

SUNDAY
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The Observer & Eccentric
Newspapers

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75 CENTS

Glenn's homecoming win gets plenty of attention - Education, A6

WESTLAND OBSERVER

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Thursday Westland Observer

AROUND TOWN

Ribbon cutting

If you see Westland Mayor William R. Wild at Warren Road and Newburgh on Wednesday morning, it's because he's there to cut a ribbon, opening the new intersection to traffic.

The completion of construction comes just in time for shoppers who'll be flocking to the city's commercial district Friday for the start of the holiday shopping season.

The new intersection meets the latest handicap accessibility standards and includes energy-efficient LED traffic control devices. American Recovery and Reinvestment Act monies funded the \$690,000 road improvement cost.

The public is invited to the 10 a.m. ribbon cutting. Parking will be available at the Max & Erma's restaurant on the southwest corner, and refreshments will be provided.

Memories

The holiday season is upon us and, through the hustle and bustle, we're asking our readers to let us be a part of their celebration.

We're asking readers to send us their favorite holiday memories and photos to the *Observer* for the special holiday edition we're 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 *Observer* editor Sue Mason at smason@hometownlife.com.

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

Santa letters

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

The *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 child writing the letter. They can be a list of toys, a holiday greeting for the Jolly Ol' 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. Letters can also be sent the old-fashioned way, via postal service, to Letter to Santa, c/o Sue Mason, 615 W. Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226.

Salvation Army giving tree goes electronic

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

An annual giving tree to adopt children and seniors served by the Salvation Army has gone electronic.

In a nationwide program, the Salvation Army and JC Penney are joining forces for the online Angel Giving Tree, which allows customers

to adopt and shop online at www.jcpenney.com/angel through Dec. 14.

"The Wayne-Westland Salvation Army will receive toys donation at JC Penney," said Capt. Derek Rose, local corps officer. "This is the first time for this program with JC Penney. We're looking at a 30-percent increase in requests over last year."

The new online Angel Giving Tree

program builds on the legacy of the Salvation Army's Angel Tree program that has been in operation for more than 40 years.

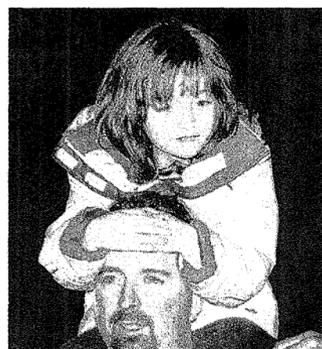
"In a year when so many need help, the new online Angel Giving Tree program will extend our reach and make it easier for our customers and associates to give back this holiday season," said Mike Boylson, executive

vice president and chief marketing officer for JC Penney.

"Each year, right here in the Wayne-Westland community, we help more than 700 families with Christmas assistance," Rose added. "The partnership with JC Penney will help us reach more people who want

Please see **TREE, A2**

Let there be light



Westland resident Dave Evanchl's daughter Amber had a perfect seat to see Lightfest's opening festivities.

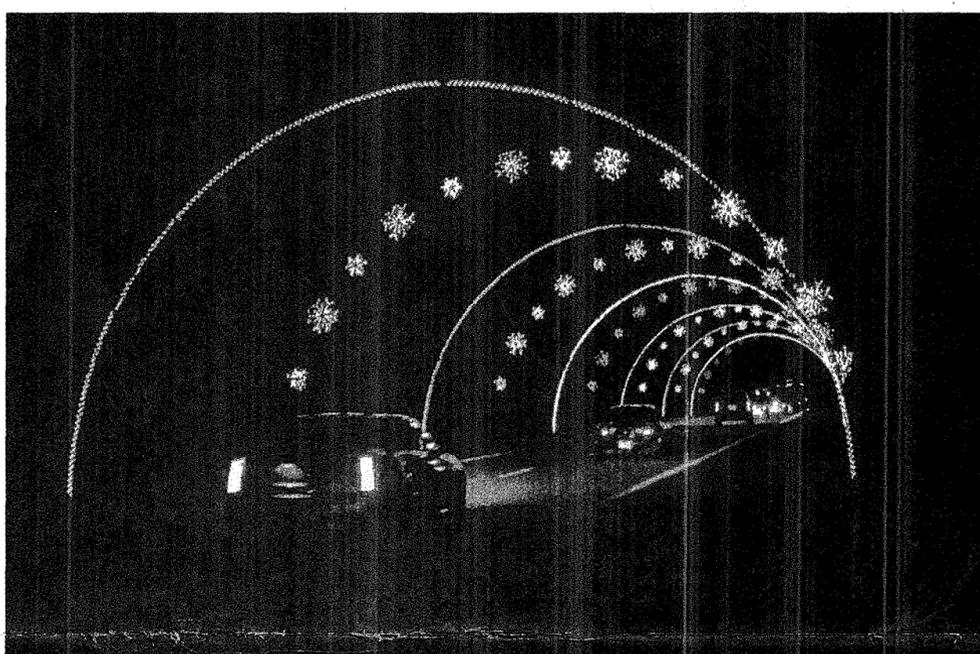
Annual Hines Park holiday display opens with a bang

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Amy Slauter likes the poinsettias, her 4-year-old daughter Emily likes the flying reindeer school and her husband Jason likes the car with the presents falling off.

It seems everyone has a favorite spot along the 4-1/2-mile long Wayne County Lightfest which opened for the holiday season Thursday evening.

"This is our first time coming to the opening ceremony, but we always go through it, it's how we start



A tunnel of red, white and green lights and snowflakes greet motorists who drove the Lightfest route after the opening ceremony Thursday evening.

our holiday season," said Slauter, a Dearborn Heights resident. "I love Christmas and this is something different to do. It's fun to see how the displays change each year."

Another newbie was Annette Feuerstein of Ann Arbor, who was at the event with Joy Barr of Westland. "I work with Joy in Plymouth, she brought me to show me what it's all

about," she said.

Barr has been coming every year since it opened. Her husband works for Wayne County Parks and helps set up the display.

"It's kind of a hidden treasure in Wayne County," she said. "Nobody seems to know about it, but it's a nice tradition."

The 2009 Lightfest opened with

a throwing of the switch by Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano and children and the bang and boom of fireworks that lit up the nighttime sky. Also joining Ficano on stage were several Wayne County commissioners, including Joan Gebhardt of Livonia, and Dianne Webb of Garden City.

Please see **LIGHT, A3**

Defendant faces mental exam in beating case

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A preliminary examination for a Westland man charged with beating his elderly father into unconsciousness has been adjourned until Feb. 4 to allow time for a mental competency examination.

Michael Ray Neighbors, 50, is charged with assaulting with intent to murder his father Rayburnell Neighbors, 80. A preliminary examination had been set for Thursday before Westland 18th District Court Judge

Mark McConnell.

Held in lieu of a \$500,000 cash bond, Neighbors was arrested early Oct. 2 at the home on Knolston that he shared with his father.

Police had been called to the Garden City Hospital emergency room about a suspicious situation. Westland firefighters told the officer that they had been dispatched to the home, where they found the elder Neighbors on the bathroom floor unconscious with a bloody swollen face.

At the hospital, police said doctors found the victim had sustained mul-

iple injuries, including a broken jaw, missing teeth, a lacerated lip, broken ribs, lacerations to his arms and legs and numerous bruises.

Firefighters told police that when they arrived they were met at the door by Michael Neighbors, who was in a robe and talking on the telephone. The younger Neighbors, whom firefighters described as "being out of it," indicated that he had found his father in the television room in a pool of blood and dragged him into the bathroom to try reviving him with cold water.

A not guilty plea was entered when Neighbors was arraigned. The elder Neighbors, a widower, remains hospitalized and unconscious, Westland police Sgt. Michael Harhold said.

Michael Neighbors had previously worked in information technology, but was currently unemployed, according to Harhold.

The elder Neighbors was reported to have been suffering from a degree of dementia which was making his care difficult, Harhold said.

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Residents adjust to bagging their leaves

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

At least one person finds the end of curbside leaf collection in Westland an improvement.

"I was very upset when the city first announced it was ending the leaf pick up," said resident Sam Durante. "I was looking at the neighborhood this week and it never looked so good. We never had the leaves up this early."

For a number of years, Westland residents raked or blew their leaves to the curb to be vacuumed up. Last year, Westland ended the program to help pay for the citywide recycling program which began in June.

The change meant Westland residents had to collect their leaves in compost paper bags or

specially marked trash cans.

"All the neighborhoods look better - there are no leaves blowing around or around the streets," said Durante. "It was a wise decision."

Most homeowners made the transition of bagging their leaves without a problem, said Department of Public Services Director Kevin Buford.

"People heard about it through word of mouth - there was an article in the *Observer*, it was on cable television, the city Web site and the water bills," said Buford.

For the few residents who hadn't bagged their leaves, DPS Supervisor Brian Harnos and Building Director Roger Shifflett put together a warning letter citing the appropriate city ordinance.

"The letter was hand-deliv-

ered and, if the person was home, they talked to them. We haven't issued any citations this year," said Buford.

The number of compost bags collected was increased from 10 bags per week to 20 bags. To accommodate some homes with larger lots with a number of trees, Buford said DPS arranged for 50 bags to be collected. For more information, call DPS (734) 728-1770.

The bagged leaves and bundled branches cut in four-foot lengths will be collected curb side on the regular trash pick-up day through Friday, Dec. 11. After that date, compost collection ends until April 1 with the exception of Christmas trees following the holiday.

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CHRISTOPHER

TREE
FROM PAGE A1

to adopt more angels in our community." The online Angel Giving Tree program allows customers to adopt an Angel at jcp.com/angel and conveniently shop for them online at jcp.com, in JC Penney stores or at any location they choose. In a few easy steps, customers can visit the site to request an Angel by location, age range and gender. An Angel who matches the criteria will be e-mailed to the customer, along with a list of needed items. The confirmation e-mail will also include a link to view dropoff locations in the customer's area and ship-to addresses for online orders. In collaboration with FedEx Ground, Angel Giving Tree gifts purchased through jcp.com can be shipped free of charge to any one of the 1,200 Salvation Army collection centers nationwide, putting the entire selection, shopping and delivery process at the customer's fingertips. JC Penney Facebook fans will be able to access the Angel Giving Tree Web site directly as well as post and share their Angel adoption with their

friends. Volunteers who want more old school involvement in fund-raising for the Wayne-Westland Salvation Army Corps can sign up as a bell ringer for the Christmas Red Kettle Campaign.

"Our goal from the kettles is \$135,000 — it was \$125,000 last year. We helped 700 families last year and expect that to be 800-900 families this year," Rose said.

Anyone interested in being a volunteer bell ringer can call (734) 722-3660, ext. 101.

The Salvation Army corps in this area all offer a self-shopping program in which parents from income-eligible families are allowed to select a toy as a gift for each child up to 14 years old. Parents can also get food, hats and gloves from the Salvation Army.

"Senior citizens get a food box for the holidays," Rose said.

National Storage Center, 39205 Ford in Westland, is helping the Salvation Army by collecting non-perishable food items and new unwrapped toys. Donations can be dropped off from 9:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. weekdays and from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Saturdays.

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

W-W says thanks for saving 'language'

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Three western Wayne County lawmakers were on the receiving end of a presentation when the Wayne-Westland school board honored them for their efforts in preserving the Wayne-Westland language in the State School Aid Act.

Two of them, however, brought along some gloomy news: State funding of education isn't going to get better anytime soon. In fact, it will be worse next year.

"The battle isn't over yet, you got a reprieve this year," said state Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland. "Our hope is to find money to restore most of the (\$127) proration and portion of 20J dollars that were lost. As the superintendent said, the immediate future isn't looking any brighter, it's looking worse."

"Michigan is struggling, but the struggle will be greater if we don't make commit to education," said state Rep. Marc Corriveau, D-Northville. "At this time, the situation is still very critical."

School officials credit

Anderson, Corriveau and state Rep. Richard LeBlanc, D-Westland, in keeping the \$6.5 million the district received in lieu of a millage not allowed for in calculating school funding under Proposal A in the new School Aid Act.

"I don't know if the audience understands the amount of time you put in to helping our district," said school board President Skip Monit. "We want you to understand we appreciate your doing it."

According to School Superintendent Greg Baracy, the district began working with the three lawmakers whose districts include Wayne-Westland, back in February, when Gov. Jennifer Granholm axed the money from her proposed school aid bill. They were able to get the language back into the bill and keep it.

"We've been cut \$4 million, if we had lost the Wayne-Westland language, it would have been \$10.5 million," said Baracy. "Without their help, it would not have been reinstated. They were instrumental in getting it reinstated. If we had lost it, we could not have provided a fraction of programs

we now provide students." Anderson pointed out that school boards must make difficult decisions even when times are not so tough.

"You always have deal with the fluctuation of the student population," he said. "Those who've been around recall it wasn't a matter of a huge budget deficit the last time you closed schools. The population continues to dip and you need to make adjustments."

"It's one of the difficult decision school boards have to make. No one wants to lose local neighborhood schools," he added, referencing the district's 21st Century Schools Committee which approved a recommendation to close seven elementary schools that will be presented to the school board on Nov. 30. "I don't envy you for what you have to do."

Anderson, like Corriveau, said school finances for next year are "even bleaker" and that Wayne-Westland is going in the right direction.

"Some of the decisions are going to be difficult in the short term, but if you don't make the tough decisions now, it will make it even more difficult in the future," Anderson said.

Anderson urged school officials to be "cautious" in looking to the future.

"I think what the committee is doing is something all districts should be doing, looking at all possible areas of savings to preserve the programs for their kids," he said.

In response to a question from Trustee William Gabriel about using stimulus money this year that has been set aside for next year, Anderson

said a number of districts have urged using the money now and worrying about what comes next year.

"You would be looking at a \$300 plus cut next year, without using additional stimulus money," he said. "I hope we find some way other than using the stimulus money. We need something to cushion the blow next year. The decisions you make will have an impact, you're on track to adjust and rightsize the district as the state has to do. It will have a larger impact on what you have to do next year."

The dire news didn't dampen the accolades for what the three men did for the district.

"On behalf of all the board, I want to thank you for allowing us to communicate with you, badger you, move you," said Gabriel. "I know it's a tough seat to be in."

"We appreciate everything you're doing," said Trustee John Goci. "You try to keep the state as fiscally responsible as you can, but it's not look very good. Maybe you should send a memo to other districts to look at their operations to rightsize their districts."

"I think what is so important is that you look out for the school district, it means so much to us, especially in these economic times," added school board Secretary Martha Pitsenbarger. "I think if people take the time to watch what you're doing, they'll realize your devotion to the kids is what drives you."

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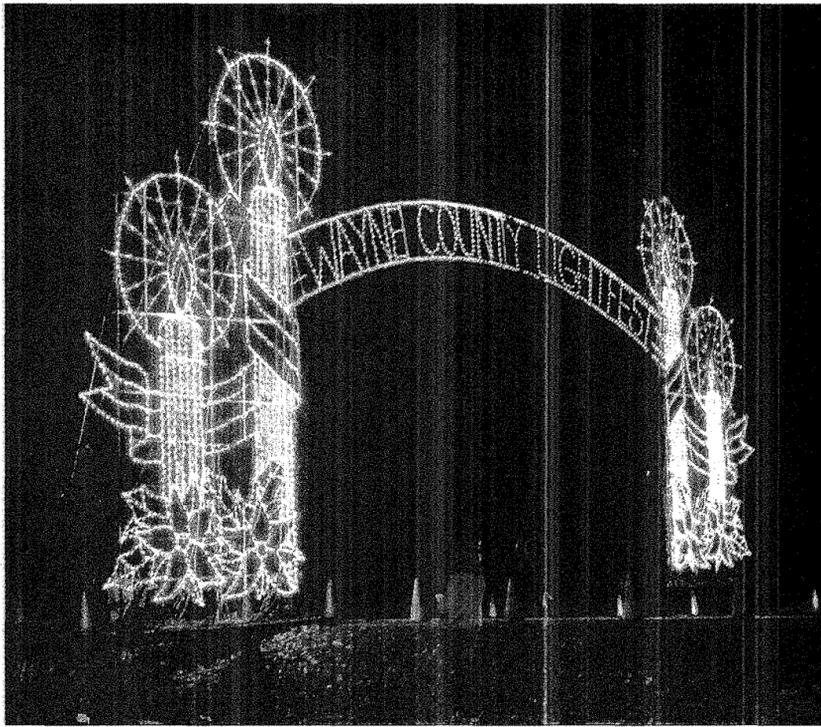
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Santa Clause gives Paul Barr of Westland a hug. Barr works for Wayne County and helps set up the annual Lightfest display.



Lighted poinsettias and candles flank a sign welcoming residents to the annual Wayne County Lightfest.

LIGHT

FROM PAGE A1

"There's one million lights in the display and over 35 displays," Ficano told the crowd gathered for the opening ceremony, carried live on Fox-2 TV. Weatherman Rich Luterman helped with the countdown. "Everybody ready for snow?" he asked as he waited to do a live weather report. "Everyone

ready for Christmas? Everyone ready for Thanksgiving?" His first question was answered with a resounding "No!" while the other two earned shouts of "yes!" His presence may have explained the weather - mild and no rain or snow. "This is one of the nice years for the opening, it's usually cold," said Garden City Councilmember Jaylee Lynch who was at the event with her husband Tom. "Usually, it's cold,

raining or snowing. This is one of the most beautiful nights ever for this." The Lightfest is open 7-10 p.m. nightly, except Christmas Day, through Jan. 1. It starts at Merriman Hollow on Hines Drive at Merriman in Westland and ends at the Warrendale area east of Telegraph in Dearborn Heights. A walk-through display area, Santa's Workshop, refreshments and gift shopping has been set up at the end of the drive. Santa will

be there from Thanksgiving until Dec. 23. In between, guests will see the sledding hill transformed into a ski run complete with a chalet and skiers, a Nativity scene and Hannukah display. There's also a tunnel of lighted red, white and green arches and snowflakes and an eye-popping white one sponsored by DTE Energy. DTE is one of several sponsors of the display. Also supporting it are Garden City

Hospital, ITC Holdings, DBT Promotional Marketing Group, Michigan Mountain Biking Association, Friends of Wayne County Parks, Entertainment Express Limousines, McDonald Modular Travelers Childcare Services, Magic 105.1, Fox 2, Consumers Energy and JJR. Wednesday, Dec. 2, 9 and 16, will be Toy Nights. Wayne County will be lending a hand to make sure all children have a bright holiday by inviting the community to bring a new,

unwrapped toy in lieu of the suggested \$5 donation fee. Visitors also can contribute the recommended donation. For more information on the Wayne County Lightfest, please call (734) 261-1990 or visit the parks' Web site at www.waynecounty.com. Although Lightfest begins at 7 p.m., Hines Drive will be closed to traffic beginning at 5:45 p.m. nightly.

