holiday Craft and Vendor Show 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 21, at the school, 28351 Marquette, Garden City. Contact Lisa at

Crafter2007@yahoo.com for more information.

Saturday Night Live

Musicians Tim Pepper and Brian Warner will make a stop in Garden City Saturday, Nov. 17, for another install-

ment of Saturday Night Light at Garden City Presbyterian Church, 1841 Middlebelt, Garden City.

Pepper and Warner strive to bring a high-level of professionalism and versatility to their performance. Playing

all over Michigan, Ohio and Indiana, they want to help people discover a fresh and new sound in music. By blending acoustic guitar and electric guitar with the trumpet and many percussion instruments they are able to

give a greater expression of their music and creative art.

Stop by and enjoy a couple of blue-collar workers who love to play music. The free performance will be at 7 p.m. For more information, call (734) 421-7620.

Comedy night

Mark Maze has been entertaining audiences for nearly 30 years. His comedy magic show is very audience interactive, and he is innovative with audience participation

Maze will bring his blend of comedy and magic to Maxwell's Art and Treasures, 32416 Industrial, Garden City, for a 1 1/2-hour show at 7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 7.

Tickets are \$12 for the show which is recommended for adults. Find out more about Maze online at www.markmaze.com or visit www.maxwellsartandtreasures.com for a map and list of upcoming events.

Craft show

The District Knights of Columbus Winter Craft Show will be 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 21 at the Knights of Columbus Immaculate Conception Hall, 30759 Ford, east of Merriman, in Garden City Michigan.

All proceeds assist the K of C in providing supplies and gift for those less fortunate. For more information about the show, call Donna Smith at (313) 561-6840 or Gloria Staley at (313) 359-1912.

Coffee hours

State Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, will hold local coffee hours in Westland and Redford Monday, Nov. 9. Anderson will be at the

William P. Faust Public Library, 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland 9-10 a.m. and at the Redford Community Center, 12121 Hemingway, Redford, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Constituents who would like to address an issue with Anderson but are unable to attend may contact him by mail at P.O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI, 48933; by phone at (517) 373-1707; or by e-mail at SenatorAnderson@senate.michigan.gov.

Veterans Day

The annual Garden City Veterans Day ceremony will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 11, on the front lawn of City Hall at 6000 Middlebelt.

Groups need to assemble in the parking lot area by 10:45 a.m. Groups who want to participate should contact Margo Ciecierski in the city manager's office at (734) 793-1660.

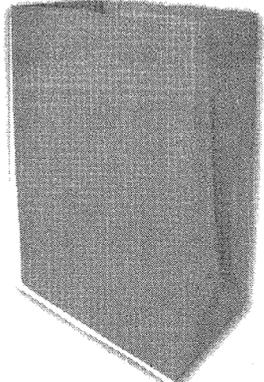
Following the ceremony, everyone is invited to the American Legion Post at 6860 Middlebelt, where there will be a luncheon.

Put on a shirt

Show your colors and your support for the Downtown Garden City Santaland Parade by purchasing an official Santaland Parade or Garden City Cougar T-shirt for only \$15.

The T-shirts re available from Margo Ciecierski at Garden City Hall or at the Downtown Development Authority office on Ford Road just east of Middlebelt.

For more information, call Dan York at (734) 793-1669 or Margo Ciecierski at (734) 793-1660, or visit the Web site at www.santalandparade.com.



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As a community bank, First Place Bank is finely attuned to the unique circumstances of our local communities. While we're all facing tough times in this economy, keeping food on the table has been harder this year for many of our neighbors. In fact, food banks are reporting a 30 percent increase in people seeking assistance, many of them for the first time.

Open a new checking account at First Place Bank in November or December, and we'll donate \$10 to Gleaners Foodbank of Southeastern Michigan. Because the Foodbank stretches every dollar into \$15 of food, the \$10 we'll contribute for each account opened will become \$150 in food you'll help bring to needy families in our community.

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To find a location near you, visit www.firstplacebank.com.



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Money Matters

Energy Matters

Save with federal energy tax credits

In 2009 and 2010, homeowners can enjoy federal tax credits of 30 percent of cost, up to \$1,500 when they make improvements to their existing homes in the following areas:

- Windows and doors
- Insulation
- Roofs (metal and asphalt)
- Heating & cooling (HVAC)
- Water heaters (non-solar)
- Biomass stoves

According to the Energy Star website (energystar.gov/taxcredits) the criteria for tax credits are:

- Equipment must be placed in service from January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2010;
- Equipment must be for taxpayer's principal residence, except for geothermal heat pumps, solar water heaters, solar panels, and small wind energy systems (where second homes qualify);
- \$1,500 is the maximum total amount that can be claimed for all products placed in service in 2009 & 2010 for most home improvements, except for geothermal heat pumps, solar water heaters, solar panels, fuel cells, and small wind energy systems which are not subject to this cap, and are in effect through 2016;
- Equipment must have a "Manufacturer Certification Statement" to qualify for record keeping.

ADVERTISING FEATURE — BY ALISON BERGSIEKER

Read on for advice from a local home, heating and cooling expert:

• "Get an in-home energy analysis to make sure your equipment is running at its peak performance to keep your monthly operating costs down. We have computer software that checks out your current heating and air system. Then we do a cost comparison between energy efficient hybrid heating systems."

— Doug Walter Jr., Owner of Hi-Tech Heating & Cooling in Canton



Small business owners face a variety of financial challenges, from securing financing and creating a marketing plan, to maintaining accounting books and minimizing tax liabilities. Regardless of whether business owners do the book-keeping themselves or outsource it, they are responsible for staying organized and strategizing to increase the bottom line.

Standard deductions, such as automobile expenses, must be tracked on a regular basis. Automobile expenses can either be tracked by multiplying mileage by the standard mileage rate of 55 cents for 2009, or by claiming the actual business-related expenses for the vehicle. (Note that standard mileage rates cannot be included on Forms 1065, 1120 and 1120S.)

In addition, travel expenses can include the cost of plane tickets, taxis or vehicles, as well as lodging and meals if the primary purpose of the trip is business. When family or friends accompany the business owner, just the owner's travel expenses can be deducted. Expenses related to advertising, promotions, interest on borrowed money (with record of where and how the money was spent) and bank fees are also fully deductible.

The amount and purpose of all expenses should be documented and tracked in the event that the IRS requests proof of expenditures. A receipt-scanning program such as Shoeboxed helps users to quickly and easily store and categorize receipts with deductible expenses. Mileage logs should include odometer readings, total miles driven, percent of mileage used for business, destination and purpose of the trip.

Other expenses are more challenging to discern, but the time taken to research and document them can save thousands of dollars in taxes owed. Legal and professional fees are generally deductible in the year they are incurred. However, if the consultation relates to future years, the fees must be deducted over the life of the benefit. Business entertainment expenses may be 50 percent deductible if business is discussed during the gathering. The business purpose and attendees should always be noted on the receipt or bill.

Higher contribution limits for 2009 allow business owners to save additional retirement money. For example:

- SEP and profit-sharing plan limits increased from \$46,000 in 2008 to \$49,000 in 2009.
- The defined benefit (pension plan) limit increased from \$185,000 to \$195,000.
- 401(k) elective deferrals are now \$16,500 versus \$15,500 in 2008. In addition, those age 55 or older can contribute another \$5,500, up from \$5,000 in 2008.

The 2009 tax year brings changes that can minimize tax liability for all small businesses. A tax-free reimbursement for bicycle commuting can be passed onto employees, up to \$20 per month for buying, maintaining and storing a bicycle used to travel to and from work. Businesses with Health Savings Accounts (HSAs) can contribute more this year, up to \$3,000 for individual

high deductible health plans, and \$5,950 for family coverage. Those 55 years and older can add \$1,000 to those amounts.

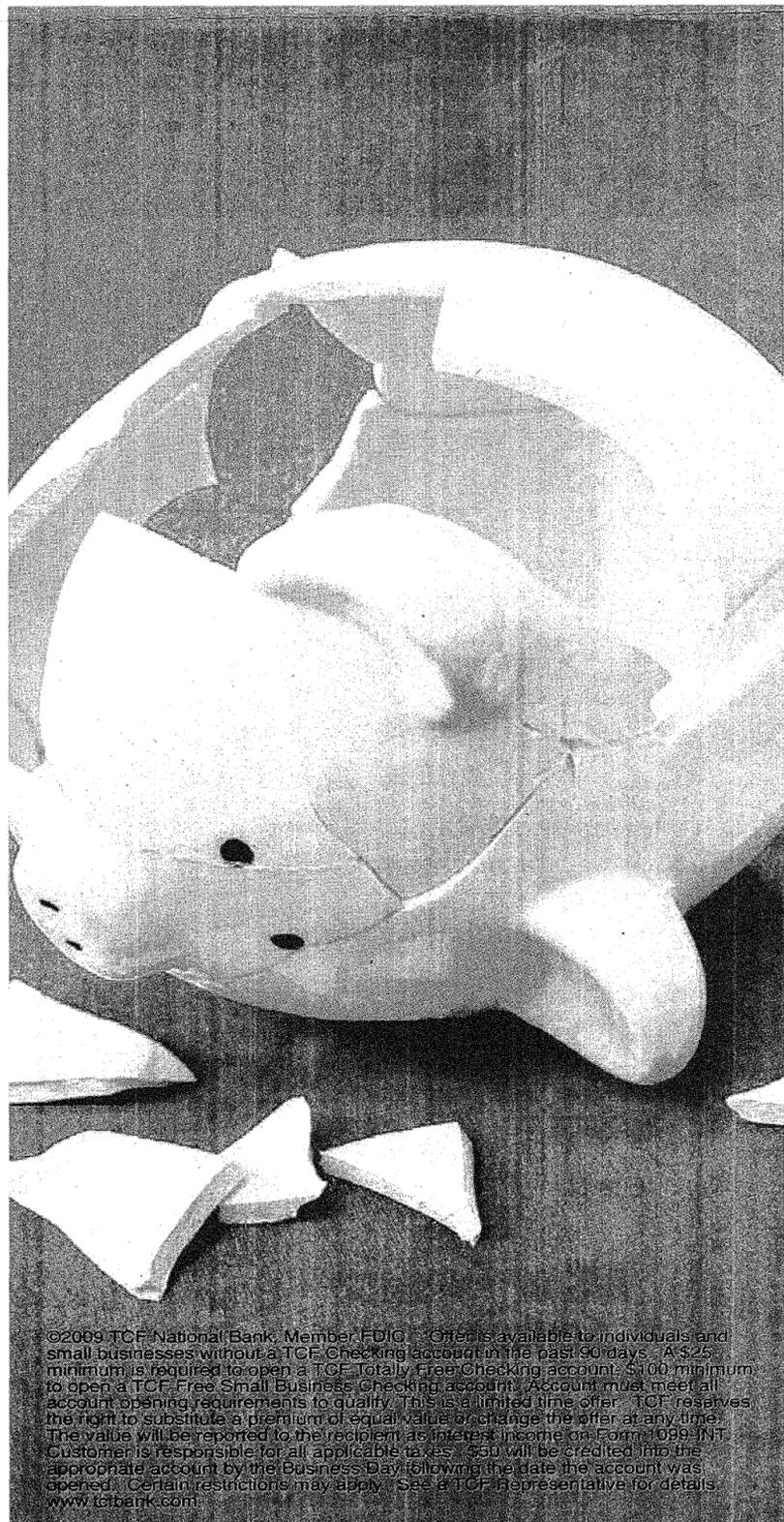
Don't overlook the small stuff because it all adds up. Deductions for bad debts (goods sold, not services), customer gifts, business-related books, postage, seminars and trade shows, business association dues and even coffee exist.

At the end of the day, small business owners need to find an expense tracking and filing system that works best for them. The old-fashioned use of folders categorized by expense type or date range is ideal for some. Others prefer technological solutions, which also provide data back up. Important receipts, charitable contributions, bank statements, credit card bills and other key documents can be scanned and filed by fiscal quarter. Owners should make copies for themselves or their accountant.

Tax software can be used throughout the year to help small business owners understand how different financial decisions can affect their tax situation. By organizing early, owners can plan ahead, maximize deductions and save time when it's time to prepare their tax returns. TaxACT customers who pre-order their Preparer's Business software can use preview versions as soon as they're released. Preview versions of TaxACT Preparer's Business 1065, 1120 and 1120S are released in October, with final versions released in January.

Detailed tax information for small businesses is available at www.IRS.gov, and TaxACT product information can be found at www.TaxACT.com.

— Courtesy of ARAccontent



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Insurance Matters



Top 10 tips for purchasing life insurance

We all know getting life insurance is an important step in building a financial plan, and that it's easy to put off getting a policy because of uncertainty about life insurance and how it works. With these 10 expert tips, you'll be prepared to make the purchase that will protect you for life.

1. Consider why you need it

Life insurance doesn't simply insure your life; it helps ensure the well-being of your loved ones if you're unable to do so.

2. Maintain your health

Make wise health decisions today - you may need to undergo a medical exam to determine your insurability. The better your health, the better your policy rate. Take advantage of the opportunity to save money by getting in shape.

3. Determine the right amount of coverage

Before selecting an insurance company, figure out how much coverage you need. Online calculators can help determine your life insurance and other financial needs. A simple, alternative approach is to multiply your annual salary by seven; the average recommended amount of coverage.

4. Choose a provider

One of the best ways to buy life insurance is directly through a life insurance company. Just like certain stores specialize in clothing or electronics, life insurance companies specialize too. Do research to find the one that fits your situation. Use the Internet, friends and

family; they're all valuable resources.

5. Consider your preferences

The Internet is one of the most efficient ways to maintain your policy. Find a company with the technology that allows you to manage your account and conduct transactions online. A good company will offer multiple alternatives. Perhaps you prefer to make transactions in another language, over the phone or in person. Look for a company that offers these options.

6. Do your homework

Once you have selected an insurance company, get a quote online so you have more information to help you in your decision-making process. Think over the questions you'll be asked. Who are your beneficiaries? What's your financial situation? What do you plan to use the coverage for?

Then call to speak with a licensed agent, or consider purchasing your policy online. Your agent will have an understanding of the changes you face that could affect your coverage or beneficiaries, and will work with you about coverage for life stages such as marriage, starting a family, or retirement.

7. Find the policy that works for your life stage

There are many different types of life insurance products, and learning about the available options will provide you the most comfort and security. A term policy will help you secure protection at the lowest rate for a specified period of time. If you can pay a little more money, a whole life policy may allow you to lock-in a more affordable rate early on, keep that rate for life, and give you the option to bor-

row the cash value of the policy.

8. Consider the financial benefits of the policy you choose

Life insurance policies offer many financial benefits. Under current tax laws, your beneficiaries may not have to pay federal income tax on the money they receive from a life insurance policy. Accelerated death benefit riders, under certain circumstances, may allow you to receive a percentage of your life insurance death benefits during your lifetime.

9. Create a relationship with your insurance company

When you speak with your insurance company, write down the name of the agent that helps you, and what's discussed, so you'll be prepared for any follow up. Check the company's Web site for updates and take advantage of additional financial tools and resources the company has to offer.

10. Manage your financial future

Be proactive in making sure you have the right coverage at every stage of life. Periodically review your personal circumstances and the products you own. Make sure your coverage fits your needs and does not lapse.

Despite these uncertain times you can take control of your financial future and get the right coverage for you and your family. For more tips and advice on purchasing life insurance visit SBLLI USA Mutual Life Insurance Company, Inc. phone (866) 331-3078 or go to www.sbliusa.com.

— Courtesy of ARAContent



Estate Matters

Three reasons you need a last will

If you've been paying attention to celebrity news, you've probably noticed several cases where courts are tied up with relatives and lawyers fighting over estates, children and money. One reason these cases take time — and money — to be resolved is because of the absence of an updated will.

No matter how young, healthy, wealthy or prepared for retirement you are, you can't predict what will happen in the future. But you can make your wishes for the future known, especially those that involve your family after your death.

A last will could be the most important document you ever sign. Without one, the courts determine what happens to your assets — and your minor children — when you die.

"Individuals of all ages and stages in life need to think about and create a will so their final wishes are followed," says Brian Liu, co-founder and chairman of LegalZoom.com. "Having a last will is very important for families. This protects loved ones and reduces — or even eliminates — confusion during a very difficult time."

Here are three reasons everyone should organize a last will:

1. Children. If you have

minor children, you need to specify guardians. A will allows you — and not court system — to determine who would best care for your children and raise them the way you would rear them.

2. Property. Recording your wishes for the distribution of your assets and property not only ensures that your decisions are honored but it can also help your family avoid destructive conflicts over these issues.

3. Final decisions. Grieving the loss of a loved one is hard enough to handle. Sparing your loved ones the stress and anxiety of determining how you would like to be honored and remembered can be avoided with a will.

Preparing a last will isn't difficult, and services like LegalZoom.com make the process easier and affordable. LegalZoom helps you create reliable legal documents from your home or office. Simply answer a few questions online and your documents will be prepared within 48 hours. Your answers are reviewed for consistency and common mistakes, and the company guarantees your satisfaction.

By completing a last will online and keeping it updated, you can have all of your final wishes followed, and save your family plenty of stress.

— Courtesy of ARAContent

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Finance Matters

Five basic steps to financial security in any economy

Virtually everyone today is feeling the affect of the current economy; none of us is untouched by it. Here's the good news. If you can anticipate financial changes and develop a sound financial plan, you can protect yourself and your family today, and for many years to come.

Achieve financial security by following five basic steps:

1. Begin an emergency cash fund

- Create a savings account and resolve to pay yourself first by setting aside 5 to 10 percent of your salary each month.
- Automatically transfer money from your checking account to your savings so that you're not tempted to spend the funds elsewhere.
- Aim to save three to six months of living expenses in the account for emergencies.

2. Pay down your credit cards

- Credit card debt is the No. 1 obstacle to a secure financial future, and knowing your credit score is essential.
- You're allowed one free credit check annually with each of the major credit bureaus: Experian, TransUnion and Equifax.
- Check your credit score; it determines your interest rates on loans and credit cards, and may help save you money throughout your life.
- Check your report for errors and report any immediately. Bureaus are required to investigate and correct errors once you report them.

• If you feel you need further assistance with your credit contact the National Foundation for Credit Counseling at 800-388-2227.

3. Create a financial plan using life insurance as the foundation

- Purchase life insurance. It is the foundation of a strong financial plan and can protect your family during an unexpected turn of events, such as loss of life or loss of income.
- Educate yourself. Certain types of policies accumulate cash value that can be used for larger expenses, such as college, while others may be used to help create a legacy of giving that can last for generations to come.
- An insufficient life insurance plan can expose your family to significant financial risks. To learn more about life insurance, call (866) 331-3078 and speak with a life insurance specialist with SBLI USA, a company that specializes in life insurance policies. Or, go to www.sbliusa.com to get a free, no-obligation quote.

4. Empower yourself by creating a budget

- Be prudent with your spending. Write down everything you spend each month and cut back on non-essentials.
- Apply these savings

toward reducing your credit card debt. Start by paying off your high-interest cards first.

