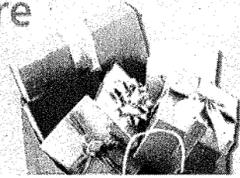


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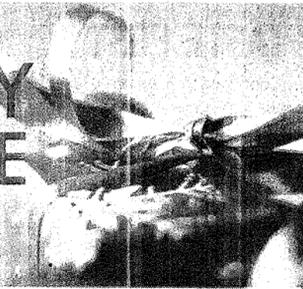


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FOOD, B9-10

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Tree lighting

Help ring in the holidays when the City of Westland holds its annual holiday tree lighting ceremony at 6:15 p.m. Monday, Dec. 5, in front of City Hall at 36601 Ford Road.

The program will include an award presentation for the "What Christmas Means to Me" essay contest that's open to Wayne-Westland students in kindergarten through fifth grade. Essays can be dropped off at the mayor's office or Bailey Recreation Center by Monday, Nov. 28, or mailed to the Bailey Recreation Center, 36651 Ford Road, Westland, MI 48185. The winner will be invited to read their essay at the Tree Lighting Ceremony.

In addition to the official tree lighting, Mayor William Wild will present Santa Claus with key to City, and residents will be able to participate in a Christmas sing-along and enjoy refreshments.

Santa letters

While Christmas is a very busy time of year for Santa Claus, he always makes time to read letters from children.

Youngsters can be sure Santa knows what they want by writing a letter to Santa. Santa Claus has given the Observer permission to print some of those letters in our Thursday, Dec. 22, issue. But to do that, we need letters. So youngsters, get out some paper and a pen or pencil or a computer and start writing.

Letters should be e-mailed to smason@hometownlife.com. Parents, be sure to include a JPEG photo of your child, with their name, age, address and phone number. Only your child's name and age will be published.

Letters can also be mailed to Letters to Santa, c/o Sue Mason, 615 W. Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226.

The deadline for all Santa letters is Monday, Dec. 12.



Santa sighting

Children and adults are invited to visit with Santa in an historical atmosphere at the Westland Historic Village Park's Octagon House and Felton Farmhouse 1-4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3.

Tour the houses, talk with Santa, and enjoy holiday entertainment and refreshments. Westland Historical Village Park is at 857 N. Wayne Road, between Marquette and Cherry Hill.

City rolls out non-union 80/20 health care plan

By LeAnne Rogers
Observer Staff Writer

Westland's department heads and other non-union employees will be the first city workers to begin paying a portion of their health care costs as the city moves to comply with state law requiring the cost sharing.

Under a plan approved by

the council Monday, effective Jan. 1, the non-union employees will pay up to \$3,153 annually for insurance for family coverage. The city would expect to save \$990,000 annually through the employee contributions, if the Jan. 1 deadline is met.

"We've been struggling to get our arms around, it's expensive for the employees,"

said Mayor William Wild, who is among the first group affected by the change.

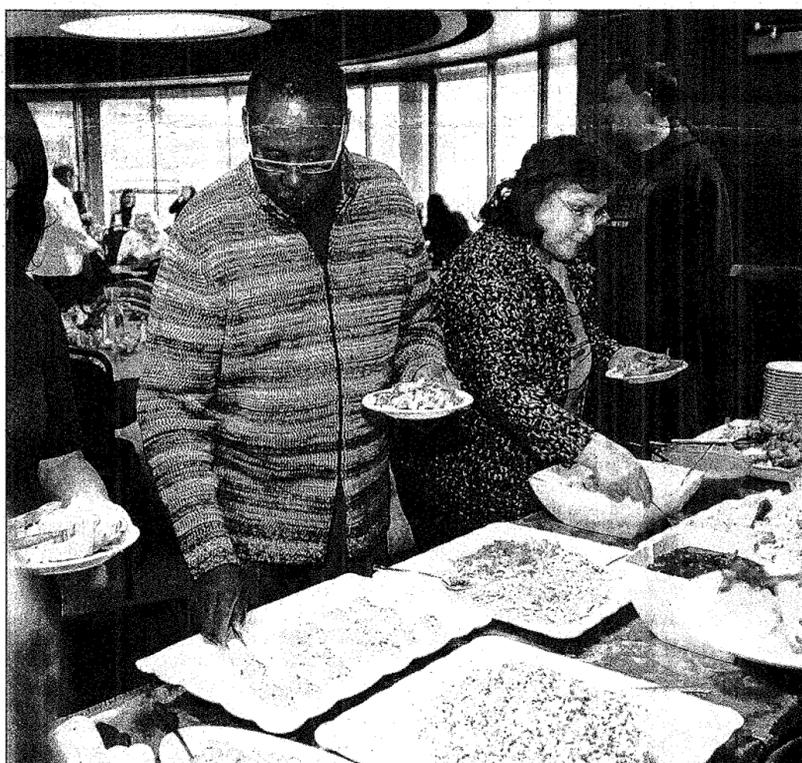
Compliance with the legislation, which is tied to Westland receiving one-third of its state funding, requires public employers to share employee health care costs with workers on an 80/20 percent split or hard cap spending limits ranging from \$5,500 for single

coverage to \$15,000 for family coverage. The council found the option to opt out, which would cost the city a \$110,000 penalty each year, too expensive.

The law takes effect Jan. 1 and the health care cost shifting affects non-union workers, including department heads,

Please see PLAN, A2

Students' feast helps feed W-W families



Westland City Councilman Dewey Reeves and Rebecca Karpiuk enjoy a Thanksgiving buffet at the William D. Ford Career Technical Center that helped put a holiday dinner on the table of needy families in the Wayne-Westland Community Schools.

By Sue Mason
Observer Staff Writer

Since 2007, chef Tony Paquette has been inviting friends and the community to come enjoy a Thanksgiving meal.

The guests dine on turkey and the trimmings and a selection of desserts prepared and served by students in the culinary arts program at the William D. Ford Career Technical Center and in the process put a Thanksgiving dinner on the table of needy families in the Wayne-Westland Community Schools.

"I compare this to the gratitude and warmth and a parent shared with me because she could sit down and enjoy the holiday with her family and not worry about the food," said Amanda Faughnan, director of the district's



Students Tyler McCune and Zhane Andrews prepare to serve dessert to the guests at the fund-raising buffet.

Family Resource Center.

The guests paid \$10 each to enjoy the buffet, and Faughnan used the proceeds as well as other donations to get vouchers for fully cooked Thanksgiving meals. As of last week, she had 15 families lined up to receive vouchers for a fully cooked Thanksgiving meal, and was

still receiving calls for help. While 15 may not sound like a lot, that represents 85 adults and children who will have a Thanksgiving.

And thanks to 50 gift certificates for turkeys she received from GLP & Associates, she'll be able to expand the program and provide turkeys to even more families.

"The need is greater this year," said Faughnan. "We're receiving calls earlier. We're receiving calls not only for food, but calls that are multifaceted. People need help paying their utilities, they need help with their rent ... the need is greater and the funding not there to help."

Paquette decided to do the Thanksgiving buffet in 2007 when he decided his students could do more than

Please see BUFFET, A2

14 eateries say yes to Taste Fest

By Sue Mason
Observer Staff Writer

It will be dining at its finest when 14 restaurants, bakeries, caterers and a coffee shop serve up samples of their food at The Westland Chamber of Commerce's annual Holiday Taste Fest.

Even Elvis will be in the house for the gourmet adventure planned for 6-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 6, at the Hellenic Cultural Center, 36375 Joy, east of Newburgh. Admission is \$25 per person.

"It's a great community event. Where else can you eat at 14 restaurants for only \$1.78 each?" said Brookellen Swope, chamber director and CEO.

The Holiday Taste Fest, an indoor version of the chamber's popular Restaurant Rally, will feature food provided by Biggby Coffee, Famous

Please see TASTE FEST, A2

City seeks info on 2 Vietnam War deaths

By LeAnne Rogers
Observer Staff Writer

Photographs are being sought of two soldiers killed in Vietnam, who listed Westland as their hometown.

The Education Center at #1 Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall, located in Washington, D.C., contacted Westland Mayor William Wild's office in an effort to locate photos of Dennis Glenn Price and Joseph F. Willis, both killed in action in 1969.

The Education Center wants to find the photographs to give context to the names on the Wall and enhance the Memorial experience for current and future generations by teaching about the Vietnam War, its

Please see DEATHS, A2



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Volume 47 • Number 53

TASTE FEST

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Dave's, Hellenic Cultural Center, Knox Restaurant and Catering, Maria's Italian Bakery, Marvaso's Italian Grille, Mary Denning's Cake Shoppe, Max and Erma's, McDonald's, Qdoba Mexican Grill, Red Robin, Rose Catering, Slice of the 80's and the culinary arts program at the William D. Ford Career Technical Center. Sponsors include Ameriprise Financial - Antoinette Martin, Community Dental Implant Group, Co-op Services Credit Union, Michigan

Chiropractic Specialist - Dr. Amanda Apfelblat, Parkside Credit Union, state Rep. Richard LeBlanc, Sharon's Heating and Air Conditioning and Sigma Financial.

Committed to improving the dining experience, Swope has add a little extra with Russ Weathers as Elvis performing.

"Each year we try to change something a little so it's not always the exact same," said Swope. "This year we invited Russ. Who doesn't enjoy a little Elvis?"