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VFW post treats veterans to dinner

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

All veterans are invited to a free Thanksgiving Day dinner hosted by the St. Stanley Romanowski VFW Post 6896 in Westland. The dinner, including turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, yams, stuffing, cranberry sauce, vegetables and dessert, will be served from noon until 6:30 p.m. or until the food runs out. "This is our first time. I went to a lot of VA hospitals and saw a lot need for the VFW to help more shut-ins and elderly vets,"

said John Welchman, post commander. Buses will bring veterans from John Dingel VA Hospital in Detroit and the Ann Arbor and Toledo VA hospitals to the dinner. The invitation was extended to all veterans and their families. Through a variety of donations, including turkeys provided by Dearborn Fruit Market, the post will provide free dinner for the veterans. Friends and families of the vets will be asked to make a donation for their meal. Any proceeds will benefit area VA hospitals. "We could have 100-250 people.

We're doing the cooking — I have 20 volunteers who have stepped up to give up their Thanksgiving to help the vets," said Welchman, whose 500-member post is one of the largest in Michigan. There will be televisions for watching football and music provided by disc jockey Marine Mike. The Romanowski VFW Post 6896 is located at 28945 Joy Road, between Middlebelt and Inkster roads in Westland. Additional donations and volunteers are welcome. For more information, call the post at (734) 525-9454.

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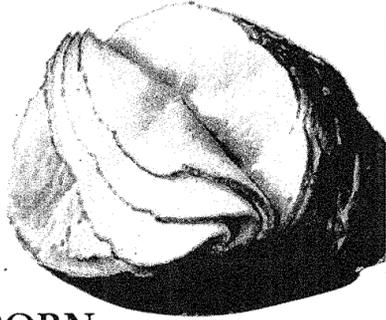
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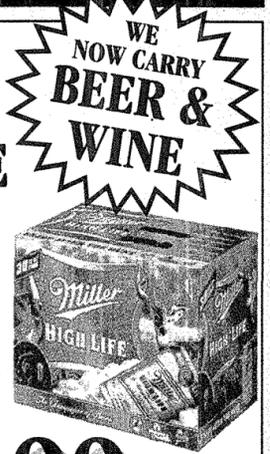
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\$1⁹⁹
LB.

U.S.D.A.
INSPECTED
WHOLE
BONELESS
PORK LOINS

\$1⁹⁹
LB.

26-30 ct. FRESH
COOKED
SHRIMP

\$6⁴⁹
LB.

BOB EVANS 16 oz.
ASST. FLAVORS
SAUSAGE
ROLLS

3/\$5

GRADE A
TURKEY
BREAST

\$1²⁹
LB.

U.S.D.A.
INSPECTED
CENTER
CUT
PORK
ROAST

\$2⁴⁹
LB.

GRADE A
FRESH
WHOLE
FRYER

99¢
LB.

FRESH
SALMON
FILLETS

\$5⁹⁹
LB.

Fresh Produce

CRISP GREEN
CABBAGE

19¢
LB.

3 LB. BAG
COOKING
ONIONS

79¢
BAG

12 oz. BAG
CRANBERRIES

\$1⁹⁹
BAG

10 LB. BAG
IDAHO
POTATOES

2/\$5

#1
YAMS

69¢
LB.

CRISP
CELERY

99¢
EA.

GRAPE
TOMATOES

\$1⁹⁹
PINT

Fresh Deli

COPPERWOOD
HONEY
HAM

\$3⁴⁹
LB.

MOZZARELLA
CHEESE

\$2⁹⁹
LB.

SMOKED
PROVOLONE
CHEESE

\$3⁹⁹
LB.

LIPARI WHITE
TURKEY
BREAST

\$2⁹⁹
LB.

HOMEMADE
DAILY
TORTILLA
CHIPS

\$2⁹⁹
BAG

FRESH MADE
SPAGHETTI
SALAD

\$3⁹⁹
LB.

FAMILY FRESH MARKET *From Our Family To Your Family*

Prices good Monday, Nov. 23rd through Sunday, Nov. 29th, 2009



OCEAN SPRAY
64 oz. ASSORTED
**CRANBERRY
JUICE DRINKS**

2/\$5



BRUCE'S
29 oz. CANS
**CUT
YAMS**

3/\$5



DUNCAN HINES
18.25 oz. ASSORTED
**CAKE
MIX**

99¢



WESSON
48 oz. BOTTLE
**VEGETABLE
OIL**

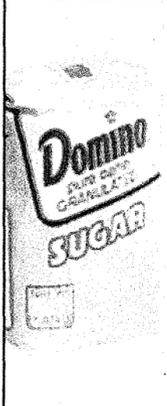
2/\$6



GREEN GIANT
VEGETABLES

- CORN
- PEAS
- CUT GREEN BEANS

79¢



DOMINO
5 lb. BAG
**GRANULATED
SUGAR**

\$2.99

Grocery Specials



KRAFT
16 oz. ASSORTED
**SALAD
DRESSINGS**

3/\$5



NESTLE
10-12 oz. ASSORTED
**TOLL HOUSE
MORSELS**

2/\$5



OCEAN SPRAY
14 oz. CAN
**CRANBERRY
SAUCE**

- WHOLE • JELLED

\$1.19



SWANSON
14 oz. ASSORTED
BROTH

3/\$2



HINES
12 oz. ASSORTED
GRAVY

3/\$4



KRAFT
6 oz. ASSORTED
**STOVE TOP
STUFFING MIX**

\$1.19



RAGU
26 oz. ASSORTED
**PASTA
SAUCE**

2/\$5



DEL MONTE
15 oz. ASSORTED
FRUIT

2/\$3



JIFFY
8.5 oz.
**CORN MUFFIN
MIX**

2/\$1



KNORR
4-5.6 oz. ASSORTED
**PASTA OR
RICE SIDES**

4/\$5



NORTHERN
4 DOUBLE ROLL
**QUILTED BATH
TISSUE**

\$2.99



SHURFINE ASSORTED
SLIDER BAGS

- FREEZER
- STORAGE

2/\$3



SHURFINE
100-9 IN.
**PAPER
PLATES**

2/\$5

Frozen and Dairy



PRAIRIE FARMS
16 oz.
**SOUR CREAM
OR CHIP DIP**

5/\$5



BREYERS
1/2 GALLON
ASSORTED
ICE CREAM

2/\$5



KRAFT
8 oz. ASSORTED
**CHUNK CHEESE
OR SHREDDED
CHEESE**

3/\$5



SHURFINE
16 oz.
**WHOLE
STRAWBERRIES**

\$1.99



KRAFT
8 oz. ASSORTED
**PHILADELPHIA
SOFT CREAM
CHEESE**

4/\$5



PRAIRIE FARMS
16 oz. 1/4'S
BUTTER

2/\$3



KRAFT
8 oz. ASSORTED
VARIETIES
COOL WHIP

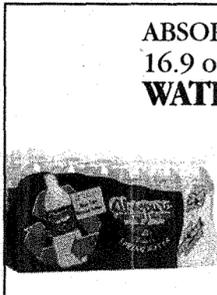
4/\$5

Beverages and Snacks



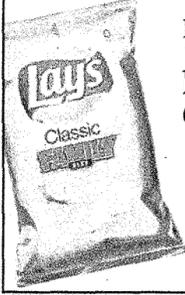
2 LITER
ASSORTED
**COKE
PRODUCTS**

10/\$10
+ DEP



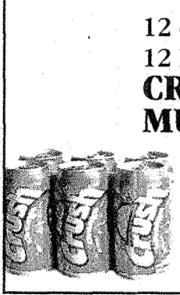
ABSOAPURE
16.9 oz. 24 PACK
WATER

\$3.99



LAYS
10.5-11 oz.
**POTATO
CHIPS**

2/\$5



12 oz.
12 PACK CANS
**CRUSH OR
MUG**

2/\$7
+ DEP



12 PACK
12 oz. BOTTLES
STELLA ARTOIS

\$12.99
+ TAX & DEP



20 PACK
12 oz. BOTTLES
**COORS
LIGHT**

\$11.99
+ TAX & DEP

EDUCATION

Glenn's homecoming win gets plenty of attention

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

For Tony Wilton, John Glenn's 2009 football season is one he'll "remember forever." And with good reason.

Wilton has become a celebrity of sorts, with appearances on TV and on the Internet for scoring his first-ever touchdown at Glenn's homecoming game last month. It wasn't the fact that he scored, but how he scored that has caught the attention of the sports world.

With eight seconds left in the game, Wilton picked up the football, after it had been blocked in a field goal attempt and ran into the end zone, giving John Glenn its first-ever win over the Plymouth High School Wildcats.

"It was my first career touchdown, I never thought it would

happen like this," said Wilton. "I've gotten a lot of attention, newspaper interviews, a lot of friends have congratulated me. It feels good being the big man on campus. It's a good experience. It'll always be a good memory."

The senior backup wide receiver and Glenn coach Tim Hardin were honored by the Wayne-Westland school board earlier this month for winning the game.

The Rockets were losing the homecoming game 28-27 when Ryan Lopez attempted the field goal. It was smothered and blocked by two Plymouth Wildcat defenders, but Wilton, the placeholder, picked up the ball behind the line of scrimmage.

"My first thought was we had just lost the game, I didn't realize it had been blocked behind

the line," he told the board. "I bent down and picked up the ball, the coach has taught to always be aware. I didn't think the play was dead, it didn't feel like the game was over."

Wilton's quick action and urging by special teams coach Aaron Lada and Hardin set him off on a scramble down the field to make the winning touchdown, giving Glenn a 33-28 victory over the Wildcats.

"I never imagined in a million years that it would explode like this," said Hardin. "I'm extremely proud of the team, I'm proud of our guys. I've told them that win or lose, it's about how you play and they played with honor. They were first-class professionals."

A posting of the field goal attempt and Wilton's dash to the end zone found its way to YouTube and spawned numer-

ous hits which in turn led to its posting on other Web sites and eventually an appearance by Hardin and Wilton on ESPN.

"I was extremely nervous and when I looked at him, he was as calm as can be," said Hardin of the ESPN interview. "He's done numerous interviews, he has really represented the school, the community and the school district with great passion."

According to Glenn athletic director Brian Swinehart, the YouTube posting got 10,000-15,000 hits when he got a call from his mother that it had made the front page of yahoo.com.

"It kept going to 500,000," Swinehart told the board. "It's been on Jimmy Kimmel, CNN, a radio station in Wisconsin. It took on a life of its own. It's been tremendous publicity for

John Glenn as a school."

He added that Wilton, even with all of the hype has "stayed humble in representing our school."

"He's a great kid," Swinehart said.

Glenn Principal David Ingham said he is just as proud of what the team does on field and what it does off the field.

"You can see it in the building, you can see it in the classroom," he said. "They take care of each other. They are a team, they are a family. I'm proud of the values the coach has placed on the team on and off the field. For us, this was a special event."

School board Trustee Carol Middel told Hardin and Wilton that her daughter, who teaches science in South Carolina, showed the video to her students and the football players

there explained what happened.

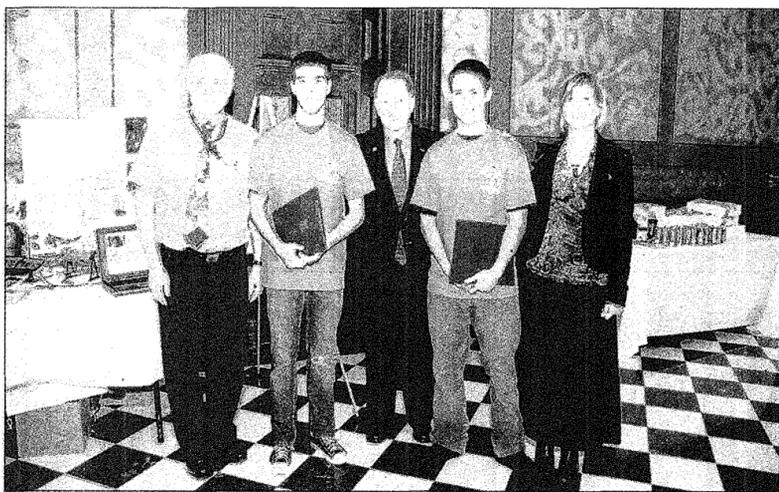
"I want to thank you for the skills you bring to the district as coach and to you, Tony, as player," Middel said. "I'm proud of you."

In a response to a question from board President Skip Monit, Hardin explained that the referees could have called a penalty because of people on the field, but it would not have affected the outcome of the game.

"It would have come after the play ended," he said.

And Trustee William Gabriel drew a chuckle from the audience when he asked Hardin: "Coach, is there any truth to the rumor that you're going to use this play for every homecoming game?"

smason@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-6751



Showing their skills

State Sen. Glenn S. Anderson (center), D-Westland, greets teacher Zachary MacLean (from left), students Mike Damron and Chris Gibson from William D. Ford Career Technical Center and Sue Hardin, president-elect of the Michigan Association for Computer Users in Learning at the ninth annual Michigan Student Technology Showcase held Oct. 28 at the State Capitol Building in Lansing. The Westland school was one of 40 elementary, middle and high schools statewide that participated in the event, which shows elected members of the Michigan State Senate and House of Representatives how technology is being used in the classroom to enhance student achievement. The event was organized by MACUL and co-sponsored by REMC Association of Michigan.

Franklin Players present 'Rehearsal for Murder'

The Franklin High School Players will present *Rehearsal for Murder*, a former television screenplay that's now a puzzling mystery play, at 7 p.m. today and Friday.

The production involves a dead actress and her former fellow actors asking the question, "Did she commit suicide or was she murdered?"

Tickets — \$5 for adults and \$3 for students and children — will be available at the door.

Starring in this ensemble production are two senior actors, Eric Cruickshank and Erin Roulier. Their fellow actors include senior Tim Colling, juniors Nick Colling, Katie Parisi and John Bagazinski, and underclassmen Caitlyn Macuga and Nick Perry. The cast is rounded out by a supporting group of young actors who appear at various



Appearing in *Rehearsal for Murder* are John Bagazinski (from left), playing Frank Heller, Tim Colling as Leo Gibbs, Nick Colling as Lloyd Andrews, Caitlyn Macuga as Karen Daniels, Erin Roulier as Monica Welles and Eric Cruickshank as Alex Dennison.

moments to enrich the story.

Franklin High School is at 31000 Joy Road between

Merriman and Middlebelt roads. For more information, call (248) 347-4134.



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Sometimes a bump isn't just a bump. When you think your child may need to go to the emergency room, you should know that there are always pediatric emergency doctors at Children's Emergency Services. And, if your child needs further care, U-M has the leaders in all areas of pediatric medicine ready with the latest care and technology available at C.S. Mott Children's Hospital.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Listings for the Community Calendar can be submitted by e-mail at smaison@hometownlife.com. They also can be mailed to Sue Mason at 615 W. Lafayette - Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226, or faxed to her attention at fax at (313) 223-3318. For more information, call (313) 222-6751.

UPCOMING EVENTS

WCGH 25th Reunion
Time/date: Doors open 5 p.m. and party runs to 9 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 8
Location: Cafe Marquette, William D. Ford Technical Center, Marquette and Carlson
Details: All Wayne County General Hospital retirees and former employees are invited to attend. A buffet meal will be served. Prices

\$16 (including gratuity). Pay at the door.
Contact: Kay Shafi at (734) 427-3437, e-mail chknlit@wideopenwest.com; Dennis Abraham at (734) 721-2917, e-mail fightingirish316@sbcglobal.net, or Pat Ibbotson at (734) 331-9291, e-mail pibbotso@aol.com.
Zonta anniversary
Time/Date: 16 p.m. Friday, Dec. 4
Location: Embassy Suites, Seven Mile just east of I-275, Livonia
Details: Renowned Comedian Meghan Marie Meyer will set the mood for a fun filled night in celebration for the Zonta Club of Northwest Wayne County Club's 30th Anniversary Party and Christmas Get Together. Cost is \$35. Zonta International is a women's

service organization that works to improve the status of women. For information, go online to www.zonta.org or www.zonta5.org/northwestwayne
Contact: For more information or to reserve a seat, contact Karen at (248) 474-1582 or Sally at (734) 464-3728.

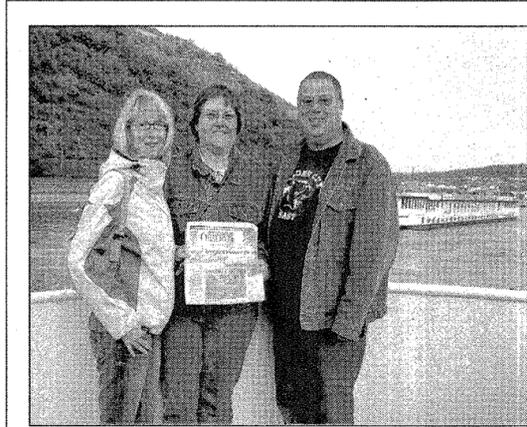
Earth Angels
Details: Earth Angels, a children's entertainment/performance non-profit group composed of kids ages 9 - 16 years old, is currently looking to fill spots. There's opening for girls ages 9 - 11, with at least two years of dance experience, and boys, ages 9 - 12 with no experience needed just an interest in performing. The group delivers a high energy show made up of choreographed dance routines spiced with theatrics and lip-synching to the great Oldies music of the '50s and '60s as well as some current fare.
Contact: www.earthangelsontour.org or by e-mail to eangell1986@comcast.net

TOPS 869 meetings
Time/date: Mondays, weigh-ins at 5:30 p.m., followed by the meeting at 6:15 p.m.
Location: Adams Senior Village, 2001 Kaley Ave., south of Palmer, Westland.
Details: The group is for people age 18 and older.
Contact: The group which meets on Mondays is for people age 18 and older.