- Explain to your family that everyone needs to contribute to the expense cutting. Making it a family effort will increase everyone's willpower.
- Use cost-cutting strategies to make the most of your budget. For example, pay in cash and remove credit cards from your wallet. Re-evaluate extra phone and television features. Or, consider eating at home more often, skipping the movie out and enjoying a night of board games with your family.

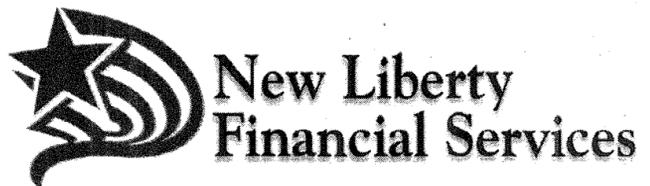
5. Optimize your retirement plan

- Many companies offer a 401(k) plan and may match your contributions. Take advantage of these deferred income tax benefits; you could be missing out on free money.
- If your work doesn't allow you to participate in a 401(k), consider opening up an IRA; or perhaps both. There are different types of IRAs, so before deciding, investigate your options and find the best IRA type for you.
- Remember, these are long-term retirement plans not short-term savings plans, so be patient and give your money time to grow.

These basic steps will help put you on the path to financial security. If you're not following at least three of them, begin today. Once you are on your way, you will quickly see how easy it is to incorporate all five into your life.

— Courtesy of ARAccontent

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"They cut off my credit line!"



"They increased my rate!"

LOCAL OPINION

online at hometownlife.com



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.

OUR VIEWS

Let veterans know you care

According to the U.S. Department of Defense, as of Oct. 30, 2009, 4,356 U.S. soldiers have died and 31,545 have been wounded in Iraq. The numbers for the fighting in Afghanistan are far less — 911 dead and 4,398 wounded — but are on the increase with stepped up attacks by Taliban and Al Qaeda fighters.

It's November, the month when we pause to give thanks - thanks to the Pilgrims who first settled here and to our veterans who have served our country with honor. We list the days not in chronological order, but in their significance to most Americans. We pay lip service to the latter while we focus on getting ready for the former.

But Veterans Day should come first. After all, if it weren't for soldiers dating back to the Revolutionary War, the United States would not be the land of the free and home of the brave.

Since 1919, Americans have observed Nov. 11 as a day to honor the sacrifices of those who have fought for freedom. Originally called Armistice Day, President Woodrow Wilson first declared Nov. 11 a day of remembrance following the end of hostilities between the Allied nations and Germany in World War I on Nov. 11, 1918.

President Wilson set the tone of observance with the following words, "To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations ..."

What originally started as a day dedicated to the cause of world peace and to honor World War I veterans, is now a day to honor the sacrifices and contributions of all veterans during peacetime or wartime.

Today our war is a war on terror. We are fighting an enemy that cares not who is killed or injured, only that we are destroyed. Many of our brave young men and women have lost their lives in this war, many more have suffered devastating injuries.

Our military personnel are our final line of defense against tyranny. We cannot forget their sacrifices. So this Veterans Day, we urge you to pause and remember our veterans. Tell them thanks and let them know you care. If you know the family of a soldier serving in Iraq or Afghanistan, call them. Let them know you're there to help.

We are all in this war together and we must all share the burden of defending our rights. We can start by honoring our veterans.

ONLINE VOICES & VIEWS

What our online readers are saying:

District needs to make cuts

Every district in Michigan is going to have to make cuts that parents won't be happy about. Livonia needs to stop the hand holding and coddling of parents. Do what needs to be done to educate the children in this community and stop worrying about the band parents, the athletic parents, the CAPA parents and all the others who will complain. If they think the grass is greener elsewhere ... let them go.

dabombmom6558

Who has dedication

Interesting that people are stretching the experience of most of the candidates. With the exception of Mehl and Dewey, everyone else experience is not a spot on for the position. I believe that Cicerrilli Bryant may be a nice person, but she does not have any experience with budgets and forecasts. The truth is except for Mehl and Dewey none of the candidates do. So what we must settle for is common sense and dedication. Kadi has the dedication, Durante has the dedication. The rest seem to just fake their dedication for the position.

Westlander

WESTLAND OBSERVER



Sue Mason
Community
Editor

Susan Rosiek
Executive Editor
/ Publisher

Grace Perry
Director of
Advertising

COMMUNITY VOICE

What does Veterans Day mean to you?

We asked this question at the Maplewood Community Center in Garden City?



"It's a day of pride. My dad served during the war and I'm very proud of that."

Jacqui Kristy
Garden City



"We pay homage to the veterans of the wars, which is much deserved. Everyday we have more and more veterans and we should do everything we can for them."

Marilyn DeVore
Garden City



"A lot of people should be thankful because we went over there and fought the Japanese and the Germans."

Evan Carr
World War II veteran
Garden City



"That's the day that means our country is still free and freedom isn't free."

Joseph Zassadney
Korean War veteran
Garden City

LETTERS

Unemployment woes

With Michigan having the highest unemployment rate in the country, I was inspired to write this poem.

Mr. Unemployed
His jeans have holes,
His shoes are well worn.
His heads hung low,
His spirit is torn.
His hair is greasy,
His face paints a frown.
His heart is broken,
His spirit is down.
His hands are scarred,
His eyes filled with tears,
His body displays the pain.
He's lived with for years.
His wallet is empty,
His house was foreclosed.
His dreams are demolished,
His mind consumed with woes.
His body is weary,
His faith has been shaken.
His bills are unpaid,
His job was taken.
His life has been altered,
His future he'll rewrite.
His world's a struggle,

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

We welcome your Letter to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content. Submit letters via the following formats. Web: www.hometownlife.com. E-mail: smason@hometownlife.com. Blog: You may also let your opinions be heard with your own blog at hometownlife.com. Deadline: Letters must be received by 9 a.m. Monday to be published in the Thursday edition.

His every day's a fight.

Janell Evans
Westland

LeBlanc punished for vote

I found out something today that makes my blood boil. Because of my employer, I subscribe to a Lansing news agency report (Gongwer.com). What I learned today should make everyone

mad, and I'll bet too many people would never find out because certain politicians want this news buried.

State Rep. Richard LeBlanc voted against a tax increase on Oct. 6. On Oct. 22, he was punished by House Speaker Andy Dillon.

That's right. He voted against taxes but Dillon tried to twist his arm to change his mind and Richard stayed firm. Whether you agree or disagree with his vote against higher taxes, I think you should agree he was voting on behalf of you and me, not on behalf of the Lansing establishment.

So now that he voted the way we expected him to vote, Rep. LeBlanc was removed as chairman of the State Police and Military Affairs appropriations subcommittee. Some thanks for bringing back 55 state troopers in his budget and for raising thousands of dollars at the Friendship Center for Michigan veterans.

Maybe Rep. LeBlanc should just drive to the Capitol everyday and say, "How do you want me to vote today?" Well, I know him and he would never do that.

Hold your head high, Richard. Too band more politicians don't have your integrity. Keep up the good work for Westland.

Mary Zurawski
Westland

From Lansing we need less talk, more action

GUEST COLUMN

The lyrics of country great Toby Keith's song *A Little Less Talk and a Lot More Action* popped in my head when I heard the Legislative Commission on Government Efficiency had released its draft report, *Charting A Way Forward: A Path Towards Fiscal Stability For the State of Michigan*. After 18 months of kicking the can down the road, yet another report is produced



Tom Watkins

telling state leaders what and how to reform government. Our state leaders are not without a multitude of reports to choose restructuring ideas or government reforms from — what they have is a great shortage of political will to make the tough choices that will address the long-standing structural problems confronting this state. Certainly, this report has a number of worthy recommendations. Many of the ideas have been around for years without being acted upon.

The Legislative Commission on Government Efficiency was created by 2007 PA 96. The nine-member commission is charged with making recommendations on how to consolidate and make more efficient state department functions and services. Its final report to the House, Senate and Gov. Jennifer Granholm is due Dec. 1. Only two of its nine members

— Senate Fiscal Agency director Gary Olson House and Fiscal Agency director Mitch Bean — are from the government. The rest were appointed from the private sector.

There have been countless studies and recommendations from distinguished organizations including: The Center For Michigan (www.thecenterformichigan.net/); The Michigan Leaders for Michigan/formerly, Detroit Renaissance (www.businessleadersformichigan.com); The Citizens Research Council (www.crcmich.org); The Mackinac Center (www.mackinac.org); and my own report I wrote as state superintendent of schools in 2004 that stated our school funding system was unsustainable and we must address the runaway health and pension costs and share services and consolidate districts to have adequate resources to invest in 21st century education (www.michigan.gov/documents/michiganschoolfunding_110803_7.pdf).

Each of these reports clearly spell out ways for Michigan to make sensible changes in state and local government that enable us to live within our means while making meaningful structural reforms.

In 2007, Gov. Granholm appointed a bipartisan Emergency Financial Advisory Panel, co-chaired by former governors William G. Milliken and

James J. Blanchard, to review the state's financial crisis and offer recommendations on how best to avoid similar crises in the years ahead. You guessed it — she never acted on her advisory panel's thoughtful recommendations.

There are even recommendations left over from the Secchia Commission in the 1990s under Republican Gov. John Engler that have yet to be implemented.

If the Legislative Commission on Government Efficiency would have taken their "efficiency" charge seriously, they would have met, reviewed the above reports, e-mailed them to the governor and Legislature telling them to implement the recommendations already on the table and disband.

Michigan continues to lose jobs in roaring tsunamis and replace them in tear drops. We have lost nearly a million jobs in the last decade and have the highest unemployment in the nation at 15.3 percent. We are caught up in a perfect storm of losing businesses and people together with the taxes they pay. Michigan gets less populated, less educated, and poorer because of people fleeing our state. The families who are leaving are the people the state desperately needs to kick-start our economic rebound — young, well-educated high-income earners.

Few organizations relish change and will go to great lengths to avoid facing the consequences. Clearly this has been the case with Michigan's elected leaders. They behave as though

nothing has changed, when everything has changed.

We don't get action from the governor or Legislature; we get yet another study that is destined to gather more dust created by the unemployed fleeing not just a state with a lack of jobs, but a state with leaders that fiddle as those without work burn through their unemployment checks as the hope for a productive future slips away.

Those that think we can simply cut or tax our way out of these problems are delusional. It is change-or-die time for Michigan.

Clearly, there is little constituency or lobby for change. Yet, we must reform, restructure and reinvent Michigan to position ourselves for the hyper-competitive, disruptive, global, innovative economy that is coming at us at warped speed.

As I return to China next week, rest assured, they are not slowing down waiting for Michigan's leaders to get their act together and — well, lead. They and other states and nations are moving forward.

Inaction has consequences. The time for studies, delays, debates and talking is over. We need the governor and Legislators to dispense with the "whole lotta talk" — and produce a lot more action!"

Tom Watkins is a business and education consultant. He served the citizens of Michigan as a state superintendent of schools, 2001-05 director of the mental health department, 1986-90 and an elected member of the Wayne County Charter Commission, 1980-82.

Enigmatic Beauty

Lladró visits to unveil new porcelain figure

BY WENDSY VON BUSKIRK
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Delicate and finely sculpted Lladró porcelain figures are beloved around the world. This Saturday, collectors can meet Rosa Lladró, president of the Spanish company, at Ram Creations Jewelry & Gifts in Farmington Hills. Lladró will appear at the store 2-4 p.m. Nov. 8 to sign purchases and unveil a new piece called "Enigmatic Beauty." It will be her first visit to metro Detroit.

"I am very pleased and honored to have the opportunity to introduce Ms. Lladró to fans and collectors of Lladró statues during this wonderful visit," said Narendra Agarwal, owner of Ram Creations.

Agarwal said he expects Lladró lovers to travel to his store from throughout Michigan and Ohio to meet Rosa Lladró, daughter to one of three Lladró brothers who founded the porcelain company in 1953.

Ram Creations is the leading retailer of oeuvres statues in Michigan, and carries an extensive collection that



Rosa Lladró will visit Farmington Hills on Nov. 8 to unveil "Enigmatic Beauty."

will be on display during the special event. Wine and hors d'oeuvres will be served.

Agarwal said he has carried Lladró for the past six years and the figures are very popular, especially as gifts for weddings, births and other milestones. Priced at \$150-\$150,000, the pieces are collectible and can rise in value. Many are limited editions.

"This is the best kind of porcelain available in the market as far as figurines are concerned. There is nobody else," he said. "The quality, design, architecture, the process, the intricacy of the pieces — Lladró is the leading manufacturer of porcelain figures in the world."

"Enigmatic Beauty" is a graceful female figure wear-

LLADRÓ SIGNING EVENT

What: Rosa Lladró signs purchases and unveils new porcelain figurine

When: 2-4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 8

Where: Ram Creations Jewelry & Gifts, 29214 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills

RSVP: (248) 851-1400

ing a flowered kimono and intricate golden obi sash. The piece's vibrant red and gold hues and accurate detail illustrate Lladro's mastery of sculpture and glazes. It retails for \$2,700.

To celebrate "Enigmatic Beauty," customers who purchase any Lladró piece during the event will receive a free copy of the coffee table book

Kimono and the Colors of Japan, along with a matching bookmark featuring the new Lladró piece while supplies last. And, Agarwal said, Rosa Lladró will sign all purchases made that day or in advance.

"Some people have already called and bought pieces for her to sign," he said.



Enigmatic Beauty

BRIEFS

Pet Santa Photos

PLYMOUTH - Photographer Jill Andra Young, who specializes in pet photography, invites pets (and their owners) to have photos taken with Santa at her studio Sunday, Nov. 8. Special packages — a range of photo sizes for \$55 or 24 greeting cards and envelopes for \$57 — are available during the event. Jill Andra Young Photography is located at 825 Penniman Ave., in downtown Plymouth. Call (734) 455-7787 or visit www.jillandrayoungphotography.com.

Wedding Show

WEST BLOOMFIELD - Orchard Mall will host a Wedding Show 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Nov. 7. The event, which features tables set with dishes from Slades, flowers and cakes from Hiller's and linens from Nancy's Linens. A wedding fashion show will showcase exquisite gowns from Maria's Bridal Couture, jewelry from Tapper's, hair and makeup by Style... the Salon, Aqua Salon and The Beauty Lounge and clothing by Guys N Gals, Eleganza, Annie Sez and Sally's Design Boutique.

The purpose of the Wedding Show is to demonstrate how Orchard Mall merchants can contribute to wedding planning. "We have an unusually high number of retailers whose businesses offer items that are key to a wedding," says Kelly Taylor, mall manager. "Clothing, bridal gowns, jewelry, makeup and hair services, flowers, photography by Frameable Faces — brides and grooms can even get in shape beforehand at the Yoga Shelter

and relax as couples after at Massage Envy — it's almost start-to-finish, a wedding planning haven."

Vendors from both inside and outside the mall will participate. Admission is free. Orchard Mall is located at Maple and Orchard Lake Roads in West Bloomfield. Call (248) 855-3330.

Parisian Community Day

LIVONIA - Parisian will host Community Day on Saturday, Nov. 14. Among participating local charities is Sweet Dreamzzz. Buy a Community Day booklet through Sweet Dreamzzz for \$5, and all proceeds benefit the non-profit organization, committed to providing bedtime essentials and sleep education to

at-risk children in preparation for classroom learning. The booklet includes a \$10 off coupon, six 20 percent off coupons, and one 30 percent off early bird coupon. Parisian has locations at Laurel Park Place in Livonia and The Village of Rochester Hills. Call (248) 478-3242 or visit www.sweetdreamzzzdetroit.org.

Holiday Food Drive

LIVONIA - Santa Claus is doling out some extra credit this holiday season to good boys and girls of all ages who bring the gift of non-perishable food to Laurel Park Place during November and December. Laurel Park Place is teaming up with Santa and his elves to collect food and financial donations for City of Livonia

and Wayne County's neediest families. As part of Santa Feeds America, the largest nationwide canned food drive ever conducted by a shopping center developer, Laurel Park Place is joining more than 80 CBL properties across the country to collect non-perishable food for distribution to through local food banks. Gleaners Community Food Bank of Southeastern Michigan will use all donations to provide for those in need during the holidays and into 2010. For more information, visit CBL's Web site, www.cblproperties.com or LaurelParkPlace.com.

Malls and Mainstreets is compiled by Wendy Von Buskirk. Send events to wensdy@hotmail.com.

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Documentary on WWI Polar Bears features two area men

A Livonia professor and a Livonia graduate will appear in a PBS film Sunday honoring Detroit veterans of World War I known as "the Polar Bears," who were sent on a horrific tour of duty to fight the first communists in Northern Russia near the Arctic Circle under the midnight sun.

Dr. Roger Crownover, chairman of the history department at Madonna University, sets up the premise of the documentary *Voices of a Never Ending Dawn* through his explanation of what caused these young soldiers to be sent to such a far-off battle.

Actor Steve Swanson, a Stevenson High School graduate who now lives in Northville, plays Lt. Harry Mead, who with his men fought in one of the most frightening battles of the entire North Russian conflict.

After landing the part, Swanson did some family research and learned one of his great uncles was a Polar Bear.

The two-hour film will be broadcast at 3 p.m.

Crownover has been known as an expert on the subject of the WWI Polar Bears since he



Bolshevik actors and reenactors fight Detroit's soldiers in snow and sub-zero temperatures.

first did a thesis on this unusual military mission. Crownover wrote a book on the subject called *The Polar Bear Odyssey*. Interviews for the documen-

tary were shot at the Madonna University library.

Swanson's character Harry Mead wakes to find 800 Bolshevik fighters rising up

out of the snow in white camouflaged smocks storming his small squad of 45 men. The entire battle was re-enacted in the deep snows of northern

Michigan last January and will now be seen by millions on PBS.

Award-winning documentary filmmaker Pamela Peak uses the haunting words of the books and diaries that these men left behind to bring their nearly-forgotten story to life.

"As the granddaughter of one of these brave soldiers, I felt the story simply had to be told," she said. "These heroic Detroit men fought for the principle of freedom eight long months after WWI had ended and all other soldiers from around the world had come home. They fought in 60-degree below-zero weather and blizzard conditions, watching their buddies die, knowing that all other soldiers fighting in the World War had already come home."

Sen. Carl Levin appears in the documentary film, recalling how the duty of *The Polar Bears* was known as "the acid test of loyalty to country."

Peak thought hiring Michigan actors for the on-camera scenes would be a fitting honor to the men.

Swanson traveled to northern Michigan last January with

Peak and her crew when they shot battle scene re-enactments in sub-zero blizzard conditions.

Swanson auditioned for Peak early one Saturday morning in a Detroit snowstorm, just prior to the northern Michigan video shoot. "I knew from the start that Steve Swanson was right for this major part," Peak said. "He walked into the audition and commanded the stage! I could tell he was an experienced actor and also had a lot of film experience as he became Lt. Harry Mead in the challenging improvisational scenes I asked the actors to carry out during the audition. He is fabulous to work with."

Swanson has appeared in films with Cuba Gooding Jr., Aiden Quinn and in more than 28 commercials such as Subway, Pepsi and McDonald's. He also has appeared in more than 30 stage productions at Schoolcraft College and with the Northridge Players.

