

Stuffed inside: Coupons, local ads, inserts for holiday shopping



USA Gymnastics lauds Westland owner Douglas Rowe - Sports, B1

Observer Holiday Shopper 2009



Gift Guide inside

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

Volume 45 Number 53

75 CENTS

WESTLAND OBSERVER

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AROUND TOWN

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 checking 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.



Goodfellows change ways to meet holiday need

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The application deadline is approaching for families who will need the Westland Goodfellows' help to get Christmas toys for their children.

Last year, the Goodfellows provided assistance to more than 288 families and more than 700 children. The deadline to apply for assistance

is Friday, Dec. 4.

"We expect the demand to be higher than last year which was incredibly high," said James Rachwal, Westland Goodfellows co-president.

This will be the second year the Goodfellows aren't taking to street corners for their traditional fundraiser — a newspaper sale.

"Over the last few years, the Goodfellows have evolved. We used to sell newspapers on Black Friday —

the day after Thanksgiving," said co-president John Adams, a Westland fire captain. "Last year, we did a test with letters (soliciting donations). There are no more street sales."

The solicitation letters targeted local businesses and there have been other fund-raisers, such as bingo and charity poker tournaments.

"We've been pretty successful with the letters. We would raise \$11,000 to \$14,000 from our newspaper sales,"

said Rachwal. "We raised \$40,000 with the letters to businesses. They were donating outside Westland. With more donations, we are able to support more families."

The shift from paper sales was driven in part to be more effective fund-raisers. Rachwal said the newspaper drive had expenses for the newspapers themselves and liability

Please see **GOODFELLOWS, A2**



Westland residents Grace and Delbert Erickson recently celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary. The couple have lived in Westland over 55 years and currently live at Taylor Towers.

Making a commitment

Westland couple celebrates 70 years of wedded bliss

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Married 70 years, Grace and Delbert Erickson give different answers when asked how they've managed to stay together so long.

"You make a commitment, you stick with it," said Grace Erickson, 88.

"Besides, we were having a lot of fun," said Del Erickson, 91.

Westland residents most of their married life, the Ericksons had only known each other six months before they married on Oct. 18, 1939. Grace Erickson was living on Cherrylawn

in Detroit.

"My friend was going with her girlfriend. He didn't have a car and I did, so I drove them," said Del Erickson, who at that time lived at 12 Mile and Halsted in Farmington Hills. "I went to a one-room schoolhouse with one teacher."

Asked what she liked about her future husband, Grace Erickson said she doesn't remember. Del Erickson recalls getting the idea that Grace set rules even at a young age.

"She said 'if he's not here on time, he can go away.' I remember the good times mostly," said Del Erickson, who was an elevator operator at a building in downtown Detroit when the couple met.

The couple lived in Petoskey with Del's parents for awhile and also stayed with Grace's father briefly.

Please see **ERICKSONS, A2**



Delbert Erickson



Grace Erickson

LeBlanc gets back 2 committee jobs

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

After being grounded for a month for failing to vote for a new tax, state Rep. Richard LeBlanc is back as chairman of two House committees.

The Westland Democrat has chaired the House committees on Military and Veterans Affairs and the Michigan State Police since being elected to the legislature three years ago.

That temporarily ended when LeBlanc was stripped of his two chairmanships by House Speaker Andy Dillon, D-Redford, as punishment for refusing to vote in favor of the ill-fated proposal to additionally tax Michigan physicians. Dillon didn't respond to request for comments.

"I'm not talking out of school, I told him I would do this," said LeBlanc, who was asked three times by Dillon to change his no vote on the proposed tax. "The speaker said he needed my help. I said that I understood but no. He immediately said he might have to take my chairmanships."

Following the vote, LeBlanc said it was clear that Dillon wasn't happy that he hadn't changed his vote.

"The bill only received four votes in the Senate. There is no doubt that I was on the right side," LeBlanc said. "There is no appetite for increased taxes. I know I acted in the best interest of my town and constituents."

On Oct. 22, LeBlanc said he was notified that he was being stripped of his chairmanships — a move Dillon indicated would likely be temporary.

It may not sound like a severe punishment but committee chairmanships are important in the legislature. The chairmanships are held by members of the prevailing party and appointed by the House speaker.

"Among other things, the chair decides if something comes before the committee. You have the ability to make it easier or harder," said LeBlanc. "You have the ability to get information in a timely fashion from the (state) departments. You have an imprint on the budget. There are some who abuse that, I don't think I do. There are things you can put emphasis on."

LeBlanc could have changed his vote knowing that the proposal was going to fail.

"It's not what I wanted to do or what the residents of Westland wanted me to do," he said.

Last week, LeBlanc was returned to his committee chairmanships.

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

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Wayne man dies of injuries after being hit by vehicle

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A Wayne man died Sunday of injuries received after being hit by a vehicle on Palmer the previous evening.

The 19-year-old was crossing south on Palmer at Liddicot at 6:20 p.m. Saturday when the accident occurred, Westland police Officer Nathan MacRae said.

Driven by a Westland man, a Chevrolet Tahoe eastbound on Palmer struck the man, who was crossing between traffic signals on Palmer, MacRae said.

"The Tahoe was not speeding or swerving. Witnesses said

the victim pretty much walked in front of the Tahoe," he said. "The driver made an immediate controlled stop. The victim was laying in the street with severe injuries when officers arrived."

The man, whose name wasn't being released Monday, was transported to Oakwood Hospital Dearborn by Westland Fire Rescue and later died. MacRae said the victim had suffered a severe head injury.

Alcohol doesn't appear to be a factor in the accident. MacRae said the driver was immediately tested with a portable Breathalyzer and showed no alcohol in his system. Toxicology results are being awaited on the

victim, but it didn't appear that he was intoxicated either based on witness statements.

"The victim's family had not seen him all day. The family believes he was walking home from a relative's house based on his route," MacRae said.

No citations have been issued to the driver. Information gathered in the investigation will be forwarded to the prosecutor's office for review.

"There are streetlights, but they are spread pretty far apart. It's a dark street and I believe he was wearing dark clothing, too," MacRae said.

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ERICKSONS

FROM PAGE A1

Eventually, Del Erickson got a job with Ford Motors and the couple settled on Fremont in Westland where they lived for 55 years.

"I was reading the newspaper and an ad. They would build a new house on two or three or five lots," said Del Erickson. "On Fremont and Ann Arbor Trail, there was a knoll. I gave them \$5 and told them to build there."

The 20 foot by 20 foot home was sitting on blocks, had no running water or electricity

and a garage with a dirt floor. Del Erickson hand dug a basement under the home and kept adding on to the home as the couple's family eventually grew to include six children — Ronald, Joan Bolek, Arthur, Charles, Janice Ransom and Greg.

Despite a deferment due to having two children and working at Ford, Del Erickson ended up drafted into the Army and serving in Italy for 18 months from 1944-45.

"I stayed at Ford but I kept taking days off — we were working seven days a week, 10 hours a day. I would have a few beers and didn't want to go to

work," he said, adding he eventually lost that job.

Later Del became a trucker and eventually retired as a Teamster in 1975. At one point he said he purchased a dump truck with the idea of making money — something that didn't come to fruition.

"I was driving the dump truck when I was pregnant — it was our only vehicle. I drove to the police station to get my license," Grace Erickson said. "They asked how I got there. They figured I did OK."

Along with taking care of six children, Grace Erickson did ceramics and other crafts which she sold at area craft

shows for more than a decade. The couple's apartment still has a lamp and other items made by Grace Erickson.

Both Ericksons were fond of traveling and didn't let having little money stop them from loading the kids in the car and hitting the road. One car had the back seat cut out and provided a place for the kids to sleep.

The couple had a party to celebrate their anniversary although Del Erickson points out that there were also parties for his 70th, 80th and 90th birthdays.

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AROUND WESTLAND

Charity poker

The U.S. 12 Bar and Grill in downtown Wayne is hosting a \$100 deep stack (\$20,000 in chips) Texas Hold 'Em Tournament 8 p.m. Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 27. It's one of a series of charity tournaments being held through the end of the year to benefit the Dustin Piepsney Scholarship Fund.

Sponsored through the Canton Community Foundation, the group is trying to raise \$10,000 to endow the scholarship fund so that an annual scholarship memory of Dustin Piepsney. His father Bill Piepsney is 1988 Westland John Glenn High School graduate.

The U.S. 12 Bar and Grill is at 34824 W. Michigan Ave. in Wayne. For information, call (734) 637-1430.

Last chance

Now is the time to finish raking and bagging leaves. The last day for pickup will be Friday, Dec. 4. Compost must be in cans labeled yard waste or Kraft-type brown paper bags and separated from regular household trash by at least 10 feet. Compost is picked up the same day as your normal trash.

Camp times

Parents can give their kids something to do while they go shopping the day after Thanksgiving. The Westland Parks and Recreation Department is holding a One on One Multi-Sport Mini-Camp 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, Nov. 27, for children age 5-13 or in kindergarten through the sixth-grade.

Kids can keep their skills sharp and have fun participating in sports like basketball, soccer,

volleyball, dodgeball, and even kickball. The camp is designed to provide a fun and positive environment for students on the school holiday. Campers need to bring their own lunch.

The cost is \$55 for Westland residents and \$60 for non-residents. For more information, call 734 418-3190 or check out the Web site at www.ion1basketball.com/michigan. The focus of the basketball camp will be on drills that improve skills in the areas of dribbling, passing, shooting, defense and teamwork. Sportsmanship and confidence also will be emphasized.

There will be two sessions: Monday-Wednesday, Dec. 21-23, 2009, pre-register by Dec. 17, and Monday-Wednesday, Dec. 28-30, pre-register by Dec. 23. Hours will be 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Each camper will receive a T-shirt and an award. Participants will need to bring water and lunch each day. Campers will be divided into two-three groups, depending on age and skill level.

The cost is \$75 for Westland residents and \$82 for non-residents. For more information, call (734) 418-3190 or check out the Web site at www.ion1basketball.com/michigan.

WYAA meeting

The Westland Youth Athletic Association will hold its annual general membership meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 3, at the Lange Compound Building, 6050 Farmington Road, north of Ford. The meeting is being held to review the year and elect the 2010 Board of Directors.

For more information, call the WYAA at (734) 421-0640 during regular business hours- 7-9 p.m. Wednesdays and 10 a.m. to noon Saturdays.

GOODFELLOWS

FROM PAGE A1

insurance, as well as being a lot of work. In addition, there were safety concerns about volunteer newspaper sellers taking to busy intersections.

"The city's streets are not less crowded. The city has grown. Anytime we're on a street corner, we've witnessed accidents and near misses," said Rachwal. "Safety is a paramount. We're doing a differ-

ent avenue for raising money."

Westland police and firefighters have been the mainstays among the newspaper sellers.

"There has always been good camaraderie with the police department. We'll find a new way to go head-to-head," said Adams.

How the Goodfellows provide assistance to fulfill their mission of "No Child Without a Christmas" is also changing. Instead of having volunteers shop and then collect gifts for

families based on the gender and age of the youngsters, a gift voucher will be provided to parents who can buy toys for their child at Meijer.

"We would deliver the gifts the next day. It was labor intensive and we didn't get that many volunteers," said Rachwal. "How could we make sure what the child wanted and that it wasn't the same toy they received last year? These cards are voucher cards, not a debit card. The parents can't purchase alcohol

or cigarettes."

Applications for holiday assistance are due before 3 p.m. Friday, Dec. 4. Applications are available at City Hall, the Westland Chamber of Commerce, the Dorsey Center and the Wayne-Ford Civic League.

For more information, call the Goodfellows information line at (734) 480-4999 or visit the Web site at www.westland-goodfellows.org.

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Get on the ball. Read today's **SPORTS** coverage!

Correction Notice

On page 11 of the Friday, November 27- Saturday, November 28 ad insert we advertised 40% off a SAMSUNG 26.0 cu. ft. LED French Door refrigerator (SKU: 9510004) for \$1399.99 after \$1000 savings.

The savings is no longer 40% and the correct price is \$1699.99 after \$700 savings.

We apologize for any confusion or inconvenience this may have caused.

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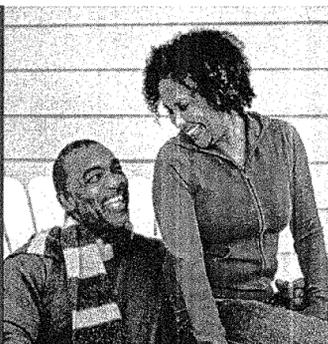
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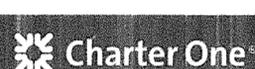
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Flip screen radio taken from vehicle

Larceny from a vehicle

A resident in the 30000 block of Avondale told police Nov. 18 that someone had stolen a flip up screen radio, a GPS and two amplifiers, valued at \$2,620, from her vehicle. There were no signs of forced entry.

Vandalism

On Nov. 17, a resident in the 29000 block of Eton told police that he was watching television when he heard a loud crash. When he checked, the resident

WESTLAND COP CALLS

said he found a window had been broken. The man said he had been having problems with the neighborhood kids lately but there had been no damage.

The damage from the broken window was estimated at \$100.

Larceny

The owner of Kiabi 4 Cafe, 8077 N. Middlebelt, told police Nov. 17 that he arrived at work

and noticed that a night vision camera, valued at \$150, was missing. He said the camera had been located above the entrance door.

Vehicle damaged

A resident of an apartment at 37189 N. Woodbridge Circle told police Nov. 17 that someone had struck her vehicle while she was parked in the lot. There was a large dent on the bumper.

By LeAnne Rogers

Missouri woman arrested for shoplifting

Retail fraud

A 20-year-old Bridgeton, Missouri, woman was arrested about 7:30 p.m. Nov. 18 when she tried to get a refund for the shoes that she had taken the tags off while in the fitting room inside the Kmart store on Ford Road, west of Middlebelt.