American Legion Post 251
Time/date: 7 p.m. first Tuesday of the month
Location: 1217 Merriman Road, between Avondale and Palmer, Westland.
Details: All veterans, male and female with a honorable discharge are welcome to join.
Contact: www.post251.org or call (734) 326-2607

Fish Dial-A-Ride
Location: Garden City, Livonia and Westland
Details: Fish Dial-A-Ride of Western Wayne County is seeking volunteer drivers. A nonprofit community service group, it provides door-to-door rides to non-emergency medical and other necessary appointments for senior and disabled residents of Garden City, Livonia and Westland who are unable to drive and have no alternative transportation. Volunteers can specify days, times, and areas they're willing to drive.
Contact: Call (888) 660-2007 and leave a message.

Higher Rock Cafe
Time/date: 7:30 p.m. second and fourth Fridays of the month.
Location: Wayne-Westland Salvation



Wish You Were Here

Joe and Chris Gross of Garden City posed with their Garden City Observer and 2003 Garden City High School graduate Christin Reschke while a boat tour on the Rhine River in Germany. Reschke was their exchange student and they took a trip to Germany in early October to visit her. Here we are taking a boat tour on the Rhine River in Germany. If you go on vacation, be sure to take a picture with your Observer and send it to Sue Mason, 615 W. Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226. Be sure to include your name and information about your photo.

Army, 2300 Venoy, south of Palmer, Westland.
Details: Doors open at 7:30 p.m. Live bands perform beginning at 8 p.m. Admission is free, however, a free will offering will be taken to support the bands.
Contact: www.tsa.higherrockcafe.4t.com or call (734) 722-3660

EDUCATION

Willow Creek
Location: 36660 Cherry Hill in Westland
Details: Willow Creek Cooperative Preschool offers a Parent/Tot, Young 3's, 3-year and 4-year programs.
Contact: (734) 326-0078

St. Damian
Location: 29891 Joy, Westland
Details: St. Damian Catholic School offers preschool for 3-4-year-olds and full day kindergarten through grade 8.
Contact: (734) 427-1680, www.stdamian.com.

YWCA Preschool
Details: The YWCA of Western Wayne County's Education Department offers quality preschool programs to children aged 2-5 years old at no cost to most families. There are many locations available throughout the community. Home-based programs are also available.
Contact: (313) 561-4110, Ext. 10

VOLUNTEERS

First Step
Details: First Step, which has been active in the effort to end domestic violence and sexual assault in west-

ern Wayne County and Downriver communities for more than 20 years, is looking for volunteers. Interested people must be at least 18, willing and able to travel to the Downriver area and complete a 55-hour training program.
Contact: (734) 416-1111, Ext. 223

Drivers Needed
Details: Volunteer drivers are needed to transport area residents to meetings of the Western Wayne Parkinson's Disease Support Group. The meetings take place 7-9 p.m. on the second Thursday of the month in the Livonia Senior Center, Farmington Road south of Five Mile. Drivers may be offered a stipend. Parkinson's patients, caregivers and others may attend the meetings.
Contact: (734) 459-0216 or (734) 421-4208

VNA Hospice
Details: Visiting Nurse Association of Southeast Michigan's (VNA) hospice program needs volunteers to comfort and support patients at the end of life. Volunteers can provide companionship, write a memoir, provide respite for family or work as office support. A free 18-hour training program is provided at the VNA headquarters, 25900 Greenfield Road, Suite 600. Registration is required.
Contact: (248) 967-8361, www.vna.org

Seasons Hospice
Details: Seasons Hospice and Palliative Care is looking for volunteers to provide companionship to patients dealing with life limiting illness. No special skills,

other than objectivity and compassion, are needed. Training provided. Volunteers are matched with patients in their own community.
Contact: (800) 370-8592

Literacy Council
Details: The Community Literacy Council (CLC) is looking for volunteer tutors in Western Wayne County to help adults improve their reading, writing and communication skills. The CLC will provide training to interested volunteers. Previous experience or a bachelor's degree is not required. The council will provide free training and materials, and then match you with an adult student in your area.
Contact: (734) 416-4906

Details: Heartland Hospice is looking for caring and dedicated people with an interest in serving terminally ill patients and their families in Washtenaw, western Wayne, Monroe and Livingston counties. Volunteers provide a variety of services including companionship, light housekeeping, errand running, grief support and clerical services.
Contact: (888) 973-1145

ORGANIZATIONS

Friends of Eloise
Time/date: 7 p.m. third Tuesday of the month (except July, August and December)

Location: Collins House in the Westland Historic Village Park, 857 N. Wayne Road between Marquette and Cherry Hill, Westland.
Contact: Jo Johnson (734) 522-3918

Writing Group
Time/date: 7 p.m. the second Wednesday of every month
Location: Wayne Public Library, 3737 S. Wayne Road, Wayne
Details: The Story Circle Network is made up of women who want to explore their lives and souls through life-writing, writing that focuses on personal experience through memoirs and autobiographies, in diaries, journals and personal essays. Participants should bring a notebook or laptop computer to each meeting to spend some time writing, and for those who are comfortable doing so, sharing their writing. Membership in Story Circle's National Network is optional. Participation in the group is free.
Contact: www.storycircle.org or send an e-mail to shepry@yahoo.com

TOPS M128
Time/date: 7 p.m. Mondays
Location: Good Shepherd Reformed Church, 6500 N. Wayne Road, at Hunter, Westland
Contact: Pat Strong at (734) 326-3539 or Mary Lowe at (734) 729-6879.

HOSPITAL WELLNESS CALENDAR

Garden City Hospital, at 6245 Inkster Road, offers a weekly schedule of health and wellness programs for residents. The lineup includes:
Monday, Nov. 23
 Childbirth Education (4 of 6 classes) at 6 p.m. The six-week course prepares the expectant mother and coach for labor and delivery. Class runtime is 2 1/2 hours. There is a \$60 fee. Medicaid is accepted. A refresher course also is available. Call (734) 458-4330 for more information or to register.
Tuesday, Nov. 24
 Get Up and Move at 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. The exercise program is designed to

help you get up and get moving, and is the perfect compliment to your diet program. Fee is \$30 per month. For more information, call (734) 458-3242.
 Strength and Stretch at 2 p.m. is a non-aerobic exercise class designed to help strengthen and define muscles, as well as increase flexibility. Fee is \$30 per month. For more information, call (734) 458-3242.
 Yoga (4 of 4 classes) at 4 p.m. The four-week session is \$32. Classes meet at Garden City Hospital's Cardiac Rehab. Call (734) 458-3242 to register.
Wednesday, Nov. 25
 CPAP and BIPAP Mask Fitting Clinic

at 5 p.m. Visit the Sleep Disorders Center of Michigan, 35600 Central City Parkway, Suite 103, Westland, from 5-6 p.m. any Wednesday for a free mask fitting clinic. No appointment is needed. Call (734) 458-3330 for more information.
 First Aid (ARC) at 6 p.m. This American Red Cross class teaches how to care for injuries, sudden illness and other emergencies at home or on the job. The class is offered at Garden City Hospital's Health and Education Center at 6701 Harrison, north of Maplewood. There is a \$25 fee. Participants will receive a three-year certification upon successful completion. Call (734) 458-4330 to register.
 Baby Care at 6 p.m. The two sessions class helps parents with little or no experience caring for young children as they prepare for a new baby. The class takes place at Garden City Hospital's Harrison Education Center.

Cost is \$40 for one or two parents. Call (734) 458-4330 for more information.
 Eating Disorders Support Group at 7 p.m. is for individuals with anorexia, bulimia, and compulsive and binge eating disorders. Men, women and teens invited to attend. Call (734) 458-4330.
Daily programs
 Garden City Hospital's Health Enhancement Center offers daily programs Monday through Friday in Phase II and III Cardiac Rehabilitation/Cardiac Wellness, a Peripheral Vascular Disease Exercise and Strength Training Program, and a Diabetes Exercise Program. These classes are presented and monitored by certified exercise physiologists. Contact the Health Enhancement Center at (734) 458-3242 to select an exercise program specifically designed for you.

Hours:
 MON.-SAT. 9-9
 SUN. 9-7

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 Your Meat & Deli Supermarket

38000 Ann Arbor Rd.
 Livonia
 (734) 464-0330

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 Open Thanksgiving Day
 10 am - 3 pm

SALE VALID NOV. 23 - NOV. 25

Grade A 10-22 lb HONEYSUCKLE TURKEYS **59¢** lb.
 Limit 1 with additional \$25 purchase

3 DAYS ONLY

Mike's Famous Fresh HOLIDAY KIELBASA **\$2.99** lb.
 All Pork ~ No Fillers
 Family Pack 5 lbs or more

Boneless, Skinless CHICKEN BREAST **\$1.99** lb.
 Family Pack

Boneless Butterfly PORK CHOPS **\$2.99** lb.

Fresh Ground Beef GROUND SIRLOIN **\$2.69** lb.
 Family Pack

Sold in 2 lb bag for \$12.98

Frozen Fully Cooked JUMBO SHRIMP **\$6.49** lb.
 31-40 Ct.

Boneless NY STRIP STEAKS **\$5.99** lb.
 6 Steak Value Pack

Boneless STEW BEEF **\$3.49** lb.

Fresh Ground Beef GROUND CHUCK **\$2.19** lb.
 Family Pack

Check our website for additional specials! Mikes-marketplace.com

"NO CHILD WITHOUT A CHRISTMAS"

More than ever, Garden City GOODFELLOWS need your donations this year!
 Any possible amount can help.

Make a Donation
 Mail your tax deductible donation to:
 Garden City Goodfellows
 PO Box 2407
 Garden City, MI 48136

The volunteers of the Garden City Goodfellows, along with the recipient families THANK YOU in advance for your continued support.

The Garden City Goodfellows is a 501c3 non-profit organization.
 Garden City Goodfellows phone line: 734-679-7838

Watch for volunteers at Kroger, Kmart and on the street corners of Garden City Thanksgiving weekend for our Annual Paper Drive!

CITY OF WESTLAND SYNOPSIS OF MINUTES MTG. 22 11/16/09

Presiding: President Godbout
 Present: Graunstadt, Johnson, Kehrre, Pickering, Reeves, Stottlemeyer
 190: Appr. minutes of 11/2/09.
 -Rescinded Traffic Control Order 2009-04: Re-install "NO PARKING MONDAY THRU FRIDAY 7am-3pm" sign on outer side of Dayton Ct.
 -Appr. intergovernmental agrmnt. btwn. Westland & Wayne re. Glenwood repaving project.
 -Introduced Ord. 109-K-B-2, amending Art. V, Div. I, Sec. 62-126(c) of the Westland City Code.
 -Adopt. Prep. Res. to use NSP funds to purchase 1 property.
 191-Appr. req. for Closed Study Session re. Newborn vs. City of Westland.
 193-App't. P. Manke as Dem. on Bd. of Canvassers.
 195-App't. C. Wilson as Rep. on Bd. of Canvassers.
 District Court: \$968,822.66 & Prepaid: \$1,188,308.89
 Mtg. adj. at 8:35 p.m.
 Minutes available in the Clerk's Office.

James Godbout
Council President

Eileen DeHart
City Clerk, CMC

Publish: November 22, 2009 OE08681367 2x4

Getting competitive bids for insurance can pay dividends

Q: Dear Rick: I have seen lots of commercials and ads about buying auto insurance online. I have always used a local agent and I thought I was getting a good deal. When I contacted an online company and received a bid, I was surprised at how much money I can save. I am leery about using an online insurance company. Are they safe?

Money Matters

Rick Bloom

A: I love that you received a competitive bid on your auto insurance. I think more people should receive competitive bids. I'm not aware of any problems — at this time — with buying any kind of insurance online. As long as you're dealing with a reputable insurance company, I see no problem with buying online.

For all its faults, the Internet has become a great tool for consumers. Whether or not you buy insurance online, the Internet is a great tool to use to receive competitive bids. You can take the bid to your current insurance company and ask them to match it. Even if they cannot, it definitely makes a statement to your agent that you are cost-conscious.

I think people would be surprised how much money they can save on a year-by-year basis by competitively shopping their insurance around. One criticism of buying insurance online is, if you do have a claim, you don't have a personal relationship with an agent who will go to bat for you. My thought is you shouldn't need anyone to go to bat for you because, if you are dealing with a reputable insurance company, they should not make it difficult to receive a claim. However, reality is somewhat different. I recognize that insurance companies are subject to fraudulent claims and, therefore, cannot just pay any claim. That being said, the unfortunate truth is that some insurance agents don't assist you with claims. They want to sell the policy and let you deal with the company when it comes to claims. A good agent, however, will make sure the policy fits your individual situation and assist you when claims arise. Therefore, in making a decision whether to use an online company, take into consideration your relationship with your agent.

Lastly, when you buy auto or homeowners insurance, one question to ask your agent (if you deal with one) or to consider when you deal with an online company is, what type of discounts are available? You'd be surprised to know the different discounts that are offered. For example, if one of your children is on your automobile insurance, many companies offer discounts if they have good grades. There are also a variety of discounts if you belong to certain organizations. Insurance discount programs change at a rapid pace. Therefore, every time you get a renewal, make sure you ask what discounts are available. Good luck!

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

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SECTION B
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Alumni to gather for tribute to choir director - Neighbors, B5

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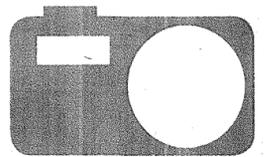


Photo galleries

Online at hometownlife.com

Churchill bounced by Portage Central

Chargers fall in four games in Class A state semifinals

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Portage Central had its own version of Special K - Taylor Galloway - and that's why Livonia Churchill's run in the state Class A girls volleyball tournament is over.

The 6-foot junior outside hitter finished with a match-high 29 kills as the Mustangs eliminated Churchill in four games, 25-18, 20-25, 25-19, 25-23, in Thursday's state semifinal at Battle Creek's Kellogg Arena.

The win puts Portage Central, 59-7-1 overall, in Saturday's state championship final in the Cereal City against top-ranked Bloomfield Hills Marian, 76-2 overall.

Churchill, making its second straight state semifinal appearance and third in six years under coach Mark Grenier, bows out at 53-6 overall.

"She's a great player and they have a couple of other kids that hit well," Churchill coach Mark Grenier said of Galloway and her supporting cast. "She had some great swings in a couple of big spots."

Mari Schoolmaster and Mallory Patterson each added 11 kills for the victorious Mustangs.

They helped offset the sterling hitting efforts of Churchill's two outgoing seniors - Cierra Yetts, who recorded 22 kills, and Sarah Suppelsa, who finished with 18.

"I thought our kids played hard," Grenier said. "I'm proud and pleased every step of the way. We had our opportunities. A couple of breaks here and there and it could have been different. It was a good match."

Churchill trailed throughout the first set, getting as close as 19-17 before the Mustangs put it away behind Galloway's nine kills.

The Chargers regrouped to win the second game as the 5-9 Yetts came alive with six kills and one block.

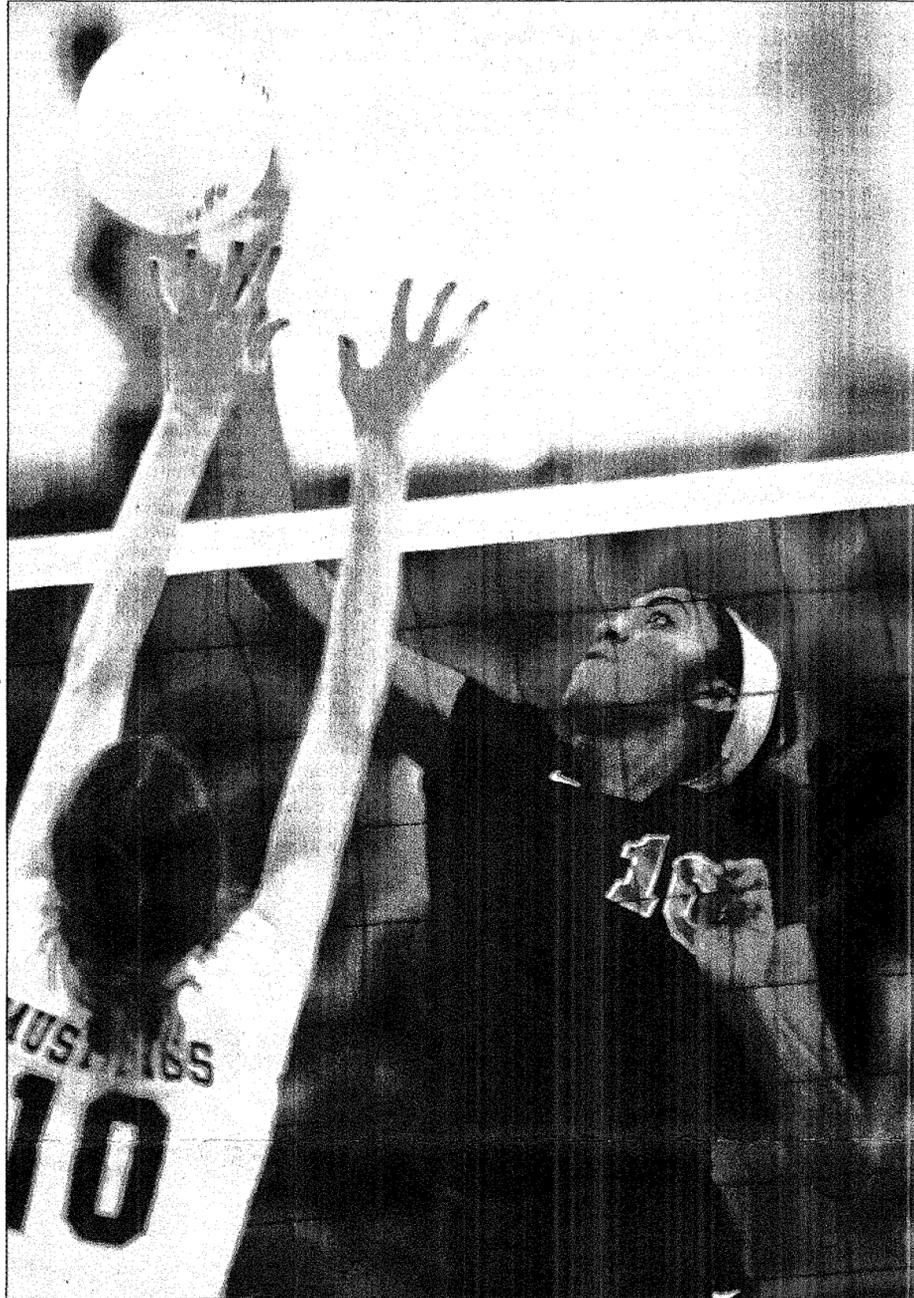
"We switched our scheme blocking the second game," Grenier said. "Other than that, we just let the kids play."