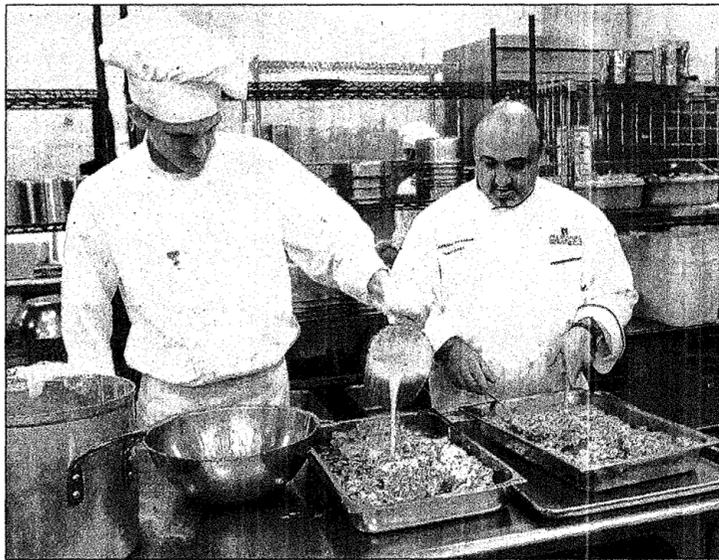
Taste Fest attracts some 500 people and usually is a sellout. Tickets are on sale now at the

chamber office on Ford Road, east of Newburgh.

"I think my favorite part about this event is in the weeks before, when familiar faces come in and buy their tickets," Swope said. "I love to hear about how much fun they had last year, or how it has become a whole family, or whole neighborhood, or whole euchre group event."

For tickets or more information, call the chamber at (734) 326-7222. A portion of the proceeds goes to the Joseph Benyo Scholarship Fund.

smason@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-6751



Chef Tony Paquette works with student Jacob Herrst in preparing a tray of turkey and stuffing, topped with gravy, for the buffet line.

DEATHS

Continued from page A1

national significance and the impact of The Wall on American culture.

Born April 23, 1949, Prince was an Army sergeant. Prince began his tour of duty Oct. 10, 1968. He was 20 years old when killed on June 2, 1969 by multiple fragment wounds in Quang Tin Province.

Willis, 25, was an Army first lieutenant and a helicopter pilot. His tour of duty began Jan. 23, 1969. He was killed March 26, 1969 in Pleiku Province. He was born April 18, 1943.

Both Prince and Willis are listed on the Vietnam Wall, the Moving Wall having visited Westland in 2006 and 2011, but little information is known about them and any local connections.

"Those two names came up the first time the Moving (Vietnam) Wall was

here in 2006. We had a lot of Westland names," said Ken Mehl, president of the Westland Veterans Memorial Association.

"Some families called, they had never seen the wall. Even then a lot of the families didn't live in Westland anymore."

In 2006, Mehl said there was a big push to find information and the families of Prince and Willis without success.

"We had articles in the Observer, television and even the Detroit News and the Detroit Free Press looking for those two names," said Mehl. "Their names never came up (from family or friends)."

A total of six Westland residents are listed on the Vietnam Wall: Prince, Willis, SPC5 Michael Anthony Blondin, Sgt. Arlie Spencer Jr., Cpl. Joseph Michael Giusta and Staff Sgt. Refugio Thomas Teran.

The Education Center's exhibits will include a wall of photographs and

the stories of those who gave their lives during the Vietnam War, a selection of the more than 150,000 items that have been left at The Wall, a timeline of the Vietnam Era and a history of the wall itself.

"The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall pays tribute to a sad piece of American history and honors the family members of those who lost loved ones," said Wild. "So many young lives were lost and to put a face with those names will enhance the honor of their service."

Anyone with information about Prince or Willis, such as photos, next of kin contact information or anything that would aid in putting a face with a name can contact Wild's office at (734) 467-3200, visit www.vvmf.org/thewall or contact The Vietnam Memorial Fund at (202) 393-0090.

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(313) 222-5428

BUFFET

Continued from page A1

holding canned food drives and packing boxes at Focus: HOPE in Detroit. The first year was by invitation only and by donation, but now the welcome mat is put for the entire community and there's a minimum charge of \$10.

"I wanted them to have the opportunity of helping families and since we're in food, what better way is there?" he said at the time. "I started thinking what's bad and decided not having a Thanksgiving dinner is, so we're going to give people dinner."

Many times the focus of giving is on Christmas which makes what Paquette and Faughnan do at Thanksgiving all the more important. Also providing the meal fully cooked helps families who might be struggling with utilities. They need only find a place to reheat the food which "a lot appreciate."

"The two main things people need is a house and utilities, if they don't have a roof over their heads and utilities ... that's what we get the most calls for," she said. "The thing that so frus-



Sue Grigg tries to food, prepared and served by students in the culinary arts program.

trates me is that they hope to do something for their families but it's hard when they have to pick between putting food on their table, paying the utilities or paying their rent."

While Faughnan has a data base of 300 agencies "from A to Z" she refers families to who need help. She also has a stock of socks and underwear and hats and gloves for kids, toilet paper, shampoo, toothbrushes and toothpaste, to name a few things. When families come in, she checks to see what they need, toiletries are a big thing and one thing she's low on presently.

"I appreciate the com-

munity assistance of the Family Resource Center and I look forward to their continuing support," she said. "We'll do the same for Christmas, we like to do it for those who don't receive assistance from other agencies."

People who would like to help can send a check, made payable to the Family Resource Center to the center at 33475 Palmer, Westland, MI 48186.

"People can make donations throughout the year," Faughnan said. "We can use donations at anytime."

smason@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-6751

AROUND WESTLAND

Dems meeting

The Westland Democratic Club will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 29, at the Dorsey Community Center, 32715 Dorsey, at Venoy, Westland. Refreshments will be served. For information, call Nan Melke at (734) 674-7327.

Cookie Walk

First United Methodist Church of Wayne is holding a cookie walk 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 10. Homemade holiday cookies and candies will be available. Cookies will be sold by containers, candies sold by the pound.

The church is located at 3 Town Square, Wayne across from the Wayne Post Office. The event is handicapped accessible. For more information, call (734) 721-4801.

PLAN

Continued from page A1

the staff at William P. Faust Public Library and workers at 18th District Court, said Westland Human Resources Director Cindy King.

The law doesn't affect unionized employees until their contracts expire. The largest city union, the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 1602, and oth-

er bargaining units have contracts in effect — the latest expiring at the end of 2014.

"There are some ambiguities in the legislation. How does dental, vision and life insurance fit into the 80/20 or hard caps?" said Jonathon Trionfi of Plante Moran, who presented recommendations on health care compliance at a council study session. "Until we have something otherwise, those are not included. This could be revised, if it includes more than medical and prescription (coverage)."

Using the hard cap costs was recommended as a fixed cost. A 80/20 cost sharing — a straight percentage of premiums costs — would have a bigger impact on lower paid employees and also make it harder for the city to maintain the correct percentage split.

"There would be savings for the city but there is the potential for financial hardship for the employees," said Trionfi. "We wanted to look at the savings and not put a

hardship on the employees while providing benefits."

With that in mind, employees would be offered three insurance plans with payroll deductions that would decrease with higher co-pays for office calls and service.

"Three plans were put together to provide the employees with a fair amount of variety. If you want to, you can pay less for not using much insurance," Trionfi said. "We didn't want a plan that would hurt city (employee) recruitment and retention. The employee contribution is the big change."

Employees would also be allowed to put money into a pre-tax medical savings account. Like a flexible spending plan, Trionfi said the money could only be used for medical expenses but unlike the flexible spending plan, employees wouldn't lose their contributions at the end of each year.

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Library exhibit looks at homelessness

By LeAnne Rogers
Observer Staff Writer

It may not be a coincidence that November, a time when families gather to give thanks for the blessings in their lives, is designated as Homelessness Awareness Month. Through the end of the month, Westland's William P. Faust Library is hosting the Daily Bread exhibit drawn from a book of the same name. Photographer Lad Strayer and writer Jennifer Burd produced the book from their experiences with the homeless in Lenawee County. Burd will be at the library reading excerpts from her

book from 7-8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 29. "The book grew out of an assignment when I was a reporter at the *Daily Telegram* in Adrian," said Burd, who worked about 3 1/2 years as a journalist. "As a reporter, I wrote down everything. I'm a poet also. A lot of details jumped out at me. I longed to frame with metaphors and juxtaposition of sounds as I do in poetry." Burd and Strayer had spent several months working on a series of stories about the homeless people they met at a soup kitchen. The pair developed relationships with the people they inter-

viewed. "It was life-changing, it shattered stereotypes about homelessness," said Burd. "I was surprised at how many different things and creative ways people had to survive, not just physically, but to add to their quality of life. They sought out new relationships. They were playful. I thought they'd be depressed and spending their time trying to get their next meal." Strayer met homeless acquaintances at the soup kitchen but also visited them where they were staying — in tents or their cars. "There was one man who was called Elvis

because he collected Elvis Presley memorabilia. Even homeless, he felt he had some disposable income," said Burd. "It helped me see them as whole people. I knew them better. We met interesting people." The Daily Bread exhibit was first displayed at the Adrian College Social Justice Conference in 2007. Burd hopes the exhibit and book will help people see the homeless differently. "It might help people see why people fall into homelessness and get stuck there and understand on a human level," said Burd. Many homeless peo-

ple interviewed reported feeling invisible and overlooked, Burd said. "When you're homeless, it's hard to come into contact with mainstream people. It's hard to fill out the forms to get help. It's hard to look good enough to apply for jobs," said Burd. "The feelings of not being good enough are reinforced." Through the exhibit and pieces drawn from 35 interviews, Burd said she hopes people will realize that homeless people aren't bad people. "People can relate from their own experiences. There can be more solutions to homelessness with a change of attitude,"

she said. During her readings, Burd will be accompanied by musician Laszlo Slomovits, one half of the Gemini children's music duo. Anyone who has written a poem about homelessness or written a response to Strayer's photos is asked to read them at the event. Nonperishable food donations also will be collected at the reading. The exhibit is open during regular library hours. The library is located on Central City Parkway between Warren Road and Ford.

frogers@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-5428



A warm gift

Becky Hermann of Westland, the events and marketing coordinator for Vista Maria of Dearborn Heights, shows off some of the more than 60 new sweat shirts and T-shirts donated by Erin Sheahan of Inkster, David Nyquist of Canton, and David Malhalab, that will be given to some of the 160 girls living on campus. Vista Maria is a private, not-for-profit, residential and community based treatment agency that provides education, therapy, spiritual support, shelter and care to young women and their families who are struggling to cope with numerous challenges, including histories of abuse, neglect, and other traumas. Through these programs these troubled young women obtain the skills to gain control over their behaviors, lives and career choices and become productive members of society. Call (313) 271-3050 for more information.