She was detained as she left the store without paying for the same shoes after she failed to get a refund. She also had some other items concealed in her purse.

Stolen truck

Someone stole a GMC Sierra pickup truck that was parked and locked in the 28600 block of Florence sometime before 7:15 a.m. Nov. 17.

Stolen money

A resident in the 28400 block of Leona returned home about 6:45 p.m. Nov. 17 and found that the \$300 he had on top of

GARDEN CITY COP CALLS

his dresser was missing. He told the police that he has "ongoing legal matters" with his landlord.

Because he hasn't received necessary repairs, he has been withholding his rent payment, according to the police report.

Warrant arrest

The police arrested a 19-year-old Garden City man on an outstanding warrant out of Westland at 9 p.m. Nov. 17.

The officer became concerned after he watched the man and his 18-year-old Garden City friend walk across traffic on the north side of Ford Road at Harrison. They darted between cars.

Stolen phone

A resident came to the police station about 5 a.m. Nov. 18 to report that his Trac phone

cell phone was missing from his Ford Explorer. When he was driving, he realized that the interior of his vehicle was in disarray. He said that he had left his driver's side door unlocked.

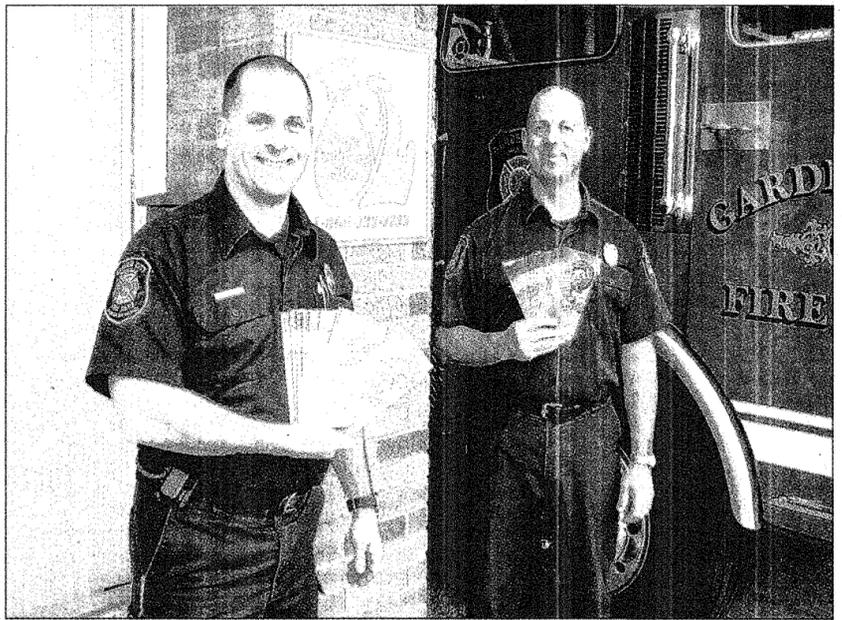
Vandalism

Someone wrote on the playscape at Memorial School at 30001 Marquette. The damage was discovered about 6:30 p.m. Nov. 13. The writing was on the slides and on other areas of the equipment.

Stolen motorcycle

A resident reported that someone stole his 2007 Kawasaki motorcycle sometime between midnight Nov. 9 to 7:30 p.m. Nov. 13 while it was parked in the 32000 of Donnelly. He said that the lock on the chain was missing.

By Sue Buck



Garden City Engineer-Paramedic Dan Neault and Firefighter-Paramedic Brian Finneren show brochures that are available, explaining safe delivery program.

Law protects babies from abandonment

BY BILL FORBUSH
GARDEN CITY FIRE CHIEF

On Jan. 1, 2001, the Michigan legislature enacted a law to protect newborn infants from abandonment by providing for the safe, legal and anonymous surrender of an infant from birth to 72 hours of age to an emergency service provider (ESP).



Bill Forbush

The intent of the law was to allow for an anonymous safe surrender of the newborn without fear of prosecution and to make the child available for adoption. Private adoption agencies assume responsibility for the child as soon as medical authorities determine that the child has not been neglected or abused and that the infant is not more

than 72 hours old.

The Safe Delivery Act allows parents of unwanted newborns to voluntarily surrender their infants to emergency personnel at a police station, fire station or hospital; or to an Emergency Medical Technician or paramedic responding to a 9-1-1 call for help.

The law covers newborns up to 72 hours old, if there has not been any abuse or neglect. In such cases, emergency service providers can accept the infant with or without any information from the parents. No investigation will be initiated solely on the surrender of the infant, and the parents will be free of criminal prosecution.

Since the laws inception, 71 babies have been surrendered. In 2008, there were eight such surrenders in Michigan, and five babies have been surrendered so far this year. The tragic thing is that babies are still found in

trash cans, Dumpsters and back alleys because parents may not know about the comparatively new law.

Several years ago, signs were posted at the Garden City Fire and Police Departments, indicating that these are designated safe delivery facilities. Firefighter-paramedics and police officers have undergone special training on the safe delivery protocols, and stand ready to accept infants, if needed.

Firefighter-paramedics have also received training in Pediatric Advanced Life Support, and have the equipment necessary to care for infants that are seriously ill or injured.

Brochures explaining the law are available at both departments, as well as through the Garden City Community Coalition, Family Resource Center and Garden City High School.

Check us out on the Web every day at hometownlife.com

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 Dinverno

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.

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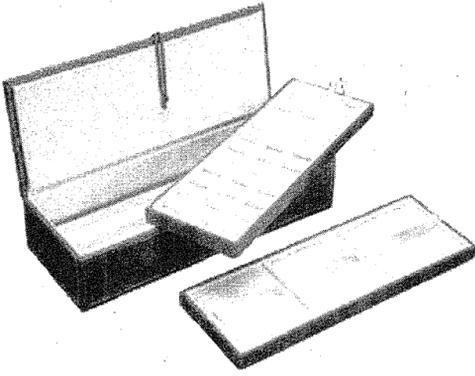
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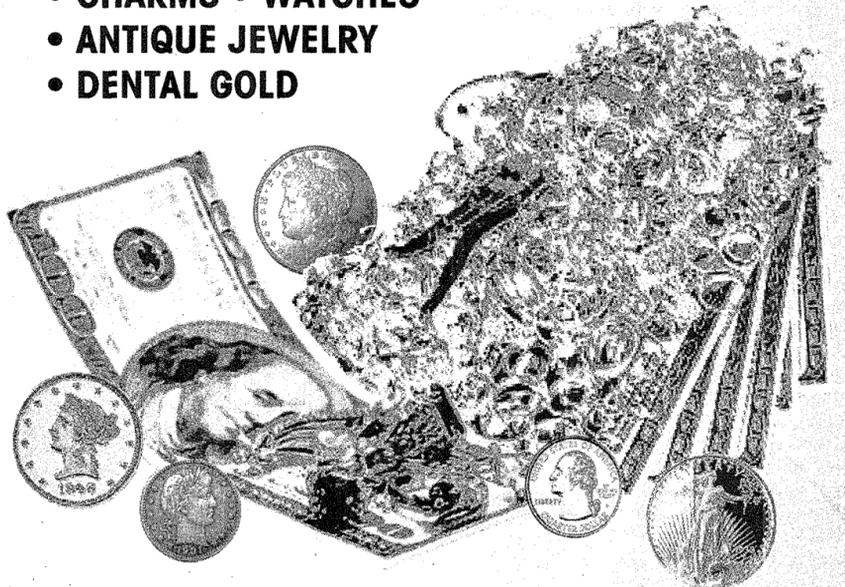
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LOCAL OPINION

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

OUR VIEWS

Make sure 'happy' is in Thanksgiving

"Happy Thanksgiving."

You've certainly heard this greeting a lot recently, and you've surely returned the greeting in kind. And in the front of your mind, surely you mean it. Everyone wants everyone to be happy, right? And Thanksgiving is a holiday that is self-explanatory: A time to be thankful for our blessings.

But somewhere in the back of your mind, in this state at this time, it wouldn't be that farfetched to believe you're thinking, "Who can be happy right now?"

The numbers are grim. The state's unemployment rate has climbed above 15 percent. The Dow Jones average is a crap-shoot. Michigan is running record numbers in foreclosures and in job losses. People are losing their jobs and their homes.

The need is rising. Church groups and organizations like the Salvation Army are setting records for assistance. The Salvation Army, for instance, has noticed that people who were donors last year are now coming to them for assistance.

So where does the "happy" come from?

Well, it doesn't come from material possessions. Sure, they make it easier, but do they bring lasting and genuine joy? Probably not.

Doesn't true happiness come from being content with what we have — no matter how meager our possessions or how trying our circumstances?

Consider the Pilgrims, who celebrated the first Thanksgiving in the autumn of 1621. The English colonists arrived in the New World in the winter, making it very difficult for them to find food and build shelter. Most of them died the first few months in their new home, having already been weakened by their two-month voyage on the Mayflower. There were no emergency rooms or hospitals, flu shots, penicillin or even aspirin, let alone health insurance.

The Pilgrims endured more hardships and had far, far less in material possessions than the average American today; yet they gave thanks in celebration for what little they had.

As you sit down to celebrate Thanksgiving, look around. Find the blessings in your life — family, friends, children. And then put the happy in your Thanksgiving by being grateful.

Hitting the road? Travel safely

Certain pieces of advice should go without saying, but we wanted to make sure this got said:

If you're among the estimated 1.2 million Michiganders planning on traveling for Thanksgiving, please do it safely!

AAA Michigan estimates that number of people in this state will travel at least 50 miles to celebrate the holiday, a number they say is on par with last year's. Sure, the economy continues to lag, but folks still tend to prefer spending the day with family, and for most that means hopping in the car. AAA Michigan says some 87 percent of state travelers will go by car.

If you do, you aren't likely to find much help at the pump. While gas prices have dropped some 17 cents in the last couple of weeks, they're still up more than 59 cents from a year ago. To make things more crowded, the 102-hour Thanksgiving holiday coincides with the state's firearms deer season, which means hunters will also be on the roads. Here are some numbers to consider before you turn the key:

- In 2008, 61,010 deer-vehicle crashes were reported in Michigan; 12 motorists lost their lives, another 1,648 were injured.

- During the 2008 Thanksgiving holiday, 13 people died in nine fatal crashes on Michigan roads, compared with 11 deaths in 2007. Restraints were not used by eight of the victims. Alcohol was involved in 10 of the fatalities.

While we hesitate to belabor the obvious, we hope you'll enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday and then, when you hit the road, avoid alcohol, buckle up, be well rested and avoid distractions (such as texting) while driving.

Come home safely.

COMMUNITY VOICE

What did the pilgrims have for their Thanksgiving diner?

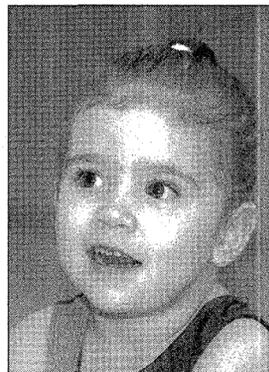
We asked this question at the Maplewood Community Center in Garden City.



"Candy and water."
Grace Ferraro
Garden City



"A piece of salami, pop and juice."
Tianna Taylor
Westland



"ABCs with sauce, they're the best, and punkie pie."
Adi Pietrowski
Garden City



"Blueberry pie and potatoes."
Meadow Mechanco
Garden City

LETTERS

Great reporting

Good job on the referenced article. GREAT community project. Having a project like this happening in Garden City is awesome.

What exposure can happen for our local neighboring communities to encourage their participation in the drug collection this Friday? Thanks for your help. Keep up the good work.

Judy Michelis
Garden City

How about a motel?

With all the vacant land and buildings in the Westland area I think that Westland should try to get a motel chain to come in. There are none of the better motels in our area including the suburbs to our east.

Perhaps the old Service Merchandise area or the old Sam's Club area could be used. These areas are in close proximity to shopping and fine restaurants. This would be beneficial to both parties.

When we have visitors from out of town they stay in Plymouth. They are miles from our Westland house and why couldn't Westland get their business?

John Kusch
Westland

Bad decision

Last week I visited Laurel Park Mall and found that the information desk in the mall has been closed. That desk was at a convenient location and also provided wheelchairs, scooters and strollers. Now the only way to obtain any of those is to go to the Security Guard's office at the farthest end of the mall.

I'm sure this has been done in order to save money on salaries, but it certainly makes shopping difficult for seniors and handicapped persons.

I have read that the mall has empty stores and isn't doing as well as it once was. Now there is another reason to discontinue shopping there. Last week was my last week to visit Laurel Park Mall.

Mary Sutherland
Westland

Shouldn't cut homestead

To Governor Jennifer Granholm, I can't believe you took away our 100 percent homestead from the seniors. Our homes are paid for and we have worked. That money helped us pay our taxes.

Being a senior is not a crime. We should be able to enjoy our older years in harmony without our insurances going higher, heat bills going up, taxes going up, and car gas going up. We all are the people who make up Michigan and the good Lord has us here for a reason.

You said vote for me and the next couple of years will be better, but things have gotten so much worse. More school taxes, less students in school. What happened to the lottery, always saying that takes care of it.

Higher education is great because everyone gets a degree in something, but what good is it without a job?

I know your job is overwhelming and the pressures are great, but please remember seniors are going through a lot themselves. Being sick and older sure doesn't help.

I just felt it was time to speak up and speak out for myself.

Meritta Garcia
Westland

P.S. I'm sorry we have lived here in Wayne County and stayed here so long.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

We welcome your Letter to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content. Submit letters via the following formats.

Web: www.hometownlife.com

E-mail: smason@hometownlife.com

Blog: You may also let your opinions be heard with your own blog at hometownlife.com.

Deadline: Letters must be received by 9 a.m.