Galloway, however, continued her assault in the third set with nine kills as the Mustangs closed it out with a 6-0 run after leading 20-19.

In the fourth set, Churchill fell behind 9-3 at the outset, but rallied for a 20-16, only to have the Mustangs answer with four straight points as Grenier called timeout.

"I told them it was just like practice where we go 20 minutes in our unforced error drill," he said. "We were just back there in the gym competing and give ourselves an opportunity."

Leading 23-22, Portage got a critical point on a close call on the back line. Churchill answered to get within one, but the Mustangs sealed the match on Schoolmaster's kill.



KIRTHMON DOZIER | GANNETT NEWS SERVICE

Churchill's Cierra Yetts, who had 22 kills, makes the attack over Portage Central's Erika Nord during Thursday's Class A state semifinal at Battle Creek's Kellogg Arena.

Please see **CHURCHILL, B3**

Panthers halt Blazers' title run

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Getting to the girls state volleyball finals is nothing new for Jack Magelssen, who won 10 state Class A championships when he was at Portage Northern.

But it's a brand new experience for his Delton-Kellogg squad, which had won only two district matches and had only one winning season in school history.

In Friday's Class B semifinal, Livonia Ladywood's state tournament run came to an end as the Panthers rolled to a 25-10, 25-17, 25-18 triumph before a large and boisterous crowd at Battle Creek's Kellogg Arena.

Ladywood, which bowed out at 40-23 overall, ironically was the last team to beat the 60-6-2 Panthers - that coming in last month's Sturgis Invitational.

"We're not a big team, just a bunch of local kids who grew up together and play together," said Magelssen, whose squad faced North Branch in Saturday's championship final. "I felt they could get to the state finals, but I don't know if they knew."

"You never know when you get here. Tonight we knew we had to come out hard and set the tone of the match. We like to play ahead."

The Panthers did just that against the Blazers.

In the first set, the Panthers bolted out to a 7-2 lead and it was the Terin Norris show as the senior setter, bound for Western Michigan University, had three kills, two blocks and two ace serves.

The Panthers took control of

Please see **BLAZERS, B3**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jacob Otto of Livonia Churchill races down the ice Friday night in season-opening play against North Farmington-Harrison. The Chargers scored an exciting 3-2 victory in overtime on a goal by junior forward Mike Kutek.

Chargers win hockey opener in overtime

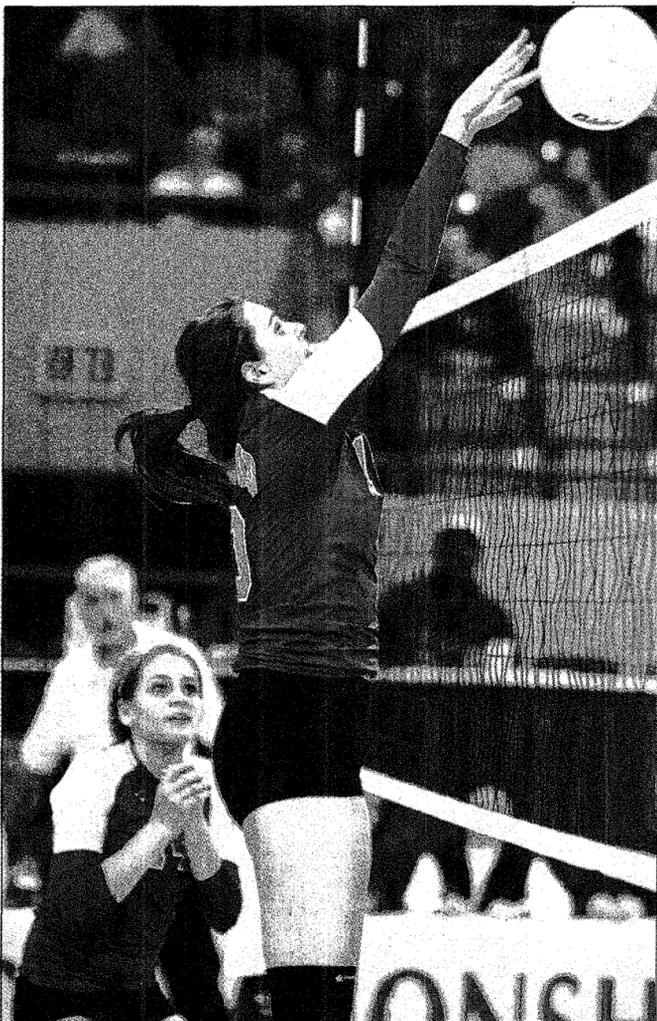
Livonia Churchill had an exciting and successful hockey season-opener Friday, defeating North Farmington-Harrison in overtime, 3-2.

In the Novi Metro Invitational, junior forward Mike Kutek won it for the Chargers on a power play just 49 seconds into overtime at Novi Ice Arena. He was assisted by junior Steven Klisz and senior Scott Hamill.

Churchill was outshot, 20-9, in the first two periods, but held North-Harrison scoreless in the third and won the shots on goal battle in that period, 10-8.

The Chargers tied the score, 2-2, when Gianni Kefallinos scored the only goal of the third period from Christo Pappaionnou at 15:52.

Please see **CHARGERS, B3**



DENNIS BARNES

Ladywood's Katy Rooney goes up for the block in Friday's Class B semifinal setback to Delton-Kellogg at Battle Creek's Kellogg Arena.

SIDELINES

Harriers qualify

Three area runners have earned All-State honors and qualified for the USA Track and Field regional cross country meet held Nov. 21 at Masterson Park in Lexington, Ky.

Keenan Jones, a student at Emerson Middle School, took runner-up honors in the Midget Boys race, while Megan McFarlane of Frost M.S. placed fifth in the Youth Girls division.

Livonia Franklin High junior Austin Jones added a 14th in the Boys Intermediate division.

Fletemier honored

Former Garden City High standout Lindsay Fletemier, a junior on the University of Dayton women's volleyball team, has been named Co-Player of the Year in the Atlantic 10 Conference.

The Flyers middle-blocker shares the honor with last season's Player of the Year Sammi McCloud of Saint Louis.

Fletemier, who was named to the A-10 First Team her sophomore season, leads the conference with a .402 attack efficiency, 11th best among Division I volleyball programs. She also tops the A-10 averaging 1.31 blocks per set, which ranks her 26th nationally.

During the season Fletemier became the 19th Flyer to surpass 1,000 career kills. She ranks 11th in program history in kills (1,153) and fifth in solo blocks (80) and block assists (315).

Fletemier was also named Academic All-Conference.

Cougar contributors

Mariah Carver and Rachel Szczembara, key performers all season for Garden City High School's girls cross country team, were inadvertently left off the list of honorable mention recipients of the 2009 All-Observer Girls Cross Country Team. Carver, a freshman, and Szczembara, a senior, helped their teammates capture the WWAC Red Division championship.

SC men win

The Allen Park High connection of Aaron Felsner and Trevor Zacny combined for 40 points as the Schoolcraft College men's basketball team posted a 70-63 MCCA Eastern Conference victory Wednesday night at Kirtland Community College.

The 6-foot-6 Felsner had 22 points, while the 6-4 Zacny contributed 18 as the Ocelots (2-6, 1-0) snapped a six-game losing streak.

Dmitry Martynenko, a 6-9 freshman from Moscow, Russia, led the Warblers (1-4, 0-1) and all scorers with 24 points.

Lady Ocelots romp

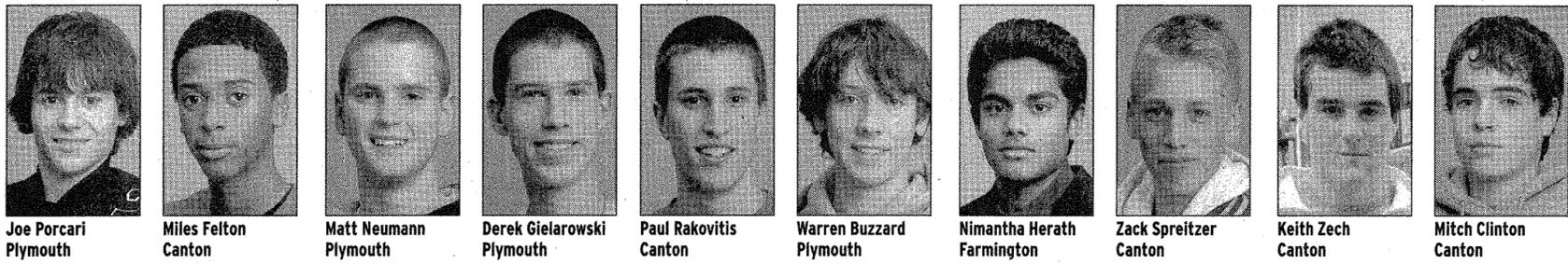
It was no contest Wednesday as the second-ranked Schoolcraft College women's basketball team rolled to a 90-44 MCCA Eastern Conference triumph over host Kirtland CC.

The Lady Ocelots, now 5-0 overall, got 17 points and seven rebounds from April Goins.

Antania Shepherd and Angela Burrell each contributed 13 points and combined for 12 assists for Schoolcraft, which has won 60 of its last 62 conference games.

Amber Avery and Emelda Chew contributed nine and eight points, respectively, as the Ocelots shot 58.4 percent from the field (38-of-65).

Kirtland (0-3, 0-1), which committed 32 turnovers, got 17 points from Teri Taylor.



All-Observer team features plenty of Wildcats, Chiefs

FIRST TEAM

JOE PORCARI, JR., PLYMOUTH: In just his third season, Porcari is already on the path to school greatness — he is the fourth best runner in Plymouth history.

His personal record for the season was 16-minutes, 15-seconds. The 4.0 student also placed third at the Division 1 regional and 26th at the state meet, earning him all-state honors.

"Joe was the number one runner on the team this year from the first race to the last race," said Plymouth head coach Jon Mikosz. "He will be one of the top returnees next year and has the potential to be the best runner in school history."

MILES FELTON, SOPH., CANTON: The Chiefs' 2008 Rookie of the Year had quite an encore season, earning him Co-MVP honors as well as All-Region, All-League (second Team) and All-Observerland honors for the second year in a row.

Felton's best time of the season was an impressive 16:23.

"Miles holds the records for fastest sophomore and fastest freshman in school history," said Canton head coach Bill Boyd. "After only two years, he is already one of the best runners the school has ever seen."

MATT NEUMANN, SR., PLYMOUTH: The senior co-captain is the eighth-best runner in school history, and he added to his legacy in 2009 with a fourth-place finish at the KLAAs Kensington Conference meet (with a PR of 16:36).

During his four years with the Wildcats varsity, Neumann helped

2009 ALL-OBSERVER BOYS CROSS COUNTRY

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 Joe Porcari, Jr., Plymouth
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 Matt Neumann, Sr., Plymouth
 Derek Gielarowski, Soph., Plymouth
 Paul Rakovitis, Sr., Canton
 Warren Buzzard, Sr., Plymouth
 Nimantha Herath, Soph., Farmington
 Zack Spreitzer, Sr. Canton
 Keith Zech, Sr., Canton
 Mitch Clinton, Soph., Canton

SECOND TEAM
 Jimmy Maciag, Jr., Plymouth
 Nik Gherardini, Sr. Franklin
 Tim Winkle, Jr., Churchill
 Quinn Osgood, Sr., Churchill
 Cody Larsen, Jr., Farmington
 David Hong, Jr., Farmington
 Mike Charara, Sr., Salem
 Joe Urso, Jr., Stevenson
 Bradon Conley, Soph., Canton
 Matt Williams, Jr., Stevenson
 Garrett Neumann, Soph., Plymouth
 Steve McEvilly, Fr., Salem

HONORABLE MENTION
 Canton: Josh Osinski, Andrew Stephens, Steve Watts; Church Hill: Ryan Wise, Cody Rossler; Garden City: Alex Boyd; Farmington: Kevin Pitt, Drew Lindman; Franklin: Bobby Wilson, Joe Steckel, Mike Witt, Ryan Derry; Harrison: Dan Leeb, Jalen Graves; John Glenn: Ruben Maya, Jason Suarez; Lutheran Westland: Daniel Bunge; North Farmington: Michael Lett, Anthony Williams; Plymouth: Jimmy Eiben; Justin Heck; Redford Union: Justin Faur, Zack VandenToorn; Salem: Jimmy Daniels; Stevenson: John Lynch; Wayne: Tyler Gendron.

the team win three division titles, two conference championships and be part of a team that finished 12th, 12th and 11th at the Division 1 state meet.

"Matt is not only a great runner but also a team leader," Mikosz said. "He capped off a great four years of cross country and will be hard to replace."

DEREK GIELAROWSKI, SOPH., PLYM. At the DI state meet, Gielarowski was the seventh-fastest sophomore, another example of how quickly he has become a cog for the Wildcats.

In just two years, he has become the 10th-best runner in Plymouth history (PR of 16:44) and has been

part of two division titles, one conference title and teams that finished 12th and 11th at the state meet.

"Derek had a great season and showed that he can run with the top runners in the area," Mikosz said. "... He has a lot of potential and I hope he can reach all of it."

PAUL RAKOVITIS, SR., CANTON: Rakovitis had another solid season in his third year with the varsity, with selection to the All-KLAA (second team), All Region and All-Observerland squads.

Teammates honored him with the Hardest Worker Award and his season's best time was 16:45.

"Paul was the team's most consistent runner," Boyd said.

WARREN BUZZARD, SR., PLYMOUTH: Co-captain Buzzard is tied for sixth place all-time at the school and has a career PR of 16:34.

A top student (4.0 GPA), he also is a big reason the Wildcats have won three KLAAs South divisions, two conference titles and finished 12th, 12th and 11th at the DI state meet during his four years with the varsity.

NIMANTHA HERATH, SOPH., FARMINGTON: The sophomore led the Falcons to the OAA White Division championship with a fourth-place finish and 17:09 time in the division meet at Royal Oak High School. Herath saved his best race for last, running 16:50 and earning 28th place in the Division 1 regional at Brighton. He is a two-time individual co-champion in the Farmington city meet, too.

"Nimantha is a competitive, consistent runner with good race instincts," coach Charlie Stamboulis said. "He steadily improved as the season progressed and had his best races at the conference and regional meets. The future is bright for him."

ZACK SPREITZER, SR., CANTON: Canton's Co-MVP ran his PR 16:33 at the Monroe Jefferson Invitational, which coach Boyd said was "one of the best runs in school history."

The fourth-year varsity runner and 500 Mile Club member added to his long list of honors this fall. Besides being selected to the All-Observerland, and All-KLAA teams for the third time, he was named a 2009 KLAAs Scholar Athlete.

Spreitzer started his Canton

career with top rookie honors in 2006 and he never stopped excelling.

According to Boyd, the senior simply has been "one of the best runners in school history."

KEITH ZECH, SR., CANTON: The senior only ran cross country as a senior, switching over from football.

But his only year as a harrier was such a success that Boyd praised him as "one of the toughest runners Canton has seen."

Zech, whose personal best was 16:43, made the All-KLAA third team and was 18th at the DI regional despite being sick for the final two weeks of the season.

MITCH CLINTON, SOPH., CANTON: With two outstanding seasons under his belt, Clinton already is the 24th-fastest runner in school history and the fifth-fastest Canton sophomore ever.

The KLAAs Scholar Athlete ran 16:48 for his personal best, and earned Unsung Hero honors from his teammates.

Besides again making the All-Observerland team, Clinton was a third-team selection to the All-KLAA squad.

"He runs through injuries and works hard every day," Boyd said.

COACH OF THE YEAR

JON MIKOSZ, PLYMOUTH: Under the watchful eye of sixth-year coach Mikosz, the Wildcats enjoyed a stellar 2009 season — including a second-place finish at the DI regional for the highest finish the team has ever had.

Plymouth took first overall in

October at the Wayne County Meet at Willow Metropark (where the regional took place), and went 5-0 in regular season dual meets to win the KLAAs South for a second straight year — going 10-0 over that two-year span.

For Mikosz, a 2001 Canton High School graduate, leading the Wildcats has continued the success he enjoyed as a runner (at Canton he was a two-time captain and state qualifier).

And a big reason for the continuing success is Mikosz, who expects a lot out of his runners while being very supportive as well.

"I think our program is so successful because the guys truly love running," said Mikosz, who lives in Canton. "They are not just running to stay in shape or to make friends but they are truly competitive and want to win."

"I expect a lot out of my athletes and they know that. With all that being said we still probably have more fun than any other team around."