MNS PHOTO

GARDEN CLIPPINGS

Candy cane sales

Volunteers are needed to help the Garden City Lions Club with its annual Christmas Cane Sales the first two weekends of December. Only two hours of time will help the club raise money for good deeds.

People interested in helping out with two hours of their time at Kmart, Walgreen's at Ford and Merriman or working on the streets collecting money from the vehicles on the road, call Vicki Kowalik at (734) 524-1330 to schedule a time.

People who would like to make a tax deductible donation, can send a check, made payable to the Garden City Lions, to P.O. Box 3, Garden City, MI 48136. Donations also can be dropped off at the Garden City Fire Department, 6000 Middlebelt, north of Ford.

Coffee hours

State Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, also will hold local coffee hours in Livonia and Garden City Monday, Nov. 28.

He will be at the Livonia Civic Park Senior Center, 15218 Farmington, Livonia 9-10 a.m., then move to Garden City for a 10:30-

11:30 a.m. coffee hour at the Family Resource Center, 31735 Maplewood.

Constituents who would like to address an issue with Anderson but are unable to attend may contact him by mail at P.O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI, 48933; by phone at (866) 262-7306; or by e-mail at ofcganderson@senate.michigan.gov.

Garden City Kiwanis

The Garden City Kiwanis Club of is recruiting new members to help provide assistance to the disadvantaged residents of our community — especially children — who are having a difficult time during this economic recession. Founded in 1948, the Kiwanis Club of Garden City provides many community service projects each year including a "Baby Shower" for the Garden City Family Resource Center, a continuing Food Pantry drive, the Trauma Doll Project for hospitalized children, and the Third Grade Dictionary Project.

The club meets at noon on Thursdays at Amantea's Restaurant on Warren Road at Venoy in Garden City. For more information, call Gary Simon at (734) 751-4101.

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WESTLAND GOODFELLOWS

"2011 - No Child Without a Christmas"

The Westland Goodfellows is holding a toy and food drive. Donations of toys, hats & gloves, and non-perishable food items can be dropped off at any of the following locations. All donated items will be distributed to Westland families this Christmas. **Donation boxes available November 1 to December 2nd, 2011**

Participating Goodfellows' Partners

7-11	126 S. John Hix Rd., Westland, at Cherry Hill
All Med Medical	6321 Commerce Dr., Westland
Biggy Coffee	37644 Ford Rd., Westland
Buffalo Wild Wings	6677 N. Wayne Rd., Westland
Cash Connection	6060 N. Wayne Rd., Westland
Catherine's	34764 Warren Rd., Westland
Central Park Dry Cleaners	36329 Ford Rd., Westland
Chief Financial Credit Union	31100 Palmer Rd., Westland
Clos, Russell & Wirth, P.C.	35551 Ford Rd., Suite 100, Westland
Comic City	42727 Ford Rd., Canton
Daniel Sharpmart	5770 N. Hix Rd., North of Ford Rd.
Disabled American Veterans Thrift Store	8050 N. Middlebelt Rd., Westland
Don Massey Cadillac	40475 Ann Arbor Rd., Plymouth
Family Video	146 S. Venoy, Westland
Fountain Park Apartments	37410 Fountain Park Cr., Westland
Harlow Tire & Racing	1845 N. Wayne Rd., Westland
H. Farhat Agent	956 N. Newburgh Rd., Westland
Icon Computer Solutions	35858 W Michigan Ave, Wayne
Independent Carpet One	1400 N. Wayne, Westland
Mancino's	37636 Ford Rd., Westland
Ninja Computer Repair	33163 Ford Rd., Garden City
Our Saviors Manor	29495 Annapolis, Westland
Parkside Credit Union	1747 S. Newburgh Rd., Westland
Red Holman Buick GMC	35300 Ford Rd., Westland
Schoolcraft College-Radcliff Campus	1751 Radcliff, Westland
Snack Alley at Westland Bowl	5940 N. Wayne Rd., Westland
Tanabed Island	35041 Cherry Hill Rd., Westland
Tooling & Equipment International	12550 Tech Center Dr., Livonia
Victory Honda	315 W. Ann Arbor Rd., Plymouth
Warriors 3 Comics & Games	35613 W Michigan Ave., Wayne
Wayne Ford Civic League	1645 N. Wayne Rd., Westland
Wayne-Westland Fed. Credit Union	500 S. Wayne Rd., Westland
Westland Car Care	7666 N. Wayne Rd., Westland
Westland Chamber of Commerce	36900 Ford Rd., Westland
Westland City Hall, Lobby	36601 Ford Rd., Westland
Westland Bailey Rec. Center	36651 Ford Rd., Westland
Westland Fire Dept., Main Station	Ford Rd. and Central City Pkwy
Westland Police Dept., Lobby	36701 Ford Rd., Westland
Westland Nursing & Rehab. Centre	36137 Warren Rd., Westland
Westland Friendship Senior Center	1119 Newburgh Rd., Westland
Willow Creek Apartments	1673 Fairwood Drive, Westland

<http://www.westlandgoodfellows.org>
32715 Dorsey St., Westland, MI 48186 734-788-2270

GC woman charged in armed robbery

A 26-year-old Garden City woman faces a Dec. 5 preliminary hearing on charges of robbing a cleaner early Monday morning.

Nicole Danielle Reid was arraigned on charges of armed robbery and possession of a firearm while committing a felony. The robbery charge carries a penalty of up to life in prison, while the weap-



Reid

My Cleaners, 32600 Cherry Hill, as the owner was opening for business. The

owner told police that he was the only employ-

ee on duty and shortly after unlocking the doors, he heard the door chime announcing a customer had entered. When he went to the front of the store, he was confronted by a suspect holding a gun and wearing a white bandana and sunglasses to conceal her identity.

The suspect demanded the owner's cell phone, wallet and cash from the register. The owner complied and the bandit fled from the business on foot. Garden City police officers established a perimeter and began searching for the perpetrator when Officer Shawn Stanchina spotted a woman in the area of Alvin and Craig

who was kneeling down on the sidewalk in an apparent attempt to conceal herself, Police Chief Robert Muery said. "The officer noted the woman matched the description given and made contact with her," Muery said. "Officer Stanchina discovered the woman was armed and took her into custo-

dy without incident. The items taken in the robbery were also recovered." Reid was arraigned Tuesday before 21st District Court Judge Richard Hammer. A plea of not guilty was entered on her behalf and bond was set at \$10,000. The preliminary examination will be Dec. 5 in 21st District Court.

Trial date set in WYAA embezzlement case

By LeAnne Rogers
 Observer Staff Writer

A Feb. 6 jury trial has been scheduled for a former president of the Westland Youth Athletic Association charged with embezzling more than \$20,000 from the group.

Galen Huren Jr., 47, had been scheduled for trial Monday before Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Linda Parker. Huren, who listed a Garden City address when arrested in May, remains free on the \$10,000/10 percent bond.

Testimony during the preliminary examination in 18th District Court was that \$31,000 in cash payments to WYAA from January

through July 2010 were never deposited into the group's account.

A series of current and former WYAA members had testified about the nonprofit's process of collecting registration payments for youngsters participating in a sports program. Payments were recorded on a computer flash drive kept by Huren, who witnesses testified took charge of the receipts at the end of each registration session.

Other witnesses testified that WYAA bylaws requiring two signatures on checks weren't being followed by Huren. The prosecution admitted as evidence three WYAA checks — for \$1,600, \$1,550 and \$650 — writ-

ten in June 2010 by Huren to himself with only his signature and endorsed by him when cashed. The checks had notes that they were to pay for baseball umpires who were paid in cash.

Other testimony was about unpaid utility bills at the WYAA headquarters on Farmington Road, bounced checks for a cookie dough fundraiser and other unpaid bills.

The defense had argued that the cash collected during registration was kept in an unlocked container and many people had access to the office where the cash box was located.

lrogers@hometownlife.com
 (313) 222-5428

Trial starts for man charged with killing Westland teen

By LeAnne Rogers
 Observer Staff Writer

Jury selection was continuing for a second day in the trial of a Belleville man charged with mur-

dering a Westland teenager.

Justin Yoshikawa, 19, is charged with first-degree murder in the

August 2010 death of Carlee Morse, 16.

Opening arguments and witness testimony was expected to possibly begin later Tuesday before Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Ulysses Boykin.

A former Garden City High School student, Morse was reported missing about 12:30 a.m. Aug. 20, 2010, from the Westland apart-

ment where she lived with her mother. She went outside to talk on her cell phone for a few minutes and never returned.