Monday to be published in the Thursday edition.

Meaning of Thanksgiving

While I am sure that the makers of the dictionary would disagree with me, the meaning of Thanksgiving should be: If you are thankful, you should give. Our general Metro Detroit area has been hit far harder and longer with the so-called recession than the rest of the USA, but yet we are still one of the best giving areas in the whole country. The national media likes to kick dirt on us about our money problems, but how come they never bright light what a real giving area that we are?

As a born again Christian, the teachings of Jesus have revealed to me that I should be a giver of what I have and not to worry about what I don't have to give. So to show that I am thankful for what the Lord has given to me, I should give of myself and share whatever he has currently blessed me with, be it money, time or even just an ear to listen to the problems of others, etc., etc.

Now as some who have always been givers find themselves in the place of being receivers of aid, don't be discouraged, you still have something very important to give — yourself. If you have lost your job, or even been cut way back in hours, you can give of your time, either to an organized effort, like a non profit, or to help out on your own, elderly or disabled neighbors, who could use a helping hand.

Finding a way to give something of yourself gives back to you far more than you are giving away, because it helps you feel far better about yourself than you did before you started giving. So as we celebrate this Thanksgiving season, I would encourage others to take inventory of what you have to be thankful for, then to show your thankfulness by giving from what you have and not worrying about what you wished you had.

My wish is that everyone would have a "Happy Thankful and Giving Day."

John C. Kelly
New Hudson

Why state's finances flounder

The billions in Congressional stimulus has now evaporated among States and distributed mostly to protect the political lean. Our Michigan money crisis continues over dependency of bureaucratic structures never unloaded of cost enough to reflect the ability to sustain them. These financial problems are now compounded with the scramble to urgently offer tax abatements to lure new business activity while presenting a cold shoulder to tax reductions for struggling or tenured Michigan businesses.

Every level of government always pursues their unstated dire need to directly or deviously tax more people or hike rates to spend more. Always like an alcoholic's late night lament, "with just one more stiff drink, I will get a grip on this problem ... this time." Our stalwarts of journalism

should discard the approach of being such programmed political apologists and begin to debate ideas offered by the Michigan Mackinac Center for Public Policy.

Money from state taxation of citizens is collected and redirected by the state to local school funding and has become a potential problem. State distributions that augment local budgets has become another entitlement and therefore used as an annual threat of restriction or denial. The same type management schemes and techniques are now planned by our Congress in the plan for ultimate federal control of your health care and your life.

Jim Nowka
Northville

FDA's new powers

Flavored cigarettes are now illegal and those of us working to snuff out oral cancer in America are thrilled. But the news gets even better — the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act has given the U.S. Food and Drug Administration the power to regulate how tobacco companies manufacture, market and sell tobacco products.

This is a great win in the battle against tobacco-related diseases, especially for our youth. Flavored cigarettes entice children and teens to become smokers, and the tobacco industry has exploited this through youth-oriented marketing. According to the FDA, teens are three times more likely to use flavored cigarettes than are smokers over the age of 25. Nicotine, a main ingredient in cigarettes, is one of the world's most addictive drugs. According to the American Heart Association, nicotine has historically been one of the hardest substance addictions to break. Every day 3,600 children and teens start smoking cigarettes and 1,100 will become daily users.

I applaud the FDA's efforts to reduce the appeal cigarettes have on children and teens. The American Cancer Society says almost 90 percent of adult smokers tried their first cigarette at or before the age of 19. A 2007 study by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) found that half of high school students have tried cigarette smoking at some point. The ban on flavored cigarettes will help limit the risk for tobacco-related diseases like oral cancer, which causes 8,000 deaths a year.

To further reduce death and disease caused by tobacco products, the FDA should examine what options it has under the new law for regulating menthol cigarettes and other tobacco products, including smokeless tobacco, such as chewing or dipping tobacco, dissolvable tobacco tablets and snuff. Tragically, smokeless tobacco products are incorrectly perceived as safe alternatives to cigarettes. They are not; their use can be deadly. In the U.S., 13.4 percent of high school boys and 2.3 percent of high school girls use smokeless tobacco products, according to the CDC.

Tobacco is dangerous in all forms. Smokeless tobacco products contain 28 toxic and cancer-causing agents, including formaldehyde, cyanide, butanol, arsenic, polonium-210 and uranium-235. These ingredients also are found in rat poison, radioactive nuclear waste, industrial solvents and embalming fluid.

Every year, an estimated 34,000 Americans are diagnosed with oral cancer. Thanks to the FDA's new powers, that number may begin to decline.

Dr. Jed Jacobson
chief science officer, senior vice president
Delta Dental of Michigan

OBSERVER



Sue Mason
Community
Editor

Susan Rosiek
Executive Editor
/ Publisher

Grace Perry
Director of
Advertising

Score! Black Friday shopping is competitive sport

BY WENS DY VON BUSKIRK
CORRESPONDENT

After Thanksgiving dinner, local football fans will hit the couch to watch the Lions play the Green Bay Packers. Avid shoppers, on the other hand, will sit down to plan an equally traditional and no less competitive game — Black Friday shopping.

New research by University of Michigan professor David Wooten suggests Black Friday shopping is similar to sport.

Wooten, a marketing professor at the University of Michigan's Ross School of Business, along with his research partner, Robert Harrison of Western Michigan University, compiled data from retail managers and more than 200 families in 19 states to create a play-by-play analysis of Black Friday.

They found that, similar to football, the annual frenzy that signals the kickoff to the Christmas shopping season has rules (no line-cutting, item hoarding or stealing from others), strategies for winning (organizing shopping teams, outmaneuvering opponents), and phases of the game (pre-shopping planning, waiting and hunting).

According to Wooten, it also consists of competitors, who relish the glory of victory, as well as spectators, who simply show up to be entertained.

POWER SHOPPERS

Local Black Friday shoppers Mandi Napolitano, her sister Melissa Brown and her aunt, Vicki Skrobot, know firsthand the thrill of the game.

Every year after pumpkin pie the trio huddles amidst a pile-up of newspaper circulars to plan their attack.

"We prepare, cut everything out, look through the papers for hours. Then, we talk on

the phone right before we all go to bed," said Napolitano, 33.

The Canton resident doesn't sleep long; her Black Friday begins at 3:30 a.m.

By 4 a.m. she has teamed up with Nicole Bielecki of Livonia and Pauline Wright of Brighton, and after a stop at Tim Horton's for coffee they head toward Westland Center.

The high school friends know just how to tackle the sales after five years of Black Friday power shopping.

"Someone goes and jumps in line and the others go and grab all the stuff. We help each other," she said.

This year, Napolitano hopes to score an Xbox for her daughter. Although she plans to spend about \$200 less than usual due to the tight economy, her shopping list is still long.

"We clear the car seats out of the car and it's full from top to bottom with stuff from all of us. We usually take my friend's minivan and it's packed," she said.

FAMILY TRADITION

Napolitano's sister, Brown, 37, graduated from Plymouth



Canton High School and now lives in Ionia, but returns to Western Wayne county for Black Friday every year. For the stay-at-home mom, shopping starts at 4:30 a.m. while it's still "pitch black" outside. Brown and her aunt stop at Biggy Coffee then head to Kohl's.

"It's kind of this mad dash all around Canton," she said. "Most people think we're nuts but it's tradition now. It's a bonding time of year."

Brown said prices are so good, it's worth battling the crowds. In fact, competition is part of the fun.

"It's just the whole thrill of it ... Am I going to be the one to get the item or are they going to be out of it by then?" Brown said. "The lines are like a mile long, but the shoppers are really nice. I've never had a bad experience."

By noon, the pair have been shopping for at least seven hours. Their last and favorite stop before lunch is Parisian at Laurel Park Place.

According to Wooten's research, retailers are active participants in Black Friday.

"Advertising deals in advance is a must," Wooten said. "While shoppers are waiting in line, retailers can offer refreshments, distribute fliers featuring unadvertised bargains and provide customers with applications for store credit cards or rewards programs."

The result is a win-win for shoppers and stores.

Parisian Manager Suzy Brown said Black Friday takes exhaustive planning. The store will open at 4 a.m. tomorrow and offer all kinds of incentives like \$10-off

coupons, and more than 300 "doorbusters" including merchandise brought into the store especially for the event.

"It is very exciting to work Black Friday. Traffic patterns are generally very heavy from 4 a.m. through 2 p.m., then it tapers off in the afternoon," she said. "There is a tremendous amount of planning that begins months in advance, from proper staffing through placement of merchandise."

However hard retailers work to lure shoppers, some refuse to get in the game.

Sarah Donovan, 37, of Birmingham, has shopped Black Friday before, but this year she'll pass.

"It's crazy out there. I'm going to wait to do my shopping," she said. "I keep hearing about layaway, and I think that's a good option."

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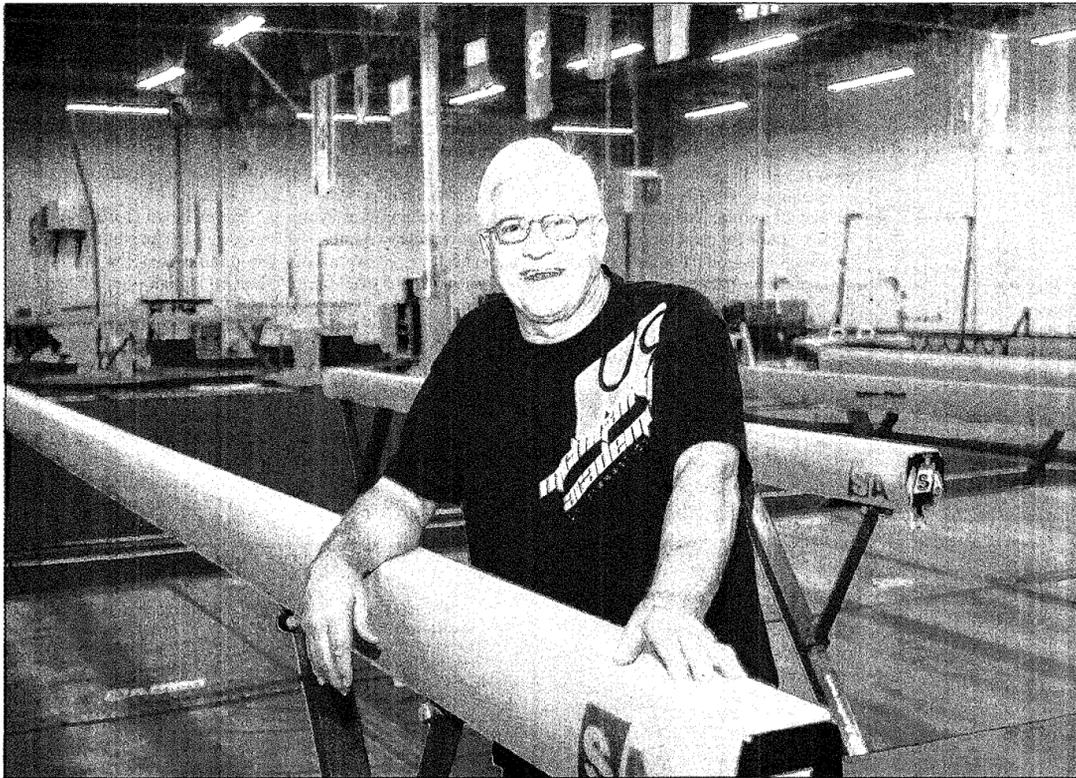
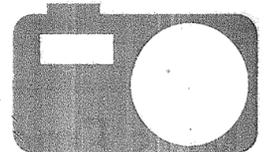
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Michigan Academy of Gymnastics owner and operator Douglas Rowe has been a fixture in Westland for 28 years.

Lifetime of achievement

USA Gymnastics lauds Westland owner Douglas Rowe

BY BRAD EMMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

At age 67, Douglas Rowe admits he's not quite as agile or limber as his football playing days at Wayne State University. "I've had both hips replaced, they don't let me demonstrate," said Rowe, owner and operator the past 28 years of Michigan Academy of Gymnastics in Westland.

Rowe's devotion and his love for gymnastics, however, isn't going on the disabled list anytime soon.

"He's a true teacher as I've ever seen," said Leon Bekker, boys and girls program director at MAG. "He loves kids, and will do anything for the kids. He's a true example for not only the kids, but for the staff."

Rowe, who lives in Westland, was paid the ultimate compli-

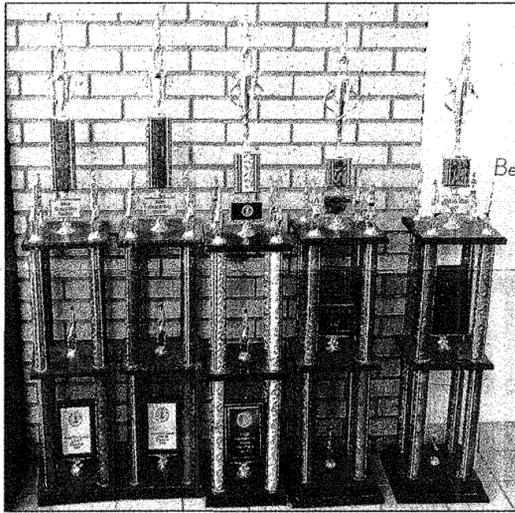
ment last month at a banquet in Kalamazoo when he earned USA Gymnastics of Michigan Lifetime Achievement Award.

Rowe currently is on his second 12-year lease at the 22,000-square foot facility, located on 5870 N. Hix (between Ford and Warren roads).

Michigan Academy of Gymnastics also has two satellite facilities, including a 14,000-square foot building in Ann Arbor, along with another site working in conjunction with the Canfield Recreation Center in Dearborn Heights.