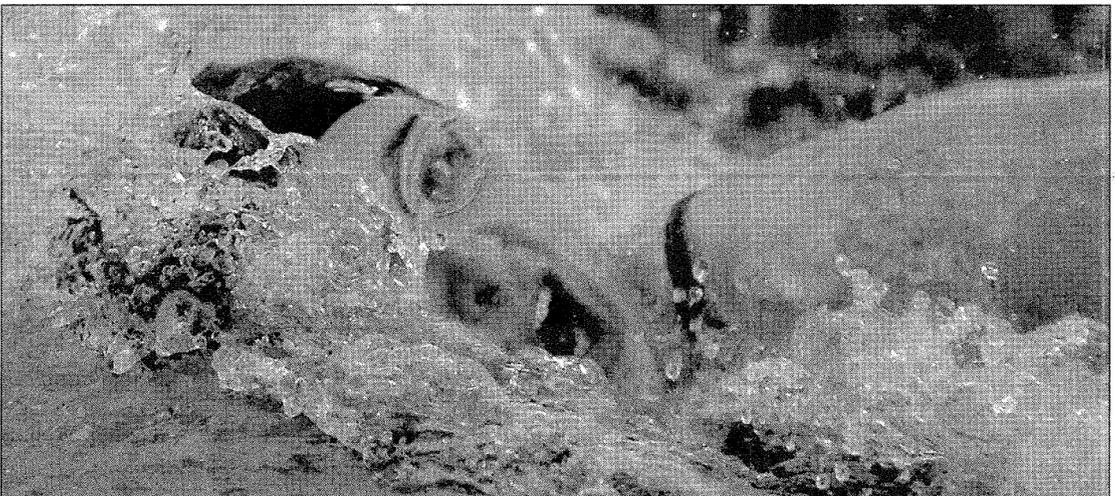
They also see how much Mikosz still loves the sport and want to emulate someone who not only excelled at the prep level but ran cross country and track at Eastern Michigan University.

"The key is to make sure that everyone is having a good time," he said. "If you can make that happen the improvements and winning will come."



Jon Mikosz
Plymouth coach

CATHOLIC LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS



JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Livonia Ladywood tanker Hanna Weaver splashed her way to an eighth-place finish at the recent Catholic League Girls Swimming & Diving Meet. Ladywood placed fourth in the team standings with 194 points.

CATHOLIC LEAGUE GIRLS SWIMMING & DIVING MEET
 Nov. 14 at Livonia Recreation Center

TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Farmington Hills Mercy, 629.5; 2. Birmingham Marian, 588.5; 3. Pontiac Notre Dame Prep, 264; 4. Livonia Ladywood, 194; 5. Warren Regina, 181; 6. Royal Oak Shrine, 92; 7. Madison Heights Bishop Foley, 82.

200-YARD MEDLEY RELAY: 1. Marian (Hayley Johnson, Claire Schelske, Jaynie Pulte, Molly Schaefer), 1:50.45; 2. Mercy, 1:51.58; 3. Ladywood, 2:00.87; 4. Notre Dame, 2:01.40; 5. Regina, 2:04.75; 6. Shrine, 2:13.96; 7. Bishop Foley, 2:23.92.

200-YARD FREESTYLE: 1. Olivia Samoray (FHM), 1:57.99; 2. Emily Reamer (FHM), 1:58.36; 3. Emma Craig (FHM), 2:01.55; 4. Molly Schaefer (BM), 2:01.86; 5. Carlee Jackson (FHM), 2:02.02; 6. Katie Devor (BM), 2:02.38; 7. Emily Evans (BM), 2:03.50; 8. Payton Hoff (NDP), 2:05.09.

Consolation Final: 9. Kaleigh Mullen (NDP), 2:07.09; 10. Heather Pijor (LL), 2:08.03; 11. Alyssa Varsanik (NDP), 2:08.58; 12. Maddy Mulroy (BM), 2:13.09; 13. Jillian Wills (WR), 2:18.67; 14. Anna Vanegmond (WR), 2:19.88; 15. Nicole Munson (LL), 2:21.55; 16. Emily Gazall (WR), 2:26.04.

200-YARD INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY: 1. Maria Bargardi (FHM), 2:13.26; 2. Anna Schena (FHM), 2:13.97; 3. Annie Valentine (FHM), 2:18.42; 4. Claire Schelske (BM), 2:18.80; 5. MacKenzie Chesley (NDP), 2:19.16; 6. Madison Taylor (BM), 2:20.63; 7. Emily Caruso (FHM), 2:21.27; 8. Camille Lynch (BM), 2:23.75.

Consolation Final: 9. Allie Bushman (BM), 2:26.32; 10. Brianna Wilson (LL), 2:29.80; 11. Emily Kaye (NDP), 2:32.56; 12. Samantha Rushton (BF), 2:32.83; 13. Caleigh Griffin (LL), 2:33.80; 14. Stephanie Fierens (NDP), 2:34.95; 15. Katherine Koueiter (WR), 2:38.58; 16. Becky Sparagowski (WR), 2:39.06.

50-YARD FREESTYLE: 1. Nikki Barczak (FHM), 24.03; 2. Jaynie Pulte (BM), 24.15; 3. Taylor Steffi (FHM), 24.82; 4. Noel Huffman (FHM), 25.38; 5. Stephanie Berg (BM), 25.91; 6.

(tie) Geri Michalzuk (FHM) and Meghan Jones (FHM), 26.15; 8. Maddy Pelon (LL), 26.73.

Consolation Final: 9. Suzie Lessnau (WR), 26.88; 10. Sarah Beargie (BM), 26.89; 11. Hannah Weaver (LL), 27.58; 12. Alaina Stevenson (LL), 27.90; 13. Jackelyn Adams (NDP), 28.03; 14. Jessica Murrell (NDP), 28.19; 15. Alfie Breda (ROS), 28.72; 16. Madison Stinebaugh (ROS), 28.95.

ONE-METER DIVING: 1. Emma Gaboury (BM), 353.10; 2. Lauren Roberts (FHM), 330.45; 3. Alyssa Daugherty (BM), 317.55; 4. Alexandra Siano (BM), 283.80; 5. Margaret Shea (BM), 251.20; 6. Nicole Hogan (NDP), 243.50; 7.

Hannah Ratliff (WR), 229.45; 8. Catherine Dudunn (WR), 222.75; 9. Angela Manzo (WR), 219.70; 10. Diana Levandowski (FHM), 198.05; 11. Mary Fredendall (FHM), 184.05; 12. Sarah Seski (WR), 181.75; 13. Alexandria Scott (FHM), 150.10.

100-YARD BUTTERFLY: 1. Nikki Barczak (FHM), 57.42; 2. Jaynie Pulte (BM), 58.38; 3. Annie Valentine (FHM), 1:00.74; 4. Kelly Karpus (FHM), 1:03.03; 5. Abigail Wilkins (BM), 1:03.21; 6. MacKenzie Chesley (NDP), 1:03.26; 7. Lauren Ochoa (FHM), 1:04.48; 8. Isabelle Bishop (BM), 1:04.66.

Consolation Final: 9. Sarah Beargie (BM),

1:06.91; 10. Erin Holtz (WR), 1:07.06; 11. Maddy Pelon (LL), 1:08.04; 12. Samantha Rushton (BF), 1:08.15; 13. Katherine Koueiter (WR), 1:11.49; 14. Ava Healy (NDP), 1:12.35; 15. Gabi Bowers (NDP), 1:14.56; 16. Lia Andreassi (LL), 1:16.66.

100-YARD FREESTYLE: 1. Carlee Jackson (FHM), 55.14; 2. Noel Huffman (FHM), 55.39; 3. Hayley Johnson (BM), 55.41; 4. Molly Schaefer (BM), 55.55; 5. Taylor Steffi (FHM), 55.95; 6. Meghan Jones (BM), 57.34; 7. Maria McInerney (NDP), 58.85; 8. Hannah Weaver (LL), 59.76.

Consolation Final: 9. Maddy Mulroy (BM), 59.78; 10. Anna Vanegmond (WR), 1:02.04;

11. Jackelyn Adams (NDP), 1:02.88; 12. Jillian Wills (WR), 1:02.90; 13. Alaina Stevenson (LL), 1:03.00; 14. Stephanie Pickard (ROS), 1:03.54; 15. Madison Stinebaugh (ROS), 1:03.80; 16. Jennifer Vyskocil (NDP), 1:04.55.

500-YARD FREESTYLE: 1. Katie Devor (BM), 5:21.19; 2. Emma Craig (FHM), 5:21.66; 3. Emily Evans (BM), 5:24.15; 4. Madison Taylor (BM), 5:25.39; 5. Geri Michalzuk (FHM), 5:25.45; 6. Alyssa Varsanik (NDP), 5:41.20; 7. Emma Balduz (FHM), 5:47.44; 8. Shannon Lemmer (FHM), 5:57.70.

Consolation Final: 9. Kaleigh Mullen (NDP),

5:38.49; 10. Payton Hoff (NDP), 5:38.54; 11. Heather Pijor (LL), 5:48.32; 12. Brooke Hosea (BM), 6:05.74; 13. Emily Kaye (NDP), 6:11.56; 14. Suzie Lessnau (WR), 6:13.01; 15. Nicole Munson (LL), 6:17.53; 16. Courtney Handren (ROS), 6:17.91.

200-YARD FREESTYLE RELAY: 1. Mercy (Olivia Samoray, Taylor Steffi, Noel Huffman, Nikki Barczak), 1:38.53; 2. Marian, 1:39.72; 3. Note Dame Pre, 1:46.94; 4. Regina, 1:53.02; 5. Ladywood, 1:54.72; 6. Shrine, 1:56.35; 7. Bishop Foley, 1:53.22.

100-YARD BACKSTROKE: 1. Maria Bargardi (FHM), 59.47; 2. Hayley Johnson (BM), 59.48; 3. Emily Reamer (FHM), 1:03.00; 4. Stephanie Berg (BM), 1:03.17; 5. Alex Abowd (FHM), 1:04.68; 6. Katie Patterson (FHM), 1:04.86; 7. Isabelle Bishop (BM), 1:05.78; 8. Marin McInerney (NDP), 1:06.72.

Consolation Final: 9. Brianna Wilson (LL), 1:07.10; 10. Abigail Wilkins (BM), 1:07.15; 11. Stephanie Fierens (NDP), 1:09.31; 12. Victoria Wedyke (WR), 1:10.84; 13. Jessica Arabi (LL), 1:13.26; 14. Lauren Wilson (NDP), 1:13.94; 15. Gabi Bowers (NDP), 1:20.26; 16. Maris Ryckman (LL), 1:20.78.

100-YARD BREASTSTROKE: 1. Anna Schena (FHM), 1:08.46; 2. Claire Schelske (BM), 1:10.45; 3. Allie Bushman (BM), 1:11.90; 4. Camille Lynch (BM), 1:12.76; 5. Rachel Mack (FHM), 1:13.40; 6. Erin Asher (BM), 1:14.37; 7. Emma Caruso (FHM), 1:15.22; 8. Caleigh Griffin (LL), 1:15.44.

Consolation Final: 9. Kate Johnson (FHM), 1:14.28; 10. Jessica Murrell (NDP), 1:17.97; 11. Mackenzie Kay (WR), 1:19.17; 12. Stephanie Pickard (ROS), 1:20.01; 13. Ava Healy (NDP), 1:20.03; 14. Kimberly Solak (LL), 1:20.52; 15. Amy Kobylarz (LL), 1:20.55; 16. Becky Sparagowski (WR), 1:21.04.

400-YARD FREESTYLE RELAY: 1. Mercy (Olivia Samoray, Carlee Jackson, Maria Bargardi, Nikki Barczak), 3:39.26; 2. Marian, 3:45.36; 3. Ladywood, 3:58.33; 4. Notre Dame Prep, 3:58.84; 5. Regina, 4:18.78; 6. Shrine, 4:34.34; 7. Bishop Foley, 4:47.87.

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SPORTS ROUNDUP

Elks Hoop Shoot

The 2009 Elks Hoop Shoot contest will be Saturday, Dec. 5 at the Livonia Community Recreation Center, located a 15100 Hubbard (off Five Mile Road). Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. the day of the event followed by the contest at 9 a.m. Age divisions for boys and girls include 8-9, 10-11, 12-13. The contest is free. For more information, call (734) 466-2410.

Indoor soccer training

Waza FC West will stage its 2009-10 Indoor Development Academy six-week training sessions for ages 3-9 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesdays, Nov. 25; Dec. 2, 9, 16; and Jan. 13 and 20, at Total Soccer in Wixom. The cost is \$80 (includes T-shirt). The focus will be on body coordination, fast footwork, dribbling with different parts of the foot, controlling the ball and shooting. Also emphasized will be balance, changes of speed and direction, controlled breathing and positive reinforcement. For more information, e-mail Jessica Wimmer at Developmental@WazaFC.com; or call Craig Wimmer at (734) 223-3391.

MU baseball camps

Madonna University baseball coach Greg Haeger and his staff will stage a holiday baseball camp for ages 9-18 from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m., Monday through Wednesday, at the Total Sports Complex in Wixom. The cost is \$150 for the first child and \$75 for each additional child. MU baseball staff members Stu Rose, Ted Falkner and Mike George will assist in the camp. For more information, e-mail Jen at Total Sports at Jen@totalsportscomplex.com.

GC youth basketball

Garden City Parks & Recreation Youth Basketball Programs are being offered this

winter for boys and girls in grades three through six. Boys and girls freshman (third and fourth graders) basketball offers a recreational focus stressing fundamentals of the sports. Cost is \$43 and all participants will receive a team t-shirt and medal. Games will be played Saturday mornings at Maplewood Community Center. Registration will be conducted Nov. 30-Jan. 9. The season begins Jan. 9 and will continue through March 6. Boys junior varsity (fifth grade) basketball runs Jan. 26-May 4 and involves five elementary schools within the city. Practices will be held at the respective schools and games will be played at Burger School for the Autistic. Cost is \$48 and tryouts are required. Registration will be Dec. 7-Jan 9 at Maplewood Community Center. Boys varsity (sixth grade) basketball also involves all five elementary schools in Garden City. Practices will again be held at the respective schools with games to be held at Burger School for the Autistic. Cost is \$48 and tryouts are required. Registration will run Dec. 7-Jan. 9 with games being contested Jan. 28-May 6. For more information, call (734) 793-1882 or visit online at www.gardencitymi.org/parks.

Madonna University will stage three winter softball camps at the MU Activities Center featuring specialized individual instruction covering all phases of the game for girls ages 7-18. Among the camps offered include: Hitting - 9 a.m. to noon, Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 19-20 (cost \$30); Fundamental No. 1 - 9-11:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 9, 16, 23, 30 (cost \$125 if registered by Dec. 1; \$125 after Dec. 1); Fundamental No. 2 - noon-2:30 p.m. (cost \$125 by Dec. 1; \$150 after Dec. 1). For more information, call MU head coach Al White at (734) 432-5783; or Steve Gentilia at (734) 776-1716. You can also e-mail awhite@madonna.edu.

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REC BASKETBALL STANDINGS

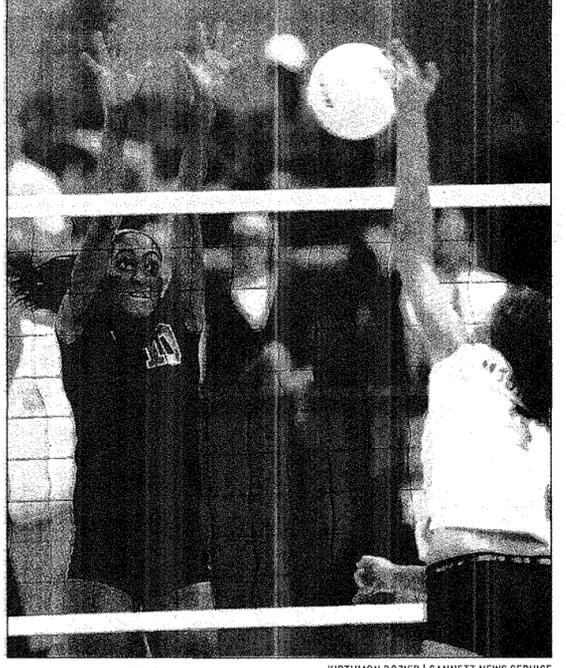
REDFORD TOWNSHIP BASKETBALL STANDINGS

Men's

Team	W	L	P
The Dirty Dozen	1	0	2
The Arsenal	1	0	2
Team Nike	1	0	2
Old N'Slow	1	0	2
LDJ	1	0	2
Team USA	0	0	0
MC Ballers	0	1	0
Jay's Team	0	1	0
Heavyweights	0	1	0
Cheli's Chili	0	1	0
RP3	0	1	0

Week 1 Results
Team Nike 81, Heavyweights 73: Keith Roberts poured in 20 points, Hank Hankerson bagged 18 and Pat Abraham added 16 as Team Nike raced past the Heavyweights. Rod Thomas netted 20 points and Leroy Blyden chipped in 19 to pace Heavyweights.
Arsenal 68, Cheli's Chili 53: Will McNelson and Donald Tinsley each tossed in 19 points to lift Arsenal past Cheli's Chili. Dan Kurtinaitis topped Cheli's Chili with 15 points.
Dirty Dozen 98, RP3 52: Dion Sherrell singled the nets for a game-high 31 points as Dirty Dozen coasted past RP3. Fayssal Akacem (16), Terrence Coker (13), Rasheed Revere (11), Kevon Noriega (11) and David Bynum (10) all reached double figures for the winners. RP3 got a team-leading 22 points from Mofe and 21 more from Darren Hill.
LDJ 76, MC Ballers 70: Syneca Puryear drained a game-high 25 points to lead three LDJ cagers in double figures. MC Ballers got 19 points apiece from Brandon, David Klein and Terrell Beard.
Old N' Slow 72, Jay's Team 65: Jeff Kennedy bagged 18 points and Drew Bradford and Khari Reid each netted 17 as Old N' Slow hustled past Jay's Team. Mike Cochran with 16 points, Josh Sobas with 12 and Mike Discher with 11 paced Jay's Team.