For more information on *Voices of a Never Ending Dawn* and on *The Polar Bears*, see www.PolarBearDocumentary.com.

Don't let unemployment keep you from Roth conversion

Q: I lost my job late last year. I moved my 401(k) money to a rollover IRA. This year my income is almost entirely from unemployment insurance plus about \$1,500 reported on a 1099. Assuming I continue to receive unemployment through December, my Schedule A plus one exemption will exceed my total income by about \$4,000. I have several questions.

Can I convert (without paying any taxes) an amount, equal to the difference between my income and deduction plus exemptions, from my rollover IRA into my existing Roth IRA? If so, should I convert an additional

\$8,000 (which would be at the 10 percent bracket since I am single), keeping mind that I'll have enough to pay the taxes? Will any converted amount have an adverse impact on the unemployment checks that I have received or may receive in the future? When is the deadline to make the conversion? Can I use the 1099 income to contribute to my Roth IRA? Are there any tax or credit deductions for the COBRA premiums I paid this year?



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

A: I think it is great what you want to do. Taking advantage of a Roth IRA conversion when you virtually are in a no-tax situation is smart and I recommend it. Without any cost, you are converting money that would eventually be taxed into something that is totally tax-free. You have another advantage in that Roth IRAs are not subject to required minimum distributions. Therefore, when you turn 70½ you do not have to begin taking distributions. You can let this money continue to grow on a tax-free basis.

I also think it is a smart strategy to convert more money where you'll be taxed at approximately 10 percent. It is always important to recognize that money in an IRA is always going to be subject to income taxes.

The issue is will you ever be in a situation where you will have

a lower tax bracket than your current rate of 10 percent? If you anticipate you will continue to be on unemployment next year and, you will be in a no-tax-bracket situation next year, then you do have to take that into consideration. However, if you anticipate getting a job next year, and thus you will be in a higher tax bracket, the Roth conversion for that additional money is a great way of going this year.

What makes this situation so enviable is she has the money to pay the taxes for the additional money she will convert. It is always important to recognize that when you do convert existing IRA money into a Roth IRA, the money that is being converted is reported as income on your tax return. In order to make the Roth conversion effective, you have to have the money to pay the taxes.

The Roth conversions will have no impact on unemployment benefits. When you convert money into a Roth, you are creating taxable income, but are not creating earned income. It is earned income that can cause problems with unemployment benefits.

Roth conversions must be

completed before the end of the year. Do not wait that long.

With regards to using 1099 income to make a Roth contribution, the answer is no. In order to contribute new money into a Roth IRA, you must have earned income (income from your labor). Typically, earned income shows up on a W-2. Income that is reported on a 1099 is investment income such as interest and dividends. Unfortunately, that money is not part of the equation to determine whether you are allowed to contribute new money into a Roth IRA. Remember, there is a difference between converting money into a Roth IRA and new contributions. In order to invest new money into a Roth IRA — or, in fact, any IRA — you must have earned income.

There is a deduction available to taxpayers when they make payments for health insurance. The problem is that it is a Schedule A deduction, which means that you have to itemize your deductions. Unfortunately, it is just not itemizing your deductions that allows you to deduct your premium payment. Medical expenses are deductible on

Schedule A; however, before you are allowed to deduct any medical benefits such as insurance premiums, they must exceed 7½ percent of your adjusted gross income. Adjusted gross income is typically the last line of the first page of your tax return. Therefore, in the case at hand the first thing that you need to do is determine whether you are going to itemize your deductions or take the standard deduction and then if you do itemize your deductions, your medical expenses which include your payments under COBRA must exceed 7½ percent of adjusted gross income.

I encourage everyone to look at his/her individual situation to take advantage of a Roth conversion. Those people who are unemployed may find that by converting traditional IRA money into a Roth IRA, they're converting tax deferred money into tax-free money and it's not costing anything to do it.

Good luck!

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at money@hometownlife.com. For more information, visit Rick's Web site at www.bloomassetmanagement.com.



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THURSDAY
November 5,
2009

SECTION B
(WL)

Brad Emmons, editor (313) 222-6851
bemmons@hometownlife.com

Pulitzer Prize winning composer Joseph Schwantner is coming to lead educational workshops - Filter, B8

SPORTS, FILTER, FOOD & WINE

HOMETOWN LIFE



Stonewalled

Jungaleers stymie Glenn offense, 41-0

BY BRAD EMMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Detroit Southeastern's defense staged its own remake of *The Longest Yard* in Saturday's Division 1 football playoff opener.

The Jungaleers took no prisoners, locking up Westland John Glenn and star running back Jeremy Langford en route to a bone-jarring 41-0 victory in a Region 4 District 1 matchup.

Southeastern's hard-hitting defense was led by 6-foot-7, 250-pound outside linebacker William Gholston (committed to Michigan State).

The Jungaleers' Halloween performance was frightening to say the least as Glenn managed only four first downs and just 56 yards total offense.

Meanwhile, the 6-foot-1, 190-pound Langford, the state's leading ball carrier with 2,020 yards in only eight games, was limited to a net 37 yards on 12 carries.

"Our defense was fantastic," Southeastern coach Donshell English said. "Our defensive coordinator Archie Collins gets them ready to play and gets them motivated. We knew he (Langford) had shiftiness and decent moves, but maybe not the speed. We felt confident we could take care of business."

The Jungaleers, who improved to 9-1 overall, didn't allow Glenn cross its own 38-yard line the

entire first half en route to a 21-0 lead.

"Their defense has size and speed," Glenn coach Tim Hardin said. "It all goes back that we couldn't move the ball because of their defense."

"And when we punted it, they got a good return. It got right back to where we punted the ball."

Unable to get any type of running game going, the Rockets got out of their comfort zone and were forced to throw. The Rockets completed only 5-of-15 pass attempts for 29 yards. Glenn quarterback Steven Kulikowski was picked off four times.

"Nothing else was working," said Hardin, whose team bowed out with an 8-2 overall record. "We were just trying to find anything else that would work."

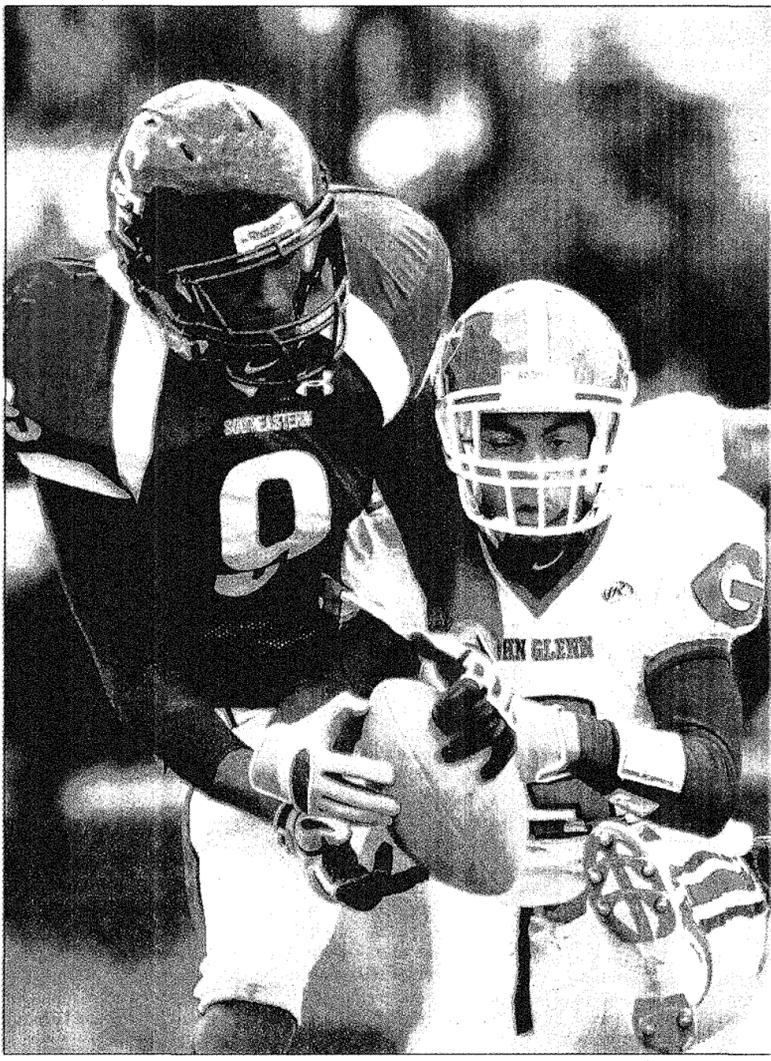
Southeastern led 7-0 after one quarter when senior quarterback Edward Thomas hit Paris Powell out of the backfield for a 41-yard touchdown pass.

The Jungaleers added two more scores in the second quarter, including an 18-yard pass from Thomas to Powell, followed by a 16-yard run up the middle by Powell.

Glenn's defense kept the Jungaleers off the board in the third quarter, but the Rockets' offense continued to stall.

Edward Davis then scored on a

Please see **GLENN, B2**



KIRTHMON DOZIER | GANNETT NEWS SERVICE

Detroit Southeastern's Edward Davis (9) goes for the ball against John Glenn's Jamar Rogers during Saturday's state football playoff opener at Detroit Renaissance.

SIDELINES

Martin saluted

Michigan State sophomore Keshawn Martin (Westland John Glenn) has been named Big Ten Special Teams Player of the Week in football.

Martin compiled a career-best 284 all-purpose yards in Saturday's 42-34 loss at Minnesota, including four kickoff returns for 176 yards and a 93-yard touchdown to open the second half.

It was the Spartans' first kickoff return for a TD since 2005. He added another touchdown on an 84-yard reverse later in the third quarter and recorded two catches for 22 yards.

The last Spartan to be named Special Teams Player of the Week was kicker Brett Swenson in November 2008.

Calka All-MAC

Eastern Michigan University true freshman Courtney Calka (Livonia Stevenson) placed sixth Saturday in the Mid-American Women's Cross Country Championships hosted by Ohio University.

Calka covered the 6-kilometer course in 22 minutes, 35.6 seconds en route to All-MAC honors as the Eagles placed sixth in the team standings.

"Courtney did an outstanding job in her first MAC championship," EMU coach Sue Parks said. "She took the lead at the start and continued to hold it through over 2,000 meters. When the others runners came up and challenged her, she did not back down and she continued to compete hard all the way to the finish."

Clasgens honored

For the third time in his career, Olivet College senior Pat Clasgens (Livonia Stevenson) was named Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association Offensive Player of the Week after rushing for a MIAA season-high 178 yards on 25 carries and scoring two touchdowns in the Comets' 28-14 loss Saturday to Hope College.

Clasgens' longest run for the game was 33 yards.

Crusaders 0-2

First-year Madonna University men's basketball coach Noel Emehiser is still searching for his first victory of the season.

On Saturday, the Crusaders fell to the University of Windsor, 79-62, in the consolation final of the Jamieson-Allen Insurance Agency Tip-Off Tournament hosted by Spring Arbor University.

MU, 0-2 overall, got 16 points from junior guard Bryant Slaughter (Westland), while senior forward Leroy Allen added 12 points and six rebounds.

Windsor (1-1), which trailed 34-33 at intermission, got 19 points and 11 rebounds from Nige Johnson-Tygher. Isaac Kuon and Andrew Smyth added 16 and 15 points, respectively, for the Lancers.

MU shot 36 percent from the floor (19-of-52) and was only 18-of-37 from the foul line (48.6 percent).

Windsor outrebounded the Crusaders, 49-42.

The Crusaders return to action at 6 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 7, at home against Huntington (Ind.) University.

Ocelot men one win away, eye NJCAAs

The Schoolcraft College men's soccer team took a couple of giant steps toward gaining a berth in the NJCAA National Championships with a pair of impressive victories last weekend in Division 1 Region 12 competition.

The Ocelots got goals from four different players in

registering a 4-1 semifinal win Saturday over Owens Community College in a match played at The Rival Sports Facility, Lorain, Ohio.

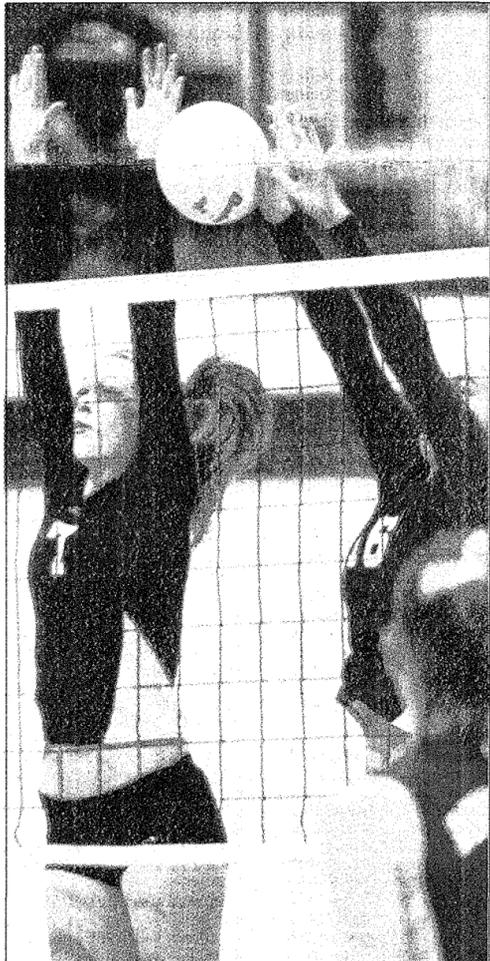
On Sunday, Schoolcraft came right back with a solid defensive effort to record a 2-0 triumph over Cincinnati State in the title game at the Pinnacle Sports Facility, Medina, Ohio.

The results move the No. 4-ranked Ocelots, 16-1-1 overall, into the District D championship game beginning at noon Saturday at home against No. 3-ranked Illinois Central CC, which is 17-0-1 overall.

"We are very excited for this match," Schoolcraft assistant coach Eric Scott said.

In the win over Owens CC, Schoolcraft struck quickly as the Ocelots got goals from Dave Carver and Bim

Please see **OCELOTS, B2**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

District action

Stevenson's Monika Rudis (7) and Kristen Balhorn (16) smother the net during Monday's Class A district opener against Redford Union. The Spartans advanced with a 3-0 win. See a roundup of area games on page B3.

Spartans' defense proving resilient

BY BRAD EMMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

PREP FOOTBALL

Allowing a meager 30 points all season, there's no disputing Novi-Detroit Catholic Central's defense is as good as advertised.

But the unbeaten Shamrocks will be facing a defense Saturday night in Livonia Stevenson that is nothing to sneeze at, either.

Stevenson's allowed 127 points this season, pale in comparison to CC's average of just three per outing.

But Stevenson coach Tim Gabel believes his defense has performed consistently all season and is one of the big reasons the Spartans have won eight in a row after dropping their first two games of the season.

The Spartans are led by the trio of junior inside linebacker Duran Onwuemene, senior outside linebacker Mike Roy and senior safety Bryan Koessler, the latter whom had two interceptions in last week's 21-7 playoff win over Northville.

"All have had very good seasons this year," Gabel said. "Duran is very passionate, and keeps the defense focused throughout the week."

"Mike and Bryan also play very hard, but they both do an excellent job on formation and personnel recognition. These three players provide a lot of

leadership."

CC will be looking to avenge a 24-13 loss to the Spartans in last year's district final.

The Shamrocks will rely on the backfield tandem of speedy tailback Anthony Capatina and 6-foot-2, 230-pound bruising fullback Niko Palazeti.

This is the seventh playoff meeting between the two teams, with CC holding a 5-1 advantage.

"This CC team is very dominant, and is probably most like the team we played in 1995 — right down to the fact that that team had an All-State caliber fullback who doubles as a defensive tackle," Gabel said. "They are efficient on offense, have very solid special teams, and make the offense earn every yard."

Because of a school conflict earlier in the day which limited parking, the game time has been changed from 1 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Saturday at CC.

"Playing Saturday night will be unique for us, but the play-offs are always full of different situations, especially when you play a team you don't see year-in and year-out," Gabel said. "The extra day helps in terms of reps in practice, but it will still be a little different going to practice Friday afternoon instead of playing a game."

Despite DQ, Churchill girls harriers earn trip to 'state'

BY BRAD EMMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The blustery weather wasn't the only thing that played tricks during Saturday's Division 1 girls cross country regional at Willow Metropark in New Boston.

Three teams — Ann Arbor Pioneer (50 points), Salem (65) and Livonia Churchill (87) — treated themselves to automatic berths in the MHSAA state finals this weekend at Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn.

All three schools were expected to get through, but when individual



McPherson

winner Sara Kroll of Churchill, one of the state's premier runners, was disqualified for a rules violation (wearing a friendship bracelet on her wrist), the final team scores had to be re-tabulated.

So it was only fitting on Halloween that Churchill, which has five consecutive top-10 finishes at the state finals, felt a bit bewitched while awaiting the corrected tally.

With Kroll DQ'd and her score thrown out, Livonia Franklin's Megan

McPherson won the 5,000-meter race in 18 minutes, 37.5 seconds.

But the Chargers still managed to stay 10 points ahead of host Ann Arbor Huron's 97 total to garner the final team spot.

Freshman Kerigan Riley paced with Chargers with an eighth-place finish in 19:46. She was followed by senior Amanda Southwell, 15th (20:17); junior Katie Rash, 17th (20:27); sophomore Bethany Pilat, 21st (20:39); and freshman Sydney Anderson, 26th (20:43).

"Our team dodged a bullet today," Churchill coach Sue Tatro said. "But there was no harm done — because as

Sara Kroll has carried the team all season, her teammates reciprocated and carried her today.

"Kerigan, Amanda and Katie really stepped up today, and got Sara and the rest of the team to the starting line next Saturday."

Needless to say, there were a few anxious moments for the Chargers, who had to wait a half-hour until the official results came out.

"It was a life lesson learned and we will move on and benefit from this experience," Tatro said. "I'm proud

Please see **CHURCHILL, B2**

GLENN

FROM PAGE B1

10-yard run following Daniel Burke's interception with 9:53 left in the final quarter and Powell returned a Glenn punt 50 yards for another Southeastern TD.

Up 35-0 with a running clock, the Jungaleers added insult to injury with another score.

Instead of taking a knee, Davis took a pitch and raced 35 yards for a touchdown with only 16 seconds remaining. "Our defense held them quite a while, especially at the end of the first half and the beginning of the second half," Hardin said. "We held them two series in a row to start the second half, but our defense was on the field way too much."

Southeastern had a total of 252 yards as Powell, the 6-0, 173-pound senior, led the way with 91 yards rushing on 14 carries. Thomas was 6-of-21 passing for 109 yards.

Langford, cleared to play earlier in the week after suffering a punctured lung during the eighth week against Northville, was held to less than 100 yards for the first time this season.

"I don't think he (Langford) was 100 percent physically, but I don't think he was tentative," Hardin said. "He's a warrior, considering what he went through the last week-and-a-half. He played his heart out. "And I'd like to say I'm just proud of all of them — the team, as well as all the coaches for all they've done and accomplished this season."