Morse's family spent months trying to locate her but in December 2010 police received information that led them to Yoshikawa, a former boy-

friend, and Nicholas Cottrell, 23. The men made similar statements to police describing a plan to lure Morse from her apartment to Cottrell's car and killing her a short time later.

Having pleaded guilty to second-degree murder

in February, Cottrell testified against Yoshikawa at the preliminary examination as part of his plea agreement. Cottrell is currently serving a 25- to 50-year prison sentence at the Macomb Correctional Facility in New Haven.

Cottrell testified that Yoshikawa was angry with Morse and hid under a blanket in the back seat of the car before strangling her.

Police have been unable to locate Morse's body. Yoshikawa and Cottrell told police that they had smoke marijuana after the murder, then drove around aimlessly before placing her body into a Dumpster. They described the Dumpster as being located outside a church but could not pinpoint a specific location.

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Yoshikawa



Justin Yoshikawa is charged in the August 2010 death of Carlee Morse.

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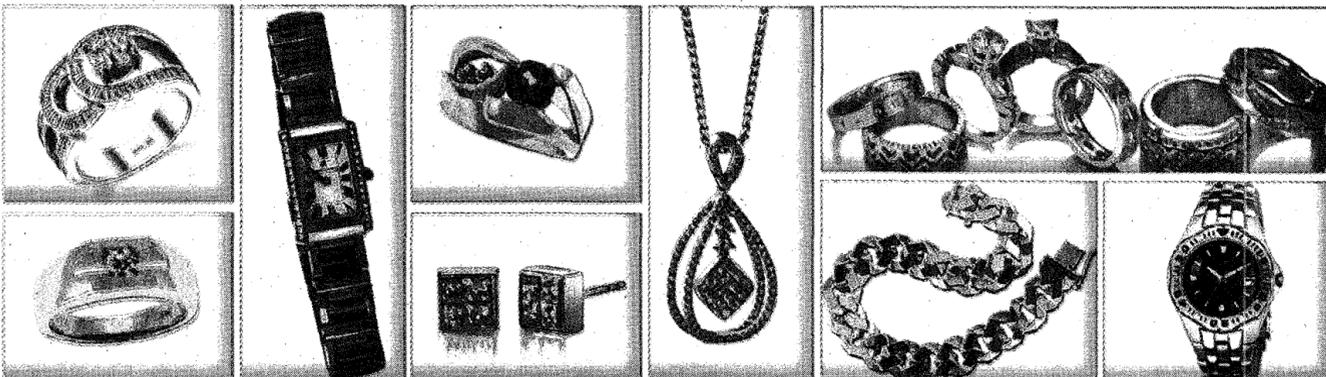
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Most shoppers eye 'same' level of buying



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth resident Francesca LaVetti shops the stores in downtown Plymouth.

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

Walking from the Kohl's store at Westland Shopping Center, Redford resident Win Webster said he expects to plunk down more money this holiday season compared to last year, after getting a better-paying sales job with a Michigan furniture chain. "I'll probably end up spending more because I just got a better job," Webster said, though he conceded his wife, Renee, handles most shopping chores for gift recipients such as their children Camden, 4, and Morgan, 2. Strolling in downtown Plymouth, resident Francesca LaVetti said she expects a frugal holiday season to save money amid a still-troubled economy.

"I may spend less because of the economy," LaVetti said. "I buy gifts for close friends, but I

might buy for fewer people this year to try to save money."

Webster and LaVetti certainly represent segments of holiday shoppers across metro Detroit, but a majority of people who responded to an informal poll by the *Observer* indicated they expect to spend roughly the same amount of money as last year.

That's similar to the 54 percent of U.S. shoppers in a more formal Gallup poll who said they are likely to spend about the same amount as last year. However, the national survey found that 29 percent of respondents expect to spend less, with only 15 percent spending more than last year.

Livonia resident Lisa Bellow counts herself among the same-spending majority, saying she and husband Roger never splurge on holiday gifts. "We don't have any kids, so we don't really spend

a lot on the holidays," she said, heading into the Target store at Wonderland Village on Plymouth Road.

Bellow typically buys a gift for one cousin — and that's usually it. She said she doesn't understand why some consumers spend more money than they can afford — or why they would rack up big credit-card debt during the holidays.

"I've tried to convince my family members to adopt a (needy) family for Christmas," Bellow said.

Plymouth resident Diane Pitak, a dentist with South Lyon-based Pitak & Associates, said she expects to buy 30 gifts this season — a similar amount as most years.

Pitak's gift list includes 14 employees as well as her family members. As she left Westland Center on a chilly November day, she said she had found gifts for her husband, daughter and niece.

With so many gifts to buy, Pitak said she typically starts her holiday shopping in August, and she hopes to finish by early December.

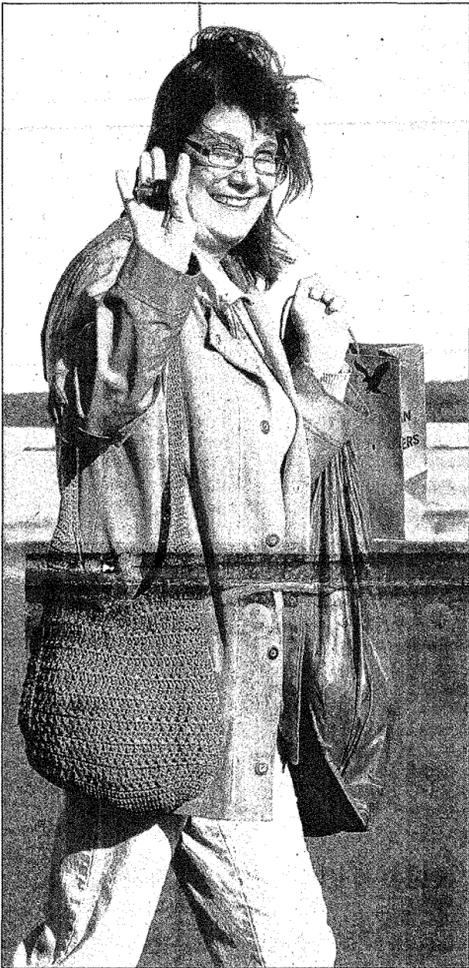
Northville mother of five Victoria Jaworski paused with a shopping cart full of items as she left the Canton Hobby Lobby store near Ford and Lilley with one of her children, 6-year-old daughter Gemma.

Jaworski said she expects to buy gifts for about 20 people this season — the same as last year. She said she started her shopping in October and expects to finish as late as Christmas Eve.

If Gemma had her way, holiday spending would increase this season. She paused and smiled when asked what she wants for Christmas.

"Um, too much stuff," she said.

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Diane Pitak did some shopping at Kohl's Westland Mall store. She lives in Plymouth.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

HOSPITAL REUNION

Time/Date: 5-9 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 6

Location: Cafe Marquette in the William D. Ford Career Technical Center, 36455 Marquette, Westland

Details: Wayne County General Hospital retirees and former staff are invited to attend the 27th annual holiday reunion. Doors open at 5 p.m., dinner will be at 5:30 p.m. The menu will be beef, chicken, fish, potato, vegetable, salad, dessert and beverage (coffee, tea or soda) for \$16 including tip. **Contact:** For information and reservations contact Dennis Abraham at (734) 721-2917 or fightingirish316@scbglobal.net, Kay Shafi at (734) 427-3437 or chknlit@wideopenwest.com or Pat Ibbotson at (734) 331-9291 or pibbotso@aol.com. For those retirees and staff on Facebook we now have a Friends of Eloise page.

COOKIE WALKS

Time/Date: 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 10

Location: First United Methodist Church, 3 Town Square, Wayne

Details: Shop for holiday cookies and candies. Cookies will be sold by containers, candies sold by the pound. All are homemade.

Contact: Call (734) 721-4801.

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 10

Location: First United Methodist Church, 6443 Merriman, Garden City

Details: The church is holding a Cookie Walk and Crafts. In addition to cookies, there will be Advent wreaths and Rada paring knives.

Contact: For information, call (734) 421-8628.

IN CONCERT

Time/Date: 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 4

Location: Novi Civic Center, 10 Mile Road between Taft and Novi Road

Details: The Novi Concert Band will present their holiday favorites concert, featuring holiday favorites from across the ages and the globe will include Leroy Anderson's perennial *Sleigh Ride* and *A Christmas Festival*, John Rutter's *Candlelight Carol*, Franz Liszt's *Two Noels*, *Greensleeves*, traditional Hebrew melodies in *Shalom Aleichem*, *Bach's Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring*, selections from Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker*, Mel Torme's *The Christmas Song (Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire)*, a medley of Christmas songs *A Most Wonderful Christmas*, and a Christmas sing-a-long. The concert is free and fun for all ages.

TRAIN SHOW

Time/Date: noon-4 p.m. Sunday Nov. 27

Location: Parish Hall



DAVID L. MALHALAB, M NEWS SERVICE / MNS PHOTO

Young and old

The Northwest Detroit Coin Club has a member in her 90s and younger members Houston Peterson (from left) of Garden City and Ryan and Kimberly Beier of Livonia, who are checking out the auction items that are a part of every club meeting. The Club meets at 7:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month at the Livonia Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road. The NWDCC invites everyone to attend a meeting, collector or not. If you need a coin, paper money, foreign coins or currency or tokens appraised or a collection, bring it.

of Ss. Simon and Jude Church, 32500 Palmer, west of Merriman, Westland.