His various programs include preschool training, which offers kinder classes, as well as classes for all levels and ages. MAG also features competitive teams for boys and

Please see **ROWE, B3**



Trophies line the walls inside Michigan Academy of Gymnastics, located on N. Hix Road in Westland.

Ocelot men garner 3rd in NJCAAs

BY JIM TOTH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Schoolcraft College's bid to claim the NJCAA Division I men's soccer crown fell agonizingly short Friday night as the Ocelots lost in a shootout (3-2) to Georgia Perimeter College in West Windsor, N.J.

Tied at 1-1 at the end of regulation, both teams fought their way through a scoreless overtime period before engaging in a rather entertaining shootout session.

"It was one of the craziest shootouts you will ever see," Schoolcraft head coach Rick Larson said.

Freshman Dane Laird staked the Ocelots to a 1-0 advantage just 21 seconds into the second half on an assist from YaYa Toure. The lead stood up until the 70-minute mark when Georgia Perimeter sent the equalizer past a diving Ian McDonald-Wilkins in the Schoolcraft net.

In overtime, Schoolcraft carried the play to the No. 2-ranked team but came away empty. "I thought we had the bulk of the chances in OT," Larson said. "We had some great opportunities, but we couldn't get one to go in. They are a great team over there and they just know how to win games."

The loss put an end to an outstanding season turned in by the Ocelots, who finished 19-2-1 and allowed just 12 goals all season. "I just told them these are character-exposing moments and we worked so hard to get to this point," Larson said when asked about his postgame speech. "There's nothing to hang your heads over because we managed to have an outstanding season."

The Ocelots quickly regrouped to claim third place in the national tournament, hosted by Mercer Community College (N.J.), by posting a

Please see **OCELOTS, B3**

SIDELINES

S'craft women fall

The Schoolcraft College women's soccer team suffered a cruel fate in last Thursday's opening round of the National Junior College Athletic Association Division I Tournament.

Scarlett Tarno scored on a header off Cara Newton's free kick with five minutes left in the second overtime to give host Tyler Junior College (Texas), the eventual national champion, a 4-3 win over the Lady Ocelots.

Tyler, which defeated Johnson County CC (Kan.), 3-0, in Sunday's championship final at Pat Hartley Field, finished the year at 19-0-1 overall.

Tyler took a 1-0 half-time lead on Cassandra Branch's goal in the 15th minute.

Madalyn Evans then evened the count with a goal in the 56th minute.

The fourth-seeded Apache Ladies regained the lead, 2-1, on Tarno's goal in the 63rd minute, but Schoolcraft's Alycia Baringer, named All-Tournament, responded with back-to-back tallies within a 90-second span to put her team up by a goal with 25 minutes remaining in regulation.

In the 67th minute, Jordan Sickman's goal from Newton sent the game to OT.

Goalkeeper Kristen Dondzila (Salem) made three saves for fifth-seeded Schoolcraft, while Beatrice Soto had one for Tyler.

In Friday's consolation round, Schoolcraft lost to Harford CC (Md.), 2-0.

Eighth-seeded Harford improved to 18-3-1 overall with the victory, while the Lady Ocelots finished 14-5.

Barker resigns

Madonna University athletic director Bryan Rizzo announced Monday that he has accepted the resignation effective immediately of head women's soccer coach Jen Barker.

"I am grateful for all of the time and energy Jen put into the team this season," said Rizzo after meeting with the team. "Managing a college program is tough to do when you are working a separate full-time job. I know that being pulled in so many directions was very difficult. Jen is still a big part of the Madonna soccer family."

Barker, an inductee to the Madonna University Athletics Hall of Fame last summer, posted a 6-13 overall record in her one season at the helm of the Crusaders.

The former Stevenson High All-State goalkeeper currently teaches in the Livonia Public Schools. She is the former varsity girls soccer coach at Franklin High.

"I am grateful to Bryan and the administration for giving me this opportunity," Barker said. "At this time I do not feel that I can commit the time to the program that it deserves to maintain the success it has had."

A national search for Barker's replacement is under way and those interested can send a resume and cover letter to: Bryan Rizzo, Madonna University Athletics, 36600 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia, MI 48150.

Area swimmers earn high marks at 'state'

BY BRAD EMMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

There were some sparkling individual performances turned in by Livonia Stevenson and Livonia Franklin in Saturday's MHSAA Division I Girls Swimming and Diving finals held at the Holland Aquatic Center.

Stevenson earned a top-ten finish in the team standings by placing ninth with 104 points. Saline captured the team title with 244 followed by Bloomfield Hills Marian and Holland West Ottawa with 215 and 199, respectively.

Stevenson's Savannah Hatt earned runner-up honors in the 500-yard freestyle (personal best 5:00.49) to Milford's Rachel Johnson (4:56.85). Hatt also added a fifth in the 200 freestyle (personal best 1:53.82) and was also a lead-off leg on the Spartans' ninth-place in the 400 freestyle relay team (3:38.67) as well as the 10th-place 200 freestyle relay squad (1:40.83).

"Savannah had great swims, has a great attitude and proves to be Stevenson's 2009 MVP," coach Greg Phill said of the junior.

Not to be outdone was Franklin junior Kayla Douglas, who took runner-up honors in the 100 backstroke with a time of 57.69. Novi freshman Andrea VanderMey won the



Hatt



Douglas

race in 56.12.

Douglas was also 15th in the 100 butterfly (1:00.23).

"I was very pleased with Kayla's performance in both the 100 backstroke and 100 butterfly," Franklin coach Kevin Hafner said. "She matched her lifetime best time and achieved her best finish at the state meet in her career. Kayla is really starting to put together some nice races and is becoming much more consistent in her splitting of the races."

Next month, Douglas will be swimming in both the 100- and 200 backstroke events at the USA Swimming Junior Nationals in Columbus, Ohio.

A member of Club Wolverine in Ann Arbor, Douglas did not taper for the state high school meet because her sole focus and training has been on earning a top-eight finish at the Junior Nationals.

Meanwhile, Stevenson senior diver Carla McNamara placed third overall in Division 1

Please see **SWIM, B3**

Teens charged in hoop assault

Reprimanded Franklin girls coach returns to bench

BY BRAD EMMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Two people, a brother and sister, have been charged as juveniles with assaulting Livonia Franklin varsity girls basketball coach David McCall on Nov. 10 at McDonald's, which is located across the street from the high school, in Westland.

According to a report obtained from the Westland police, the girl is 15 and a Franklin 10th-grader, while the brother is 16 and a senior. They live in Westland.

McCall, who guided Franklin to its best season in school history and a 24-4 record en route to the 2008 state Class A championship game, told police he followed three students from the school to the restaurant to get their names after they allegedly interrupted his girls basketball practice by shouting obscenities.

The witnesses, McDonald's employees, said he pointed his finger at the teens, but never raised his voice or touched them. McCall told the teens that if they didn't give him their names, he would go through the school yearbooks to identify them. An employee told police the teens responded by swearing and yelling racial slurs.

One employee told police

he was outside and saw the male teen follow McCall outside and punch him. Both teens and several others who couldn't be identified struck McCall and used racial slurs.

The detective also said that the initial report has an incorrect statement by the teens' father — he was never allowed to view the restaurant videotape. In addition, he said a McDonald's rep asked for suggestions on how to keep teens from congregating at the restaurant on Joy Road.

McCall, who has a 45-9 record in two varsity seasons with the Patriots, missed 10 days of practice after receiving an unpaid disciplinary suspension from the Livonia Public Schools which was served Nov. 11-19.

McCall also had emergency surgery and spent one night in the hospital (Nov. 16) from an infected elbow stemming from the alleged assault.

His suspension was lifted and he was back coaching the Patriots in a preseason scrimmage Saturday following a meeting Friday afternoon with Cynthia DeMann, assistant director of personnel; Dorothy Chomic, director of human resources; and Ron Hammye, Franklin's athletic administrator.

Franklin Principal Daniel Willenborg was not in attendance at the meeting.

Chomic's office referred all comments regarding the unpaid suspension to Donna McDowell, communications administrator for LPS, who e-mailed the *Observer* with a brief statement:

"There was an incident that occurred Nov. 10 involving a supplemental contract coach and a group of students. This incident occurred off LPS school premises. The incident has been investigated by district personnel, and corrective actions have been taken."

On the condition of his return to coaching, McCall was handed and agreed to sign a letter from DeMann during Friday's meeting which detailed the investigation by LPS regarding his disciplinary suspension.

The letter, obtained by the *Observer*, stated that McCall's "actions are not consistent with the standard of behavior that we reasonably expect from an athletic coach."

The letter also emphasized that McCall's decision "to leave the scene before the police arrived is not acceptable."

The letter went on to say that: "In such situations, it is entirely reasonable to expect the staff member to take those steps necessary to diffuse (actually defuse) the

Please see **MCCALL, B3**

MU's Emenhiser notches 1st win

Canton's Ryan Waidmann tallied 18 points and grabbed seven rebounds Saturday as the Madonna University men's basketball team earned its first victory of the season for rookie coach Noel Emenhiser with a 59-45 win over host Ave Maria (Fla.) at Donehue Academy Gym.

The Crusaders, 1-6 overall, also got a team-high 10 rebounds from freshman Kevin Henry and eight points off the bench from Geoff Gaylor.

Ave Marie (3-1), outscored 35-22 in the second half, got 10 points from Danny Vivas and 10 rebounds from Mark Rozanski.

On Friday, MU fell 68-58

COLLEGE HOOPS

to host Northwood University (Fla.) in a game played in West Palm Beach.

Jay Duncan led a balanced scoring attack for NU (2-0) with 13 points. Melvin Calhoun came off the bench to score 12, while Patrick Horstmann and Thierno Agne each added 10.

Horstmann also grabbed a game-high 13 rebounds.

Henry was the only MU player to score in double figures with 20 points. Mitch Cieslak added nine.

MU shot 42.6 percent from the floor (20-of-47), including 8-of-24 from beyond the arc.

The Crusaders, who led 23-22 at halftime, committed a total of 24 turnovers.

MOTT 93, SCHOOLCRAFT 60: On Saturday, five players scored in double figures Saturday as host Flint Mott Community College (5-1, 1-0) put on a dunking clinic and pulled away in the second half en route to an MCCA Eastern Conference victory over Schoolcraft College (2-7, 1-1).

The Bears, who led by only 11 at intermission, got 14 points apiece from Torian Ogelsby and Demetrius Miller.

Ogelsby and Doug Anderson, both forwards, combined for nine slams.

Sam Burton added 13 points and seven assists, while Bobby Lewis had 10 points.

Trevor Zaczny led the Ocelots with 14 points.

Lady Ocelots cage Bears, 83-55

Four players scored in double figures Saturday as the Schoolcraft College women's basketball team rolled to its 29th straight MCCA Eastern Conference win with an 83-55 triumph at Flint Mott Community College.

The Lady Ocelots, ranked No. 2 in latest NJCAA Division II national poll, improved to 6-0 overall and 2-0 in the conference.

Antania Shepherd led the way with 18 points and nine rebounds, while Angela Burrell had 16 points, five assists and five steals for Schoolcraft, which has won 61 of its last 63 conference games.

April Goins contributed 14 points and 18 rebounds, while Amber Avery had 10 points.

Kimberly Bee chipped in with nine points and 10 rebounds.

Mott (0-5, 0-1) got 14 points from Coiya Wiley, while Awandra Stephens and Kaleigh Reese added 13 and 11, respectively.

Mott, which trailed 37-23 at the half, shot just 30.5 percent from the field (20-of-65) and committed 26 turnovers.

Crusaders drop 2

The Madonna University women's basketball dropped a pair of games in the WHAC/MCC Challenge hosted last weekend by Indiana Wesleyan.

Saturday at Lucky Arena, the Crusaders fell to 2-3 overall in a 75-62 setback to Bethel (Ind.) College.

Heather Seyfred led the winnings with a game-high 21 points, while Jordan Robbins contributed 16 for the Pilots (7-2).

Bekah Basinger came off the bench to score 13, while Mandy Yoder added 11.

Freshman Kaylee McGrath

(Livonia Stevenson) had 15 points for the Crusaders, who trailed by only five a intermission, 37-32.

Erin Bentley, Tabatha Wydryck and Heather Pratt each added 10 points. Kim Olech (Plymouth) had a team-high 11 rebounds to go along with eight points.

MU shot only 8-of-27 from three-pint range (29.6 percent).

On Friday, host Indiana Wesleyan improved to 5-0 overall with a 72-64 win over the Crusaders.

Elaine Hessel led the way with 20 points, while Stephanie Burch and LeAnn Douglas added 13 and 12, respectively. Rachel Steinberger added 12.

McGrath led MU with 24 points, hitting 11-of-15 shots from the floor, to go along with 11 rebounds. Bentley contributed 12 points as the Crusaders, who committed 30 turnovers on the night, couldn't hold a 39-33 halftime advantage.

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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
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.

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Grand Rapids CC ices Chargers

Livonia Churchill couldn't stand prosperity Saturday as Grand Rapids Catholic Central rallied for a 5-4 boys hockey victory at the Metro Invitational held at Novi Ice Arena.

Both teams are 1-1 on the season. Churchill jumped out to a 2-0 first-period lead as Steven Klisz scored on a power-play at 18 seconds into the game on assist from Justin Mikitaroff and Jake Otto, followed by Otto's goal from Mikitaroff at 15:06.

The Cougars responded with three unanswered goals in the second period as Cameron Kwaiser had a pair, while Nathaniel Altman tallied the other.

Churchill's Joe Williams

netminder, stopped 38-of-43 shots.

The Cougars' Quinn Edwards turned back 30-of-34.

LADYWOOD 3, COUNTRY DAY 0: On Nov. 14, Kelsey Campbell had a goal and two assists propelling host Livonia Ladywood (1-0) to a season-opening victory over Beverly Hills-Detroit Country Day (0-1) at Plymouth's Arctic Pond.