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Madonna women slide into playoffs

Six different players found the back of the net Saturday as the Madonna University women's soccer team rolled to a 7-0 Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference victory over host Concordia College at Rummel Field in Ann Arbor.

Jessica Austin (Livonia Franklin) notched her 10th and 11th goals of the season for the Crusaders, who stand 6-12 overall and 5-7 in the WHAC.

Other MU goal scorers included Kaila Moore (her sixth), Lauren Hess (Livonia Ladywood), Lia Melasi, Chelsea Shrewsbury and Nicole Rodriguez.

Melasi also finished with three assists, while Trisha Bender, Jackie Vaquera and Diana Brda (Franklin) and Hess collected one apiece.

Goalkeeper Chelsea Gregg, who played all 90 minutes, recorded the shutout.

Concordia falls to 3-14 overall and 1-11 in the WHAC. After Aquinas beat Cornerstone 1-0 on Tuesday, the Crusaders earned the

COLLEGE SOCCER

fourth seed in the upcoming conference playoffs and will travel Saturday to play top seed Siena Heights. (The match starts at noon.)

MADONNA (MEN) 1, CONCORDIA 1 (OT): In a WHAC encounter Saturday, host Concordia University (6-8-3, 3-7-1) and the Crusaders (3-7-4, 3-5-3) battled to a draw.

The Cardinals got on the board in the 14th minute when Ali Badra Diallo knocked a shot in off of a MU defender for a 1-0 advantage.

Madonna tied it in the 55th minute when Kenyan freshman Moses Otieno tallied his fourth goal of the season on a free kick.

The game went to 20 minutes of overtime with both teams unable to score.

MU goalkeeper Steve Besk made four saves, while Concordia's Kyle Winningham and Brian Kressbach combined for five saves.

The MU tie and a Davenport University win over Siena Heights eliminated the Crusaders from playoff contention.

The Crusaders, defending WHAC champs, wrapped up their 2009 season Wednesday at Davenport.

PREP GRID PICKS

Districts	Brad Emons	Dan O'Meara	Tim Smith	Jim Toth
Friday, Nov. 6				
Inkster (6-3) at Redford Thurston (8-2), 7 p.m.	Inkster	Inkster	Thurston	Inkster
Ann Arbor Pioneer (8-2) at Canton (9-1), 7 p.m.	Canton	Canton	Canton	Canton
Saturday, Nov. 7				
Farmington Harrison (7-3) at Southfield (7-3), 1 p.m.	Southfield	Southfield	Southfield	Harrison
Livonia Stevenson (8-2) at Novi-Detroit Catholic Central (10-0), 7:30 p.m.	Catholic Central	Catholic Central	Catholic Central	Catholic Central
Last week	5-1 (.833)	4-2 (.667)	5-1 (.833)	5-1 (.833)
Overall	92-31 (.748)	96-27 (.780)	84-39 (.683)	98-25 (.797)

CC's big second half subdues Patriots

BY SCOTT SHEPHERD
CORRESPONDENT

PREP FOOTBALL

Livonia Franklin came out swinging Saturday in its Region 2-District 2 football playoff game against host Novi-Detroit Catholic Central. But in the end, the Patriots proved to be no match as the undefeated Shamrocks cruised to a 42-7 victory.

The upset-minded Patriots stole the momentum early as senior Nate Robinson recovered a fumble on a botched handoff and returned it 95 yards for a touchdown, giving Franklin a 7-0 lead with 3:40 left to play in the first quarter.

The Shamrocks would go on to turn the ball over twice more before the halfway point of the second quarter, but Franklin was unable to capitalize.

"We made a lot of mistakes in the first half," CC coach Tom Mach said. "That's not really like us, but I thought we did a good job of not getting down on ourselves."

The Shamrocks finally got on the scoreboard with 6:55 remaining in the second quarter thanks to a 19-yard TD run by senior Niko Palazeti, but the Patriots blocked the extra point to maintain a 7-6

advantage.

And, despite no first downs in the first half and just four yards of total offense, the Patriots had a chance to take the lead into halftime.

But backed up deep in his own territory, Franklin's senior quarterback Mike Beasley was intercepted by Butch Herzog, who returned it 10 yards for the go-ahead touchdown with 1:20 remaining in the half.

The Shamrocks converted the two-point conversion to take a 14-7 lead into halftime and never looked back.

"I think that interception at the end of the half put some doubts in our players' minds heading into halftime," Patriots coach Chris Kelbert said.

Herzog's pick-off was a momentum swing for CC.

"That play certainly changed the mood of the game," Mach said. "Our guys were very upbeat at halftime, and we carried that into the second half."

In the second half, the Shamrocks' running attack proved to be too much for the Franklin defense to handle.

CC totaled 231 yards of offense over the final two quarters without attempting a single pass and scored on their first four possessions.

Palazeti, a senior who finished with 134 yards on 16 carries and two TDs, scored on a 1-yard run with 5:01 left in the third quarter.

And less than two minutes later, senior Anthony Capatina (17-for-215 yards) broke a 42-yard run for a score to break the game wide open and give the Shamrocks a 28-7 cushion.

Mach, meanwhile, was quick to praise his thunder-and-lightning style running backs after the game.

"Capatina is one of the best backs in the state, and has been for two years," the CC coach said. "He's tough to bring down once he gets going. Niko was able to wear down their defense, and between the two of them, we were pretty tough to stop."

Junior Justin Messner scored on a 32-yard end around with 1:19 left in the third quarter and junior fullback Andrew Erickson punched in a 1-yard run with 9:18 left in the game to push the score to 42-7.

And not that the Catholic Central defense needed much

insurance.

Franklin totaled just 74 yards in the second half, advancing the ball across mid-field only once, and committed two turnovers.

"Their defense has no weakness," Kelbert said of the 10-0 Shamrocks. "We tried to find one all week on film, but as you saw today, they just don't have one."

Despite the disappointing loss on Saturday, Kelbert said the season was a successful one for the 5-5 Patriots.

"Making the playoffs was a goal for us coming into the season," he said. "Our job is to get Franklin football back to where it should be. Our program definitely took a step in the right direction this year."

As for CC, longtime coach Tom Mach knows that they still have a lot of work to do entering Saturday's Division 1 district final against 8-2 Livonia Stevenson. (Game time is 1 p.m. at CC.)

"We played great today in the second half, but you can't make so many early mistakes and expect to win playoff games," he said. "We've got a lot of work to do in practice this week, but we'll be ready."

CHURCHILL

FROM PAGE B1

of the entire team, including Sara, because she is mature enough to move on and look forward to the next challenge."

Had Kroll's place counted, Salem would have been third behind Churchill (66-70).

"Obviously we're excited," said Salem coach Dave Gerlach, whose team garnered its first state finals berth since 2005. "We're happy. It was a good battle with Pioneer and I'm happy for Churchill."

"We did not run great, but I thought we ran well enough and were able to take care of business. There were no P.R.'s (personal records) today, but the course was running 30

seconds slower."

Junior Victoria Tripp led the Rocks in seventh place with a time of 19:34. She was followed by senior Jordyn Moore, 11th (19:51); freshman Shannon Flynn, 12th (19:51); junior Kara Booms, 16th (20:22); and freshman Ade Jepperson, 19th (20:36).

"The conditions were brutal," Gerlach said. "The only thing worse would be rain. You talk about the 30 mile-per-hour winds, and it was a cold wind on top of that. At the finish line there were people gasping for air. It was a tough day for everybody, but that's what makes it competitive and you have to deal with it."

The Rocks showed their consistency by placing five in the top 20.

"The thing today is to make

sure that there were no gaps," Gerlach said. "We wanted to pack-and-pace, tuck-and-run — get behind people with the wind at their chest."

Meanwhile, Kroll's disqualification overshadowed a stellar performance by McPherson, a junior for the Patriots.

"Megan ran a very smart race," Franklin coach Dave Bjorklund said. "Her goal was to finish second, and she got out immediately and put herself in position to do so. It was nice that she and Kroll were able to work together and get away from the rest of the field."

"We talked about making sure how to run the course properly based on the wind conditions and she executed flawlessly. She is very excited to hopefully make some noise

at the state meet this year after finishing 32nd overall last year."

But the Franklin coach, however, wanted to set the record straight.

"While Megan is proud and honored to be named regional champ, she will be the first one to tell you that everyone knows who really won the race," Bjorklund said. "She has way too much respect for Sara (Kroll) to let anyone forget."

Other individual state qualifiers included Huron's Elizaveta Boudreau and Annie Norah Beveridge, who placed third and fourth, respectively; Canton junior Bianca Kubicki (fifth); and Dearborn's Sara Stassen (10th) and Sisknah Chehab (14th).

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OCELOTS

FROM PAGE B1

Ogunyemi in the opening seven minutes of play.

From there, Schoolcraft held Owens at bay before icing the contest with second-half markers by Dane Laird and Yaya Toure.

Carver added two assists in the game, while Toure picked up one.

Ian McDonald-Wilkins made five saves in the first 80 minutes of play between the pipes for Schoolcraft and Adrian Motta (Livonia Churchill) came on to wrap matters up in the final 10 minutes of the game.

In the victory over Cincinnati State, strong backline play from James Cho, Kenny Vasquez, Ognen Stamenkovic and Chris Long (Livonia Stevenson) enabled McDonald-Wilkins to register the shutout and lower his NJCAA-best goals against average to 0.42.

Nate Sergison (Stevenson) and Ryan Lemasters were the goal-scorers for Schoolcraft. Both assists went to Ogunyemi.

GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY RESULTS

MHSAA REGIONAL GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY RESULTS

DIVISION 1

Oct. 31 at Willow Metropark TEAM STANDINGS (top 3 qualify for state finals): 1. Ann Arbor Pioneer, 50 points; 2. Salem, 65; 3. Livonia Churchill, 87; 4. Ann Arbor Huron, 97; 5. Canton, 128; 6. Livonia Franklin, 141; 7. Plymouth, 151; 8. Dearborn, 168; 9. Dearborn Edsel Ford, 280; 10. Garden City and Westland John Glenn, 291 each; 12. Wayne Memorial, no team score.

Individual winner: Megan McPherson (Franklin), 18 minutes, 37.5 seconds (5,000 meters).

AREA TEAM-BY-TEAM FINISHERS

A.A. Pioneer (50): 2. Elizabeth Boudreau, 19:00; 6. Tara Jibson, 19:27; 9. Laura Knight, 19:49; 13. Katherine Hoevet, 20:00; 20. Miriam Holzman, 20:38; 40. Christine Lim, 21:27; 42. Elise Huerta, 21:37.

Salem (65): 7. Victoria Tripp, 19:34; 11. Jordyn Moore, 19:51; 12. Shannon Flynn, 19:51; 16. Kara Booms, 20:22; 19. Ade Jepperson, 20:36; 34. Autumn Burin, 21:11; 50. Kelly Kerwin, 22:23.

Churchill (87): 8. Kerigan Riley, 19:46; 15. Amanda Southwell, 20:17; 17. Katie Rash, 20:27; 21. Bethany Pilot, 20:39; 26. Sydney Anderson, 20:43; 55. Sarah Bauman, 22:50; 80. Sara Kroll, no time.

Franklin (141): 1. Megan McPherson, 18:37; 30. Leslie Gomez, 20:51; 32. Brittany Dilley,

20:59; 33. Tiffany Lambie, 21:10; 45. Megan Wickens, 22:00; 47. Ashley Davidson, 22:08; 49. Kelly Walblay, 22:17.

John Glenn (291): 48. Ashley Bailey, 22:10; 53. Abbey Wright, 22:38; 56. Kristen Smith, 22:51; 62. Cassie Sanders, 23:59; 74. Evi Canoli, 26:13; 75. Mary Dreher, 26:25; 79. Courtney MacCounie, 32:21.

Wayne (no score): 57. Holland Boertje, 22:59; 76. Jennifer McCaffery, 26:27; 77. Alana Cyrus, 20:50; 78. Sydney Ball, 30:50.

(sq): individual state qualifier.

TEAM STANDINGS (top 3 qualify for state finals): 1. Pinckney, 54; 2. Northville, 71; 3. Brighton, 81; 4. Walled Lake Western, 90; 5. Novi, 118; 6. Farmington, 126; 7. Farmington Hills Mercy, 204; 8. Livonia Stevenson, 209; 9. Howell, 224; 10. South Lyon, 238; 11. Detroit Mumford, 342; 12. Redford Union, 359; 13. Southfield, 410.

Individual winner: Lindsay Clark (W.L. Western), 18:26.9.

Stevenson finishers: 30. Julia Capeneka, 20:31.8; 36. Victoria Saferian, 20:47.7; 37. Taylor Cieslak, 20:47.9; 49. Kelly Hall, 21:32.3; 53. Karlie Gallagher, 21:45.5; 62. Kelsey O'Keefe, 22:04.1; 66. Kelly Glynn, 22:29.1.

RU finishers: 59. Kelly Miley, 21:50.7; 69. Victoria Silversides, 22:56.5; 74. Tiara Creswell, 23:23.3; 78. Melissa Scott, 24:54.3; 79. Angela Mancini, 25:06.2; 80. Ahmenah Morgan, 25:28.9.

(sq): individual state qualifier.

DIVISION 2

Oct. 31 at Lake Erie Metropark TEAM STANDINGS (top 3 qualify for state finals): 1. Dearborn Divine Child, 29; 2. Grosse Ile, 107; 3. Trenton, 107; 4. Livonia Ladywood, 115; 5. Monroe Jefferson, 137; 6. Riverview, 166; 7. South Lyon East, 174; 8. New Boston Huron, 200; 9. Ypsilanti, 207; 10. Carleton Airport, 211; 11. Gibraltar Carlson, 281; 12. Dearborn Heights Annapolis, 327.

Individual winner: Erica Crane (Divine Child), 19:10.1.

Ladywood finishers: 6. Meredith Houska, 20:40.3 (sq); 13. De'Yana Walker, 21:09.0 (sq); 25. Erica Mucci, 22:05.7; 33. Meghan Talley, 22:32.0; 38. Shannon Scarlett, 22:46.7; 39. Cathy Wojtanowski, 22:48.1; 44. Rebecca Babon, 23:01.9.

(sq): individual state qualifier.

DIVISION 4

Oct. 31 at Lake Erie Metropark TEAM STANDINGS (top 3 qualify for state finals): 1. Lutheran High Westland, 34 points; 2. Sand Creek, 64; 3. Ann Arbor Greenhills, 71; 4. Adrian Lenawee Christian, 86; 5. Ottawa Lake Whiteford, 109; 6. Wyandotte Mount Carmel, 151; 23:01.9.

Individual winner: Winonah Krug (Newport Lutheran South), 20:12.6.

Lutheran Westland finishers: 4. Sarah Maynard, 21:10.5; 5. Erin Lytle, 22:05.6; 7. Jess Rice, 22:11.4; 9. Jessica Drife, 22:46.3; 14. Angela Morrison, 23:24.3; 17. Brittany Maynard, 23:40.7; 28. Ashley Pniewski, 24:43.0.

BOYS CROSS COUNTRY RESULTS

MHSAA REGIONAL BOYS CROSS COUNTRY RESULTS

DIVISION 1

Oct. 31 at Willow Metropark TEAM STANDINGS (top 3 qualify for state finals): 1. Ann Arbor Pioneer, 23; 2. Plymouth, 71; 3. Ann Arbor Huron, 79; 4. Canton, 87; 5. Salem, 158; 6. Dearborn, 190; 7. Dearborn Edsel Ford, 200; 8. Livonia Churchill, 209; 9. Dearborn Heights Crestwood, 240; 10. Livonia Franklin, 240; 11. Westland John Glenn, 328; 12. Romulus, 380; 13. Garden City, 384; 14. Wayne, no team score.

Individual winner: Nathan Karr (Pioneer), 15:57.6 (5,000 meters).

AREA TEAM-BY-TEAM FINISHERS

A.A. Pioneer (23): 1. Nathan Karr, 15:57.2; Adam Kern, 16:08; 5. Muhammad Sani, 16:20; 6. Nick Kern, 16:32; 9. Joe Frakes, 16:48; 11. Andy Sanz-Guerrero, 16:55; 17. Sebastian Ag, 17:04.

Plymouth (71): 3. Joe Porcari, 16:15; 7. Matt Neumann, 16:37; 14. Warren Buzzard, 16:57; 16. Derek Gielarowski, 17:01; 31. Jimmy Maciag, 17:45; 34. Garrett Neumann, 17:56; 43. Justin Heck, 18:22.

A.A. Huron (79): 4. Kevin Egedy, 16:16; 8. Josh Orton, 16:42; 19. Patrick Tincher, 17:12; 20.

Jacob Hagle-Rablovsky, 17:15; 28. Evan Stemmer, 17:42; 35. Akshay Jetli, 17:59; 51. Patrick Jobst, 18:37.

Churchill (209): 30. Tom Windle, 17:44; 36. Quinn Osgood, 18:05; 40. Cody Rossier, 18:16; 50. Ryan Wise, 18:36; 53. Ryan Keeling, 18:47; 54. Stephen Charnley, 18:52; 59. Sam Yurgil, 19:18.

Franklin (240): 29. Nik Gherardini, 17:43; 46. Bobby Wilson, 18:25; 47. Joe Steckel, 18:27; 56. Mike Witt, 19:01; 62. Bryan Schultz, 19:33; 63. Austin Jones, 19:37; 66. Zach Belanger, 19:49.

John Glenn (328): 52. Jason Suarez, 18:40; 60. Ruben Maya, 19:26; 69. Ryan Boes, 20:00; 70. Michael Dalton, 20:08.81. Kevin Wacker, 21:44; 82. Chris Jones, 22:02; 83. Steve Shack, 22:30.

Wayne (no score): 65. Tyler Henderson, 19:47; 72. Darren Homborg, 20:16; 84. Kyle McKague, 22:43; 92. Dionte Burton, 27:06.

(sq): individual state qualifier.

Oct. 30 at Huron Meadows TEAM STANDINGS (top 3 qualify for state finals): 1. Pinckney, 39; 2. Novi-Detroit Catholic Central, 41; 3. Novi, 91; 4. Brighton, 94; 5. Northville, 105; 6. South Lyon, 169; 7. Farmington, 225; 8. University of Detroit Jesuit,

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Blazers romp in district opener

Ashley Hines and Cheyenne Woodall collected eight and seven kills, respectively, leading Livonia Ladywood to a 25-7, 25-5, 25-4 victory Monday over Detroit Communication & Media Arts in a Class B district opener at Livonia Clarenceville.

The Blazers, 34-22 overall, also got 30 assist-to-kills from Alex Hines and seven ace serves from McKenzie Kettner.

Stevenson rolls by RU

On Monday, host Livonia Stevenson improved to 28-20-2 overall with a 25-14, 25-16, 25-10 Class A district win over Redford Union.

Individual leaders for the Spartans included Kelly Vellucci (six kills), Reina Tyl (four kills, four aces), Shelby Wilson (nine digs), Claire LeBlanc (eight assists); and Kristen Balhorn (two aces).