Details: Ss. Simon and Jude Church' Ushers Club is holding Railroadiana Train Show. Buy, sell or swap toys and trains. There will be approximately 130 dealer tables available at \$10. Dealer set-up is 9 a.m. on the day of the show. Admission to the show is \$2 per person, \$4 per family. Food and

beverages are available. Parking is free. **Contact:** To reserve a dealer table, call Norm at (734) 595-8327.

HIGHER ROCK CAFE

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. second and fourth Fridays of the month.

Location: Wayne-Westland Salvation Army, 2300 Venoy, south of Palmer, Westland.

Details: Doors open at 7:30 p.m. Live bands perform beginning at 8 p.m.

Admission is free, however, a free will offering will be taken to support the bands.

Contact: www.tsa.higherrockcafe.4t.com or call (734) 722-3660

FOR SENIORS

FRIENDSHIP CENTER

Location: 1119 N. Newburgh, Westland

Details: The Senior Resources Department (Friendship Center) offers a variety of programs for older adults.

Contact: (734) 722-7632, www.ci.westland.mi.us

DYER CENTER

Location: 36745 Marquette, between Wayne Road and Marquette, Westland

Details: Offers activities Monday-Friday at the center.

Contact: (734) 419-2020

SENIOR FITNESS

Location: Maplewood Senior Center, Maplewood west of Merriman, Garden City

Details: The Senior Fitness Room is open 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and noon to 6 p.m. Sunday. Annual membership is \$50 per year or \$1 for a daily pass. Aerobic classes are held 8:45-9:45 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday.

Contact: (734) 793-1870

VOLUNTEERS

FIRST STEP

Details: First Step, which has been active in the effort to end domestic violence and sexual assault in western Wayne County and Downriver communities for more than 20 years, is looking for volunteers. Interested people must be at least 18, willing and able to travel to the Downriver area and complete a 55-hour training program.

Contact: (734) 416-1111, Ext. 223

FAMILY CAREGIVERS

Time/Date: 7 p.m. first Monday of the month

Location: Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main, Plymouth

Details: For residents of southern and western Wayne County who are caring for family members and/or friends age 60 and older, or who are over age 60 themselves. Offered by Adult Well-Being Services through The Senior

Alliance. Funded by The Senior Alliance and United Way.

Contact: Helen Streett at 74 629-5004. Call to confirm time and date, if coming for the first time.

CAREGIVERS - SPOUSES

Time/Date: 1 p.m. second Tuesday of the month

Location: Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main, Plymouth

Details: For residents of southern and western Wayne County who are caring for a spouse age 60 and older, or who are over age 60 themselves. Offered by Adult Well-Being Services through The Senior Alliance. Funded by The Senior Alliance and United Way.

Contact: Helen Streett at 74 629-5004. Call to confirm time and date, if coming for the first time.

CAREGIVERS - WESTLAND

Time/Date: 7 p.m. the third Thursday of the month

Location: American House III, 35700 Hunter, Westland

Details: For residents of southern and western Wayne County who are caring for family members and/or friends age 60 and older, or who are over age 60 themselves. Offered by Adult Well-Being Services through The Senior Alliance. Funded by The Senior Alliance and United Way.

Contact: Helen Streett at 74 629-5004. Call to confirm time and date, if coming for the first time.

VNA HOSPICE

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

Contact: (248) 967-8361, www.vna.org

SEASONS HOSPICE

Details: Seasons Hospice and Palliative Care is looking for volunteers to provide companionship to patients dealing with life limiting illness. No special skills, other than objectivity and compassion, are needed. Training provided. Volunteers are matched with patients in their own community.

Contact: (800) 370-8592

LITERACY COUNCIL

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

Contact: (734) 416-4906

HEARTLAND HOSPICE

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

Contact: (888) 973-1145.

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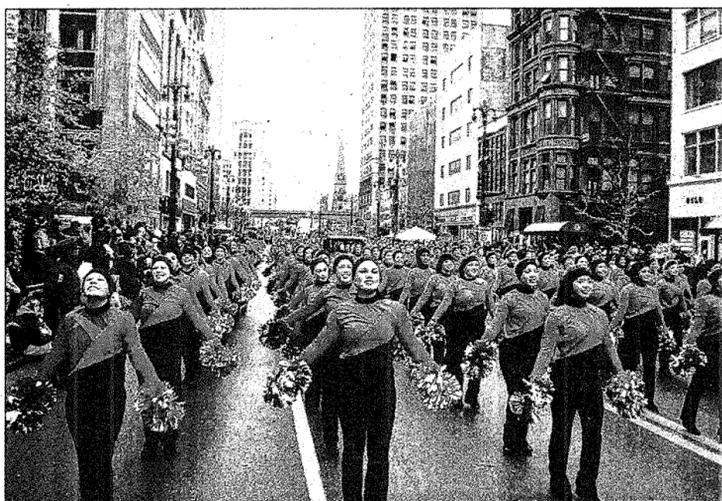
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The Mid American Pompon All Star team will open national coverage of America's Thanksgiving Day Parade with an original pompon routine performed to a new Detroit-themed song.

All Stars make 25th appearance in parade

The Mid American Pompon All Star team will perform in America's Thanksgiving Day Parade for its 25th consecutive year.

During the parade, the team will open national coverage with an original pompon routine performed to a new Detroit-themed song. The team will also present an additional routine during the route.

The prestigious All Star team, which originated in 1986 with only 40 members, has grown to more than 200 performers from high schools throughout Michigan. Each year, they perform at several events throughout the United States.

The All Star Team is comprised of pompon girls from more than 40 cities, including Farmington, Livonia, South Lyon, Northville, Novi, Garden City and Canton. The group is well known for its creative choreography which involves sharp, precise and unified moves, showmanship and spectacular kicklines. They use pompoms and upbeat music.

During the parade, they will perform their routine up to 40 times.

To be eligible for the Mid American Pompon All Star team, girls must be a member of a high school varsity pompon or dance team. Each year team members are selected based upon their outstanding showmanship, academic stature and pompon/dance performing abilities. Auditions take place at Mid American summer camps.

The girls perform

together three to four times a year. They have performed at Presidential Inaugural Parades for President Bill Clinton and President George W. Bush, the Fiesta Bowl and Citrus Bowl parades, the 2007 Motor City Bowl at Ford Field in Detroit, the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta, Sea World of Ohio, Epcot Center and on Carnival Cruise Lines, as well as at Detroit Pistons and Ignition games.

The All Star Team has been invited to perform in the Cultural Olympiad, Big Dance 2012, which will take place before the July opening of the

Olympic Games in London. Dancers and choreographers from around the world will unite for a celebration of dance in all of its forms.

Mid American Pompon was established in 1979 by owner Karen Blazaitis. It has become Michigan's leader in pompon and dance instruction and summer camps for high school teams. The team is based out of Mid American Studio in Farmington Hills, which offers instruction in fitness, dance and pom for children and adults.

For more information, visit www.pompon.com.

Do homework before donating

By Rick Bloom
Guest Columnist

Happy Thanksgiving to you and your loved ones! I think most would agree that the holiday season has arrived and, along with it, the Black Friday sales and all of the other associated ploys to get us to buy, buy and buy some more. As I discussed in a column a few weeks ago, it is important to have a game plan and a budget before you hit the stores.

Another recurring event that happens as we hit the holiday season is that charities gear up for their year-end, gift-giving campaigns. And as difficult as it is, there too, you must set a budget.

There is no doubt that we live in difficult times. High unemployment and a sluggish economy have taken their toll. There is great need. However, just like shopping, you need to set a budget as to how much you want to give this holiday season.

After you set a budget and it comes time to choose individual charities, do it wisely. There are so many good charities that need your money. You don't want your

generosity going to an organization that wastes your money. With the advent of the Internet, it is easy for bogus charities to solicit donors through e-mails that tug at their heartstrings. These bogus charities also have bogus websites that look legitimate. That is why when it comes to giving to a charity, even if it's one that you are somewhat familiar with, perform some sort of background check before making a contribution. After all, the reason you are giving is because you want your money to help accomplish a worthy goal.

Determining whether a charity's goal is important to support is just the first step. Think of it as a decision tree and the first branch that you take is the cause that you want to support. We all know that for any cause, there is more than one charity. That first step will require some research. For example, for those who wish to support our troops, there are many great charities that do so, from the USO to Wounded Warriors. It would be nice to say just give to them all, but that's not reality. Therefore, you need to narrow your choices. Once you have done so, establish that they are legitimate and will be good stewards of your money. Obviously there are scam artists out there that have no charitable purpose whatsoever and

are just trying to steal your money. However, there are many legitimate charities that genuinely try to do good work, but are just poor managers of your money. Doing research before you donate will provide valuable information to assist you.

With the Internet, you can do some effective investigating of a charity. There are both federal and state agencies that have information about charities. In addition, the following are a couple of websites that I use: www.give.org through the Better Business Bureau and www.charitynavigator.org. Both of these websites have a wealth of information with regards to charities.

Those of us who give know the good feeling of donating our hard-earned money to help others. But the main reason we give is because we want to promote a good cause and to accomplish something. To do so, do your homework. If you don't, there is the risk that your money is not going to help a charitable cause.

As we enter the charitable-giving season, make sure your money goes to a worthwhile charity. Good luck!

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at moneyatters@hometownlife.com. For more information, visit his website at www.bloomassetmanagement.com.



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

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Wayne County Parks' Lightfest brightens the holiday season

It's billed as the Midwest's largest and longest light show - more than 45 giant animated displays and more than one million lights stretching more than four miles along Hines Drive from Westland to Dearborn Heights.

Wayne County Parks' annual Lightfest opened with a bang last week as adults and children joined Santa Claus and Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano in lighting up Hines Park for the holidays.