The Blazers jumped out to a 2-0 first-period lead on goals by Hannah Periera (from Campbell) and Campbell (from Emann Freij and Julie Bushart).

Erin Doyle's third-period goal from Campbell and Brittany Galvin completed the scoring for the Ladywood.

Goaltender Jessica Pavela made 20 saves to post the shutout for the Blazers, while Country Day's Allie Ulnick stopped 25-of-28 shots.

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GIRLS SWIM RESULTS

MHSAA DIVISION 1 GIRLS SWIMMING & DIVING STATE FINALS RESULTS
Nov. 21-22 at Holland Aquatic Center
TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Saline, 244 points; 2. Bloomfield Hills Marian, 215; 3. Holland West Ottawa, 199; 4. Ann Arbor Pioneer, 196; 5. (tie) Ann Arbor Huron and Novi, 169 each; 7. Temperance Bedford, 127; 8. Zeeland, 116; 9. Livonia Stevenson, 104; 10. South Lyon, 91; 23. Livonia Franklin, 19 (37 schools).
AREA FINALS/CONSOLATION FINISHERS
200-yard freestyle: 5. Savannah Hatt (LS), 1:53.82; 12. Kaylee Dolinski (LS), 1:56.39.
200 individual medley: 9. Ashley Gordon (LS), 2:09.4.
1-meter diving: 3. Carla McNamara (LS), 399.70 points.
100 butterfly: 15. Kayla Douglas (LF),

1:00.23.
500 freestyle: 2. Hatt (LS), 5:00.49; 8. K. Dolinski (LS), 5:10.99.
200 freestyle relay: 10. Stevenson (Hatt, K. Dolinski, Sarah Cauzillo, Gordon), 1:40.83.
400 backstroke: 2. Douglas (LF), 57.69.
100 freestyle relay: 9. Stevenson (Hatt, K. Dolinski, Cauzillo, Gordon), 3:38.67.
AREA PRELIM HEAT FINISHERS
200 medley relay: 25. Stevenson (Shaelyn Dolinski, Kayla Perchall, Ashley Reed, Emilee Montini), 1:56.95.
200 freestyle: 28. Natalie Cote' (LF), 2:00.22.
100 butterfly: 25. Gordon (LS), 1:00.93.
100 freestyle: 20. Cauzillo (LS), 55.36; 27. Cote' (LF), 55.9.
200 freestyle relay: 21. Franklin (Douglas, Cote', Kaitlyn Kozyn, Colleen

SWIM

FROM PAGE B1

with a total score of 399.70 points. Temperance Bedford's Cheyenne Cousineau and Utica's Ashley Hardy finished one-two with 469.20 and 432.50, respectively.

"Carla did very well and ended up beating some very good divers," Phill said. "Carla was a rock of confidence and poise. Stevenson is losing the best female diver we've ever had."

Stevenson's Kaylee Dolinski also earned All-State honors with an eighth in the 500 freestyle (5:10.99). She also placed 12th in the 200 freestyle (per-

sonal best 1:56.39). "Kaylee had a lifetime best (5:07.46) in the 500 freestyle prelims and was a rock on our two freestyle relays," Phill said. "She's a junior, and we'll be very lucky and happy to have her back for her senior year."

Not to be forgotten for the Spartans was senior Ashley Gordon, who turned in a lifetime best of 2:09.4 in the 200 individual medley, good enough for ninth place.

"Ashley anchored both freestyle relays like the champion that she is," Phill said. "Also, let us not forget our freshman Sara Cauzillo, who although not scoring, swam a lifetime best in the 100 freestyle (55.36), and was an important part of both freestyle relays."

Franklin's 19 points, good enough for 23rd overall in the team standings, broke new ground for the program.

"As a team we had the most events at the state meet that Franklin has had in school history," Hafner said.

The Patriots' 400 freestyle relay team of Colleen Anthony, Natalie Cote', Kaitlyn Kozyn and Douglas established a new school record (3:49.23). The same quartet also broke the 200 medley relay mark at Franklin.

Cote' also established school records this season in the 200 IM and 200 freestyle, both coming at the KLAAs Kensington Conference meet.

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OCELOTS

FROM PAGE B1

decisive 3-0 triumph Sunday afternoon over Louisburg (N.C.) College.

Freshman Chris Long (Livonia Stevenson) staked his team to a 1-0 advantage 15 minutes into the first half when he converted a break-away opportunity set up sophomore Andy Adlington.

Freshman Gavin Kelly made it a 2-0 contest with a half early in the second half and sophomore Ognen Stemenkovic rounded out the scoring on a penalty kick called when Toure was dragged down in the penalty box area.

McDonald-Wilkins earned the shutout in goal.

On Thursday, Schoolcraft registered a hard-fought 2-0 opening-round triumph over Barton County CC (Kan.).

Freshman Ryan Lemasters had a foot in turning the game in Schoolcraft's favor as he knocked in the first goal of the game late in the opening half. Kelly set up Lemasters with a nifty feed and the Ocelots midfielder make no mistake finding the back of the Barton County net.

"To get that goal right before halftime was certainly the turning point of the game," Larson said. "It put us in a good swing the rest of the game."

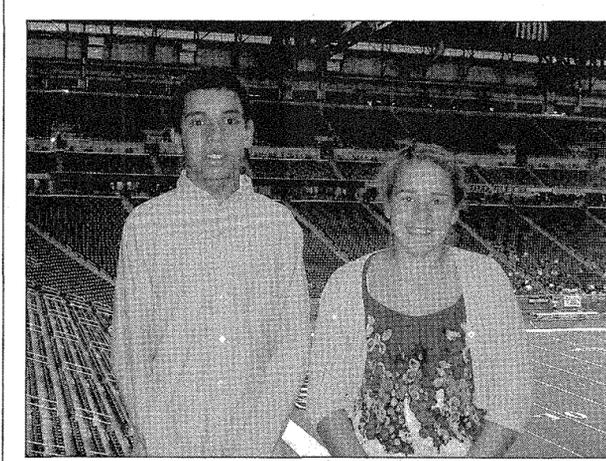
Sophomore Bim Ogunyemi provided the Ocelots with

some breathing room at the 75-minute mark when he dribbled through a pair of Barton County defenders and blasted a shot from 25 yards out that eluded the goalkeeper. Toure drew an assist on the play.

Stemenkovic turned in an outstanding effort defensively as he helped McDonald-Wilkins record the shutout and lower his NCJAA-best goals against average to 0.42.

Both Ogunyemi and Stemenkovic were selected to the All-Tournament Team.

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Valentine scholars

Brandon Walker (left), of Detroit, and Madelyn Omietanski, of Livonia, were the recipients of the Fall Scholar Athlete Award for St. Valentine School in Redford. The pair were awarded a certificate and medal during the Detroit Catholic League's Prep Bowl held Oct. 24 at Ford Field.

MCCALL

FROM PAGE B1

situation in an effort to avoid the type of physical altercation that resulted."

During the Friday meeting, McCall said he was assured that he will be given an opportunity to present a letter of rebuttal.

The Observer Coach of the Year said he wants to set the record straight on why he drove to the police station to file a report, along with some other issues.

"I had no confrontation with three students who made the inappropriate comments,"

the Franklin coach said. "The reason why I left the scene was because I had been assaulted and had no cell phone on me."

"The issue, I was told, is that I left campus to identify these guys. I was assaulted by a group of people that had nothing to do with these three guys."

"They (LPS) said they're holding me to a higher level of accountability, but what does that mean? There's no reference in the letter that I was assaulted."

McCall said there is a greater issue at stake in terms of after-school security.

"I asked them (LPS) for something in writing that indicates how me, or any

other coach, on how to handle the situation," he said. "They weren't prepared to produce anything at that time (at the meeting). Is there a coaches' handbook or manual of any type? I then made reference to (coaches) P.A.C.E. training when I took it seven or eight years ago. But there was no reference to these type of situations."

"I haven't been given a name, phone number or location of any Blue Line Security (after school) personnel to me or to anyone else on my coaching staff."

Staff writer Leanne Rogers of the Westland Observer also contributed to this report.

ROWE

FROM PAGE B1

girls.

"Kids can come out of here and be talented in other things," Rowe said. "They can go into other areas and excel."

After graduating from Wayne State where he was exposed to a variety of individual sports, Rowe taught physical education, social science and physical sciences, as well as coaching football, baseball and gymnastics at Riverside High School in Dearborn Heights.

"I learned real good basics with kinesiology, humanities, dance," Rowe said. "I took anatomy and exercise physiology. Gymnastics is applied P.E., kinesiology and exercise physiology. That's what it is in the rest of the world, but here it's a sport."

Rowe launched the Rebel Gymnastics Club at Riverside during the summer of 1976 and quickly moved his high school team up to No. 2 in the state within the next year.

Rowe remembers those humble beginnings.

"The first meet I ever coached was against (Livonia) Clarenceville on those flimsy mats with no padding," he said. "There was really nothing underneath other than the bare floor."

In 1978, Rowe opened his first gym in Garden City. His second gym was opened in 1986 at an adjacent building, which is now a dance studio, on Hix. Then in 1989, Rowe purchased Not Just Gymnastics, which is located on 3900 Jackson Road (Suite No. 4), in Ann Arbor.

Meanwhile, his Westland gym has mushroomed into a complete modern training center for boys and girls gymnastics with the ability to host high level regional training camps and clinics.

The competitive teams of Michigan Academy of

Gymnastics have won numerous team and individual awards over the years. And many of MAG alums have competed in the collegiate ranks and at national level meets.

Rowe employs a full-time staff of 14 instructors and 20 part-timers, including those with Olympic level and sport educational credentials.

His younger brother Ken, 63, an avid runner, has taught beginner boys classes since 1995.

"He's worked with me for years, he's my maintenance crew, and he's my best friend," Doug said.

The MAG owner estimates over 2,500 kids will participate in his various programs this year.

"Even in a down economy, in 2009 we'll have more girls compete at level state meets," Rowe said. "I think in the

four-county area, there are over 11,500 involved in gymnastics, whether it's through the YMCA, recreation or private clubs. That's a lot involved — even in these times."

When asked how much time Rowe spends a week bouncing between his three gyms, he defers the answer.

"You'll have to ask my wife Debby, it depends what she says," Doug said. "It's probably somewhere between 70 to 50 hours."

MAG has trained some of the highest level gymnasts to come out of Michigan including the late Jason Whitfield, Adrian and John Besancon, Monica Stavros, Gayle Quashnie, Nicole Argiros and Conan Parczuchowski. He's had others move on to West Point and the Air Force Academy.

He is currently working with Canton gymnast Samantha

King, a 16-year-old from Salem High, who was a Level 9 all-around national champ. King, trying to bounce back from an elbow injury, is now competing at Level 10.

But despite all the talent that surrounds him, Rowe sticks to his roots and his core values.

"My mission statement has not changed since I first wrote it," he said. "It sets the tone for what I believe."

And that means Rowe is there for everybody. He's just not a figurehead, a teacher first and a businessman second.

"Very few people have maintained continuous activity with children's sports," he said. "My job is to make things better for kids. And if they want to learn, I'm happy to help them."

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JUNE P. L. RANDALL
 June P. L. Randall, age 84, a longtime resident of Livonia, passed away on November 22, 2009. She was born June 12, 1925 in Kennington, London, England to Gilbert and Lillian (Arnold) Parma. As a teenager June served as a Civil Defense Telephonist during the London blitz. She became a "GI" bride on October 23, 1945 when she married Leonard Randall a member of the US Army. They were happily married for 60 years until his death in 2006. She worked at the Detroit Public Library; June helped inaugurate an audio-visual department and pioneered record cataloging rules. June worked to establish library service in Livonia; she formed the first Friends of the Library group and served on the Library Commission for 10 years. She was very active in the PTA from local to state level; she received the Michigan Life and National Life Awards. June also received the key to the city of Livonia for all of her help and hard work. She was an avid reader, loved music, and had a passion for cooking. She is survived by her children Paul (Jennifer) Randall and Celia "Rose" (Stephen Warner) Randall-Warner; and her grandchildren Grace, Nichole, and Mallory. She was preceded in death by her parents and her husband. A memorial service was held last Wednesday at Jefferson Avenue Presbyterian Church in Detroit. Rev. Peter C. Smith officiated the service. Contributions would be appreciated to the Leelanau Conservancy, PO Box 1007, Leland, MI 49654 or CARE, PO Box 1871, Merrifield, VA 22116. Arrangements by: Casterline Funeral Home, Inc.

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Local church stresses service to others with St. Lucia Day event

BY SHARON DARGAY
 O&E STAFF WRITER



Members of the annual St. Lucia Singers perform during breakfast at Faith Covenant Church in Farmington Hills.

It's not your typical eggs and bacon breakfast. Waiters and waitresses dressed in Swedish costume serve fruit soup and cardamom bread, ham and Havarti cheese, homemade cookies, Limpa bread and Lucy buns, while a choir sings and children, some dressed as elves, dance around a Christmas tree. "I started it 30 years ago," said Nancy Bergstrom of Farmington Hills. "No one is more surprised than I am that it's gone on for 30 years. You think, are people going to get tired of it? But they come year after year. For some people, it's the start of the Christmas season." The St. Lucia Day celebration at Faith Covenant Church in Farmington Hills combines Scandinavian foods, culture, dance, songs and a lesson or two about serving others. The church is part of a denomination with roots in Sweden, where families mark the saint's day of martyrdom — Dec. 13 — with special rolls and coffee. The eldest daughter, wearing a wreath of candles on her head, serves breakfast to her relatives, recalling St. Lucia's life of service. The Italian saint was martyred in 304 after bringing food to persecuted Christians. She wore candles on her head to light her way through the dark catacombs where they hid. High School seniors will portray St. Lucia at Faith Covenant Church's three breakfast seat-

ings on Dec. 5. They will proceed into the darkened sanctuary with their court, symbolizing "Christ's light coming into a darkened world," Bergstrom said. "It's a beautiful morning. The St. Lucia and the court dress in long white robes with wreaths of candles on their hair. It's something that is simple and beautiful. I've had people come and when the procession starts, they start weeping. It's so beautiful." Church members move the pews aside to make way for breakfast tables, the orchestra, choir and young folk dancers in the sanctuary. The event has grown from 350 people the first year to more than 1,000. There's a waiting list of some 90 people this year.