Churchill drills Thurston

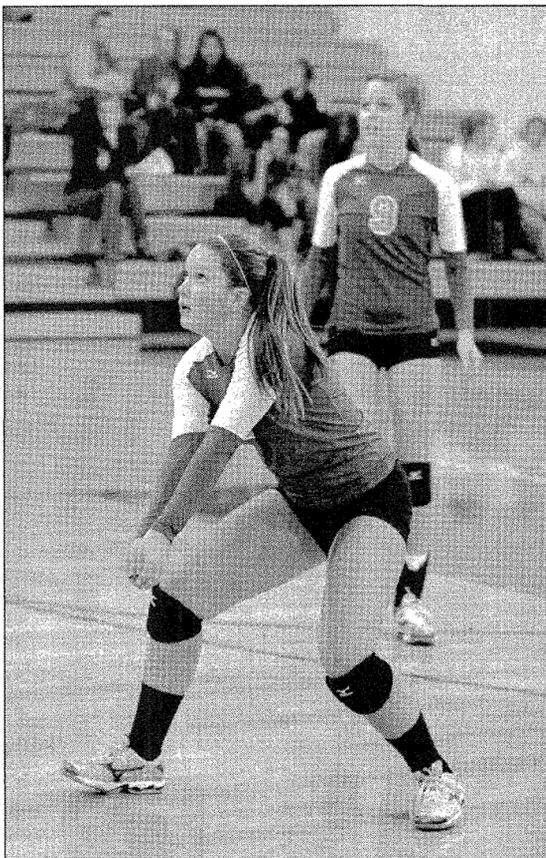
Junior setter Cory Urbats dished out 36 assists and added 10 digs as state-ranked Livonia Churchill rolled to a 25-7, 25-10, 25-11 Class A district triumph Monday over Redford Thurston in a match at Livonia Stevenson.

Other standouts for the Chargers, who improved to 48-15 overall, included Cierra Yetts (15 kills), Sarah Suppelsa (12 kills, 11 digs), Taylor Kerr (17 digs), Kristi Walker (12-for-12 serving, five aces) and Kaylie Secord (four kills, three assists).

Glenn blocks Romulus

Halie Baker finished with 15 kills and two blocks Monday as host Westland John Glenn rolled to a 25-7, 25-17, 25-13 Class A district win over Romulus.

Brittani Robinson added seven kills, while Brooke Zywick paced the defense



Ladywood's Christie Aurand awaits the attack flanked by teammate Erin Barnes during Monday's Class B district volleyball opener against Detroit Communication & Media Arts.

with 47 digs as the Rockets improved to 16-17-1 overall. Other standouts for Glenn included Lauren Baker (11 digs), sarah Headrick (nine digs), Mercedes Robinson and Zywick (three aces each). "This was a solid team effort tonight," Glenn coach Julian Wargo said. "Our setters (Lauren Baker and Sarah Headrick) did a great job of

distributing the ball, which allowed our attackers to swing away. "Our defense brought up a lot of balls and moved very well. As the saying goes: "The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step." "Well, we have made huge steps forward this season. I am looking forward to what the next step brings."

City champion Glenn seizes Gleaners Cup

Host Westland John Glenn emerged the victor in the first-ever City Championship girls volleyball tournament, but the big beneficiary Saturday was the Gleaners Community Foodbank.

The four-team tournament featuring schools from Wayne-Westland also raised \$190 in donations, while collecting over 300 pounds of canned foods.

"We'll be able to leverage this money into meals for over 1,000 area families," said Bill Winkler, who represents Gleaners.

Glenn captured all three matches, including a 26-24, 25-12 victory over Lutheran High Westland in the final round, to earn the first-place trophy, aptly named the Gleaners Cup.

"I was happy to win, but the real winners were the Gleaners," Glenn coach Julian Wargo said. "They do so much for our community and it's

PREP VOLLEYBALL

good that all of our area student-athletes were able to contribute to this great organization in a fun and competitive way."

Round One matches featured Glenn over Westland Huron Valley Lutheran, 25-17, 25-19, while Lutheran Westland downed Wayne Memorial, 25-19, 27-25.

In Round Two, Glenn bested rival Wayne, 25-14, 25-13, while Lutheran Westland defeated next-door neighbor Huron Valley, 25-17, 25-22.

Wayne also beat Huron Valley in the final round, 25-19, 25-21.

Among those named to the All-City team were Halie Baker and Brittani Robinson, John Glenn; Rachel Storck and Nicole Zehel, Lutheran Westland; Kerri and Katie Horton, Wayne; Leah Miller

and Kelly Kubinski, Huron Valley.

Storck had 13 kills, six blocks, and was 21-for-21 serving with three aces on the day, while Zehel had eight kills, 21 digs and was 32-of-32 serving with 18 points.

Other Lutheran Westland standouts included Lauren Switzer (31 assists), Emily Wilson (six kills, 14 digs), Emilie Freeman (11 kills, eight solo blocks); Alyssa Shirkey (12 digs) and Taylor Wiemer (10 digs).

"We really enjoyed playing against the other schools in the Wayne-Westland School district," Lutheran Westland coach Kevin Wade said. "We also were proud to help raise money and donate goods to such a great cause. Giving back to the community is much more rewarding than winning a match. It's about learning life's lessons through volleyball and I think we did that today."

GIRLS SWIM RESULTS

KLAA CENTRAL DIVISION GIRLS SWIM MEET Oct. 30-31 at Novi H.S.

TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Novi, 577 points; 2. Livonia Stevenson, 512.5; 3. Northville, 457.5; 4. Salem, 341; 5. South Lyon, 313.

FINAL EVENT RESULTS

200-yard medley relay: 1. Novi (Andrea VanderMey, Meredith Cote, Maranda Buha, Madalyn Buha), 1:51.57; 2. South Lyon, 1:55.05; 3. Northville (A), 1:54.68; 4. Stevenson, 1:54.89; 5. Salem, 1:59.76; 6. Northville (B), 2:09.62.

200 freestyle: 1. Kaylee Dolinski (LS), 2:00.03; 2. Emily Nelson (Salem), 2:00.65; 3. Abby Aumiller (Salem), 2:03.62; 4. Kelsey Shurmur (Novi), 2:03.78; 5. Evelyn Stein (LS), 2:05.94; 6. Maddie Gorman (Salem), 2:06.39.

200 individual medley: 1. VanderMey (Novi), 2:10.76; 2. Lauren Seroka (Salem), 2:12.23; 3. Cote (Novi), 2:13.59; 4. Shaelyn Dolinski (LS), 2:22.27; 5. Leah Eerlandson (N'ville), 2:24.19; 6. Irene Li (Salem), 2:24.6.

50 freestyle: 1. Maranda Buha (Novi), 25.25; 2. Rachel Green (SL), 25.28; 3. Savannah Hatt (LS), 25.68; 4. Corinne Caldwell (SL), 26.0; 5. Madalyn Buha (Novi), 26.02; 6. Kara Berg (Novi), 26.03.

1-meter diving: 1. Carla McNamara (LS), 407.70 points; 2. Monica Gironza (SL), 385.05; 3. Rachel Eckler (SL), 346.20; 4. Kayla Nunez (SL), 325.23; 5. Kelsey Libbe (N'ville), 320.22; 6. Jennifer Jones (N'ville), 297.51.

100 butterfly: 1. Maranda Buha (Novi), 1:00.08; 2. Becca Berman (Novi), 1:00.66; 3. Faith Miller (N'ville), 1:01.67; 4. Ashley Gordon (LS), 1:02.58; 5. Shannon Lohman (N'ville), 1:02.81; 6. Caldwell (SL), 1:04.47.

100 freestyle: 1. Paige Drazga (SL), 53.65; 2. Seroka (Salem), 54.87; 3. Green (SL), 55.98; 4. Sarah Cauzillo (LS), 56.86; 5. Maddy Kipke (N'ville), 57.31; 6. Berg (Novi), 57.72.

500 freestyle: 1. Cote (Novi), 5:14.64; 2. Berman (Novi), 5:20.22; 3. Aumiller (Salem),

5:27.67; 4. Shurmur (Novi), 5:29.65; 5. Jockey Lamoureux (Salem), 5:30.27; 6. Stein (LS), 5:31.58.

200 freestyle relay: 1. Novi (Berg, Madalyn Buha, Berman, Maranda Buha), 1:43.22; 2. Northville, 1:45.87; 3. Stevenson, 1:47.66; 4. Northville, 1:48.83; 5. Salem, 1:51.35; 6. South Lyon, 1:51.83.

100 backstroke: 1. VanderMey (Novi), 59.35; 2. Nelson (Salem), 1:02.61; 3. Rachel Brown (N'ville), 1:04.03; 4. S. Dolinski (LS), 1:05.21; 5. Eerlandson (N'ville), 1:05.42; 6. Sarah Garrity, 1:05.58.

100 breaststroke: 1. Gordon (LS), 1:11.81; 2. Catherine Cui (N'ville), 1:12.72; 3. Ashley Micek (Salem), 1:13.99; 4. Cauzillo (LS), 1:14.17; 5. Kelly Burford (N'ville), 1:14.4; 6. Kayla Perchall (SL), 1:14.77.

400 freestyle relay: 1. Stevenson (Hatt, K. Dolinski, Cauzillo, Gordon), 3:44.85; 2. Novi, 3:46.58; 3. South Lyon, 3:49.11; 4. Salem, 3:49.37; 5. Northville (A), 3:53.91; 6. Northville (B), 3:58.46.

KLAA SOUTH DIVISION GIRLS SWIM MEET

Oct. 30-31 at Westland John Glenn TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Plymouth, 630 points; 2. Canton, 617; 3. Westland John Glenn, 341.5; 4. Livonia Franklin, 308.5; 5. Livonia Churchill, 216; 6. Wayne Memorial, 95.

FINAL EVENT RESULTS

200-yard medley relay: 1. Plymouth (Emily Toro, Sijia Hao, Rachel Huhta, Abby Kelly), 1:58.09; 2. Canton (A), 2:04.26; 3. Canton (B), 2:06.57; 4. John Glenn (A), 2:06.89; 5. Plymouth (B), 2:07.1; 6. Churchill (A), 2:13.75.

200 freestyle: 1. Stephanie Matsui (P), 2:03.19; 2. Delaney Adams (C), 2:03.42; 3. Eyster (C), 2:04.20; 4. Kaitlyn Kozyn (LF), 2:07.56; 5. Emily Weiner (P), 2:08.43; 6. Carolyn Stoddard (P), 2:10.02.

200 individual medley: 1. Linda Erickson (P), 2:18.90; 2. Natalie Cote (LF), 2:20.22; 3.

Casey Peterson (WJG), 2:20.61; 4. Hao (P), 2:21.51; 5. Irwin (C), 2:21.86; 6. Orr (C), 2:25.23.

50 freestyle: 1. Kari Schmitt (C), 26.17; 2. Michelle Chang (P), 26.26; 3. Kelly (P), 26.83; 4. Sara Schmitt (C), 26.84; 5. Colleen Anthony (LF), 26.89; 6. Khiry Sparks (WJG), 26.89.

1-meter diving: 1. Desiree Clenney (WJG), 354.90 points; 2. Katina St. Pierre (LC), 337.40; 3. Robyn Piwowar (C), 291.25; 4. Mallory Hudak (C), 287.50; 5. Kendra Burke (WJG), 218.60; 6. Brooke Graham (WJG), 195.10.

100 butterfly: 1. Kayla Douglas (LF), 1:00.70; 2. Adams (Canton), 1:03.15; 3. Emily Toro (P), 1:07.66; 4. Allison Mayer (LC), 1:08.11; 5. Rachael Alhoimna (WJG), 1:08.61; 6. Dugas (C), 1:09.40.

100 freestyle: 1. K. Schmitt (C), 56.46; 2. Matsui (P), 57.09; 3. Chang (P), 57.11; 4. Kozyn (LF), 58.73; 5. Eyster (C), 58.74; 6. S. Schmitt (C), 58.76.

500 freestyle: 1. Hao (P), 5:30.64; 2. Cote (LF), 5:33.46; 3. Irwin (C), 5:34.61; 4. Kelly (P), 5:46.45; 5. Stoddard (P), 5:48.74; 6. Christine O'Keefe (C), 5:49.32.

200 freestyle relay: 1. Plymouth (Erickson, Chantel Cote, Chang, Matsui), 1:45.09; 2. Franklin (A), 1:45.57; 3. Canton (A), 1:45.76; 4. Plymouth (B), 1:49.84; 5. John Glenn (A), 1:51.20; 6. Canton (B), 1:53.78.

100 backstroke: 1. Douglas (LF), 59.85; 2. Toro (P), 1:04.75; 3. Erickson (P), 1:05.70; 4. Orr (C), 1:07.28; 5. Huhta (P), 1:08.40; 6. Elthier (P), 1:09.37.

100 breaststroke: 1. Sparks (WJG), 1:12.39; 2. Peterson (WJG), 1:12.54; 3. Sara Krebs (C), 1:12.88; 4. Kaii Aloisi (WJG), 1:14.68; 5. Kelly Bedro (C), 1:16.26; 6. Lydia Matson (P), 1:17.12.

400 freestyle relay: 1. Plymouth (Erickson, Weiner, Matsui, Chang), 3:49.43; 2. Franklin (A), 3:50.44; 3. Plymouth (B), 3:56.19; 4. Canton (A), 3:56.74; 5. Canton (B), 4:00.12; 6. John Glenn, 4:11.44.

THE WEEK AHEAD

PREP FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS

Saturday, Nov. 7 (Division 1-Region 2-District-2) Stevenson at Novi-Detroit CC, 7:30 p.m.

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL DISTRICT TOURNAMENT PAIRINGS

CLASS A

at LIVONIA STEVENSON

Thursday, Nov. 5: Championship final, 7 p.m. (Winner advances regional semifinal Tuesday, Nov. 10 at Hazel Park vs. Detroit Cody district champion.)

at WESTLAND JOHN GLENN

Friday, Nov. 6: Championship final, 7 p.m. (Winner advances regional semifinal Tuesday, Nov. 10 at Gibraltar Carlson vs. Carleton-Airport district champion.)

CLASS B

at LIVONIA CLARENCEVILLE

Friday, Nov. 6: Championship final, 7 p.m. (Winner advances to the regional semifinal Tuesday, Nov. 10 at Clarenceville vs. Dearborn Divine Child district champion.)

CLASS D

at ALLEN PARK INTER-CITY BAPTIST **Thursday, Nov. 5:** Detroit Westside Christian Academy vs. Allen Park Inter-City Baptist, 5:30 p.m.; Westland Huron Valley Lutheran vs. Lutheran High Westland, 7 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 6: Championship final, 7 p.m. (Winner advances to the regional semifinal Tuesday, Nov. 10 at Birmingham Roeper vs. Marine City Cardinal Mooney district champion.)

GIRLS SWIMMING & DIVING

Friday, Nov. 5

Kensington Conf. Diving at Novi, 5 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 6

Kensington Conf. finals at Novi, noon.

BOYS & GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY

MHSAA FINALS at MIS (Brooklyn)

Saturday, Nov. 7

Division 3-4 Girls, 10 & 10:30 a.m.

Division 4-3 Boys, 11 & 11:30 a.m.

Division 2-1 Girls, 1:30 & 2 p.m.

Division 2-1 Boys, 2:30 & 3 p.m.

WOMEN'S COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL

Thursday, Nov. 5

Madonna at Warner Southern (Fla.), 6 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 6

(NJCAA District E Tournament at Grand Rapids CC)

Schoolcraft vs. Owens (Ohio), 6 p.m.

Saturday-Sunday, Nov. 7-8

NJCAA District E Tourney at Grand Rapids CC, TBA.

MEN'S COLLEGE SOCCER

Saturday, Nov. 7

(NJCAA Central District final)

Illinois Central at Schoolcraft, noon.

WOMEN'S COLLEGE SOCCER

Saturday, Nov. 7

(WHAC Tourney semifinals)

Madonna at Siena Heights, noon.

(NJCAA District D final)

Schoolcraft at Elgin (Ill.), noon (CST).

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Saturday, Nov. 7

Huntington (Ind.) at Madonna, 6 p.m.

(Erie CC Invitational, Buffalo, N.Y.)

Cuyahoga (Ohio) vs. Seneca (Ont.), 3 p.m.

Schoolcraft vs. Erie CC (N.Y.), 5 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 8

Erie (N.Y.) Invitational, 1 & 3 p.m.

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Friday, Nov. 6

Jackson CC at Schoolcraft, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 7

Madonna at Eastern Michigan, 2 p.m.

Lansing CC at Schoolcraft, 3 p.m.

TBA - time to be announced.



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NJCAA runner-up Lady Ocelots eye mountain-top after stellar 2008-09 season

BY JIM TOTH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Expectations are running extremely high with Schoolcraft College women's basketball team, and with good reasons, too.

Not only are the Ocelots coming off a stellar 32-3 campaign in which they wound up runners-up to Kirkwood (Ia.) Community College in the NJCAA Division II Women's Basketball Championship Tournament, and not only do they return a solid core of experienced players from that highly successful squad, but they also have reloaded the roster with promising freshmen focused on making a return trip into the national spotlight.

"Expectations around here are very

high," voiced Ocelots coach Karen Lafata, set to begin her 12th season at the helm of the program. "We're really deep and considerably taller that last year, but we know we're entering this season with a target on our backs after what we accomplished a year ago."

Those accomplishments, along with those lofty expectations, have the Ocelots ranked No. 2 in the NJCAA Division II pre-season basketball poll entering their season opener Friday night against Jackson Community College in the Schoolcraft Tip-off Classic.

The return of starters Antania Shepherd and April Goins are the key

elements in Schoolcraft's mission to once again vie for a national championship.

Goins is a 6-foot sophomore forward who finished last season as the team's second-leading scorer, averaging nearly 15 points per game.

"She played center last year, but we'll bring her out more to the perimeter this year," Lafata said. "She is very talented and we feel she'll be a real threat outside."

Shepherd, meanwhile, is a 5-10 sophomore forward who tossed in 11 points per game last season and "is the glue of the team," according to Lafata.

"She's so steady that sometimes you forget she's even out there," Lafata said. "She's quiet and effective."

The duo will likely be joined in the

starting line-up by sophomore Angela Burrell at point guard and sophomore Jasmine Brown at shooting guard. Both saw considerable action in 2008-09.

Sophomore Amber Avery (Southfield Lathrup) is the fifth starter and a 5-8 sophomore, whose aggressiveness and rebounding prowess make her a force on both ends of the court.

What has Lafata beaming with excitement is the additions of 6-foot freshman Kimberly Bee and 5-11 transfer Emelda Chew to the front-court.

"Kimberly can jump out of the gym," Lafata said. "She can really sky, while Chew is more of a slasher and can really drive the ball to the basket. Both will really help us."

Added size and depth to the Ocelots' frontcourt will be provided by freshmen Diamond Smith (6-3), Sarah Jury (6-4, Livonia Ladywood) and Nakia Griffin (6-0, Livonia Churchill).

Rounding out the 2009-10 Schoolcraft roster will be freshmen Jalesa Moise (Plymouth), Allayah Craighead and Elaina Mathis.