In its 15th year, the display stretches from Merriam Hollow in Westland to Warrendale Park east of Telegraph and features such popular displays as the Celebration of Lights arch, Cecil the Magic Dragon, a large waving polar bear with cubs, an animated Old Glory, animated snowflake arches and the new music note tunnel.

Youngsters can stop and visit Santa's Workshop at the Warrendale Park at the end of the Lightfest. Santa will be there from Thanksgiving until Dec. 23. They can bring their letters to Santa and put them in a giant mailbox outside of his workshop. Santa's elves will pick up the letters each night to get them to the North Pole.

Lightfest is open 7-10 p.m. daily now through Dec. 31, except for Christmas Day when it will be closed. Enter Lightfest at the Merriam entrance to Hines Park, north of Warren Road. There's a \$5 fee per vehicle. However, Tuesday, Dec. 6, 13

and 20, are Toy Nights. Wayne County will be lending a hand to provide toys to disadvantaged children. On those three nights, the community is invited to bring a new, unwrapped toy in lieu of the \$5 vehicle fee.

Although Lightfest begins at 7 p.m., Hines Drive will be closed to traffic beginning at 5:45 p.m. nightly.

Families also are invited to take part in the Family Holiday Fest and Tree Lighting 4-6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 10, at the Nankin Mills Interpretive Center on Hines Drive at Ann Arbor Trail.

The Friends of Nankin Mills and Wayne County Parks are inviting the community to participate in the old-fashioned celebration. This is the 24th year the Friends of Nankin Mills have sponsored the event.

The event includes crafts and games from 4 to 5:15 p.m., followed by the tree lighting at 5:15 p.m.

There's a \$4 charge for the seasonal crafts which include make-and-take tree decorations.

There also will be unique seasonal games, such as fruitcake bowling, Pin the nose on Rudolph and reindeer antler wreath toss. The second part of the program is free, and includes a short outdoor community Mill lighting and sing-a-long with an indoor visit from St. Nick, sponsored by the Friends of Nankin Mills. Refreshments will be provided.

For more information on these Wayne County Parks events, call (734) 261-1990.



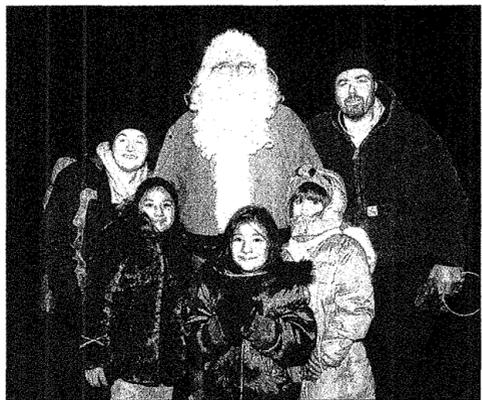
Santa Claus as his reindeer pull his sleigh in one of the 45 displays lining Hines Drive. PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER.



Santa Claus and Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano watch Sophia Mark perform a solo during the festivities.



Santa Claus, dancers, doughnuts, fireworks and a crowd of more than 100 people were there for opening night for the Wayne County Lightfest in Hines Park.



Westland residents Amanda Skiver brought Celeste Hernandez, 7, and Emily Gomez, 8, and Nicholas Bee brought daughter Madison Bee, 8, to the opening ceremony. Joining them is Santa Claus, a North Pole resident.



Seven-year-old Michael Pushies asks Santa for an iPad for Christmas. Mom and dad Sarah and Rich Pushies are from Westland.



The dancers of Dance Extreme perform a holiday dance at the Lightfest opening ceremony as families waited for the lights to be turned on. The throwing of the switch was carried live on Fox 2 News.

'Amazing deals' await mall shoppers

By Sue Mason
Observer Staff Writer

If the early bird gets the worm, then bargain hunting shoppers need to reset their alarm clocks for those Black Friday deals.

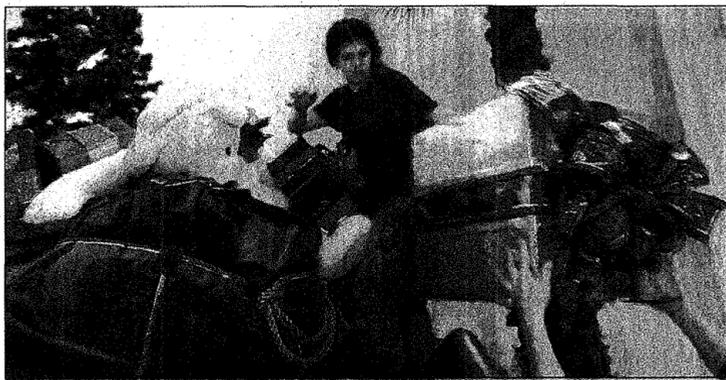
Viewed as the traditional start of the holiday shopping season with door buster deals available to shoppers who swap sleep for cheap, some retailers are opening even earlier — late Thanksgiving Day.

The table will hardly be cleared when retailers like Toys R Us kick their holiday sales at 10 p.m. Thanksgiving Day, while stores like Macy's and Kohl's are opening their doors at midnight Nov. 25. Two of four anchor stores at Westland Shopping Center, their early opening has prompted at least 14 other mall tenants to open at midnight.

"It's one of the busiest days for the mall," said Patrick Derrig, marketing manager at Westland Shopping Center. "It's not the busiest, but that could change with Black Friday demand changing. It is one our most important and busiest days."

According to Derrig, the term Black Friday got its start as an indication of the day, stores were finally in the black for the year. From January until Thanksgiving Day, stores operated in the red. The popularity of shopping on Black Friday has stores "offering some pretty amazing deals." At the mall, they're expecting "tremendous crowds," and many have already requested stanchions to help with crowd control.

There's no way of telling how many people will come to the mall on Black Friday, but Derrig said that more than five million people will visit Westland Shopping Center during the holiday



Julie Gregg of Westland reaches for another present to stack behind Santa's chair as she gets it ready for the holidays at Westland Shopping Center. Santa will be at the mall early Friday to hear children's wishes.



The marquee at Westland Shopping Centers announces when JC Penney will open on Black Friday. Macy's and Kohl's will open at midnight while Sears will open at 4 a.m.

season. From January to October, 1.5 million shoppers visit the mall each month, he added.

Open for business

While the anchor stores will open early — in addition to Macy's and Kohl's, J.C. Penney will open at 3 a.m. Friday and Sears at 4 a.m. — the mall itself will open at 5 a.m. It will be giving out red shopping bags filled with coupons and offers from the stores to the first 1,000 guests. Fifty of the bags also will include mall gift cards ranging from \$10 to \$250 for two lucky shoppers, Derrig said.

"It's truly random and so we'll be reminding shoppers to look in their

bags," he said. "There could be coupons for free coffee, cookies, gift wrapping and a picture with Santa. It's our way of saying thanks for coming to Westland Shopping Center."

In addition to the Black Friday bargains, shoppers are being asked to stop by tables manned by the Westland Jaycees who are sponsoring their fifth annual Cards for Our Troops Project. Stop by and sign or card or bring cards to the Jaycees at the mall.

The shopping center also is working with the Westland Veterans Association to collect new and unopened items for soldiers serv-

ing overseas now through Dec. 18. A collection box has been set up at the Sears entrance in the mall where guests can drop cotton T-shirts, long sleeved T-shirts in all sizes and colors, high over-the-calf socks, hand-held games, batteries (mostly AA), CDs and DVDs.

The mall has been decked out for Christmas for several weeks, and Santa's arrival via helicopter Nov. 12, with

a guest appearance by Noah Munck who plays Gibby on Disney's *iCarly*, kicked off its shopping season. Santa estimates there were 800 people in the parking lot to welcome him and several thousand more in the mall to see Munck. The line for an autographed picture wrapped around the East Court to Kohl's and back, according to Derrig.

"It was amazingly successful in so many ways, it was delightful," he added.

Santa visits

Santa is meeting children in his official chair in the East Court and will be in early this weekend. Hours are 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday. And pet owners will have a chance to have their four-legged friends see the Jolly Old Elf on Mondays. His full schedule can be found on the mall's website at www.westland-center.com.

In addition to a concert by Our Lady of Good Counsel on Friday, Dec. 16, Westland Center is also offering guests a one-of-a-kind experience this holiday season — a ride on Santa's Polar Express, a trackless train that will provide rides free of charge 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 9-10, and Wednesday-Thursday, Dec. 14-15.

"It's the only train of this type in North America," said Derrig. "It was featured on the last *Oprah Show* and was filled with her favorite things. It left her show on a truck and came here.

It's a treat for kids and adults."

Also on tap is a sold-out Breakfast with Santa on Dec. 3. Offered in partnership with Radio Disney, the breakfast's 200 spots available sold out in just four days. There also will be story time with Mrs. Claus who will visit with youngsters, providing them with books and singing to them while they wait to see Mr. Claus.

Committed to providing a good shopping experience and focus on the businesses that call Westland Shopping Center home, the mall is partnering with Fresh 100.3 FM, Detroit's Christmas station to highlight the 12 most important things to have this year. The mall will be doing a 24-hour "takeover" of the radio station website, an overlay that will encourage people to go to the Westland Shopping Center website for a chance to win one of two \$250 mall cards.

There are plenty of small kiosks scattered throughout the mall, and one of them, Old School Apparel, is the place to stop, according to owner George Bor of Farmington Hills. The stand features novelty T-shirts. Bor has places for the holidays at 12 malls, including Westland, Laurel Park, Oakland and Macomb malls and a year-round location at Lakeside Mall.

"If anything, stop by and get your daily laugh," he said.