Scoring Leaders
Dion Sherrell (Dirty Dozen) 31
Syneca Puryear (LDJ) 25
Mofe (RP3) 22
Darren Hill (RP3) 21
Keith Roberts (Team Nike) 20
Rod Thomas (Heavyweights) 20
Brandon (MC Ballers) 19
Leroy Blyden (Heavyweights) 19
Donald Tinsley (Arsenal) 19
David Klein (MC Ballers) 19
Will McNelson (Arsenal) 19
Terrell Beard (MC Ballers) 19
Hank Hankerson (Team Nike) 18
Jeff Kennedy (Old N' Slow) 18
Drew Bradford (Old N' Slow) 17
Dewey Ramin (Heavyweights) 17
Khari Reid (Old N' Slow) 17
Fayssal Akacem (Dirty Dozen) 16
Mike Cochran (Jay's Team) 16
Pat Abraham (Team Nike) 16
Dre (LDJ) 15
Dan Kurtinaitis (Cheli's Chili) 15
Tom Lawrence (Heavyweights) 13
Terrence Coker (Dirty Dozen) 13
Mike Bright (Cheli's Chili) 12
Josh Sobas (Jay's Team) 12
Nathan Labadie (Cheli's Chili) 12
Linzee Bennett (Old N' Slow) 12
Sam (Arsenal) 12
Rasheed Revere (Dirty Dozen) 11
Anthony Rutledge (LDJ) 11
Mike Discher (Jay's Team) 11
Kevon Noriega (Dirty Dozen) 11
Steve Nowak (Team Nike) 10
David Bynum (Dirty Dozen) 10
Mike Abraham (Team Nike) 10



Churchill's Cierra Yetts goes high for the block against Portage Central's Mallory Patterson during Thursday's state Class A semifinal match at Battle Creek's Kellogg Arena.

CHURCHILL

FROM PAGE B1

Portage Central hit at a .294 percent clip (58-of-136 with only 18 errors), while Churchill was at .160 (51-of-144 with 28 errors). The Mustangs had a total of four solo blocks and 16 assist blocks compared with Churchill three and two. "We did a decent job blocking," Portage coach Dawn Jaqua said. "We knew they were a dominant outside hitting team. And when we were slow to that they (Churchill) had some runs." Churchill had only two service errors, while Central had nine. "We did not serve well and that hurt us," Jaqua said. "Our

passing was also iffy at times. But I think our having a more balanced attack overall was huge. "Nobody likes to get out at this stage. Churchill dug a lot of balls and their outside hitters did a fantastic job" Galloway also had a team-high 17 digs, while Schoolmaster added 14. Setter Erika Nord had 49 assist-to-kills. Meanwhile, Taylor Kerr had a team-high 17 digs and setter Cory Urbats finished with 40 assists. Erin Menard chipped in with seven kills. "All 16 of these girls were like a family, we played our hearts out and Portage Central is a great team," Kerr said. "Their hitters are awesome, but we left it all out there. We pushed as hard as we could."

hemons@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-6851

THE WEEK AHEAD

- PREP HOCKEY
Wednesday, Nov. 25
Churchill vs. Stevenson, Franklin vs. Pinckney at Edgar Arena, 6 & 8 p.m.
PREP WRESTLING
Wednesday, Nov. 25
John Glenn at Novi-Detroit CC, noon
- WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Tuesday, Nov. 24
Alpena CC at Schoolcraft, 5:30 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 28
Schoolcraft vs. Columbus St. (Ohio) at Owens CC (Ohio), 12:30 p.m.
Sunday, Nov. 29
Madonna at Alma College, 3 p.m.
Schoolcraft at Owens (Ohio), 3 p.m.

CHARGERS

FROM PAGE B1

"I was real proud of the way we hung in there," Churchill coach Pete Mazzoni said. "We battled and we made the most of our chances. "I thought (Chargers goalie) Aaron (Crouse) played very well

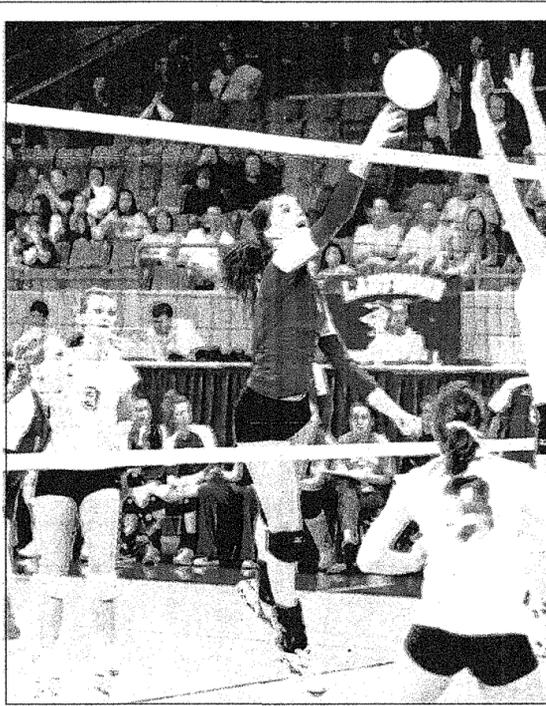
early on. He kept us in the game and gave us a chance to win." The Flyers scored first with Peter Kusek getting the goal at 10:38 of the first period from Scott Newell. Churchill's Nick Proben made it 1-1 after one when he scored with 7:55 remaining with assists by Tom Karey and Chris Mirelos.

The second period was scoreless until Joe Schecter put North-Harrison in the lead again with 1:34 left. He was aided by Michael Race and Kusek. The Chargers had a 2-0 edge in overtime, but they were on the short end of a 28-21 overall tally in shots on goal. Mike Brown was the Flyers' goalie.

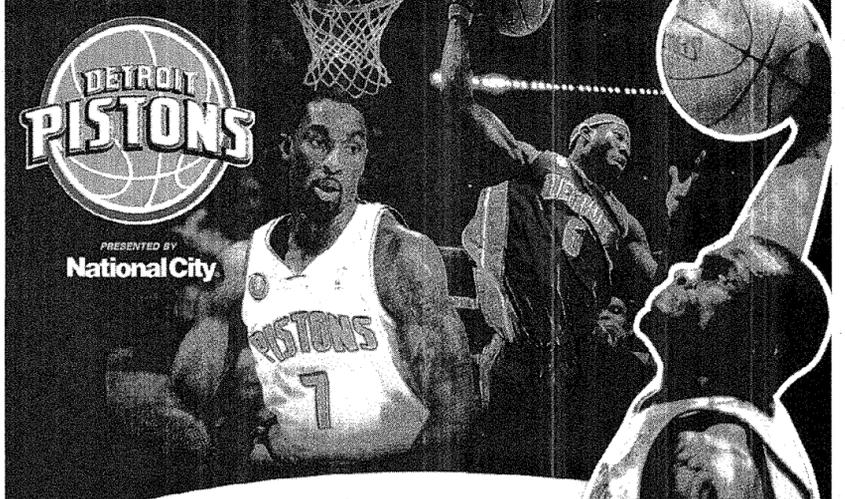
BLAZERS

FROM PAGE B1

The second set building an 11-6 lead. The Blazers fought back to within three, 19-16, before sophomore outside hitter Adrianna Culbert served three aces and Norris once again got the set-winning kill on a dink shot just over the net. In the third set, the Blazers jumped out to a 4-1 early advantage, but Delton once again exerted its dominance to take leads of 10-6 and 17-10. Ladywood fought back, but it was too little, too late as Norris and Culbert combined for 11 kills to close out the match. From Ladywood coach Erin Craggs' perspective, it was a hopeless feeling. "I kind of told the girls just to hit hard," she said. "We were giving them free balls and it put them in a comfort zone. At the end we persevered and showed a lot of integrity. "They (Delton) played great. They threw our offense off. They served aggressively and passed 'nails.' We weren't able to keep up." Norris led the Panthers with a team-high 12 kills to go along with 21 assist-to-kills, three aces and five blocks. Culbert and Carly Boehm each added nine kills, while Katie Marshall and Hannah Williams combined for 22 digs. Senior outside hitter Claire Dezelski had a team-high 12 kills for the Blazers, while junior Katy Rooney added 11. Sophomore setter Alexandra Hines contributed 27 assists, while senior Ashley Hines recorded a team-high 10 digs. But the Blazers only hit at an .093 clip (30-for-107) with 20 attacking errors. Delton, meanwhile, was 39-for-105 (.286) with only nine errors. It's Magelssen's first trip to the state finals since 2001 and his 13th overall. "It's nerve-wracking," said Magelssen, now in his fifth season at Delton. "The girls are handling it better than I am. I love the kids, but I'm not sure I can take many more like this." Meanwhile, the Blazers hope to build on this year's state tournament run. "We graduate only three seniors," Craggs said. "And they've set an awesome bar to make it back next year."



Ladywood's Cheyenne Woodall tips the ball over the Delton Kellogg defense during Friday's Class A semifinal at Battle Creek's Kellogg Arena.



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Hear electronic music at Schoolcraft College Dec. 3

You know what an orchestra is. You know what a choir is. Find out what an electronic music ensemble is at the Electronic Music Summit, 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 3, at the VisTaTech Center at Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty, Livonia. Admission is \$5.

Michigan's three higher education electronic music groups will perform. Wayne State University's group has created a piece based on the seasons and associated colors. The University of Michigan's group is creating a performance artwork incorporating musical furniture. They also will perform a composition by Pauline Oliveras incorporat-

ing color wheels and Mylar. Schoolcraft's group will perform original student compositions and holiday music with 3D animation. Everyone in the audience will receive commemorative 3D glasses.

Electronic music is barely a century old, and the technology that defines it is in constant flux. It has no core repertoire, no pedagogy, no traditions. Electronic music ensembles in higher education vary widely in style and substance, and are usually defined by the vision of their individual directors.

Thomas Court, who leads WSU's electronic music group, has been involved in electronic music since 1974 when his Electronic Music Laboratories

introduced modular synthesis to the world of music producers. An active composer and sound designer, Court has been at WSU since 1998.

Stephen Rush of the U-M is a versatile composer and jazz musician. His music has premiered on five continents, he has recorded more than 20 CDs, and he's written a book on jazz theology.

Barton Polot of Schoolcraft College is a pianist, composer and software developer. He has been director and a guiding force of the annual Michigan Music Technology Conference in Grand Rapids.

For more information call Schoolcraft College at (734) 462-4400.

REUNION CALENDAR

The Reunion Calendar runs Sundays in the paper as space allows, and online in its entirety at www.hometownlife.com. Submit your announcement at least two weeks in advance to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com. Got a photo of your graduating class? Maybe a prom photo or some other special moment? Send it along, too, as a jpg attachment.

Cody High School

Classes of 1955-58

Holiday lunch, 1 p.m. Dec. 21, at Monaghan K of C Hall, 19801 Farmington Road, Livonia. Contact: Vera at (734) 591-1305 or Irene at (248) 489-0415.

Detroit Pershing

Class of 1960

50th reunion festivities in September 2010 will be held at the Doubletree Guest Suites Fort Shelby in downtown Detroit. For more information call Sherry Forbush (Sharon Bailey) at (248) 994-0664 or Joan Harrington (Mazey) at (734) 595-7508.

Detroit St. Brigid

Class of 1959

Planning a reunion and looking for classmates. Contact szonyek@att.net.

net with any information about classmates.

Farmington High School

Class of 1970

Planning reunion in 2010. Seeking classmates. Join the group on Facebook by searching Farmington High School Class of 1970 Reunion. Or e-mail Carla Campbell Lehn at dblenn@aol.com.

Fordson High School

Class of 1984

25-year reunion, 6 p.m.-midnight, Saturday, Nov. 28, Burton Manor in Livonia. Cost is \$65 per person and includes dinner, dancing/DJ, and full bar. A photographer will be on-site taking and selling group and individual photos. Invitations will be mailed out in October.

Garden City High School

Class of 1960

Mini-reunion luncheons held the second Saturday of every month at 1 p.m. in the banquet room in the Plymouth Denny's on Ann Arbor Road, east of I-275. Call Gary Simon at (734) 751-4101 or send e-mail to GCHS.MCMLX@yahoo.com.

com.

Garden City West

Class of 1970

40th reunion on Saturday, Oct. 9, 2010 at Hawthorne Valley Country Club in Westland. Dinner and DJ included for \$50 per person. Classmates from the classes of 1968-1972 also cordially invited to attend. For more information, call Larry Conn at (734) 788-5254.

Dearborn Heights Haston High

Class of 1965

45-year reunion, 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. July 24, 2010; Contact Pat Beadle-Kopczyk, 3334 Kneeland Circle, Howell, MI 48843, at (517) 552-1182 or e-mail to her at patkopczyk@aol.com

Ladywood

Class of 1984

25th reunion, Dec. 26; for information e-mail to Sara Czarnecki Levitsky at saralevitsky@comcast.net

Livonia Bentley

Classes of 1968-1970

Combined class reunion Friday, Nov. 27, 2009, at the Radisson Hotel Detroit-Livonia, I-275 and Six Mile. For details, visit www.bentley686970.org to e-mail, or call Connie (Scarlett) Flynn class of 1968 at (734) 812-7936, Bev (Valentine) Wilkie class of 1969 at (248) 366-6492 or Colleen Siembor class of 1970 at (734) 455-1395.

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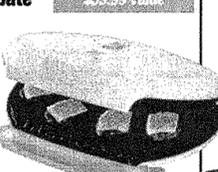
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NEIGHBORS

Alumni to gather for tribute to choir director

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
CORRESPONDENT

In less than an hour Jerry Smith was expecting the wonderful aura of excitement to return to the music room at First Presbyterian Church in Plymouth.

On Oct. 4, the Livonia resident had been amazed by the number of former students eager to attend the first rehearsal for the Homecoming Celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Concert Choir at Bentley High School in Livonia. Smith never imagined that nearly 600 of his students would respond to an invitation to sing at the event when son-in-law Ron Moon put out the call on classmates.com nearly two years ago.

Close to 150 showed up for the second rehearsal Nov. 1, sending Smith's spirits soaring. His face beamed with pride that so many would pay tribute to him at the Nov. 28 event which not only celebrates the 50th anniversary but his 75th birthday, as well. The festivities will include a strolling dinner, performances and recording of an alumni CD and DVD at Burton Manor in Livonia.

Smith founded and directed the choirs from 1959 until the school closed in 1985. He incorporated several of the traditions from his days singing with the University of Michigan Men's Glee Club into the Bentley vocal music program including a series of concerts in Europe. At U-M he learned the best ensembles were highly disciplined and held to practices that built camaraderie. Smith incorporated the rehearsal parties,

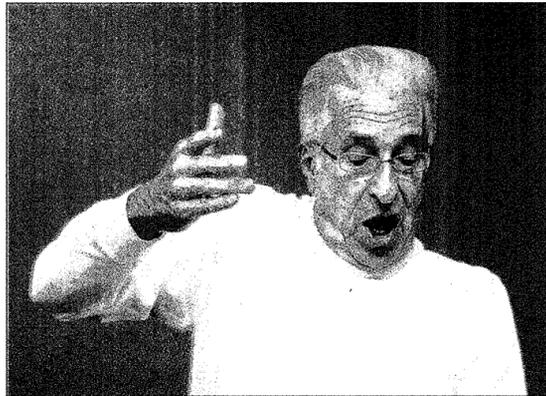


Sharon and Jerry Smith share a passion for music.

initiations, formal ceremonies, banquets and awards into the high school's choir experience along with a grading system that required voice and music reading tests for every marking period. He also envisioned an elite ensemble that students could aspire to: the Concert Choir.

COMMON INTEREST

Smith's wife Sharon observed the growth of the vocal music department nearly from the beginning. Shortly after moving to Livonia a fellow student encouraged her to try out on piano for the variety show. She did and the rest is history, says Jerry. He asked



Jerry Smith rehearses with his former Bentley choir students.



Jerry Smith rehearses with former students while his wife, Sharon, accompanies on piano.

her to accompany the choir. From January 1960 for the next 2 1/2 years she joined the choir on stage with the man who would become her husband.

"I played *Deep Purple*. I didn't know what an encore

was so I played the same song again," said Sharon (Hubbs) Smith laughing.

It's obvious that after 45 years of marriage the couple is still in love. The choir for many years was their common denominator. Even though she went away to Belmont College in Nashville, a fire continued to burn brightly between them. Sharon wrote to Jerry and to his surprise he wrote back. He'd received letters from former students before but never had time with his busy school schedule to answer them.

"We're both Christians and loved music, both of our families were from the south," said Sharon. "When I came home for Christmas we went on a hayride with the choir. During spring break he proposed."

HARMONIOUS MARRIAGE

The couple was married June 27, 1964 in Friendship Baptist Church in Lincoln Park, the only church large enough to hold the 800 guests.

A choir of his former students sang along with friends espousing the couple's love in the songs they wrote to each other. In 1973, they moved to Livonia where he founded the Creative and Performing Arts Program at Churchill High School and annually directs the music for the Livonia Prayer Breakfast.

"It was easy to fall in love with her because I respected her," said Jerry. "It has been wonderful. We're an unusual couple. I'm nine years older than Sharon and was driven. We had enough differences so we were never bored."

Before they married however Sharon wanted to know who would be number one — her or Bentley's vocal music department. Sharon had witnessed firsthand his overwhelming dedication to students resulting in countless hours spent away from home.

"He changed," said Sharon. "There were no surprises. He's a planner, organized. He's a good dad. Our son and him go to U of M games together. He does stuff with his daughters. He made time for family. The kids were part of everything we did."

ACTIVE IN CHURCH

The three Smith children sang in choirs, at church and school, under the direction of their father. Jerry was choir director at Ward Presbyterian Church, first in Livonia then Northville for nearly three decades. Sharon was the accompanist.

"We were a team, toured with Ward Youth Choir," said Sharon. "He always tried to get

Please see **ELEMENTS, B7**

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Sleep Well This Holiday— And All Year Long:

Yes, You Can Buy a Good Night's Sleep at the
New Pure Sleep Store in Canton.