"We had a very hard working and athletic team last year that was very special," Lafata said. "A lot of things went right for us, and even though we have high expectations this season, everything must go right for us again to get back there (NJCAA tournament), which is always one of our goals."

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Dynamic duo carries Crusader hoop hopes

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

College.

Could this be the year?

After coming within of game of earning a spot in the NAIA Division II National Tournament, the Madonna University women's basketball team harbors even higher expectations for the 2009-10 season.

The Crusaders, 15-17 last year under third-year coach Carl Graves, were recently tabbed third in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference's preseason coaches poll only behind No. 3-ranked Davenport University and No. 17 Aquinas College. (Graves is 44-52 in three seasons.)

Earning votes in the inaugural Top 25 national preseason rankings, MU will be led by Kim Olech, a 6-foot senior center from Plymouth High, and Tabatha Wydryck, a 6-1 junior forward from Riverview Gabriel Richard.

Olech, who averaged a 11.4 points and 10.6 rebounds per game a year ago, earned first-team All-WHAC honors as well as third-team NAIA All-America honors. She was also named WHAC Newcomer of the Year after transferring from Albion

Wydryck, meanwhile, is coming off of an overseas tour representing the U.S. in Europe. She was tabbed to the preseason All-WHAC second-team and made the conference's All-Defensive team after posting a 10.3 point per game average in addition to 4.9 rebounds per game in 2008-09.

Other returnees for the Crusaders include 5-4 junior guard Erin Bentley, 5-7 junior guard Katie Mount, 5-2 sophomore guard Katie Martin and 5-8 sophomore forward Heather Goodwin.

Among the newcomers are freshmen Kaylee McGrath, a 6-1 freshman from Livonia Stevenson; Kristie Porada, a 5-9 guard from Gibraltar Carlson; Shantelle Herring, a 5-8 guard from Macomb Dakota; and Heather Pratt, a 5-7 guard from Flushing.

The Crusaders have also added 5-6 sophomore guard Stacey Szerlag, a transfer from Olivet College via Gabriel Richard H.S.

Madonna opens its 2009-10 season, 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 7, with an exhibition game at NCAA Division I member Eastern Michigan University.

Acuff's 31 lifts Ocelots in opener

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It was only the first game of the season, but it may have been the most important one in Randy Henry's three-year tenure as Schoolcraft College men's basketball coach.

Bolstered by the 31-point outing from freshman guard John Acuff, the Ocelots roared back from a 16-point first-half deficit to beat visiting Jackson Community College, 87-84.

Rocked by the dismissal of five players and the resignation of two assistant coaches from an internal team physical hazing incident the previous week following an off-campus practice, Schoolcraft suited up only nine players - all freshmen - for its 2009-10 season opener.

"It was a great win for a lot of reasons," said Henry, who entered the opener with an less than stellar 10-48 record in two seasons. "A lot of people in the stands wanted to see us lose. I'm very proud for our guys. And for our mental state, we needed this win. We needed some-

thing positive."

Jackson led 50-43 at halftime behind 6-foot-7 center Nick Minnerath's 16 points. But the Truro, Mass. native was ineffective in the second half and finished with only two more points before fouling out.

That opened the door for the Ocelots, who held the Jets to 31.8 percent shooting from the field (14-of-44) during the second half.

"We weren't being on the same page the first half," said Acuff, who missed an uncharacteristic four free throws during the final 16 seconds. "We were more worried about who would score. The second half was more about teamwork than going individual."

Acuff, a 6-2 guard from Warren Lincoln, got hot late in the game scoring nine straight points, including a basket with 4:52 remaining to give Schoolcraft the lead for keeps, 77-76.

Two free throws by Marcel Stewart with 34.9 seconds to go helped seal the victory.

"We had a lot of doubters, a lot of people who didn't think we were going to win," said Acuff, the Detroit native who averaged 17 points per

game as a senior at Lincoln. "The coach said at halftime, 'It's all on you. I had to be a leader and step up.'"

Aaron Felsner, a 6-6 center from Allen Park, added 19 points before fouling out late for the Ocelots, who shot 15-for-31 from the floor during the second half (48.3 percent).

Gregory Morgan II (Redford Thurston) and Trevor Zacny added 11 and 10 points, respectively.

Three other Jackson players scored in double figures including Kyle MacDonald (16), Jalen Jarrett (12) and Clifton Ross (11).

Henry, meanwhile, was pleasantly surprised with Acuff's outing. The lone negative was his free throw shooting.

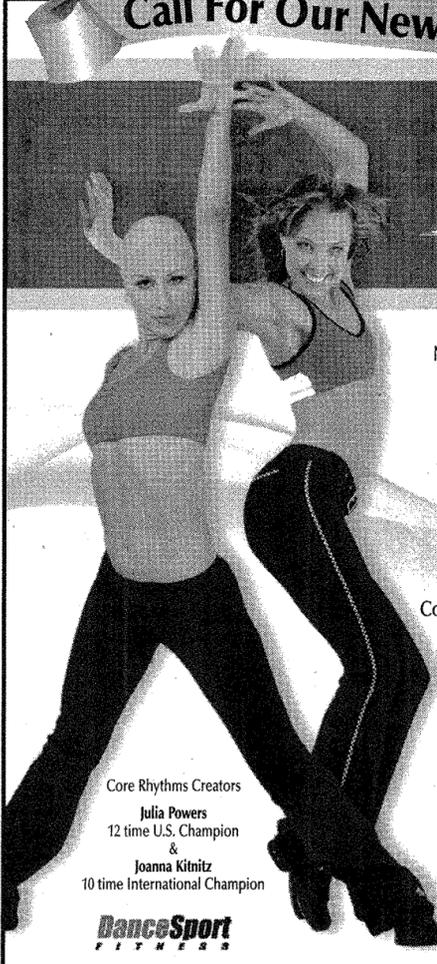
"He's shown flashes of brilliance," the Schoolcraft coach said. "His first step is quicker than I thought. In our two scrimmages he showed great quickness and the ability to take his guy off the dribble."

"Yesterday in practice in missed only one free throw, but today he went 0-for-5 down the stretch."

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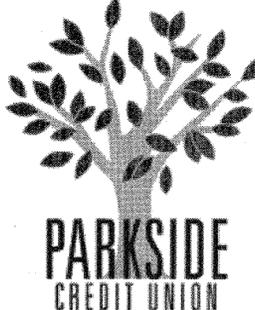
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Westland-Garden City Strictly Business

Blood donation gets him a new car

For Fredrick Chapman, donating blood last summer was his lucky day.

The Shelby Township man won the grand prize for a summer promotion the Red Cross Southeastern Michigan Blood Services Region sponsored to get people moving to donate blood.

Chapman began donating back to when his son was born with bladder and kidney complications and stuck with it year after year. Last year he was laid off, but the date turned lucky for him when, exactly one year later, he won the grand prize a 36-month lease on a brand new 2010 Mercury Milan, donated by Metropolitan Lincoln Mercury in Garden City.

Chapman was happy about winning the car, which he said will be driven by his wife Debra.

According to Bridget Tuohey, communications manager of Southeastern Michigan Blood Services Region, the Red Cross is "constantly looking for new ways to encourage donors at the American Red Cross, especially

in the summer months when people are traveling, on vacation and school is out of session."

"Because we typically have fewer opportunities to collect during the summer, the Mercury Milan lease giveaway from Metropolitan was a great and fun incentive," said Tuohey.

This is the fourth new vehicle lease Metropolitan Lincoln Mercury has donated to the American Red Cross. "It's our way of saying "thank you" to all the people who donate blood to the American Red Cross," said John Obeid, Metropolitan Lincoln Mercury dealer. "We are happy to support the Red Cross and the donors who help save lives in our local communities."

During the campaign, which ran from May 18 to Sept. 13, 72,000 units of blood were collected in southeastern Michigan. Out of all the presenting donors, 24 finalists were randomly selected for the lease giveaway. Some of the finalists were first time donors and others had donated blood almost six dozen times. In all, the final-

ists donated blood 549 times.

Other giveaway prizes included a portable DVD player, portable GPS system, and gas cards ranging from \$25 to \$100.

The Southeastern Michigan Blood Services Region serves five counties, and needs to collect about 900 units of blood a day to meet patient need in 43 hospitals. In addition to providing blood to the community, the American Red Cross also provides relief to victims of disaster, trains millions in lifesaving skills, serves as a communication link between U.S. military members and their families, and assists victims of international disasters or conflicts.

The need for blood is ongoing, and residents can give by calling 1-800-GIVE-LIFE to make an appointment to donate or by going online to givelife.org. Donors must be at least 17 years of age, meet height and weight requirements (at least 110 pounds based on height), and are in good general health. All donors must present positive identification.



Fredrick Chapman jumps for joy after learning he won the 36-month lease of a Mercury Milan in an American Red Cross blood donation promotion.

Reorganizing

Last week, Max & Erma's filed for Chapter 11 protection from creditors which amounts to a reorganization for all locations in Michigan, and it means business as usual for the restaurants, including its Westland location at 6601 Newburgh at Warren Road.

According to Marie Brown, area director, Max & Erma's is still generating positive cash flow. The restaurant chain was bought out about 1 1/2 years ago when times were much better. This purchase

would have been fine under normal circumstances, but given the current market conditions, Max & Erma's has been impacted as have many other family restaurants and bigger chains, she said.

"The only reason a reorganization was filed is because there was about \$23 million in debt with National City Bank that occurred under prior management," corporate spokesman Tracy Coats told *The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers* last week. "We're now in a position where we can negotiate with the lenders for a more

palatable payment. But the operations themselves are profitable."

The company filed Oct. 23 for protection in U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Pittsburgh. Coats said it will take about 90-120 days before the reorganization is complete.

Pittsburgh-based G&R Acquisitions bought Max & Erma's for \$10.2 million in April 2008. The popular dining chain has 79 company-owned restaurants and an additional 32 owned by franchisees. Coats said all of them are staying open.

Max and Erma's is open 11 a.m.

to 10 p.m. Sunday-Thursday, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. and Friday and Saturday. For more information, call (734) 728-6733.

Solution Saturday

IRS tax specialists are now taking appointments for Solution Saturday, an IRS program that will offer personalized help for metro Detroit taxpayers.

IRS tax experts on all subjects will be on hand to discuss debt forgiveness, foreclosure, bankruptcy, payment plans, penalties, past-due tax returns or any

other complex tax issue. Solution Saturday will have IRS employees, including many that are not typically available directly to public, to work face-to-face with taxpayers to address tax problems or issues. IRS employees will also be available to fill out and file past due tax returns from as late as 2003.

Solution Saturday will be 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 7, at the McNamara Federal Building, 477 Michigan Ave., Detroit. Taxpayers are encouraged to schedule appointments as soon as possible by calling (313) 628-

3120. While appointments are recommended for one-on-one service, individuals without an appointment can visit on Solution Saturday to get detailed informational from a variety of educational booths.

Educational booths will offer information on getting the most out of the new tax credits created by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, starting a new business, dealing with difficult tax issues, and navigating the many helpful IRS programs like Free File.

BUSINESS NEWSMAKERS

BUSINESS MILESTONES

SPECIAL EVENTS

Food collection
Time/date: Monday, Nov. 9, through Sunday, Dec. 13

Location: Art Van Furniture, 8300 N. Wayne Road, north of Cowan, Westland

Details: Join Art Van Furniture and WXYZ-Channel 7 to help feed the hungry this holiday season

by collecting food for Gleaners Community Food Bank and St. Vincent de Paul community food depots. Drop off your nonperishable food donations at the Art Van Furniture store.

Contact: (734) 425-9600

New location

Location: Simply Polish, 6201 Middlebelt Road, Garden City

Details: Suzan Marzec, who has celebrated her 20th Anniversary of passing on Polish folklore dancing as well as the customs and traditions of the land where her father was born, has moved her Simply Polish store from Livonia to Garden City. The store offers Polish pottery, amber, jewelry, glass ornaments and more. Hours are noon-5 p.m. Monday and Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. The store is closed Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday.

Comedy night

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 7

Location: Maxwell's Art and Treasures, 32416 Industrial, north of Ford, Garden City

Details: Mark Maze will bring his blend of comedy and magic to the 1 1/2-hour show. Tickets are \$12 for the show which is recommended for adults.

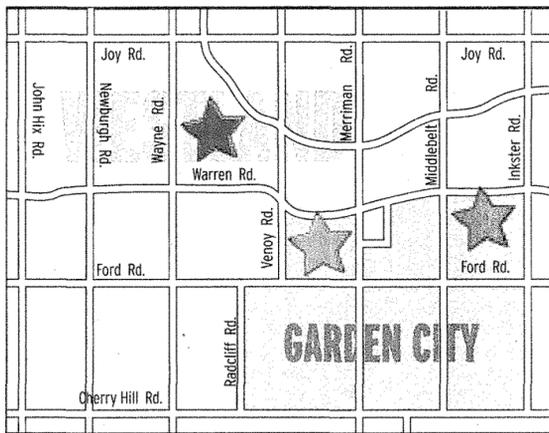
Contact: (734) 427-530 or online at www.markmaze.com or www.maxwellsartandtreasures.com

Gift Certificates

Time/date: 7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 21

Location: Mary Denning's Cake Shoppe, 8036 N. Wayne Road, Westland

Details: Mary Denning's Cake Shoppe is now offering Gift Certificates



specifically tailored to schools and other worthy organizations. Each gift certificate is redeemable for a different tasty treat each month of the year. These gift certificates are valued at over \$100 and can be purchased for resale by your school or organization for the low price of \$25 each. Suggested sales price is \$30 each, with \$5 going to the school or organization.

Contact: (734) 261-3680

Buy one, get one

Location: Hawthorne Valley, 7300 N. Merriman, between Warren Road and Ann Arbor Trail, Westland

Details: Hawthorne Valley is offering six buy one, get one free dinners - Lake Superior whitefish, \$14.75; liver and onions, \$10.75; almond chicken, \$11.95; shrimp in a basket, \$10.95; chicken marsala, \$10.95, and New York strip steak, \$14.95 (9 ounce) or \$16.95 (12 ounce). It includes a choice of two sides. There's a two beverage minimum.

Contact: (734) 422-3440, www.hawthornevalley.com

Holiday Farmers/Gift Market

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 7 and Thursday, Nov. 14

Location: Garden City High School, 6500 Middlebelt, north of Ford, Garden City

Details: Hosted by Garden City Schools, Garden City Chamber of Commerce and Garden City Maplewood Community Center, Parks and Recreation, the Hometown

Holiday Farmers/Gift Market will feature Crafts, baked goods, plants, jewelry and much more. Admission is free.

Contact: Garden City Chamber at (734) 422-4448

Coffee Connection

Time/Date: 8-9 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 17

Location: Panera Bread, 35300 Warren Road, west of Wayne Road, Westland

Details: The Westland Chamber of Commerce is hosting an informal gathering of members over coffee. No need to reserve a spot, no need to sign in when you get there. Just bring plenty of business cards and a couple of bucks for breakfast. Just get there when you can make a few connections and head on to work.

Contact: (734) 326-7222

SEND IT
Get in on the Strictly Business page of the Observer by sending us your business news, promotions, events or milestones. It's simple. Just e-mail all of the details to editor Sue Mason at ason@hometownlife.com and she'll take care of the rest. You can also mail the information to Sue Mason, The Observer, 615 W. Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226. Our local business page runs each Thursday in your Observer. We welcome comments and suggestions, too. We're looking forward to hearing from you.

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Buy a gift and aid a charity at Alternative Christmas Fair

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

The 9th Annual Alternative Christmas Fair in Farmington Hills is so popular with non-profit vendors, that it filled every available booth in September — two months before the Nov. 14 event.

“Our letters (invitations) go out in September, but we were full in September. We’ve maxed out before and that’s because we use every available spot we have,” said Jessica Beamer, who has coordinated the shopping event for eight years. “It’s a huge event.”

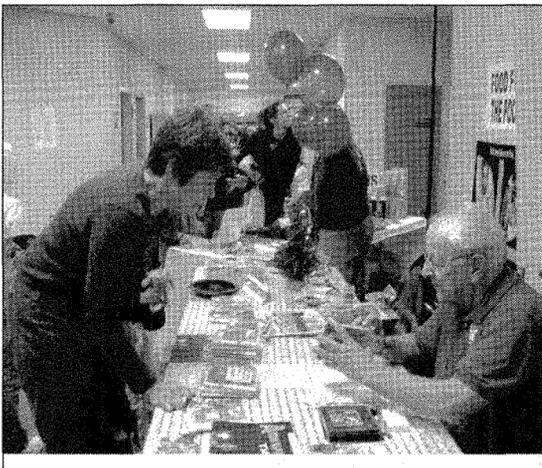
Hope Lutheran Church and St. Fabian Catholic Church, both of Farmington Hills, co-sponsor the fair, which gives shoppers a chance to buy gifts and help charities at the same time. Forty six nonprofits will be on hand.

“We have a waiting list of organizations every year,” said Joy DeFranco, this year’s coordinator. “We close out (the vendor list) early. I’d like to think it’s because of the quality of this event. But beyond that, it offers attendees a wide range of opportunities to make a difference. We have old favorites return each year but new charities as well.”

New this year are Band of Angels, a Rochester-based nonprofit that assists Down syndrome children and their families, and F.B.I. Assistance Dogs of Oxford, which trains canines to assist individuals who experience seizures. The acronym represents “For Better Independence.”

Autistic students from Burger School in Garden City will make chocolates, cookies and dog bones to sell at the fair.

Other first-time attendees include the Eli Foundation, which will sell art photos, plants and a tribute CD to raise money for leukemia patients; Three Cups of Tea/Pennies for Peace, which will sell gift baskets, books and items made by children, to support construction of schools for girls in Afghanistan, and Volunteer



Becky Gee visits the Food for the Poor booth, staffed by the Rev. Chuck Roberson.



Carved olive wood items line a table at the 9th annual Alternative Christmas Fair at Hope Lutheran Church in Farmington Hills.

Africa, which will sell fair-trade African art.

Returning local favorites include Coalition on Temporary Shelter (COTS), Forgotten Harvest, Alternatives for Girls, Detroit Rescue Mission, Make a Wish Foundation, Kids for Afghan Kids, Samaritan Counseling Center, and Sweet Dreamz.

DeFranco said many international programs will be on hand to raise awareness and funds for their missions, too.

“We do have Heifer International coming and Jerusalem Crafts and Omni Worldwide. That’s what’s attractive to the people who are coming — they enjoy the diversity,” DeFranco said. Some charities sell small token gifts or cards that represent a donation made to their mis-

sion. Others sell handcrafted items that benefit the artisans.

“Either way you’re benefiting a charity and their intended recipient,” DeFranco explained.

The Alternative Christmas Fair draws approximately 700-800 visitors every year and has spawned a smaller, similar fair at Christ Church Cranbrook in Bloomfield Hills. DeFranco said the Cranbrook fair is slated for Nov. 22 with about 20 vendors.

Over the past eight years, the Farmington Hills event has raised more than \$175,000 for the participating charities.

“This is not a fund-raiser for our church, but we do have expenses. We’ll have a bake sale from our church and St. Fabian to support this endeavor. We get dozens and dozens of cookies and brownies,” DeFranco said.