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Survive the holidays with these apps

By Jon Gunnells
Guest Columnist

The holidays can be stressful, especially if you are in charge of shopping, decorating and planning. Luckily, there are a number of free and low cost apps to help you navigate to the New Year.



Tech Savvy

Jon Gunnells

Even if you don't know what an app is — help is on the way. An app, short for application, is a program that can be installed on a smartphone, tablet, or a computer.

Apps provide easy access to the tools you need with a touch of the button — instead of going through a clumsy Internet search that could be time-consuming if you are on a mobile device.

For example: a mobile banking app allows you to access your bank statements, make transfers and check on recent activity with the tap of a button instead of visiting a browser and typing in a URL.

Speaking of mobile banking, many national banks offer free apps that will allow you to monitor your accounts from your smartphone during shopping trips.

Bank of America, JP Morgan Chase, PNC Bank, USAA and many more banks, credit card

companies and credit unions offer free apps to help you track your expenditures.

Take it one step further with apps like Mint.com Personal Finance that helps you monitor your personal spending. Or, download the PayPal app which allows you to pay merchants securely through your smartphone device. PayPal is perfect for paying online merchants or eBay sellers.

As for eBay, of course there's an app for that. If you are doing any holiday shopping, make sure to download the eBay and Amazon.com apps to track sales, purchases and payments in the palm of your hand.

Of course there are many apps beyond the realm of finance. You can check out Black Friday deals with Dealtaker Inc's Black Friday app. Or if you have a specific store in mind, there's a good chance you can download apps to check prices and more. Target, Walmart, Walgreens and Sam Club each have free apps.

You can even compare prices of items across all stores with an app like Red Laser which compares prices when you scan a product's bar code.

It may sound cliché but there truly is an app for everything. You can download cookbooks to help with holiday recipes, or navigation apps to help you find the nearest mall or big box store.

Even online gift giving can be completed from your handheld device as

many social coupon sites have free apps.

Once you get done pillaging your app store or marketplace for the programs that best fit your lifestyle, while not downloading something more fun.

Visit the games section and try out one of the most popular games across all platforms: Angry Birds Seasons. Use the angry birds to blow off some steam and take out some holiday aggression — instead of directing it to the crazy shoppers and mall parking lot drivers.

Download an app

Don't know how to download an app? Don't worry here's how:

If you are on an Apple device like an iPad, iPhone, or iPod, click the "App Store" button, and get started. You can search for apps using keywords or search by categories.

Similarly, Android smartphone or tablet users can surf through apps in the Android marketplace. Blackberry users can visit the Blackberry World App that is preloaded on the device.

Jon Gunnells, a Northville Township resident, is a social media planner at a Detroit-based advertising agency. A 2007 graduate of Michigan State University, he holds a B.A. in journalism. When he's not working, Gunnells enjoys college sports, social media and playing basketball. He can be reached at jonathan.gunnells@gmail.com. Follow him on Twitter @GunnSh0w.

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OUR VIEWS



Give thanks, act locally

Reach out, be grateful for family, friends

Each year always brings plenty of reasons to give thanks as we begin the holiday cycle. This Thanksgiving is no exception, but with a little reflection on what's really important, giving thanks can become more than a once-a-year opportunity.

Don't worry if the Lions lose the game on Thanksgiving. Be thankful that we have a great sports town, including John Glenn and Wayne Memorial High's football team, which had a good run in the state playoffs.

Overlook that remark from Cousin Don at Thanksgiving dinner. At least all the relatives

This year, let your prayer of thanksgiving at Thursday's dinner table be more than a recitation of what is good in your life. Let it become a call to action. Invite the neighbor over to share your meal, or walk off the meal, carrying a treat with you that someone just may not be able to afford this year.

brought a dish to pass.

And relax, it's OK that the TV is on. The Thanksgiving Parade will be a joy to watch.

Finding the little things to be grateful for all year long helps to offer balance when some bigger things, like losing a job or finding a loved one is terminally ill, seem to consume all too many waking thoughts, especially during the holidays.

For some area residents, how-

ever, even the little things are difficult to find. These are the people we may have dispassionately referred to in the past as the down-and-out — those who are down on their resources, emotionally and fiscally, and out of work and maybe out of their homes.

Those were the folks that, years ago, we heard about but didn't know. Now, they're the neighbor next door, picking up food and clothing at the Lighthouse Home Mission in Westland and the John Bolde Memorial Food Depot and the Open Closet at the St. Mary Outreach Center in Wayne. Need has a face; maybe it's the one staring back at you in the mirror.

This year, let your prayer of thanksgiving at Thursday's dinner table be more than a recitation of what is good in your life. Let it become a call to action. Invite the neighbor over to share your meal, or walk off the meal, carrying a treat with you that someone just may not be able to afford this year.

Find a little something your neighbor may need, and remember it while supporting your neighborhood merchants and shopping at your local grocer, specialty stores or department store.

Sometimes it is easier to make a donation than to get involved during the holidays. Go ahead, make that donation. Drop of a new toy for the Goodfellows or Toys for Tots and help make a child feel special on Christmas. But don't stop there — getting involved with that church or other civic group to help those in need is a priceless gift.

Soon the Thanksgiving leftovers will be parceled out, and the dishes put away. Don't store up those reasons to be grateful until next year. Remember them when a child at your kid's school can't afford to buy a book during the annual book fair. Recall them when a shopper comes up short while checking out at the grocery store.

And be grateful that local merchants have taken risks and ridden out the recession. Support them year 'round as well.

So enjoy the game and watch the parade, but make the day — and the season — one of sharing and caring.

Do you plan to shop on Black Friday?

We asked this question at Westland Shopping Center in Westland.



"No, but they just told me at Bath and Body Works they'll be open at midnight, so I just might."

Dana Cowell
Canton



"Yeah, now that I found the mall will open at midnight. That makes it a lot easier."

Tracy Bassett
Westland



"Yes, actually it'll be my first time I'll come out for the sales."

Tosha Simmons
Westland



"I plan on sending my husband out to get a train table for my son."

Rebecca Hawkins with daughter Eloise
Garden City



"No, I have to work."

Jamie Matykowski
Westland



"Yes, I do. My boyfriend and I plan to get out to Best Buy real early."

Amanda Longordo
Westland



"No, I'm working. I have to work that day."

Michele Fulayter
Garden City



"No, I'm working and I plan to provide a service to those who are off."

Sue Burger
Garden City

LETTERS

Tip well

I have visited Famous Dave's Rib Restaurant on Warren Road in Westland several times. The food is delicious and the wait staff are excellent.

When I observe people around me tipping the staff, I am appalled at the small tips if any given to the wait staff. These young people are trying to support their family or go to college. Waitresses and waiters are paid \$2.65 an hour and taxes are taken out of their tips by the government. You would think customers would give the standard tip which is 15 percent or give a larger tip for outstanding service which is 20 percent. Some people give \$3 on a \$50 meal.

I finally decided to write an editorial hoping some of these people who eat at Famous Dave's would reconsider giving at least a 10 percent tip. If you ever had anyone in your family work as a waiter or waitresses you would understand and always leave a tip. I can speak from experience as my two daughters and granddaughter were waitresses. They were trying to support a family or save for college.

I hope in the future I will see people tipping for the outstanding serving the wait staff provides at Famous Dave's Restaurant on Warren Road in Westland.

Margo Panko
Canton

No lame duck goodies

Livonia Public Schools will see two new board members seated in January. However, until then, we have two board members with nothing to lose, and way too much deference to the superintendent.

This is not the time to hand out raises to our administrators, a contract extension for the superintendent, or sign contracts to bind the new board.

The public sent a clear message, a rejection of business as usual. Mr. Freeman and Ms. Scheel had their time. Trying to put up roadblocks to the changes the public voted for will once again cost the

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.

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district the goodwill that is currently in such short supply.

No back-room deals. No lame duck goodies for the LPS "friends and family club."

This may be the Christmas season, but don't try playing Santa with our tax dollars.

Lloyd Romick
Livonia

No 'right' to share

Occupiers believe by demanding a better country they will get it. Egyptians recently took to the streets and removed a dictator — the people are poorer now. Libya overthrew a tyrant and the Muslim Brotherhood now rules by Sharia Law!

Further back, Communists overthrew the Russian aristocracy. Millions were slaughtered in the century following. Hitler and Mussolini delivered prosperity and jobs, but cost the citizens dearly.

The United States has elections to choose leaders. Stop demanding gifts from the wealthy and study the political choices. There is no "right" to share the good fortune of others. Learn, work and invest to join the upper crust.

Hank Borgman
Farmington

Questions bully bill

The Michigan Senate recently distinguished itself by passing

sweeping Anti-Bullying legislation (SB 137). My first thought as I glanced through the recent news article was that it was about time that our elected officials formalized such a law. Any and all kids deserve the basic right to feel safe and unthreatened when they walk through their school doors every morning.

Reading further into the article, I was surprised to discover that SB 137 didn't pass through the state Senate unanimously, the bill was passed along party lines — 26 Republican state senators supported the bill and 11 Democratic senators opposed it. How could anyone oppose this commonsense legislation that would protect our kids from such a destructive act?

Upon further research, turns out Democrats aren't pro-bullying, they were opposed to a Republican-supported section of the bill which states:

"This section does not prohibit a statement of a sincerely held religious belief or moral conviction of a school employee, school volunteer, pupil or a pupil and parent or guardian."

Apparently 26 of our Republican state senators (including my own representative) feel that bullying is OK (and legal) if the bully really, sincerely believes that his/her taunts and verbal humiliation are religiously or morally based. This anti-bullying bill certainly appears to allow any bully to excuse and legally defend their actions, rather than put an end to such unacceptable behavior.