FOR CHARITY
 Farmington Bakery supplies the Lucia buns made from a church member's recipe, but volunteers make the other breads and cookies. Proceeds

coordinates the event.

EAGER VOLUNTEERS
 Adult church members also look forward to working at the event. "This year we have a young lady playing cello who learned to play just so she could be in this orchestra, McFadyen said. "We have a huge crew in the kitchen. We have a crew just washing dishes and they love to do that. It's almost like being in a club to work in the kitchen. "We have a gentleman who makes the coffee every year — for 30 years." McFadyen has sung with the St. Lucia Day chorus since it was started. The group learns songs in both English and Swedish, practices a month before the event and then performs at the saint's celebration and at church services the following Sunday. Like the St. Lucia procession, most of the songs refer to Christ's light or Christmas. Both Bergstrom and McFadyen said the St. Lucia Day celebration is a "fun way" to recall their church's Swedish roots. But Bergstrom also pointed out that the church today is culturally diverse. "We're multicultural. That's what's so nice about it," Bergstrom noted. The guests who attend the breakfast are equally diverse. "Some people come in from out of town," McFadyen said. "It's fascinating to see how it keeps going year after year."

For more about the church, visit www.faithcovenantchurch.org

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Your Invitation to Worship

<p>CATHOLIC</p> <p>ST. ANNE'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH Tridentine Latin Mass St. Anne's Academy - Grades K-8 38100 Five Mile Road Livonia, MI 48154 • (734) 462-3200</p> <p>Mass Schedule: Fri. 7:00 p.m. Sat. 11:00 a.m. Sun. Masses 7:30 & 10:00 a.m. Confessions Heard Prior to Each Mass Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions Tuesdays at 7:00 P.M.</p>	<p>UNITED METHODIST</p> <p>Redford Aldersgate 2 blocks South of Plymouth United Methodist 10000 Beech Daly 313-937-3170 9:30 - Trad. Worship & Sunday School 11:00 - Contemp Family Worship www.redfordaldersgate.org</p>	<p>PRESBYTERIAN (U.S.A.)</p> <p>St. James Presbyterian Church, USA 25350 West Six Mile Rd. Redford (313) 534-7730</p> <p>Sunday Worship Service - 10:00 A.M., Sunday School - 10:15 A.M., Thursday Dinners - 6:00 P.M., Thrift Store every Sat. 10am-2pm Nursery Care Provided • Handicapped Accessible Rev. Paul S. Bousquette</p>	<p>LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD</p> <p>Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia Just north of I-96 734-522-6830</p> <p>Sunday Worship 8:30 & 11:00 am - Traditional Sunday/Bible Class 9:45 am Early Childhood Center Phone 734-513-8413</p> <p>Staffed Nursery Available Making disciples who share the love of Jesus Christ Senior Pastor: Rev. Dean Davenport Pastors: Robert F. Bayer and Anthony M. Creeden</p>	
<p>St Genevieve Roman Catholic Church St. Genevieve School - PreK-8 29015 Jamison • Livonia • 734-427-5220 (East of Middlebelt, between 5 Mile & Jeffries) MASS: Tues. 7 p., Wed., Thurs. 9 a., Sat. 4 p., Sun 11a</p> <p>St. Maurice Roman Catholic Church 32765 Lyndon • Livonia • 734-522-1616 (between Merriman & Farmington Roads) MASS: Mon. 8:30 a., Fri. 8:30 a., Sat. 6 p., Sun 9a</p>	<p>ORCHARD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 50450 Farmington Road • Farmington Hills www.orchardumc.org 248-626-3620</p> <p>Worship: 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. Christian Education for all ages Pastors: Carol J. Johns, Jim Braid, Margo Dexter</p>	<p>ROSEDALE GARDENS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) 9601 Hubbard at W. Chicago, Livonia, MI (between Merriman & Farmington Rds.) (734) 422-0494</p> <p>Friends in Faith Service 9:00 am Traditional Service 10:30 am Visit www.rosedalegardens.org For information about our many programs</p>	<p>GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD 25630 GRAND RIVER at BEECH DALY 313-532-2266 REDFORD TWP.</p> <p>Worship Service 9:15 & 11:00 A.M. Sunday School 9:15 & 11:00 A.M. Nursery Provided</p> <p>The Rev. Timothy P. Halboth, Senior Pastor The Rev. Dr. Victor F. Halboth, Assistant Pastor</p>	<p>Risen Christ Lutheran David W. Martin, Pastor 46250 Ann Arbor Road • Plymouth (734) 453-5252 Worship 8:15 & 10:45 am Sunday School 9:30 • Adult Bible Study 9:30 Nursery Care Available. All are welcome. Come as you are. www.risenchrist.info</p>
<p>CHURCHES OF THE NAZARENE</p> <p>PLYMOUTH CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 45801 W. Ann Arbor Road • (734) 453-1525 Sunday School - 9:45 A.M. Sunday Worship - 11:00 A.M. Sunday Evening - 6:00 P.M. Family Night - Wed. 7:00 P.M. NEW HORIZONS FOR CHILDREN LEARNING CENTER (734) 455-3196</p>		<p>GREEK ORTHODOX</p> <p>NATIVITY OF THE VIRGIN MARY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH 39851 West Five Mile, Plymouth Twp., MI Sunday Services Matins 8:30 am, Divine Liturgy 10:00 am Rev. Fr. George Vapouris Parish Office 734-420-0131 Office Hours M-F 10:00 am - 2:00 pm www.nativitygocurch.org</p>	<p>EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN</p> <p>WARD Evangelical Presbyterian Church</p> <p>40000 Six Mile Road "Just west of I-275" Northville, MI 248-374-7400</p> <p>Traditional Worship 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 A.M. Contemporary Worship 9:30 & 11:00 A.M. Nursery & Sunday School During the 9:30 & 11:00 Hours Evening Service • 7:00 p.m. Service Broadcast 11:00 A.M. Sunday WRDT-AM 560 The WMUZ Word Station For additional information visit www.wardchurch.org</p>	<p>LUTHERAN CHURCH WISCONSIN SYNOD</p> <p>ST. PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL 17810 FARMINGTON ROAD, LIVONIA (734) 261-1360 WORSHIP SERVICES SUNDAY: 8:30 A.M. & 11:00 A.M. THURSDAY: 6:30 P.M. website: www.stpaulsilivonia.org</p>
<p>LUTHERAN-ELCA</p> <p>ST. JOHN LUTHERAN, ELCA Farmington Hills 23225 Gill Rd. 248-474-0584</p> <p>SATURDAY WORSHIP • 5:30 PM Sunday Worship & Sunday School</p> <p>9:00 AM TRADITIONAL/CHORAL SERVICE 10:15 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL - ALL AGES 11:15 AM CONTEMPORARY SERVICE NURSERY AVAILABLE BILL & LAUREN KIRSH-CARR, PASTORS</p>	<p>PRESBYTERIAN</p> <p>Fellowship Presbyterian Church Adult Sunday School: 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. • Worship: 10:30 a.m. Childrens Sunday School: 10:30 a.m. Pastor: Dr. Jimmy McGuire Services held at: Saint Andrews Episcopal Church 16360 Hubbard Road in Livonia • South of Six Mile Road Nursery provided • www.fellowship-presbyterian.org</p>	<p>CONGREGATIONAL</p> <p>North Congregational Church 36520 12 Mile Rd. Farmington Hills (bet. Drake & Halsted) (248) 848-1750 10:30 a.m. Worship & Church School Faith - Freedom-Fellowship Ministers Dr. Mark P. Jensen Rev. Mary E. Biedron</p>		

For Information regarding this Directory, please call Donna Hart at 248-437-2011, Ext. 247 or e-mail: dhart@dnps.com

Westland-Garden City Strictly Business

Spectrum chief honored for making a difference

The president and CEO of the Westland-based Spectrum Human Services, Roger Swanger, was recently saluted by Focus Detroit, an organization that honors community and business leaders for making a difference in the Greater Detroit region.

Swanger was one of nine individuals who were honored during a Nov. 18 ceremony at the Detroit Athletic Club.

Wayne County Commissioner Joan Gebhardt (D-Westland) also honored Swanger at the DAC reception with a special resolution from the Wayne County Commission.

"Through his leadership and compassion, Roger Swanger has made a major difference during his career for abused and neglected children and individuals with developmental disabilities and mental health issues," said Gebhardt. "He is a true giant in the field of social work. He has served Westland and Wayne County well."

In addition to Swanger, Focus Detroit also recognized John Colbert, the owner of Baker's Keyboard Lounge; Jim Hiller, president of Hiller's Markets; Shelley Norman Hill, president of the Youth Development Commission; Luther Keith, executive director of ARISE Detroit; Susan T. Mosey, executive director of the University Cultural Center Association; Dr. Thomas G. Maridada II, Pontiac schools superintendent; Joseph Vicari, president of the Andiamo Restaurant Group, and Norman A. Yatooma, president and founder of Yatooma's Foundation for the Kids.

Spectrum Human Services is a child welfare and mental health human services organization which provides services daily to more than 1,500 mental, physical, emotional and/or behavioral challenged children, youth, teens and adults.

Its services include foster care, adoption, in-home care, child care, independent living programs, family preservation programs, programs for adjudicated (in trouble with the law) youth, group homes for sexually abused young women,



Roger Swanger, president and CEO of Westland-based Spectrum Human Services, received a Wayne County Commission resolution from Wayne County Commissioner Joan Gebhardt, D-Livonia.

and group homes for developmentally disabled adults.

Each year, Spectrum conducts an annual Holiday Drive to provide individuals we serve with gifts and special meals. The agency expects to serve more families and individuals. People can help through donations to:

- Santa's Workshop - Donate new, wrapped toys, gifts and clothe or make a cash donation that will be used to purchase gifts for children and teens that are in one of Spectrum's community based programs. Gifts will be distributed during the month of December.
- Secret Santa Program - "Adopt" a child, teen or developmentally disabled adult. Spectrum will send the name,

age, gender and Wish List (three to four items within a \$15 - \$25 range) of each "adopted" individual. Choose an item from the Wish List and provide it as a wrapped gift. Gifts can be delivered to its office in Westland.

- Food Drive - Collect non-perishable food items to create a food basket, or purchase food gift certificates for Spectrum families.

All gifts must be turned in by Wednesday, Dec. 9, at Spectrum's offices at 28303 Joy Road, Westland, or its satellite office at the Advance Building, 23077 Greenfield Road, Suite 500, in Southfield.

For more information, call the Development Department at (734) 458-8736.

received the \$100 dollar bills, Project 100 has achieved its goal.

"When we started the program, we had no idea what the response would be," said Lisa Fawcett, marketing director for Co-op Services Credit Union. "It's encouraged many people to give back in ways that they hadn't thought of before. It really has sparked a great deal of positive energy throughout the area."

Co-op Services Credit Union wants to make sure the giving doesn't stop with the 100th recipient. They're encouraging everyone to visit their Web site, www.whatisproject100.com, to learn about ways that they can give back in their community.

"Be sure to check out the Web site," said Cybulski. "It's an amazing resource and it will keep you informed of what we are doing next, because Project 100's mission of giving is just getting started."

daughter have the holiday party we didn't think we could afford."

"We were so excited to meet Kate, our 100th recipient and to find out that she already gives back," said Jeremy Cybulski, Project 100 spokesman and Co-op Services employee.

Co-op Services Credit Union created Project 100 in an effort to encourage giving in local communities. Recipients, who are chosen at random, are each given \$100 dollars. There are no special requirements or strings attached, all they are asked to do is to find ways to give back in their local community. Since it began, Project 100 has had 14 recipients from Westland and one from Garden City.

By enlisting the aid of these recipients, Co-op Services was hoping to spark a change that would quickly spread throughout the area. Based on the feedback from those who

are doing their part for the community this year by collecting non-perishable food item or new unwrapped toys

Bring your generous donations to National Storage Center anytime Monday to Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. to drop off your donation and say "hi." Brookellen Swope president and CEO

Project 100 hits 100

Project 100 completed its \$10,000 goal when it gave away a \$100 dollar bill to Kate Sanders of Livonia last week. The organization, created by Co-op Services Credit Union, has been handing out \$100 dollar bills to random recipients all over southeast Michigan to encourage people to give back in their local communities.

A surprised Sanders was greeted by the Project 100 team and Co-op Services Executives, who presented her with a crisp \$100 dollar bill on Friday afternoon. As an extra surprise and for being the 100th recipients, Sanders also received an additional \$100 dollar gift card and a goodie bag from the credit union.

"This couldn't have come at a better time," said Sanders, who had lost her job earlier this year. "I think I'll let my

The Westland Chamber of Commerce has a Christmas Tree, and we need members' help decorating it. Please bring us an ornament.

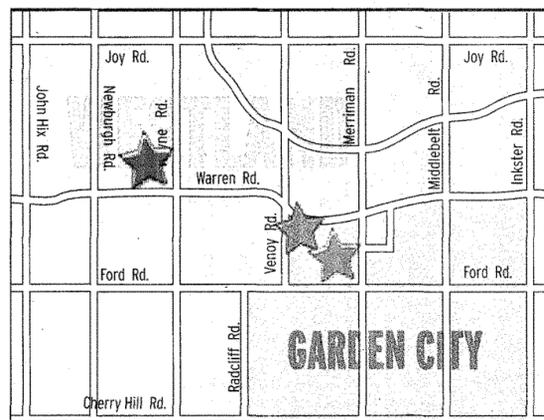
If you have one with your business name or logo, or maybe just one that represents what you do, for example a for sale sign for a Realtor, a tire for an auto place, or if you just have an ornament to spare,

CHAMBER CHAT

please bring it to us. The Chamber Tree will be in our lobby for everyone to see. It will be put up the first week in December, so send us your ornament to the chamber office is at 36900 Ford, west of Wayne Road.