In addition to the bake sale, the event will offer a children’s craft area, lunch items for purchase and live music.

The Alternative Christmas Fair will run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Hope Lutheran Church, 39200 West 12 Mile Road, just east of Haggerty. There is a \$1 admission fee for the door. For more information call (248) 553-7170 or visit www.alternativechristmasfair.org.

RELIGION CALENDAR

Religion calendar items appear on Thursdays on a space available basis. To submit an item, e-mail sdargay@hometownlife.com or write: Religion Calendar, Observer Newspapers, 615 W. Lafayette—2nd Level, Detroit, MI 48226, Attn: Sharon Dargay. Item must include the venue address and phone number and any admission costs for events. Items must be submitted at least a week in advance of publication. For a complete listing online, go to hometownlife.com.

NOV. 5-11

Christmas bazaar

9 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 7 at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, 20850 Middlebelt, Farmington Hills. Gifts, cookies, cakes and breads, door prize drawings. Free. For more information or for table rental sign-up, call Cheryl Ann at (734) 560-9278 or e-mail nalyrehc@yahoo.com. Or leave a message at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church at (248) 474-0675.

Classes

The Universalist Unitarian Church of Farmington continues its series of learning forums, 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 5, with these topics: Groundswell: Using Technologies to Get the Things You Need. Inspired by the best-selling book “Groundswell,” this session will cover the personal and business uses of social media networks; “Sun of God” will explore the numerous astrological elements that comprise so much of the Christian story; and “Beyond the Paw Print: A Support Group for those Grieving the Death of a Pet,” will appeal to those grieving the death of a beloved pet or animal companion. Refreshments at 7 p.m., with forums from 7:30-9 p.m. No advance registration is necessary. A \$5 donation is suggested. The church is located at 25301 Halsted, Farmington Hills.

Craft show

Holiday crafts, attic treasures, country store 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Nov. 6-7, at Redford Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 10000 Beech Daly Road, Redford. “Crafts ‘n More Show” is presented by the United Methodist Women with proceeds benefiting mission and church programs. Includes handmade ornaments, holiday decor, specialty gift items, canned goods and bake sale. Lunch available 11 a.m.-1 p.m. (313) 937-3170

Food drive

Kenwood Church of Christ, 20200 Merriman, Livonia, is taking reservations for its Thanksgiving food distribution. Interested parties should call the church (248) 476-8222 from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday to set up a reservation and time to pick up food on Nov. 21. The church is collecting food items from members and the community through Nov. 15. Items include instant potatoes, noodles, canned corn, peas, green beans, cranberry sauce, gravy, biscuit mix, jello, and boxed cookie mix. Community members can leave items at any time in the donation box under the canopy at the church’s front entrance.

Fund-raiser

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Livonia partner to support local needy families this Christmas with the 18th Annual Share the Bounty fund-raiser, 7 p.m., Friday, Nov. 6. Donation is \$14 and includes admission and 10 auction tickets. Additional auction tickets, available at the door, are 10 for \$10. Enjoy fun, refreshments and opportunities to win prizes. For more information contact Kathy Weinberg at (734) 464-0211.

Grief program

“GriefShare: Surviving the Holidays” is aimed at people facing the holidays after a loved one’s death. The seminar runs 6-8 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 8, at Faith Community Church, 14560 Merriman in Livonia. There is no charge for this event, but a \$4.00 donation is suggested to cover the cost of workbooks. The seminar features practical suggestions and reassurance through video interviews with counselors, grief experts and other people who have experienced the holidays after their loved one’s death. For more information call (313) 682-7491.

Speaker

Rev. Dr. Phil Hemke, director of Church Relations for Lutheran Social Services of Michigan, will speak at 5 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 7, and 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 8, at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 39020 5 Mile, Livonia. His message is entitled “Focus.” (734) 464-0211

Veteran’s Day Mass

St. Michael the Archangel Church in Livonia invites veterans, reservists, active military, and their families to a special Veterans’ Day Mass at noon, Sunday, Nov. 8. There will be an honor guard and flag-raising ceremony in front of the church at 11:45 a.m. to remember men and women who have given their lives in service of the country. The Mass will be followed by an informal reception and refreshments in the school cafeteria. A highlight of the annual gathering has been the display of many letters, pictures, and drawings by students of St. Michael’s School, remembering and thanking our military for their service, past and present. The church is located at 11441 Hubbard, immediately south of Plymouth Road, between Farmington and Merriman Roads in Livonia. (734) 261-1455, ext. 200; www.livonia-st-michael.org

Yoga

Learn how to improve your balance, strength, and flexibility, and calm your mind and body, with the help of local yoga instructor Shelley Shindler as she leads a new six-week series of relaxing yoga sessions at Congregation Beth Ahm, 5075 W. Maple, West Bloomfield. The class runs 5:30-6:45 p.m., Wednesday, starting Nov. 11. Open to the entire community. Bring yoga mat and wear comfy clothes. The series costs \$60. Financial assistance is available to help defray the cost of the class. Pre-registration is requested. For more info or to sign up, call Shelley at (248) 661-8080 or (248) 417-8000 or e-mail snslst@aol.com.

NOV. 12-18

Concert

The premiere of a new work, “Wild a Dream” is scheduled for 7 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 15, at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville. The music is by local composer Carmen Cavallero. The concert includes songs by Stephen Forster and other American composers. It is presented by the Birmingham-First Chamber Choir directed by Tom Trenney. There is no admission charge and child care is provided through age 4. For more information call Lillian Mobley at (248) 374-5928.

Craft show

9 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 14, St. Edith Church, 15089 Newburgh, Livonia; admission \$2. For more information call Michelle at (734) 516-2912.

Holiday bazaar

4-8 p.m., Friday, Nov. 13 and 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 14, at Garden City Presbyterian, located on Middlebelt, one block south of Ford Road in Garden City. On Friday pick from a large selection of goodies at the cookie walk, visit the can’t-pass-it-by-bake sale, and a fairland of wreaths, angels, bows, lights and much more. The boutique will charm with many handmade items and distinctive gifts of all kinds. All-you-can-eat turkey dinner will be served 5-7 p.m.; adults \$7, children 4-12, \$4, children under 4 free. Saturday promises the same great experiences. Lunch will be available. (734) 421-7620

Holiday shop

9 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 14, at Mt. Hope Congregational Church, 30330 Schoolcraft, Livonia. Shoppers can choose gifts from a variety of artists and vendors. The day is designed as a family event with games for children and food for purchase. There will be raffles throughout the day and a grand prize drawing at the end of the day. \$2 admission. Proceeds benefit The Haven, Oakland County’s domestic abuse shelter. For more information call Melissa Bunker at (313) 886-9074.

Praying moms

Moms in Touch International hosts a free event for praying moms, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Nov. 14, at Community Bible Church, 7372 Grand River, Brighton. Registration and light refreshments start at 8:15 a.m. Register at www.MomsInTouch.org. Contact Nancy Lantz at (810) 227-2255 or nancy@communitybible.net for more information.

St. Andrew’s Day

Worship service is at 10 a.m., with dinner and bagpipe entertainment after in the church hall, Sunday, Nov. 15, at St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. Six Mile. Pre-sale ticket prices for the dinner are \$10 for adults; and \$5 for ages 4-11. At the door price is \$12 for adults and \$6 for children. No charge for children, 3 and under. Call (313) 534-7730 for reservations.

NOV. 19-25

Concert

2 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 22, at Monastery of the Sacred Heart, 29575 Middlebelt, north of 13 Mile, in Farmington Hills. Hear sacred music featuring Lisa Agazzi, soprano, performing such favorites as “Pie Jesu,” “The Lord’s prayer,” and “Ave Maria.” Selections from Handel, Mozart, Beethoven, Bach and Gounod will be on the program. A free will offering will be accepted. For more information call Barb Glinski at (248) 553-0999 or e-mail to lglinski@aol.com.

Thanksgiving Day service

10 a.m., Nov. 26 at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville. This service will be a wonderful celebration of heritage of freedom. Dr. Jerry Smith, former Director of Music at Ward Church, will conduct the Chancel Choir and Orchestra, Teen Choir and guest musicians in “Battle Hymn of the Republic.” Invite your family and friends to launch the holiday season in prayerful thanksgiving and song. Child care provided through age 4. For more information call Lillian Mobley at (248) 374-5928.

NOV. 26-DEC. 2

Lessons and Carols

Candlelight service, 7 p.m., Nov. 29, at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville. Join the chancel choir, ensembles, instrumentalists for this time of calm reflection, of hearing and singing the carols of Advent. Childcare provided through age 4. For more information call Lillian Mobley at (248) 374-5928.

ONGOING

AWANA

Every Wednesday night Faith Bible Church offers an AWANA program for children from kindergarten through fifth grade at Faith Bible Church, 23414 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills. Drop children off or stay for a Bible study offered to parents from 7-8:30 p.m. For more information, call (248) 426-0096.

Classes/study

■ Antioch Preschool, an academic program complemented by Christian education, is enrolling 3- and 4-year-old children for the 2009-2010 school year. A new toddler class is offered Thursdays from 1-3 p.m. Extended stay enrichment for 3’s and 4’s is offered Wednesdays — children bring their lunch and enjoy literacy activities until 3 p.m. Antioch Lutheran Church is located at 13 Mile and Farmington Road in Farmington Hills. For information contact Sharon Detter, preschool director, at (248) 626-7906, Ext. 28, or e-mail to antiochpreschool@sbcglobal.net.

■ New Life Community Church, 42200 Tyler, Belleville, offers a jobs seminar, 8-9 a.m., Fridays, a reading program for students in grades K-12 and martial arts instruction, both at 10 a.m., Sundays. (734) 846-4615

■ 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 designed to reduce 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.

■ Adult and English as a Second Language literacy classes are available for those who want 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.

■ Scripture studies, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Mondays in the lower level of Our Lady of Loretto Church, Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford. Call (313) 534-9000.

■ Learner’s Bible study, 7 p.m., Mondays, in Room A101, at Ward Presbyterian Church, 40000 W. Six Mile, Northville. Call (248) 374-5920.

■ Learn 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 — at Livonia Unity, 28660 Five Mile. Classes include: 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.

■ Bible talks, 4 p.m. Sundays at the Friendship Center, 119 Newburgh, Westland. Call (734) 728-9157.

■ Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Livonia invites adults with developmental disabilities and special needs to attend a new Open Arms Bible class the second Monday of the month at the church, 34567 Seven Mile, between Farmington and Newburgh roads, Livonia. The class, which runs from 7-8 p.m., will include songs, Bible lessons, crafts and activities, prayer, snacks and fun. Contact Judy Cook at Emmanuel, (248) 442-8822 or e-mail to jcook59@att.net.

■ Tuesday Ladies Bible Study from 9:30-11:15 a.m. Tuesdays, at Detroit First Church of the Nazarene, 21260 Haggerty, north of Eight Mile. \$15 registration fee includes interdenominational study materials. Child care available for children through age 5. Call (248) 348-7600.

■ A study/discussion group focuses on relationship with God and that of other religious groups and philosophical and scientific issues that might impact faith, at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, at St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church, 26701 Joy. A group at 10:30 a.m., Thursday examines early writings not included in the Bible as well as other versions, extensions and controversies concerning Christianity. Led by interim pastor Larry Hoxey. (313) 274-3820.

Please see CALENDAR, B6

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DR. FREDERICK B. FOUST
Nov 1, 2009. Age 86. Long time resident of Plymouth and Glen Arbor. Loving husband of 63 years to Joyce. Proud father of Brian (Cathy), Craig (Denise) and Carol (Kelvin) Chen. Beloved grandfather of David, Tiair Champlin, Jennifer (Jason) DeMink, and Kari (Stephen) Foust-Christensen. Dear great grandfather of Rina Champlin, Ace Champlin and Madeline DeMink. Fred was always very active in the community by serving the following organizations: Plymouth Kiwanis Club, Plymouth Historical Museum, First Presbyterian Church-Ordained Elder, Glen Lake Association, Several Antique Car Clubs, Plymouth Community Schools Planning Commission, Plymouth Salvation Army, PTA, Little League, Boy Scouts, Delta Tau Delta Fraternity, Antique Boat Club, Michigan Dental Assoc., Crystal Downs Country Club, Model Train Club and Traverse City Child and Family Services. Fred enjoyed all sports; he was an avid golfer for 75 years. He proudly served his country for 2 years in the US Navy. The family will gather with friends on Friday 4-7:30 PM until the 7:30 PM Memorial Service at Vermeulen Funeral Home 46401 W Ann Arbor Rd., Plymouth (btwn Sheldon and Beck). In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to the First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth 701 Church St., Plymouth, MI 48170 or Glen Lake Association PO Box 551, Glen Arbor MI 49636 To share a memory, please visit vermeulenfuneralhome.com

ROBERT A. GOSHORN
Age 90. October 31, 2009. Former long-time resident of Farmington. Beloved husband of Nan for 61 years. Loving father of Gregg (Bernadette), Kevin (Andrea), and Tedi Lojewski (Robert). Also survived by nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren that he cherished. Robert served during WW II as a U.S. Army Captain under General MacArthur, earning the Bronze Star. He was also a Boy Scout volunteer and a recipient of the Silver Beaver Award. Memorial Service 2:00 p.m. Friday, November 6th at Fox Run (Performing Arts Center) 41100 Fox Run Road, Novi, MI 48377. Arrangements by THAYER-ROCK FUNERAL HOME, downtown Farmington. Memorial contributions may be made to Fox Run Scholarship Fund, Dept. of Philanthropy, 41100 Fox Run Road, Novi, MI 48377 www.thayer-rock.com

MARY HILL
Age 95, November 2. Formerly of Redford and Westland. Beloved wife of the late Axel Hill. Loving mother of Viola (Vern) Raben and Daniel (Wendy) Hill. Dear sister of Ann Norden and grandmother of Joshua Hill. A Memorial Service will be held at St. John Lutheran Church, 13542 Mercedes, Redford 11 am Saturday, November 7th. Visiting from 10 am until the time of service. Contributions may be made to the church or to Angela Hospice.

VIRGINIA M. KANIA
November 3, 2009, age 82. Loving wife of the late Robert. Devoted mother of Debbie (Ken) Kirk, Bruce (Kathy), Rob, Carol (Mike) Jackman and Theresa (Dale) Upton. Grammy to Megan, Michael, Alex, Ryker, Anna, Michaela. Great Gramma to Kylee. Preceded in death by brother Adam. Virginia will be missed by brothers Don (Debbie) and Dennis (Geri) Protas, sister in law Jeanne Andzejczak, many nieces and nephews and grammy nannies Cynthia, May and Viola. Visitation Thursday 4-9 p.m. at Harry J. Will Funeral Home 37000 Six Mile (East of 1275) Rosary 7 p.m. Funeral Mass Friday 9:30 a.m. at St Aidan Catholic Church 17500 Farmington Rd. In state 9 a.m. Interment Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. Please leave the family a memorial message at: harryjwillfuneralhome.com

In Memory Of
EDDIE LIEBERT
My best friend who went to be with the Lord on Monday November 2, 2009. I will always miss you until we meet again. - Bernard Miley

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

Deadlines:
Friday 4:15 PM for Sunday
Wednesday 9:45 AM for Thursday
Obituaries received after these deadlines will be placed in the next available issue.

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Paying Tribute to the Life of Your Loved One

Save the music

Michael Soranno of Livonia (left) on keyboards and his cousin, Sonny Cingolani of West Bloomfield on guitar, plan to resurrect their 60s band, The Liras, to help the financially-troubled music program at St. Joseph Church near Detroit's Eastern Market. They'll play oldies tunes at a Harvest Dance, 6 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 7, at the church, 1828 Jay, near Gratiot and I-75, in Detroit. Call (313) 819-8828 for more information about the dance.



CALENDAR

FROM PAGE B6

■ Bible study, 7 p.m., every Friday at Seeds of Mercy Mission Home, 21819 Middlebelt, Farmington Hills. Call ct: Nicole Christ at (313) 531-1234 for more information.

■ Celebrate Recovery Bible Study, noon and 7 p.m., Wednesday, at United Methodist Church of Wayne, at 3 Townsquare, Wayne. Celebrate Recovery is a Christ-centered and Bible-based 12 Step Recovery Program. (734) 721-4801

Clothing bank

The Clothing Bank has moved to a new location west of Canton Christian Fellowship. Free clothing (men, women and children) for those in need is available 10 a.m. to noon the fourth Saturday of each month, at

41711 Joy Rd. Call (734) 404-2480, visit www.CantonCF.org or send e-mail to info@cantoncf.org for information.

Concerts

■ Rush Hour concert series continues every Tuesday with gathering and refreshments at 5 p.m., concert 5:30-6 p.m., featuring performances by local and national jazz artists at Metropolitan United Methodist Church, 8000 Woodward, Detroit. Free. Visit www.metroumc.org.

Fellowship dinner

Dinners are at 6 p.m., the first Thursday of the month at St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford. Cost is \$8 and includes dinner, beverage and dessert. The Cookie Lady, Susan Navarro, provides the meals. Questions? Call (313) 268-7780. The church phone number is (313) 534-7730.

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<p>Thursday, November 5 5:30-7 p.m.</p> <p>♥</p> <p>Plymouth-Canton Montessori School (Preschool & Kindergarten)</p> <p>45245 Joy Road, Canton (734) 459-1550 www.pcmontessori.org</p>	<p>Sunday, November 8 1-3 p.m.</p> <p>♥</p> <p>Dearborn Heights Montessori Center (Preschool through Grade 8)</p> <p>466 N. John Daly, Dearborn Hts. (313) 359-3000 www.dhmontessori.org</p>
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St. Genevieve School - PreK-8
29015 Jamison • Livonia • 734-427-5220
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(Nursery Available)

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United Methodist
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11:00 - Contemp Family Worship
www.redfordaldersgate.org

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www.orchardumc.org
248-626-3620

Worship:
9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
10:00 a.m. Christian Education for all ages
Pastors: Carol J. Johns, Jim Braid, Margo Dexter

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FILTER

New music plays on community partnerships

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Just as a caffeine rush builds with each sip, the excitement increases with the arrival of partners involved with the Ford Made in America project.

Pulitzer Prize winning composer Joseph Schwantner is coming to lead educational workshops in conjunction with the Michigan premiere of his *Chasing Light* performed by the Plymouth Canton Symphony Orchestra (PSCO) Nov. 21, at the Village Theatre of Cherry Hill.

Ford Made in America made the consortium possible, bringing together the League of American Orchestras, Meet the Composer and 58 small-budget orchestras in 50 states to connect not only musicians but audiences to new music. PSCO Conductor Nan Washburn has been recognized with 17 awards from ASCAP for programming pieces by living American composers, but this was a special honor to take part in the commissioning of the piece inspired by a sunrise over Schwantner's home in rural New Hampshire. Schwantner drew on the images and his eight-line poem to compose four movements that take listeners through more than 400 time changes in 18 minutes.