By Elena Diverno

It sounds too good to be true: spend 30 minutes at Pure Sleep and you'll sleep better every night. But hundreds of people have already discovered the great benefits of the unique "sleep diagnostic system" offered at the new Art Van Pure Sleep store on Ford Road in Canton.

This first of its kind, standalone store offers a unique diagnostic system that fits the right "sleep system" to each individual person. The sleep system is a three-part solution that includes the proper mattress and foundation for proper support and comfort, the correct pillow to ensure correct spinal alignment, and a mattress protector to provide a clean and healthy sleeping environment.

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The National Sleep Foundation reports that 60% of us have sleep disturbance two or more nights each week, and 40% struggle with poor performance at work and drowsiness during the day because of sleep problems. In addition issues caused by weight gain, heart disease, arthritis, back pain and more can be lessened by having a good night's sleep along with proper diet and exercise.

"The staff at Pure Sleep is specially trained and committed to finding the right sleep system to give you a great night's sleep and get you on your way to better health" said Glucksman.

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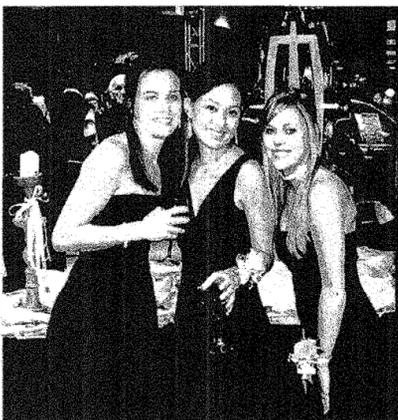
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Anytime you test drive a new vehicle at Metropolitan in Garden City in 2009, \$20 will be donated to Susan G. Komen for the Cure. Simply mention this opportunity when you visit the Garden City dealership.

"I didn't realize what a bright future Lincoln has until I came to this event," said one of the guests who hadn't previously owned a Lincoln. "It totally opened my eyes and I look forward to driving the Lincoln MKT."

Metropolitan's care for customers and pride in Michigan was evident throughout the evening, from the attentive staff to the refreshments. Along with exquisite locally handcrafted desserts, the dealership proudly served a variety of Michigan wines, including Simply Pink that St. Julian Winery specially created to support the National Breast Cancer Foundation.

Lincoln MKT Dazzles 400 at Metropolitan Lincoln Mercury in Garden City

BY MATT EDWARDS

Cruising Ford Road on a recent Thursday night, drivers saw bright searchlights chasing the clouds. The beams originated from Metropolitan Lincoln Mercury in Garden City.

Guests stepped from their cars onto a plush pink carpet runway that led them inside to see the star of this star-studded evening - the new 2010 Lincoln MKT! The Lincoln was covered by glittering silk surrounded by glowing lights and music. Nearly four hundred guests, community leaders, politicians and Ford Motor Company executives all gathered for a special unveiling.

All this for a car? That's right! But it's no ordinary vehicle. This luxurious Lincoln combines in one versatile vehicle all of the refinement, technology and quality that the outstanding Lincoln line now delivers. The 2010 Lincoln MKT seats up to seven passengers in a quiet cabin paired with a powerful and economical available EcoBoost engine.

Michigan's First Gentleman, Dan Mulhern, and General Marketing Manager for Ford Lincoln Mercury, John Felice, together did the honors - deftly uncovering the 2010 Lincoln MKT amid enthusiastic applause.

"We're really excited to introduce the latest addition to the Lincoln family," said Felice. "With its styling, interior, features and technology that no one else offers, this Lincoln will redefine the standard in cross-over full size luxury."

"We need celebrations like this," said Mulhern. "Michigan is going to turn around and this country is going to turn around, with the kind of people we have and the kind of company that Ford Motor Company is." The audience cheered as the First Gentleman poured through a robust list of wonderful things about Michigan, including the new Lincoln MKT.

"We are extremely proud of the quality vehicles we offer our customers," said John Obeid, co-owner of Metropolitan Lincoln Mercury. "The 2010 Lincoln MKT builds on the great success of the 2009 Lincoln MKS."

The dealership's commitment to the community was evident in numerous ways, including the event's support of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. "Our customers are extremely important to us and we support them through the quality of our service, our outstanding products and our community outreach efforts," said Clarity Patton, one of the dealership's managers.

"Michigan is going to turn around and this country is going to turn around, with the kind of people we have and the kind of company that Ford Motor Company is."

**- Dan Mulhern
First Gentleman of Michigan**

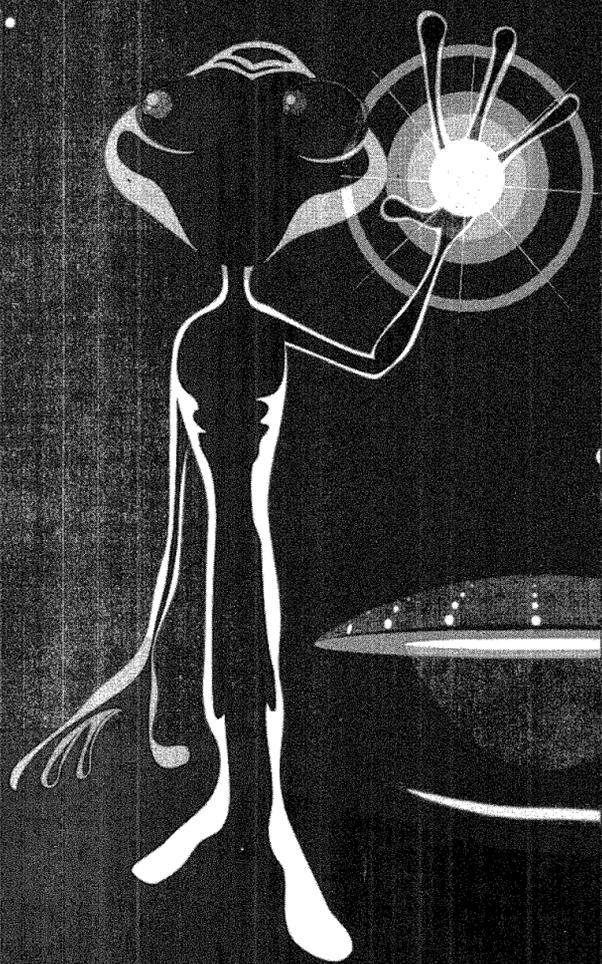


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Members of the soprano section rehearse for the reunion concert on Nov. 28.

PHOTOS BY ANN ESPINOZA

Homecoming sure to be grandest Bentley party

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
CORRESPONDENT

All around the room, all that could be heard was Dr. Smith this and Dr. Smith that. The chatter seemed naturally to focus on the man who shaped their lives.

For 26 years, except for one when he went on sabbatical to earn a doctorate, Jerry Smith instilled discipline in Bentley High School choir students. On Nov. 28, they'll reunite and pay tribute to Smith at the Homecoming Celebration at Burton Manor in Livonia.

In the meantime they were about to rehearse Christmas songs they'd come to know so well during their time with him in Concert Choir, the elite ensemble for vocal students at Bentley High School in Livonia from 1960 to 1985.

Dian Segal carried the lessons with her into the business world as human resources director for UPS for 20 years. The Livonia woman retired only when her kidneys started failing. She's worked on the committee for the Nov. 28 event for nearly two years and plans to be there as she awaits a transplant.

SEASONAL FAVORITES

Along with enjoying a strolling dinner and silent auction of memorabilia, nearly 600 former Concert Choir members will rehearse then record favorites such as the *It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year*, *Silver Bells*, *Do You Hear What I Hear?*, Johnny Mathis's "Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire" (*The Christmas Song*), *Mary Had a Baby*, Handel's *Hallelujah Chorus*, *O Holy Night*, and *The Prayer*, an original by Smith.

The 16-member committee has rented a 9-foot grand piano for special alumni guests, such as concert pianist and composer Clifford Smith. Several professional musicians will be performing including Heidi Hepler who's sung everything from opera to jazz and now lives in New York.

"It's a chance to reunite with old friends and do something we all believe in (the Bentley vocal music department)," said Segal. "Dr. Smith taught me structure and organization. I don't want to say he was strict but he had rules and we followed those rules. If you were late, you were docked, chewing gum, doctored, not sitting up straight, doctored, but rules

paid off and made us successful. Imagine 100 people trying to sing together without rules."

RECORDING THE MUSIC

Committee member Lawrence Zanes says he's on the phone almost daily with former students who want to come and pay tribute to Smith for the impact he made on their lives. On Nov. 28, they'll assemble to rehearse before recording a CD. They've hired a DVD editor and are using four cameras to capture the performance.

"We'll have memorable music with Christmas trees and collage posters of every choir on display, separate tables for years, videos of past years," said Smith.

Kurt Meyer, a 1982 graduate sang in the Concert Choir of 1981-82. His sister Kim Alderman sang with Smith as well.

"It's an opportunity to revisit with some old classmates, to sing with excellent voices," said Meyer, a Livonia resident. "My sister and I sing with the Livonia Civic Chorus that my dad started in 1969 and I sang with Dr. Smith in church choir also."

Alumni from as far away as Austria and the Virgin Islands are coming for the Nov. 28 Homecoming Celebration.

ADOPT A GREYHOUND

Dream and Jill are the featured adoptable greyhounds from Greyheart Greyhound Rescue and Adoption this week.

Here's what volunteers say about these graceful dogs:

Dream is a 2 1/2-year-old brindle colored female greyhound. She is a little shy and would love to be adopted into a somewhat quiet home. She currently is living in a foster home with a couple of cats and two greyhounds. She loves playing with toys. She never owned a toy before and has discovered how much fun it is to toss them in the air and play. Take a look at the organization's Web site (www.greyheart.org) for another adorable picture of Dream.

Jill recently left the race-track for the good life and is looking for a family to call her own. She's stunningly beautiful, with a black shiny coat and the most soulful eyes that will just draw you in. She's 3 years old and is very curious about her new life in a real home. She's very energetic and learning the in's and out's of living with a family. She's also very affectionate and loves to give kisses.

"Greyhounds are an alluring breed with a gentle personality that tends to draw a crowd wherever they go," says Jackie Bowen,



Jill is a former racing dog.



Dream is a little shy.

Greyheart member. If you're interested in meeting Dream or Jill, call Greyheart Greyhound

Rescue and Adoption at (866) 438-4739 and check out the Web site at www.greyheart.org.

IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

WIDOWS, WIDOWERS

Widowed Friends invites widows and widowers to an Italian buffet dinner Wednesday, Dec. 9, at Corsi's Italian Restaurant, 27910 Seven Mile, three blocks west of Inkster, Livonia.

A social hour will start at 5 p.m., with dinner at 6 p.m. Enjoy conversation, cards, games, and meet new friends until 9:30 p.m.. Cost is \$12 cash only payable at the door. It includes the buffet, dessert, beverages, tax and tip. Cash bar. RSVP by Dec. 6 to Chet at (734) 459-4316 or Pat at (248) 545-8348.

PLAY BASKETBALL

The Livonia Recreation Department is registering teams now for a Men's Basketball League that will start play in early January 2010. Cost is \$400 per team plus nonresident and officials fees per game.

To sign up or for more information, call (734) 466-2410.

BENEFIT DINNER

Papa Vino's Italian Kitchen is teaming up with Our Lady of Sorrows in Farmington to help raise money for its athletic committee.

The restaurant, 17107

Haggerty, Northville, will donate 10 percent of dining checks generated from 4-10 p.m., Monday, Nov. 23, to Our Lady of Sorrows. To be eligible, the check must be accompanied by a copy of the "Papa's Partners" event voucher. Reservations are recommended.

To find out more or to obtain a Papa's Partners event voucher, call Carolyn Malzone at (248) 408-7387.

Our Lady of Sorrows is at 24040 Raphael, Farmington. Our Lady of Sorrows school provides preschool, half-day and full-day kindergarten and grades one through eight.



Soprano Rachelle (Beaupre) Vick sings.

CHOIR

FROM PAGE B5

an accompanist, but when he couldn't I would fill in. I would take whatever child was home with me and set them down next to the piano with a coloring book and crayons."

Jerry is now in music ministry at First Presbyterian in Plymouth where daughter Carole Moon directs the children's choir and Sharon is the assistant organist/accompanist. Daughter Kimberly Swan is a professional musician. Son Darrell is a builder who loves to sing.

The Smiths have five grandchildren. Together as a family they will sing the Concert

Choir theme song, *We Have This Moment Today*. A portion of the Nov. 28 program features former students who've gone on to sing professionally like Heidi Hepler, a vocalist/lyricist with the ability to perform everything from opera to jazz. Sharon's women's ensemble, The Fifth Season, with members from several area churches, also will take to the stage at Burton Manor in Livonia.

"It's going to be so nostalgic," said Sharon with tears in her eyes.

The Homecoming Celebration takes place 5 p.m. to 1 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 28, at Burton Manor in Livonia. Tickets are \$50. Call Tommi Mozier West at (734) 421-5795 or Lawrence Zane (734) 347-8810. www.bentleychoirs.com.

Unique glasses help vision impaired see better

Low vision doctors Sheldon Smith and Donald Haiderer prescribe spectacle aids for the visually impaired.

Vision loss is devastating, stealing independence and quality of life. The good news is many determined people have begun to fight back.

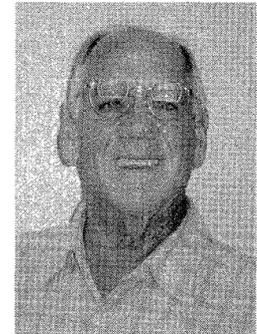
Desmond Roberts lost his license to drive. He saw Dr. Sheldon Smith of Low Vision of Michigan desperate to maintain independent driving. With telescopic driving glasses prescribed by Dr. Smith his license was reinstated.

"My life ended at my front door, but this gave my life back," said Roberts. "You saved my life."

David Welch sought to read without hand magnifiers and drive with confidence. The doctor prescribed one pair for driving and another for

reading. "No other specialists helped me like Dr. Smith," said Welch, moved to tears by seeing better.

"Today we make glasses that noticeably improve sight," said Dr. Smith. "They can be taken anywhere, unlike electronic table-top magnifiers. And unlike magnifiers, spectacles are hands free."



David Welch with driving glasses

"We prescribe surgical quality telescopes for sight loss," said Dr. Don Haiderer of Low Vision of Michigan. "They are custom focused for simplicity

of use so your eyes see the best they can. Details look bigger, closer and easier to make out."

Urgency is critical to success. Prompt treatment gives better outcomes. There is no advantage in waiting to get worse. Whether reading or driving, the best time to start is early, with milder devices. If necessary, using stronger devices comes easier after mastering mild ones.

We help people with mild, moderate and severe vision loss. Every situation is unique. Special reading glasses start at \$600 and custom telescopes start from \$1800.

Patients and referring physicians are welcome to review their situation or schedule an appointment. We can help. Call Low Vision of Michigan to find out how.

TOLL FREE: 877-677-2020

Need Help?

Not sure where to turn for answers regarding:

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- Property Tax Appeals
- Property Short Sale
- Refinancing

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Call Sam at 313- 378-0484 or feel free to email any questions to me at Sam@theassessorgroup.com

The Assessor Group-Livonia
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Low Vision of Michigan

Located throughout Michigan:
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Dr. Sheldon Smith
and Dr. Don Haiderer
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ENGAGEMENT

Thompson-Koziol

Dennis and Sandy Thompson of Northville, Janet Whitson of Redford Township and Walter and Jeannie Koziol of Highland Township announce the engagement of Laura Thompson and Andrew Koziol.

The bride-to-be attended Northville High School and Eastern Michigan University.

The groom-elect attended Detroit Catholic Central High School and Michigan State University.

The couple plans a May 2010 wedding in Northville.



Laura Thompson and Andrew Koziol

MILESTONES



Five generations

Great-great-grandma Maryanne Galutira of Garden City holds Wednesday Yuchasz. Next to Maryanne is great-grandma Janet Yuchasz, followed by the baby's mother, Kayla Yuchasz, and grandma Diane Schneider.

11/22/09

Passages

Obituaries, Memorials & Remembrances

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View Passages Online: www.hometownlife.com

RAE HAFNER BALLENTINE

There will be a memorial service celebrating the life of Rae Hafner Ballentine on Saturday Nov. 28 at 1:00PM at St. James Episcopal Church in Birmingham, MI. There will be a reception at the church immediately following the service.

DORIS HAMMOND FEDUS

Age 98 of Petoskey, MI and formerly of Livonia, died November 13, 2009 at the home. A memorial celebration was held on Friday November 20th from 1-4pm at the Stafford's Bay View Inn in Petoskey with the service being held at 2:30pm. Arrangements are in the care of the Stone Funeral Home of Petoskey.

EMIL MAKILA

Age 87, of Livonia, passed away November 17, 2009. Arrangements by THAYER-ROCK FUNERAL HOME, Farmington, MI.



FRANCES GARRISON BRAMBLETT

Born November 25, 1916
Passed November 20, 2009

Frances Bramblett slipped gracefully into heaven with her loving children by her side at Hospice of Beaumont Hospital following a stroke, just five days shy of her 93rd birthday. Frances was born and raised in Marietta, Georgia, daughter of Eli Wesley and Margaret Giles Garrison. She attended Marietta High School and Georgia State college for Women, after which she taught school for two years.

She was most happily married to Earl R. Bramblett on June 25, 1937, and they had a long and loving marriage and life after moving to Michigan, where Earl rose to become Vice President of Personnel for General Motors corporation. Frances was active in her children's Brownie, Cub and Girl Scouting activities for many years.

Both Frances and Earl were very active in the First Baptist Church of Birmingham, Michigan, where they served on the Board of Deacons and the Board of Trustees. Earl also taught the Christian Forum adult Bible study class for twenty-five years before passing away in 1976. They spent their winters in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii for thirty years and were active in their local church.

Frances and Earl both loved to play bridge and golf. Earl was an extremely accomplished golfer, with seven holes-in-one to his credit, and a handicap of seven when he passed. They were proud members of the Augusta National Golf Club. Frances played golf into her 80's and continued to play bridge several times each week right up until her passing.