And stop by National Storage Center of Westland, 39205 Ford, ne chamber members Samantha and Thomas

BUSINESS MILESTONES



SPECIAL EVENTS

Sleigh of Giving

Time/Date: Now through Dec. 21
Location: East Court of Westland Shopping Center, 35000 Warren Road at Wayne Road, Westland
Details: Westland Shopping

Center and Kroger have teamed up to help the Lighthouse Home Mission of Westland with a Sleigh of Giving. The public is encouraged to donate non-perishable foods which will then be distributed by the Home Mission to families in the Westland community for the holiday season. Donors will be entered in a drawing to win a \$200 Westland Center gift card. One lucky recipient of a food package also will receive a \$200 Westland Center gift card.
Contact: (734) 421-0291 or www.westlandcenter.com

Zumba Blast

Time/Date: Friday, Nov. 27
Location: World of Fitness Dance Studios, Warren/Venoy Plaza, 32669 Warren, Suite 6, Garden City

Details: The studio will host two-three-hour turkey burn-off sessions throughout the day. Cost is \$15 and includes a two-hour Zumba sessions, gifts, prizes and light snacks. Wear good shoes and bring a sweat towel and change of clothing.
Contact: (734) 306-0909 or www.poledancefactory.com

Health screening

Time/date: 9 a.m. Monday, Nov. 30
Location: Merriman Road Baptist Church, 2055 Merriman, Garden City
Details: The church is hosting a Life Line Screening. Screenings identify

potential cardiovascular conditions such as blocked arteries and irregular heart rhythm, abdominal aortic aneurysms, and hardening of the arteries in the legs, which is a strong predictor of heart disease. A bone density screening to assess osteoporosis risk is also offered and is appropriate for both men and women. Packages start at \$139. All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete.
Contact: Call (877) 237-1287 for an appointment or visit www.lifelinescreening.com. Pre-registration is required.

Holiday Luncheon

Time/Date: noon Tuesday, Dec. 8
Location: Garden City Historical Museum, 6221 Merriman, north of Ford, Garden City

Details: The Garden City Chamber of Commerce will host a combined luncheon with the Dearborn Heights Chamber of Commerce. The cost is \$15 per person. The deadline for reserving a seat is Dec. 3.
Contact: (734) 422-4448

Food collection

Time/date: Now through Sunday, Dec. 13
Location: Art Van Furniture, 8300 N. Wayne Road, north of Cowan, Westland

Details: Join Art Van Furniture and WXYZ-Channel 7 to help feed the hungry this holiday season by collecting food for Gleaners Community Food Bank and St. Vincent de Paul community food depots. Drop off your nonperishable food donations at the Art Van Furniture store.
Contact: (734) 425-9600

Vegas in Westland

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Dec. 31 to 12:30 a.m. Jan. 1
Location: Hawthorne Valley Country Club, 7300 Merriman, north of Warren, Westland
Details: Rock in the New Year and celebrate 50 years of Motown at Vegas in Westland, Enjoy dinner and a show, featuring Jackie Wilson, Neil Diamond, Aretha Franklin, Dion "Ray" Charles and The Temptations. Tickets are \$60 per person.
Contact: (734) 422-3440

AMERICA'S BODYSHOP®

BLACK FRIDAY SALE!

10-50% OFF EVERYTHING!*

Valid Monday, November 23 thru Saturday, November 28, 2009.

Valid only at 32630 Ford Road location only. Must present this ad at time of written estimate. Expires 11-28-09.

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FOR EXAMPLE... Our Presidential Service	
Regular	399 ⁹⁵
Integrated Clearcoat	99 ⁹⁵
Value Prep	129 ⁹⁵
Total	629 ⁹⁵
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See Store for Details.

GARDEN CITY
32630 Ford Rd.
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FOOD

Holiday Helpers

Recipes for the Season

FAMILY FEATURES

The holidays are upon us, which means not only are you preparing those huge meals, but you also have an endless stream of other fun and festive get-togethers with hungry guests. To help you whip up those extra special dishes during the holidays, the folks at Carnation have created some rich and creamy holiday recipes.

For the early birds in your family, try Eggnog-Spiced French Toast. The added touch of eggnog spices puts just the right holiday touch on traditional French toast.

To use those leftovers, try Turkey & Cranberry Encore Salad — the combination of the uniquely creamy cranberry dressing along with fresh greens and succulent turkey make the perfect post-holiday entrée. You'll be happy for the leftovers.

Fun Mexi-Meatball Kabobs are party perfect and easy to prepare. Use skewers to make them easy to eat.

Want to be a hit at the next potluck buffet? Bring along this perfect bake and take dish, Loaded Potato Potluck Favorite. It gets its creamy texture from Carnation Evaporated milk, which is fondly referred to as "The Cooking Milk." Did you know you can substitute it for drinking milk in any of your favorite recipes?

These rich and creamy recipes are perfect for any entertaining you'll be doing this holiday season. Find even more recipes at TheCookingMilk.com.



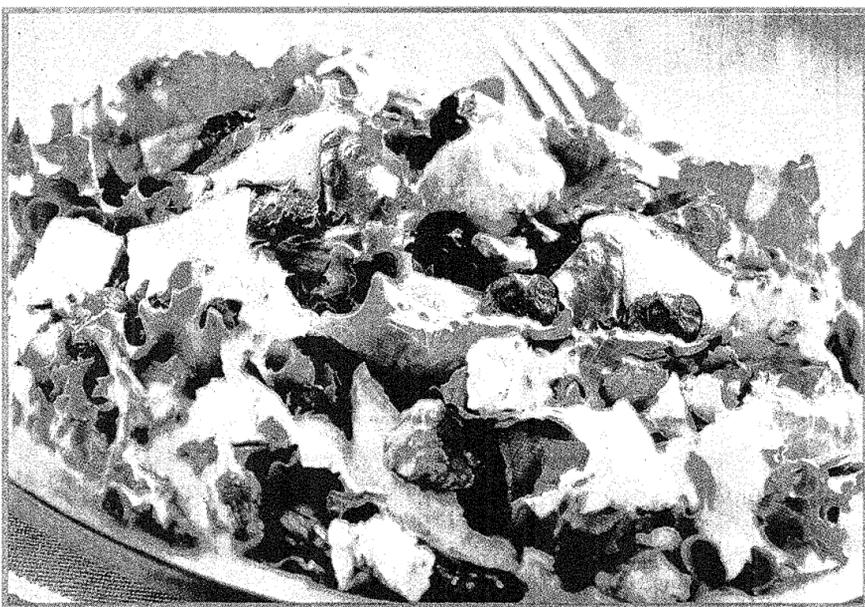
Eggnog-Spiced French Toast



Loaded Potato Potluck Favorite



Mexi-Meatball Kabobs



Turkey & Cranberry Encore Salad

Eggnog-Spiced French Toast

Makes 4 servings

- 2 large eggs
- 1 can (12 fluid ounces) Nestlé Carnation Evaporated Milk
- 2 tablespoons granulated sugar
- 2 teaspoons rum extract
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 8 slices (1/2-inch-thick) firm, day-old bread, *divided*
- Nonstick cooking spray
- Powdered sugar
- Maple syrup (optional)

BEAT eggs, evaporated milk, sugar, rum extract, cinnamon and nutmeg in shallow dish until well blended. Place 4 slices bread into egg mixture turning over to evenly moisten both sides.

MEANWHILE, spray large skillet with nonstick cooking spray; heat over medium heat. Transfer prepared bread to skillet in single layer. Cook for 3 minutes on each side or until golden brown. Remove slices to serving platter. Repeat with *remaining* bread slices, spraying skillet with cooking spray if necessary. Sprinkle with powdered sugar. Serve immediately with syrup.

Loaded Potato Potluck Favorite

Makes 16 servings

- 8 medium potatoes (about 2 1/2 to 3 pounds total), peeled and cut into 1-inch chunks
- 1 cup Nestlé Carnation Evaporated Milk
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 2 cups (8-ounce package) shredded cheddar cheese, *divided*
- 6 slices bacon, cooked and crumbled, *divided*
- Sliced green onions (optional)

PLACE potatoes in large saucepan. Cover with water; bring to a boil. Cook over medium-high heat for 15 to 20 minutes or until tender; drain.

PREHEAT oven to 350°F. Grease 2 1/2- to 3-quart casserole dish.

RETURN potatoes to saucepan; add evaporated milk, sour cream, salt and pepper. Beat with hand-held mixer until smooth. Stir in 1 1/2 cups cheese and half of bacon. Spoon mixture into prepared casserole dish. BAKE for 20 to 25 minutes or until heated through. Top with *remaining* 1/2 cup cheese, *remaining* bacon and green onions. Bake for an additional 3 minutes or until cheese is melted.

Turkey & Cranberry Encore Salad

Makes about 8 servings

DRESSING

- 2/3 cup (5-fluid-ounce can) Nestlé Carnation Evaporated Milk
- 1/2 cup jellied or whole-berry cranberry sauce
- 1/4 cup Italian salad dressing

SALAD

- 1 bag (10 ounces) mixed salad greens of your choice (about 10 cups)
- 2 cups (about 10 ounces) cooked turkey, cut into 1/2-inch pieces
- 1/2 cup (2 ounces) crumbled blue cheese
- 1/3 cup dried sweetened cranberries
- 1/2 cup chopped toasted walnuts (optional)

FOR DRESSING:

PLACE evaporated milk, cranberry sauce and Italian dressing in small jar or container; cover tightly with lid. Shake for 1 to 2 minutes. Makes about 1 1/2 cups. (Dressing can be made in advance and refrigerated for up to 2 days. Shake well before using.)

FOR SALAD:

TOSS greens, turkey, blue cheese and 3/4 cup dressing in large bowl. Sprinkle with cranberries and walnuts. Serve immediately and with additional dressing, if desired. Refrigerate any remaining dressing.

Mexi-Meatball Kabobs

Makes 30 servings, 2 skewers each

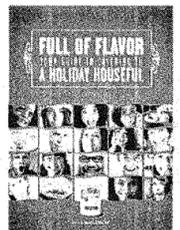
- Nonstick cooking spray
- 3 pounds lean ground beef
- 2 cups quick oats
- 1 can (12 fluid ounces) Nestlé Carnation Evaporated Milk
- 2 large eggs
- 1/2 cup ketchup
- 2 packets (1.25 ounces each) taco seasoning mix
- 1 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 3 large bell peppers (any color), cut into 60, 1-inch pieces
- 60 4-inch wooden skewers
- Salsa and sour cream (optional)

PREHEAT oven to 350°F. Foil-line 3 baking sheets and spray with nonstick cooking spray. COMBINE ground beef, oats, evaporated milk, eggs, ketchup, taco seasoning and black pepper in large bowl until just mixed. Form mixture into 120, 1-inch meatballs. Place on prepared baking sheets.

BAKE for 15 to 20 minutes or until no longer pink in center. Drain on paper towels, if needed.

THREAD two meatballs and one piece of pepper on each skewer. Place on large serving platter. Serve with salsa and sour cream.

To get your free Carnation "Holiday Houseful" Recipe Guide (while supplies last), go to TheCookingMilk.com.



Need a chocolate fix? Try these easy snack recipes

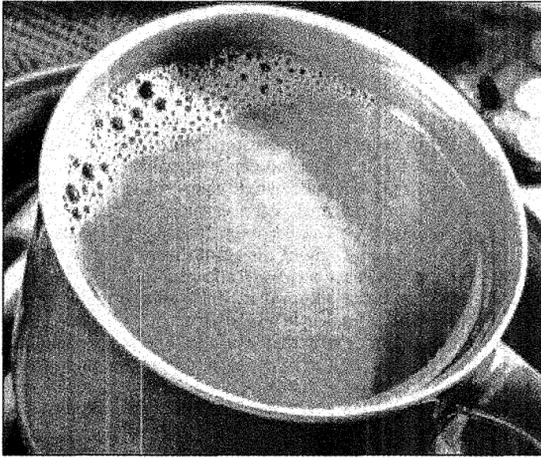
Take a break from all that shopping after Thanksgiving Day to rest your feet and treat yourself to a chocolate snack or hot cup of cocoa.

Make these easy snack recipes Thanksgiving Eve and store until the snacking urge strikes. Fill a thermos with the cocoa drink and take along for a quick warm up while waiting outside for stores to open Friday morning.

COCOA CAFÉ OLÉ

- Ingredients:**
 ½ cup sugar
 ½ cup cocoa
 3 tablespoons powdered instant coffee
 ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
 4 cups milk

Instructions:
 Combine sugar, cocoa, instant coffee and cinnamon in large saucepan. Gradually stir in milk; heat stirring occasionally, to serving temperature. Pour into mug or cup. Serve immediately. Makes 4 servings

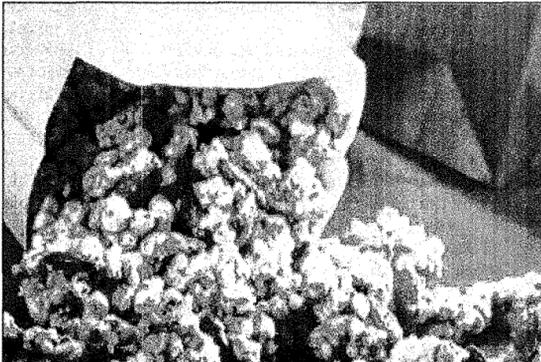


Cocoa Café Olé

TOFFEE POPCORN CRUNCH

- Ingredients:**
 8 cups popped popcorn
 ¾ cup whole almonds or slivered almonds
 1-½ cups (8 ounce package) Heath Bits 'O Brickle Toffee Bits
 ½ cup light corn syrup

Instructions:
 1. Heat oven to 275°F. Grease large roasting pan (OR two 13x9x2-inch baking pans). Place popcorn and almonds in prepared pan.
 2. Combine toffee bits and corn syrup in heavy medium saucepan. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly, until toffee is melted (about 12 minutes). Pour over popcorn mixture; stir until evenly coated.
 3. Bake 30 minutes, stirring frequently. Remove from oven; stir every 2 minutes until slightly cooled. Cool completely. Store in tightly covered container in cool, dry place. About 1 pound popcorn. For best results, do not double this recipe.