"The music is absolutely gorgeous and difficult," said Washburn, a Plymouth Township resident. "I describe it as being like a jolt of coffee, not a sleepy morning to start the piece at all. He then gets into a beautiful array of color and a much more regular rhythm and reflects the colors he must have been seeing."

Beth Stewart describes the piece as "very visual music" that she is proud to present to the community thanks in part to the sponsorship of the Ford Motor Company Fund, the philanthropic arm of Ford Motor Company.

"The dress rehearsal will be observed by students from the Sphinx Organization which opens door for African American and Hispanic students with talent, students from the vocal and jazz camp from Music Hall (Center for the Performing Arts), our own Celebration Youth Orchestra students and orchestra students at the high schools," said Stewart, PSCO executive director. "It's an opportunity to not only watch him work with the professional orchestra but sit and talk with students from all walks of life."

The open rehearsal for students is only one educational component of Schwantner's five-day stay. He will give two workshops for fifth grade students at Farrand and Hulsing Elementary schools in the Plymouth-Canton School District and will spend a day with graduate composition students at the University of Michigan School of Music in Ann Arbor.

STUDENT COMPOSERS

Tim Schoenherr is coordinating the elementary school visits. Students have already written haiku. In the next few weeks they will bring the form of Japanese poetry to music class to create a composition based on another student's writing. Schwantner will listen to performances of the pieces and then talk about the compositions.

"It's an opportunity to enhance curriculum. We're always looking for opportunities to connect to literature and math," said Schoenherr, visual and performing arts coordinator for Plymouth-Canton Community Schools. "National standards for music education expects teachers to connect music to other academic areas."

One by one teachers expressed their appreciation for the encounter with a living composer. Karen Thompson is delighted about connecting her fifth grade classroom with Amy Morgan's fifth grade music students at Farrand Elementary.

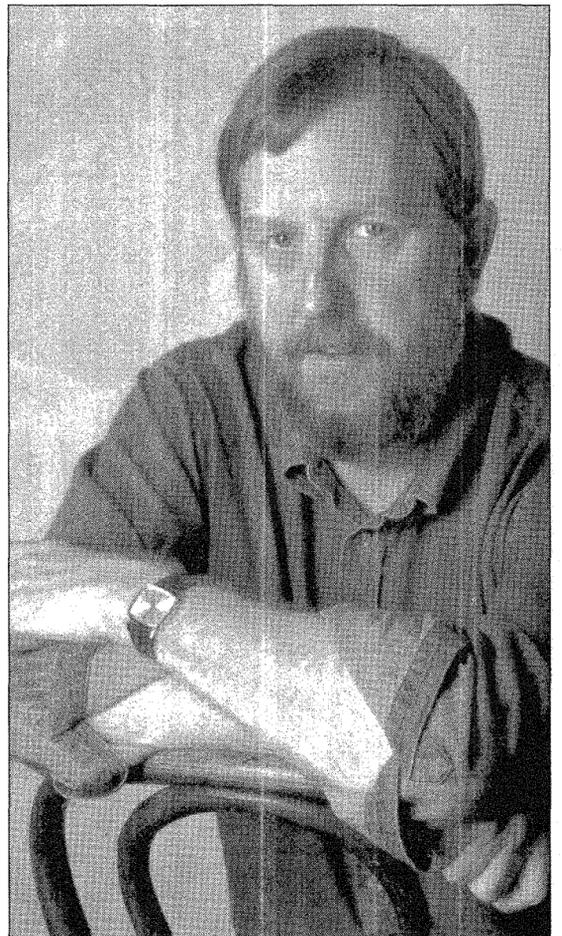
"I'm grateful for the opportunity," said Amy Morgan, fifth grade music teacher at Farrand and Hoben elementaries. "Automatically when the topic of composers comes up they think Mozart."

Along with learning about more than dead composers, students are developing an interest and pride in writing. Schoenherr also is making plans to benefit students far into the future.

"We hope to tape and document the process and edit it into a professional learning resource for teachers so it's not just a single event but a resource."



Nan Washburn conducts the Plymouth Symphony Orchestra.



Schwantner

NEW WORKS

Washburn feels new music aids in the development of an appreciation for composers.

"It's important to do new music as to do new theater, new book, new dance," she said. "There's something about that new that really keeps people excited."

Michael McGillivray couldn't agree more. As PSCO Concertmaster, the Birmingham musician has been studying the composition.

"It's really wonderful orchestration, very exciting music to listen to and a challenge for the players to maintain energy and concentration," said McGillivray, principal viola for the Pontiac-Oakland Symphony.

"Joseph Schwantner's written excellent orchestration especially for woodwinds and brass. Cascading passages of wind notes bring to mind images of chasing light, frost on windows, windows after an ice storm that I can't help thinking about when I'm listening to it."

Washburn began studying the music score in May.

"You have to do score study in spurts. Then I go for a walk or bike ride and play it back in my head," said Washburn. "I'm not just studying the music but strategize how to rehearse it and put it together and the rest of the program."

The performance will include the *Lincoln Portrait* by Copland, Gershwin's *An American in Paris* and Ellington's *It Don't Mean a Thing*.

The Plymouth Canton Symphony Orchestras concert takes place 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 21 at Village Theatre at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill (at Ridge), Canton.

Tickets are \$25, adult; \$20, senior, \$10, student. Call (734) 451-2112 or visit www.plymouthsymphony.org.

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Stir up some good old-fashioned holiday cheer by giving your homemade baked goods as gifts. Wrap up your cookies in an inexpensive holiday tin and tie a pretty ribbon around it. A handmade gift tag is a nice finishing touch for your homemade gift from the heart.

From left: Mini Pumpkin Whoopie Pies, Old-Fashioned Soft Pumpkin Cookies and Pumpkin-Oatmeal Raisin Cookies

FAMILY FEATURES

Family gatherings ... favorite holiday decorations ... the wonderful smells of baked goods — the holidays are full of familiar rituals and special memories. Traditions are part of what make the season so enjoyable.

For many, this time of year means baking family favorites — how many times do people ask you to make Grandma's bread pudding or your special cookies? The holidays wouldn't be the same without them.

Pumpkin treats are perfect for holiday baking. The mellow, sweet flavor blends beautifully with spices, citrus and nuts. Pumpkin is a versatile and delicious addition to any holiday tradition.

For more ways to make baking with pumpkin a tradition in your home, visit VeryBestBaking.com.



Mini Pumpkin Whoopie Pies

Makes 3 dozen

Cookies

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon ground ginger
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ cup (1 stick) butter, softened
- 1 ½ cups granulated sugar
- 2 large eggs, at room temperature, lightly beaten
- 1 cup pumpkin
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Cream Cheese Filling

- 4 ounces cream cheese, at room temperature
- 6 tablespoons butter, softened
- ½ teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 ½ cups powdered sugar

For Cookies:

PREHEAT oven to 350°F. Lightly grease or line four baking sheets with parchment paper. COMBINE flour, baking powder, baking soda, cinnamon, ginger and salt in medium bowl. Beat butter and sugar in large mixer bowl on medium speed for 2 minutes. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Add pumpkin and vanilla extract; beat until smooth. Stir in flour mixture until combined. Drop by heaping measuring teaspoons onto prepared baking sheets. (A total of 72 cookies are needed for the recipe.) BAKE for 10 to 13 minutes or until springy to the touch. Cool on baking sheets for 5 minutes; remove to wire racks to cool completely.

For Cream Cheese Filling:

BEAT cream cheese, butter and vanilla extract in small mixer bowl on medium speed until fluffy. Gradually beat in powdered sugar until light and fluffy. SPREAD a heaping teaspoon of filling onto flat side of one cookie; top with flat side of second cookie to make a sandwich. Repeat with remaining cookies and filling. Store in covered container in refrigerator.

Old-Fashioned Soft Pumpkin Cookies

Makes 3 dozen

- 2 ½ cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon ground nutmeg
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 ½ cups granulated sugar
- ½ cup butter (1 stick), softened
- 1 cup pumpkin
- 1 large egg
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Glaze (recipe follows)

PREHEAT oven to 350°F. Grease baking sheets.

COMBINE flour, baking powder, baking soda, cinnamon, nutmeg and salt in medium bowl. Beat sugar and butter in large mixer bowl until well blended. Beat in pumpkin, egg and vanilla extract until smooth. Gradually beat in flour mixture. Drop by rounded tablespoons onto prepared baking sheets.

BAKE for 15 to 18 minutes or until edges are firm. Cool on baking sheets for 2 minutes; remove to wire racks to cool completely. Drizzle Glaze over cookies.

For Glaze:

COMBINE 2 cups sifted powdered sugar, 3 tablespoons milk, 1 tablespoon melted butter and 1 teaspoon vanilla extract in small bowl until smooth.

Pumpkin-Oatmeal Raisin Cookies

Makes 4 dozen

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 ½ cups quick or old-fashioned oats
- 2 teaspoons pumpkin pie spice
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 cup (2 sticks) butter or margarine, softened
- 1 cup packed brown sugar
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 1 cup pumpkin
- 1 large egg
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- ¾ cup chopped walnuts
- ¾ cup raisins

PREHEAT oven to 350°F. Lightly grease baking sheets.

COMBINE flour, oats, pie spice, baking soda and salt in medium bowl. Beat butter, brown sugar and granulated sugar in large mixer bowl until light and fluffy. Add pumpkin, egg and vanilla extract; mix well. Add flour mixture; mix well. Stir in nuts and raisins. Drop by rounded tablespoons onto prepared baking sheets. BAKE for 14 to 16 minutes or until cookies are lightly browned and set in centers. Cool on baking sheets for 2 minutes; remove to wire racks to cool completely.

Pumpkin Bread Pudding With Brown Sugar-Yogurt Sauce

Makes 15 servings

- 12 slices cracked or whole-wheat bread, cut into cubes (12 cups)
- 1 cup sweetened dried cranberries, chopped
- 2 cans (12 fluid ounces each) Nestlé Carnation Evaporated Lowfat 2% Milk
- 1 can (15 ounces) pumpkin
- 1 cup refrigerated egg substitute or 4 large eggs, slightly beaten
- 1 cup packed brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 teaspoons pumpkin pie spice
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- Brown Sugar-Yogurt Sauce (recipe follows)

For Bread Pudding:

PREHEAT oven to 350°F. Grease 13 x 9-inch baking dish. COMBINE bread and cranberries in large bowl. Combine evaporated milk, pumpkin, egg substitute, sugar, vanilla extract, pumpkin pie spice and salt in medium bowl. Pour egg mixture over bread mixture; stir. Pour mixture into prepared baking dish; let stand for 10 minutes. BAKE for 45 to 55 minutes or until knife inserted in center comes out clean. Serve warm with Brown Sugar-Yogurt Sauce.

For Brown Sugar-Yogurt Sauce:

COMBINE 2 containers (6 ounces each) or 1 ½ cups nonfat plain yogurt and 3 tablespoons packed brown sugar in small bowl.

DVD teaches raw food preparation

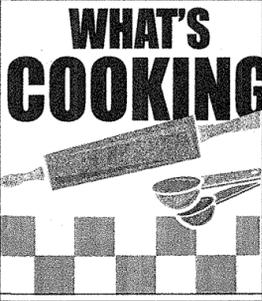
BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

Chef Mary Beckerman can teach you how to make spaghetti without boiling water for pasta.

She can show you how to make pudding without cooking it and soup without any simmering.

In fact, you won't need a stove or an oven for any of the recipes, including spaghetti, pudding, soup, vegetables, wraps and more that are included with step by step instructions on her new dvd, *Raw Fundamentals*.

But a slight change in perspective might be required if you're accus-



tomed to heating most everything you eat, because everything on the menu is raw.

"I think the challenge lies in really changing your mind set in terms of preparing foods differently. We were brought up traditionally in how to prepare foods and the biggest challenge is a new way of doing things," said Beckerman of West Bloomfield.

"When you look at it from that perspective and set up a lifestyle to embrace those concepts, life gets easier."

Beckerman shares her knowledge and passion about preparing raw foods through demonstration workshops, catering, training, and consultations, in addition to her new dvd. She also advises individuals on how to set up a raw food kitchen and how to select whole, unprocessed, organic foods.

"I've embraced raw foods for a great part of my life," said the Michigan native. "Even back in high school I was juicing and doing wheat grass and leaned more toward being a vegetarian."

Although she has held various jobs — everything from modeling to working for Orion pictures to running her own catering company — her love of food has remained

consistent throughout her life.

When a friend suggested she "do what you love," she quit her corporate job and headed to California to study raw foods preparation.

"I said 'this resonates with me,' and I became a chef, put a business plan together and came home."

Beckerman is a graduate of the Living Light Culinary Arts Institute in California and a member of the American Association of Nutritional Consultants.

OFFERING OPTIONS

"What I do in my dvd is empower people. I not only give them recipes but tools, empowerment tools," she said. Each recipe offers a variety of ingredient options.

"It's really simple and if people embrace something like that they're able to create healthy meals."

Taking baby steps toward a raw food diet can start with swapping sugar-filled, cooked desserts for tasty fruit-

based sweets that use agar or raw honey.

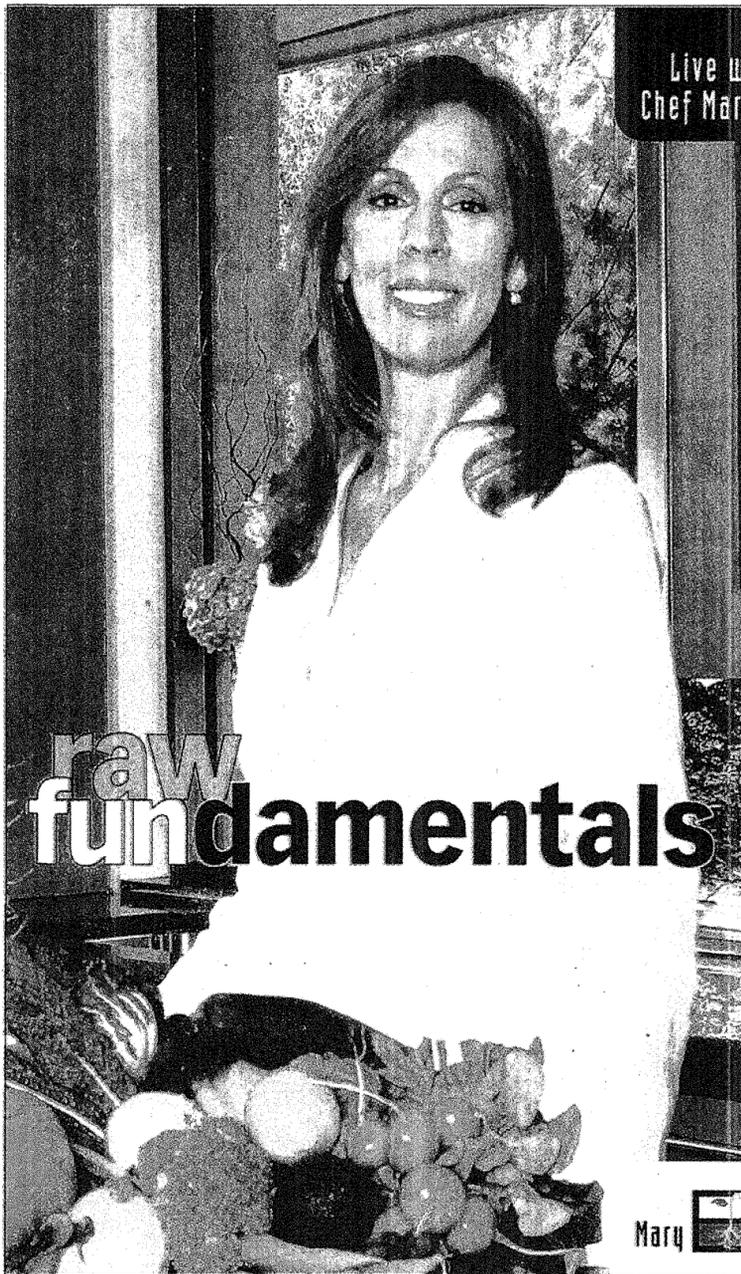
Or heating one portion of a meal as Beckerman does in her spaghetti recipe that uses raw zucchini "pasta" strips and gently-heated tomato sauce.

"There are certain foods you can cook. By cooking the tomatoes you might lose some nutrients through the cooking process but you'll have an increase of lycopene," she said. "It's about balance and educating people."

"When you start eating raw foods your sense become alive. You start really tasting food."

Beckerman will sign her DVD, noon-5 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 7 at Barnes & Noble, 6900 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield. It costs \$24.95.

Check out her Web site, www.lovingoodies.com for a list of classes, Thanksgiving menu ideas, recipes and more.



Chef Mary Beckerman will sign her DVD Saturday, Nov. 7 at Barnes & Noble in West Bloomfield.

CITY BITES

Benefitting horses

Plymouth — This month shoppers can donate a dollar at the register at Hiller's Markets grocery stores to support CANTER, a locally-based organization that finds homes for retired racehorses. Led by WXYZ-TV anchor and CANTER board member Robbie Timmons, the non-profit finds viable alternatives for young horses whose future, without CANTER's help, is bleak.

"As someone who is passionate about animals and animal welfare, I'm so glad Robbie Timmons brought CANTER to my attention," stated Jim Hiller, CEO of Hiller's Markets. "In tough times, we often forget about our four-legged friends — and it's imperative that we care for every creature to the best of our abilities."

Timmons said the dollars can "add up quickly" to help CANTER's charges. Most of the horses are only 3-4 years old. With a potential lifespan of 30 years, CANTER helps these delicate creatures become accustomed to pasture-living. CANTER Michigan is the founding chapter of what has become a national effort. Started in 1997, the group has saved thousands of thoroughbreds, spending approximately \$200,000 annually to rescue horses from racetrack life. CANTER stands for Communication Alliance to Network Thoroughbred Ex-Racehorses. There are no administrative costs or salaries — CANTER is all volunteer so every dollar donated goes to help horses.

Timmons will be available in Hiller's stores to talk with shoppers about the cause and sign her book, *Twoey & the Goat*, a true-to-life story about a horse who received a new home after not performing at the track. Elegant horse-themed holiday cards will be sold at all Hiller's customer service desks, with sales benefiting CANTER.

Timmons' book-signings at Hiller's:
 ■ 1-3 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 14 at the Plymouth store, Five Mile and Haggerty
 ■ 3:30-5:30 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 14, at the Northville store, Center Street, south of Eight Mile

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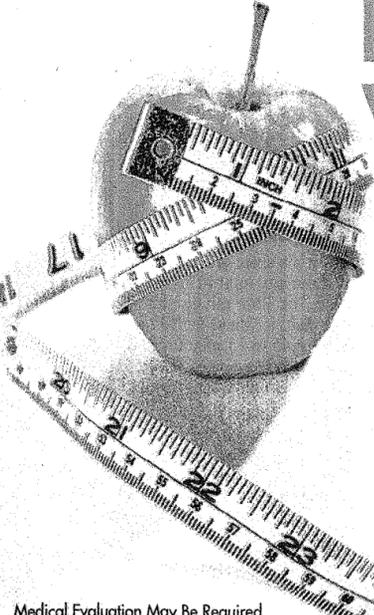
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