The bases of Frances' life were her love and relationship with Earl, and her deep and abiding Christian faith in god and her personal Lord and savior, Jesus Christ. She lived according to the ten commandments plus Jesus' two commandments that one love God with all their heart, mind and strength, and that one love one's neighbor as oneself.

After Earl's passing in 1976, Frances was very lonely and missed him tremendously, but kept her faith and was a shining example of it. She insisted on being addressed as "Mrs. Earl" and we soon discovered that the reason was; Mrs. Earl misses Earl. Frances kept in close, regular touch with her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren as well as her many friends and relatives across the country. Frances was greatly loved for her generous spirit and friendly manner, always ready to help her family, friends and neighbors in any way she could. She was always colorfully and stylishly dressed and brought a ray of sunshine into each room she entered.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, Earl, her brothers E.W. Garrison and Robert T. Garrison, and her sister Willie Mae Bramblett, who was married to Earl's brother, Elder.

She is survived by her children Bonnie Swift (James Langbehn, dec.) of Fairfax, CA, Billy Bramblett (Alicia Keshishian) of Petaluma, CA; grandchildren Josh Swift (Lori) of Erie, CO, Melissa Ohara (Mike) of Petaluma, CA, Sarah Swift-Langbehn of San Anselmo, CA, and Simone Swift-Langbehn of San Francisco, CA; and great-grandchildren Cade and Donovan Swift, and Ryan, Kyle and Brady Ohara. Also surviving are her sisters-in-law, Lorene Garrison, and Jenny Senning, along with dozens of cousins, nieces and nephews.

A service celebrating Frances' life will be held at the First Baptist Church of Birmingham, MI at 200 Bates (At Willets) on Tuesday, November 24, at 11 AM. A reception will follow in the church parlor. Frances will be buried next to Earl in the Garrison family plot at the Marietta City Cemetery in Marietta, GA.

In Lieu of flowers, the family asks donations to the First Baptist Church of Birmingham, Michigan.



JOE E. HALL JR.

Age 75 passed away November 10, 2009. Born June 27, 1934 in Detroit, MI. Preceded in death by his wife, Barbara C. (Williams) Hall, son Joe E. Hall III and survived by his sister Elva Hall of Homosassa, FL, son Tad Hall of Grass Lake, granddaughter Jacquelyn and grandson Joshua and caring family and friends throughout the country. Joe worked as a tool and die maker and retired from Detroit Diesel in 1999. He enjoyed mechanical work and could practically create a lawn mower for a friend from spare parts in his garage. Thanks to the Belle Oakes Living Center staff in Lake City for taking care of Joe and allowing our jokester to carry on with hiding vacuum cleaners and other such schemes. A memorial will be held in the spring. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Hartland Hospice, P.O. Box 667, West Branch, MI, 48661 in Remembrance of Joe Hall.



SUSAN L. WELLS

Age 57, November 19, 2009. Beloved wife of Bill. Loving mother of Dan & Brett (Amanda). Devoted grandmother of Isabella. Visitation at the R. G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home, 15451 Farmington Rd., Livonia, Sunday 2-9 pm and Monday from 1 pm until Funeral Service at 3 pm. Memorial contributions may be directed to American Cancer Society. Please share a memory of Susan at: www.rggharris.com

65TH ANNIVERSARY

James "Jim" and Helen Willey of Livonia will celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary on Dec. 1.

The couple met in Columbus, Ohio, in December 1942 while Jim was in the Navy and Helen was in training to become a registered nurse. Helen graduated in October 1944 from Toledo State Hospital and James was commissioned at the Coast Guard Academy in November that same year.

During their marriage they raised one son, while Jim worked for the U.S. government both state and internationally before and after World War II. Jim also finished his formal education through the Washington International College and received his bachelor of science degree in mechanical engineering. Later, Jim continued advanced studies at Wayne State University. Over the years Jim worked for several design/build engineering firms as well as consulting engineering firms. He was the project manager on two of the largest local projects. The first was the Detroit Newsprint Plant in Sterling Heights and the second was the Detroit Free Press plant on the Detroit River. Jim retired in 1985.

Helen worked in nursing in Columbus, Ohio, until their son was born, when she became a stay-at-home mom. She occasionally traveled with her son and husband while Jim was



James and Helen Willey of Livonia

on various extended assignments. During their son's teen years, Helen returned to work in 1961 at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit where she was the head nurse in the plastic surgery clinic. She retired because of medical reasons in 1982.

Their family continues on with four generations, with the majority living in the area. Michael, their son, lives with Delores, their daughter-in-law, in Garden City. Rachel, their granddaughter, is an emergency medical technician and lives in Westland with their two great-grandchildren, Zachery and Zoey. James M., their grandson, who has served in the military as a U.S. Army Ranger Medic, is now working for the U.S. government in Fairfax, Va., as a civilian instructor.



Jim and Helen Willey of Livonia on their wedding day 65 years ago.

WEDDING



Cpl. Jesse Stevens and Heather Ann Rudowski

Rudowski-Stevens

Cpl. Jesse Stevens, USMC, formerly of Livonia, and Heather Ann Rudowski, also of Livonia, were married Oct. 17, 2009, at Our Master Lutheran Church in Inkster.

The bride is the daughter of David Rudowski of Westland, and Deborah Rudowski of Livonia. She is pursuing a nursing degree in Alexandria, Va., where the couple resides.

The groom is the son of Anthony Stevens of Columbus, Ind., and Shereen Janisse of Livonia. He is a USMC corporal stationed at Ft. Belvoir in Alexandria, Va.

Heather graduated from Livonia Stevenson High School in 2006 and Jesse is a 2005 graduate of Livonia Churchill High School.

Zoo offers abundance of holiday gift ideas

When the shopping mall becomes a zoo this holiday season, shoppers can make one Detroit Zoo their "mall."

A Detroit Zoo gift card can be loaded with any amount \$5 and up and used for admission and parking as well as tickets for the new Wild Adventure 3-D/4-D Theater, Wild Adventure Ride, Tauber Family Railroad and Giraffe Encounter feeding station.

The reloadable gift cards are also good at gift shops and food concessions. The gift cards are available for purchase at the admission gates daily during regular zoo hours.

For more information, call (248) 541-5717, Ext. 3750.

The Detroit Zoological Society also offers many gift ideas that allow the giver to give twice. Proceeds will help support the animals at the Detroit Zoo and preserve the world's wildlife.

• Opt to Adopt. "Adopt" an adorable aardvark or a ravishing red panda. Gift package includes a plush animal, fact sheet and personalized photo certificate. The cost is

\$90 for the aardvark (regular price \$100) and \$45 for the red panda (regular price \$50) when purchased before Jan. 1, 2010.

• Membership Has Its Privileges. Members receive unlimited admission to the Detroit Zoo and Belle Isle Nature Zoo, free parking, discounts at gift shops and many other benefits. Prices range from \$45 to \$150. Residents of Macomb, Oakland and Wayne counties receive \$10 off all categories and can purchase up to four gift memberships at the

discounted rate.

• Pave the Way. Make a lasting impression with a 4-by-8-inch brick tribute paver engraved with a loved one's name or message. The brick will be installed in 2010. Cost is \$90 (regular price \$100) before Jan. 1, 2010.

• Close Encounters of the Animal Kind. Breakfast with the Butterflies (\$300 per group of four), Breakfast with the Giraffes (\$500 per group of four) and Mingle with the Macaronis (\$500 per group of four) allow visitors age 7 and older to get up close and personal with residents.

• Buy a Butterfly. A brass-finished laser-etched butterfly can be purchased for \$500.

• Best Seat in the House. Dedicate a seat in the Ford Education Center's Wild Adventure 3-D/4-D Theater in the name of an individual or family. Seats cost \$500 and \$750 and a brass plaque will be placed on the seat.

• Leave Your Mark in the Park. A zoo bench donated in a special someone's honor leaves a lasting legacy. The bench will be placed at the Detroit Zoo or Belle Isle Nature Zoo and includes a brass recognition plaque. New benches are \$5,000; existing benches are \$2,000.

• The Gift That Keeps On Growing. Have a tree planted at the zoo. Trees are \$5,000 and include a brass recognition plaque. To order holiday gifts, click on www.detroitzoo.org, call (248) 541-5717, Ext. 3750, or visit the Membership Office at the front of the zoo in Royal Oak.

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.

e-mail your obit to
oeobits@hometownlife.com
or fax to:
Attn: Obits c/o Char Wilson
313-496-4968

For more information call:
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586-826-7082
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ask for Char or Liz

OE0868429

In Loving Memory
...at the Holidays

Remember the loved ones you've lost by placing a special holiday remembrance tribute.

The Observer and Eccentric/Hometown Weekly newspapers will be publishing a special "In Remembrance" page for the holidays. Here's the perfect opportunity to honor the memory and celebrate the life of loved ones who hold a special place in your heart.

Prices start at **\$15.00**
for a photo "In Remembrance" ad

Publication: Sunday, Dec. 20th
...in the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers
Thursday, Dec. 24th
...in the Hometown Weekly Newspapers

Deadline for both issues...Monday, Dec. 14th

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Avoid high-calorie holidays with sensible eating

For many people, food is an important part of the holiday season. Family gatherings feature meals consisting of high-fat, high-calorie temptations that can sabotage even the most dedicated of otherwise healthy eaters. TOPS Club, Inc. (Take Off Pounds Sensibly), the nonprofit weight-loss support organization, recommends strategies that will allow you to navigate common food-centered traps while still enjoying festive celebrations without regret. Consider the following "smart swapping" tips to ensure that the turkey is the only one stuffed this season:

- Choose two slices of skinless turkey breast over a drumstick to save calories and reduce fat and cholesterol.
- Avoid using boxed stuffing mix and, instead, make your own with whole grain bread and turkey or chicken sausage. Increase the nutritional value by incorporating fruits, such as apples, pears, and cranberries, or almonds and

TOPS promotes successful weight management with a philosophy that combines healthy eating, regular exercise, wellness education, and support from others at weekly chapter meetings. TOPS has about 170,000 members in nearly 10,000 chapters throughout the United States and Canada, and several chapters in Europe.

walnuts.

- Canned cranberry sauce often contains excess amounts of high-fructose corn syrup. Make your own cranberry sauce by pureeing dried cranberries in orange juice and water, or substitute the sauce with fruit-flavored gelatin.
- Replace candied sweet potatoes with mashed or baked sweet potatoes. Replace heavy cream in the mashed potatoes with low-fat

butter milk and add a vegetable that can be easily mashed, such as turnips or green onion. Olive oil and dried or fresh herbs liven up roasted red potatoes with minimal calories.

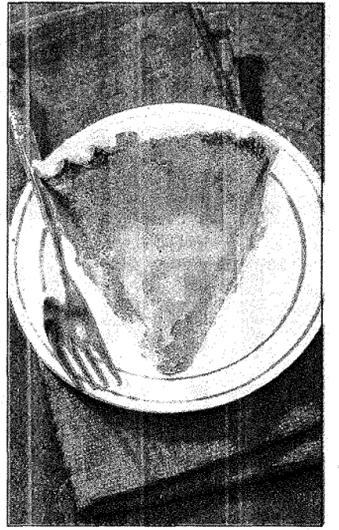
- Commonly known as "cocktail franks" or "pigs in a blanket," bite-sized hot dogs are always a popular appetizer but laden with sodium and fat. Instead, snack on mini quiches for a tasty dose of protein that keeps you full.
- Steer clear of crab cakes, which are typically breaded and deep-fried. Enjoy pieces of steamed or boiled shrimp dipped in cocktail sauce for a calorie-light alternative.
- Swap potato chips and dip for the equally satisfying crunch of veggies. Dip into hummus or salsa for a low-calorie, flavorful topping.
- For a sweet snack, enjoy an apple baked with cinnamon and nutmeg instead of an overly-indulgent caramel apple.
- Pecan pie contains high

amounts of sugar and fat – up to 800 calories per slice. Choose pumpkin pie for a rich, creamy dessert, and make it even healthier by using evaporated skim milk and egg substitute.

- Consisting of heavy cream, eggs, milk, and sugar, egg nog is a classic holiday beverage. But even without the addition of alcohol, this drink can still spell disaster for those who are watching their weight. Try homemade hot chocolate and leave off the whipped cream to partake sensibly.

With these simple trade-offs and a bit of discipline, you will be able to celebrate the season without feeling deprived – but just as satisfied.

TOPS Club Inc. (Take Off Pounds Sensibly), the original, nonprofit weight-loss education and support organization, was established more than 61 years ago to champion weight-loss support and success. Founded and headquartered in Milwaukee, Wis., TOPS promotes successful



weight management with a philosophy that combines healthy eating, regular exercise, wellness education, and support from others at weekly chapter meetings. TOPS has about 170,000 members in nearly 10,000 chapters throughout the United States and Canada, and several chapters in Europe.

Support groups help you keep weight off

Here's a sampling of local TOPS groups:

Canton
St. Thomas A'Becket, 555 S. Lilley; meetings at 7 p.m., Thursday

Farmington Hills
Nardin Park United Methodist Church, 29887 W. 11 Mile; meetings at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday
Tapiola Village, 35150 W. Eight Mile, in the clubhouse; meetings at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday

Garden city
The Harrison Center, 6701 Harrison, room 7; meetings at 10 a.m., Thursday

Livonia
Newburgh United Methodist Church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail; meetings at 6 p.m., Tuesday
Church of the Holy Spirit, 9083 Newburgh; meetings at 9:30 a.m., Thursday
Memorial Church of Christ, 35475 Five Mile;

meetings at 7:15 p.m., Monday
Redford
South Redford Christian Church, 26505 W. Chicago Road; meetings at 7:30 p.m., Thursday
Redford Community Center, 12121 Hemingway; meetings at noon, Wednesday
Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 10000 Beech Daly; meetings at 7 p.m., Tuesday

Westland
Good Shepherd Reformed Church, 6500 N. Wayne Road; meetings at 7 p.m., Monday
St. John's Episcopal Church, 555 S. Wayne Road; 7:30 p.m., Wednesday
Adams Senior Village, 2001 Kaley; meetings at 6:45 p.m. Monday
Visitors may attend their first TOPS meeting free of charge. To find a complete list of TOPS chapters in southeastern Michigan, visit www.tops.org or call (800) 932-8677.

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- Pain/aching/throbbing
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- Swelling of feet/ankles
- Restless legs
- Night cramps
- Itchy veins
- Varicose veins
- Non-healing ulcers



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Phone: (248) 478-7860
WHEN TO CALL
A doctor bases a patient's return visit on a combination of instinct and experience. No physician would argue over a patient returning earlier for an arthritis problem if the improvement anticipated did not occur.
The question arises of how long one should wait for that anticipated improvement. For example, the doctor takes fluid off a swollen and painful knee and injects a steroid preparation. The doctor usually will tell the patient that the knee should feel better that evening or certainly by the next day.
The doctor cannot say how much better or how long the improvement will last; that determination is the patient's to make. However, the patient can use several guidelines. One is that as long as the involved joint is improving, it is reasonable to wait. The improvement may be slower than anticipated, but the key point is that the improvement is ongoing. The second guide is function. If sleep is not disrupted by joint pain, and the ability to function during the day remains, then waiting is still in order.
What if the doctor schedules a return appointment for a joint problem, but the joint feels fine? Should the patient cancel the appointment? That question is not readily answered. My practice is that if the patient feels good there is no need to see me. However, other doctors may differ, feeling that they, by examination, will decide if the joint is good as is.
www.drjweiss.yourmd.com

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Thursday, November 26 • 8-10:00 am Thanksgiving day
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Friday, November 27 • 5:45 am- 6:00 pm
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Leave your children at the Y while you shop. They'll enjoy movies, swimming and crafts. Only \$4.00 an hour.

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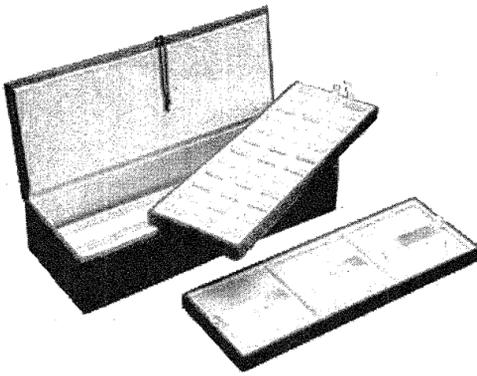
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2 DAYS

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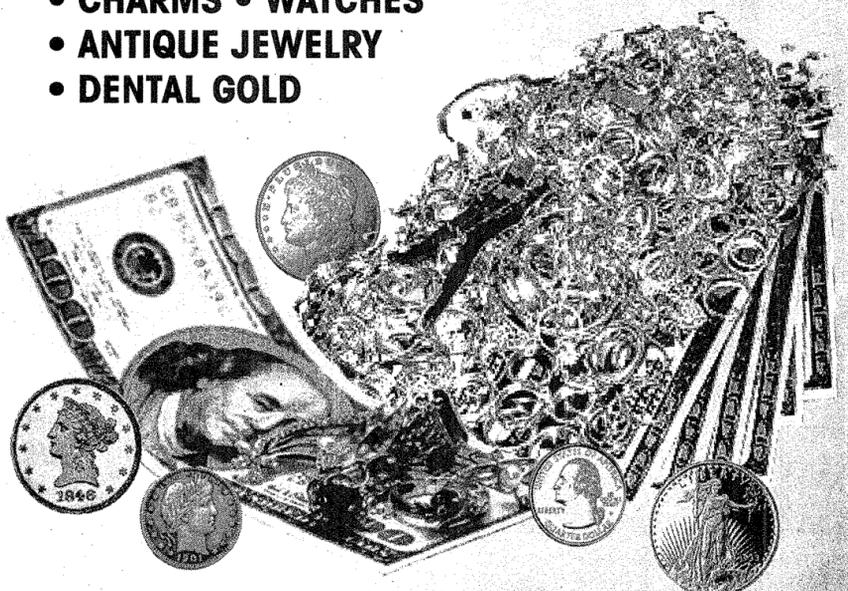
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