Toffee Popcorn Crunch

JINGLE BELLS CHOCOLATE PRETZELS

- Ingredients:**
 1 cup dark chocolate chips or semi-sweet chocolate chips
 1 cup white chocolate chips, divided
 1 tablespoon plus ½ teaspoon shortening (do not use butter, margarine, spread or oil), divided
 About 24 salted or unsalted pretzels (3- by 2inches)

Instructions:
 1. Cover tray or cookie sheet with wax paper.
 2. Place chocolate chips, ¾ cup white chips and 1 tablespoon shortening in medium microwave-safe bowl. Microwave at medium (50 percent) 1 minute; stir. Microwave at medium an additional 1 to 2 minutes, stirring every 15 seconds, until chips are melted when stirred.
 3. Using fork, dip each pretzel into chocolate mixture; tap fork on side of bowl to remove excess chocolate. Place coated pretzels on prepared tray.
 4. Place remaining ½ cup white chips and remaining ½ teaspoon shortening in small microwave-safe bowl. Microwave at medium 15 to 30 seconds or until chips are melted when stirred. Using tines of fork, drizzle chip mixture across pretzels. Refrigerate until coating is set. Store in airtight container in cool, dry place. About 2 dozen coated pretzels.



Jingle Bells Chocolate Pretzels

Recipes courtesy of Hershey's.

CITY BITES

BENEFITING CHILDREN

Livonia – Westborn Market raised \$8,200 through a monthlong "Halloween Pinup Pumpkin" campaign at its Livonia, Dearborn and Berkley stores, to benefit patients and families at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Store patrons bought and signed the pumpkin art that featured cancer patients from St. Jude's. "Our customers' generosity was fantastic," said Alisha Person of Westborn Market, who helped to coordinate the effort. "This is the first year that we've partnered with St. Jude, and the response was overwhelming."

Each store awarded a \$100 Westborn Market gift card and a hand-blown glass pumpkin to customers selected at random from those who donated more than \$5 to the Halloween Pinup Pumpkin fund-raiser.

NEW RESTAURANT

Plymouth – The Ironwood Grill is officially open. Located at 840 Ann Arbor Trail, the eatery offers pizzas baked in a wood-fired oven, sandwiches, salads, pastas and burgers, rotisserie chicken, 20 beers on tap and 40 bottled beers, and more. With big-screen televisions located throughout the bar and dining room, the restaurant is designed to bring in the sports crowd and be family friendly. (734) 667-5614

DECEMBER BLIZZARD

Tri-county – Just in time for the holidays, Dairy Queen will bring back its seasonally inspired peppermint Blizzard treat with a new name: Candy Cane Chill is the Blizzard of the Month for December.

A classic combination of peppermint candy cane pieces and rich chocolate chunks mixed with DQ soft serve, Candy Cane Chill is available at all participating Dairy Queen and DQ Grill & Chill restaurants nationwide beginning Dec. 1. The average retail price of the Candy Cane Chill Blizzard is \$3.09 for the 12 ounce, \$3.49 for the 16 ounce and \$3.99 for the 21 ounce.

DINNER COST UP

Farmington Hills – According to the Associated Food & Petroleum Dealers (AFP), the average price to buy and prepare the ingredients for a traditional turkey dinner for 10 people is \$4.14 per person, a total of \$41.14. That's up from \$39.70 for 10 or \$3.97 per person in 2008.

The cost is based on a standard turkey dinner and includes all the traditional trimmings: stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy, yams, green salad, fruit salad, cranberry sauce, rolls, and pumpkin pie. Beverages were excluded.

"We have surveyed retailers since 1994 and found that prices kept relatively consistent until 2005, when transportation costs began to inflate food prices," stated Jane Shallal, president and CEO of AFPD.

The survey prices reflect the average cost of items that can be purchased at supermarkets in the Metro Detroit area the week prior to Thanksgiving. Shallal said that many of the items on the traditional Thanksgiving dinner menu are on sale during this time.

"Many supermarkets offer one or more brands of turkeys and some are selling them at below cost in hopes of encouraging shoppers to come into their store for their Thanksgiving Day purchases. Shoppers can also look to some of the grocers' loyalty programs to cut the price of their dinner even further," Shallal said. "We urge customers to clip coupons and search the ads to check for when items they need are on sale."

BREAKFAST with Santa



**You are Cordially Invited to
 Laurel Manor's
 1st Annual
 Breakfast with Santa**

**Saturday,
 Dec. 5th 2009**
 Doors will open at 8:30 am
 Breakfast Starts at 9:00 am

~ MENU ~
 Scrambled Eggs,
 French Toast, Bacon,
 Fruit and an
 Assortment of Juices

**Balloon Artist
 Photographer on Site
 Gifts for the Kids**

Tickets:
 Adult.....\$ 15
 Kids 3-12.....\$ 12
 (Age 2 and under eat Free)

Make Your Reservation Today!
 Laurel Manor Banquet & Conference Center
 39000 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia, MI 48150
 (734) 462-0770 www.laurelmanor.com

**In the Heart of Beautiful
 Downtown Plymouth**

**Compari's
 & Fiamma
 will be Open
 3:00 pm
 on Christmas Eve
 and 4:00 pm
 on New Years Eve**
*Reservations
 Recommended*

Fiamma Grille Compari's

*Join us for the holiday season.
 Our Great Food and Service along
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Westland man watches annual parade from inside float

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

Reuben Ellman of Westland hasn't gone home to Oscoda for Thanksgiving dinner in eight years — and this Thursday will be no different.

While his parents, two sisters, brother-in-law and six nieces and nephews gather together in his home town, Ellman will be finishing up his ninth year as a volunteer in the America's Thanksgiving Parade.

"I miss Thanksgiving dinner at times, but for nine years between 5 a.m. and the time I get home, I know I am doing something that more people will see, experience, and enjoy with their families," said Ellman, who walked in the parade wearing a "big head" of Henry Ford that first year, in 2000. Ever since he's been behind the wheel of a convertible or a float.

"I know my family up in Oscoda is having a great dinner and sharing in the day. Those thoughts and feelings keep me fed until I get to a restaurant or home to make some dinner."

Quitting time at the parade can be anywhere from 3 p.m. at the earliest to 9 p.m. at the latest on Thanksgiving Day. Ellman, who works as a data management specialist for a company called PHNS, generally works the day after Thanksgiving, making a quick trip north on the holiday an unlikely choice.

During his second year as a parade volunteer Ellman expanded his effort to include float driving and float building.

"I remember being covered in Styrofoam shavings from the numbers and glue and cloth," he said, recalling his work on the Lollipop Plane float.

"Through the years I have also worked on restoring the papier mache heads and other floats."

He's driven and spotted various floats, as well as convertibles — which he prefers — and now teaches other volunteers how to navigate in a float.

Here's Ellman's thoughts about float driving in the America's Thanksgiving Parade:

Q: Why have you continued to participate — what compels you to be a part of it?

A: I keep doing it because I love to do it. I get to tell people I am part of the Thanksgiving Day Parade. I get to tell them I am a float driver. Not too many people can say they are part of the Parade and a float driver. I do it because I love it and it's really cool.

Q: What float will you drive this year?

A: I did request a convertible. However, based on my experience and the trust and respect from the parade personnel, they know I can be put in any position and know it will be done. I will find out my position on Wednesday before Thanksgiving.

Q: Do you have a favorite float you drive?

A: My favorite float is actually the convertible. In the convertible you are in the elements like the spotter and self-propelled drivers, but you are in a sweet vehicle. Usually, there are only 10 convertibles; there are a lot more floats.

Q: What's most challenging about driving a float?

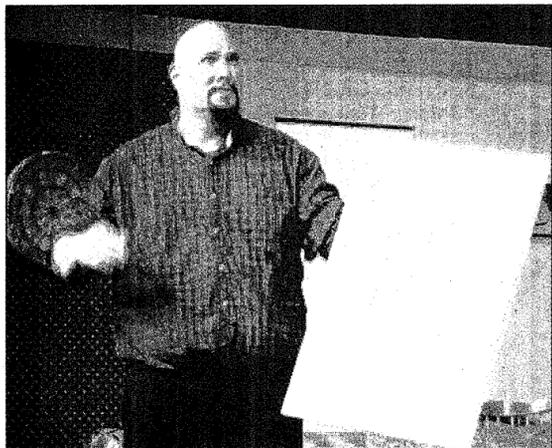
A: The most challenging. That is kind of tough. Due to the fact there are different jobs. As a float driver that drives a self-propelled float the tough part is giving up control to your spotter. You

have to rely on your spotter and trust that they will not have you drive into trouble. And staying warm. As a driver in a pull vehicle the hardest part is not getting too hot in the vehicle. Actually, the hardest part is making sure there is no one running between the tow vehicle and the float — your spotter helps with that. As a convertible driver — staying warm.

Q: Anything else you'd add about the experience?

A: I have always been a volunteer person. When I was growing up I was part of a few volunteer organizations — one allowed me to walk in all the parades. I have been a volunteer (community theatre) actor for 20-plus years. I volunteer at the Fox and Opera House theatres. I love volunteering because it allows me to do a lot of different things, see a lot of different things, and just getting out and doing. The Thanksgiving Day Parade and the Parade Company are unique in that you can volunteer throughout the year but the product you are working on is only seen one time a year and for only a short time. More people have seen me drive, though they did not know it, then have seen me act or do any other activity. What is more important is people tell me their childhood remembrances of the Parade. It really is a great time and a wonderful thing to do.

The 83rd America's Thanksgiving Parade will step off at 9:20 a.m. on Woodward Avenue and Mack and end at Woodward Avenue and Congress in downtown Detroit. See it in person or watch it on WDIV-TV Local 4. NewsTalk 760 WJR also will broadcast live from the parade.



Reuben Ellman of Westland donned a papier mache head of Henry Ford and walked in the America's Thanksgiving Parade nine years ago. Since then, he has done everything from float building to driving. He's shown here in a photo from his MySpace page, checking out a sketch.

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Hear seasonal songs barbershop quartet-style

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

The Wayne chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society kicks off its busy holiday season with a new name and a public concert on Dec. 6.

"We've always done a lot of singing at Christmas — in senior homes, hospitals and sometimes we've sung at the malls and spread a little Christmas cheer," said Mark Pritchard, music vice president for the Harmonytown singers. "A lot of the singing takes place in churches."

"We added a couple of Christmas numbers that we thought were good ones. We thought, jeez, we haven't done a (public) Christmas concert in

some time. Let's see if we can find somewhere economic, so we're able to keep the price down low."

The group of approximately 25 active singers found the perfect venue at the Livonia Public Library. They'll sing at 3 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 6 in the auditorium at the library, 32777 Five Mile. Doors will open at 2:30 p.m. Advance tickets are \$6 for adults and \$3 for children, age 13 and under. They're available with a credit card by phone at (734) 743-1764. Or send a check, payable to the Wayne Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society, to Frank Adams, 38300 Lana Court, Farmington Hills, MI 48335.

Include telephone number and e-mail address, along with a self-addressed, stamped envelope for the return ticket. Or request the tickets be held at will call.

"This is the first time our chapter has put on a Christmas show in many years," Pritchard noted. "We'll do *Winter Wonderland* and *White Christmas, Silent Night...* a lot of the standards."

Guest singers, the BCC Select Ensemble from Franklin High School in Livonia, will perform a mix of seasonal songs, as well as *Somewhere Over the Rainbow*.

"They're a nice counterpoint for us. They'll be all over the place — a little eclectic,"

Pritchard said. "They'll be singing some a cappella, which is what they share in common with us, and they'll sing some with piano. We'll make a contribution to their music program."

The Wayne chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society, named its singing group Renaissance Chorus when it was formed 17 years ago. It changed the title to Harmonytown Chorus earlier this month, Pritchard said.

"We delight very much at this time of year at getting out and getting into the community. We're in a lot of towns — Garden City, Westland, Northville, Livonia — and wherever we go there is harmony."

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Student performs Brahms, Shubert in senior recital

Maria Lord will present a bassoon and voice senior recital, 7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 28, at Thurston High School, 26255 Schoolcraft, Redford.

She will be assisted by Dianne, Colin, and Natasha Lord. Music will include compositions by Brahms, von Weber, Barber, Shuman, Shubert, and Lord.

She is a student at Thurston High School where she plays bassoon in the Honors band and tenor saxophone in the marching band and jazz band. She plays principal bassoon for the Dearborn Youth Symphony, and receives private instruction on bassoon from Robert Williams, principal bassoon of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

Lord also has participated in Redford Union's Madrigal Choir under Kevin Cushman's direction, and has performed in the Michigan All-State Honors Choir in Grand Rapids. She has sung in many languages in addition to English including Latin, German, Italian, and Tok Pisin, the trade language of Papua, New Guinea.

The recital is free and open to the public. Thurston High School's phone number is (313) 535-4000.



Maria Lord will perform a senior recital Saturday, Nov. 28.

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