Whose interests are being served when an anti-bullying law allows for bullying under specific religious and moral circumstances? I challenge any senator that voted in support of this bill to explain their position on this legislation.

Until we demand more of our elected officials, apparently this is the sort of government we should expect and deserve. I believe we all should expect and deserve better.

Marty Drury
Highland

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BBB offers tips for safe Cyber Monday shopping

Cyber Monday, the Monday after Thanksgiving, has officially replaced Black Friday, the day after Thanksgiving, as the most popular day to shop for the holidays. Shopping online means avoiding the crowds, but it also opens the buyer up to attacks from scammers and hackers.

In order to fight these online grinchies, the Better Business Bureau (BBB) recommends 10 tips for staying safe when holiday shopping online.

According to the National Retail Federation (NRF) seven in 10 online retailers expect their sales to grow at least 15 percent this holiday season. The NRF's holiday survey also found that the average person plans to do 36 percent of their holiday shopping online - up from 33 percent last year.

"The convenience and ease of shopping online has replaced the hassle of going to the store for many people—but online shopping has its own set of risks," said Patrick Bennett, BBB Director

of Community Relations. "Taking steps to avoid the fraud online will result in a much happier holiday for everyone—except, of course, for scammers and hackers."

Following are the "Top 10 Online Shopping Tips" for holiday shoppers to help fight unscrupulous online retailers, scammers and hackers:

1. Protect your computer - A computer should always have the most recent updates installed for spam filters, anti-virus and anti-spyware software and a secure firewall.

2. Shop on trustworthy websites - Shoppers should start with BBB to check on the seller's reputation and record for customer satisfaction. Always look for the BBB seal and other widely-recognized "trustmarks" on retailer websites and click on the seals to confirm that they are valid.

3. Protect your personal information - BBB recommends taking the time to read the site's privacy policy and understand what

personal information is being requested and how it will be used. If there isn't one posted, it should be taken as a red flag that personal information may be sold to others without permission.

4. Beware of deals that sound too good to be true - Offers on websites and in unsolicited e-mails can often sound too good to be true, especially extremely low prices on hard-to-get items. Consumers should always go with their instincts and not be afraid to pass up a "deal" that might cost them dearly in the end.

5. Beware of phishing - Legitimate businesses do not send e-mails claiming problems with an order or an account to lure the "buyer" into revealing financial information. If a consumer receives such an e-mail, BBB recommends picking up the phone and calling the contact number on the website where the purchase was made to confirm that there really is a problem with the transaction.

6. Confirm your online

purchase is secure - Shoppers should always look in the address box for the "s" in https:// and in the lower-right corner for the "lock" symbol before paying. If there are any doubts about a site, BBB recommends right-clicking anywhere on the page and select "Properties." This will let you see the real URL (website address) and the dialog box will reveal if the site is not encrypted.

7. Pay with a credit card - It's best to use a credit card, because under federal law, the shopper can dispute the charges, if he or she doesn't receive the item. Shoppers also have dispute rights if there are unauthorized charges on their credit card, and many card issuers have "zero liability" policies under which the card

holder pays nothing if someone steals the credit card number and uses it. Never wire money and only shop locally on sites like Craigslist.

8. Keep documentation of your order - After completing the online order process, there may be a final confirmation page or the shopper might receive confirmation by e-mail - BBB recommends saving a copy of the Web page and any e-mails for future reference and as a record of the purchase.

9. Check your credit card statements often - Don't wait for paper statements. BBB recommends consumers check their credit card statements for suspicious activity by either calling credit card companies or by checking statements online regularly.

10. Know your rights - Federal law requires that orders made by mail, phone or online be shipped by the date promised or, if no delivery time was stated, within 30 days. If the goods aren't shipped on time, the shopper can cancel and demand a refund. There is no general three-day cancellation right, but consumers do have the right to reject merchandise if it's defective or was misrepresented. Otherwise, it's the company's policies that determine if the shopper can cancel the purchase and receive a refund or credit.

For more advice on staying safe online this holiday season, and to see reports on thousands of online retailers, go to <http://eastermichigan.bbb.org/Consumer-Tips/>.

Honor teachers on National Day of Listening

Michigan Radio will participate in the fourth annual National Day of Listening, a holiday tradition started by the acclaimed oral history nonprofit organization StoryCorps. The National Day of Listening on Friday, Nov. 25, is an effort to encourage all Americans to honor a friend, a loved one, or a member of their community by interviewing them about their lives.

This year, StoryCorps suggests that everyone reach out to a favorite teacher or mentor to say "Thank you for changing my life." Whether posting

a memory to Facebook (@storycorps), thanking them on Twitter (@storycorps, #thankateacher), taping a tribute on YouTube or sending a thank you card, the 2011 National Day of Listening will send a powerful and necessary message to teachers across the nation that they matter, and the nation is grateful for the impact they have on lives.

Michigan Radio has created a special National Day of Listening website, which can be accessed at www.michiganradio.org. At that website, people can download a Do-It-Yourself interview guide

with simple step-by-step instructions, advice on choosing equipment to record the interview, and a list of favorite StoryCorps questions to ask. They can also view a Do-It-Yourself video and share their experience by joining StoryCorps' national Wall of Listening.

The National Day of Listening was started by StoryCorps in 2008 as a way to provide an alternative to "Black Friday" shopping sprees. Learn more about the event and see who's participating by visiting nationaldayoflistening.org.

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Home for the Holidays

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Abbey Park in Lyon Township will fill with festive cheer this Friday, kicking off the third annual Festival of Trees to benefit local charities.

"Community groups decorate all of our trees and each year the Festival grows bigger and better," said Tamra Ward, Abbey Park Administrator. "Our residents, their families and the local community look forward to seeing all of the energy and creativity that goes into decorating all of our beautiful trees."

The local community is invited to participate in this year's Festival of Trees by voting for their favorite tree with a \$1 donation. Voting concludes at 2:00 on Christmas Eve and all of the proceeds from the donation ticket sales will benefit a charity chosen by the winning design team. In 2010, 18 community groups and organizations decorated trees for the competition.

Located on Milford Road just across from Coyote Golf Club in Lyon Township, Abbey Park is a popular new community for seniors looking for affordable retirement living near friends and family. The community has welcomed over 170 new residents since opening in January 2009.

Something for Everyone

Abbey Park brings in the New Year with a festive dinner, and concludes each year with their Community Christmas Celebration and Festival of Trees. Residents have enjoyed a little midnight madness at a Pearls, Pumps and Pajamas Party, kicked up their heels at their midsummer dance and joined the limbo line at the Grandparents Day Luau and pig roast. To celebrate autumn, residents were treated to an Oktoberfest event including serving wenches, marching waiters, bratwurst, German potato salad and apple



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Abbey Park at Mill River resident Lois Watson was recently awarded first place at the annual Senior Spelling Bee. Residents at Abbey Park enjoy weekly dinner trips, monthly visits to local casinos and bi-weekly shopping excursions in addition to field trips to local events, musicals, festivals and parades.

strudel - along with a little beer and musical entertainment. Over 200 grandchildren, great-grandchildren and even a couple of great-great grandchildren participated in the annual Halloween Carnival complete with ghosts, games and a costume parade.

A typical week at Abbey Park kicks off on Sunday with an elegant champagne brunch, all faiths church service and cookies and coffee with family and friends. An average week offers the residents more than 45 events and activities to choose from, including live entertainment, Bingo, card clubs, two ice cream socials, weekly dinner trips, chair fitness classes, shopping, scheduled chauffeured transportation, movies and a weekly Happy Hour.

Residents also enjoy monthly casino trips, excursions to Kensington Metro Park and Erwin's Orchards, attendance at local plays and concerts and visits to annual festivals such as Milford Memories and Pumpkinfest.

In a community all their own, residents operate a small Country Store with basic grocery and personal items, and participate on a council that comments and suggests amendments and additions to the

daily menu and activities schedule.

"Anything our seniors are willing to do, we make available to them," said Tamra Ward, Administrator for the Lyon Township location. "We encourage residents to be as active as they can be for as long as possible so they can maintain their independence."

Live Longer, Healthier, Happier

A full activity schedule, great food and a wealth of amenities are just the beginning at Abbey Park. The community features 24-hour staffing, a medical alert system, scheduled chauffeured transportation, a beautiful dining room, and delicious meals in addition to a café, theater, chapel, library, fitness center, beauty salon and the reassurance of a full facility generator.

Abbey Park residents are no strangers to the local community. Group trips are planned for events like the Milford Fourth of July Parade and Hartland Senior Center's Home for the Holidays, plays and performance at local schools, shopping trips and dinner outings to Deadwood Bar & Grill in Northville and

other restaurants in the area.

Although Abbey Park is one of the newest businesses in the neighborhood, they have generously supported many local events and organizations including South Lyon Pumpkinfest, Lyon Township's Kite Festival, Operation Injured Soldier, the Lyon Township Film Festival and Lyon Area Rotary in addition to the Grace Care Center in Trincmalee, Sri Lanka.

Located just 1.5 miles south of I-96 and minutes away from Novi, Brighton and Ann Arbor, Abbey Park offers affordable luxury. From beautifully landscaped grounds and courtyards to an elegant lobby with fountains, fireplaces, a grand piano and comfortable lounge areas, residents are proud to welcome visitors to their new home.

Life at Abbey Park includes a variety of complimentary conveniences that are often an added expense at other communities. On a daily basis, housekeepers make the beds and take out trash. Residents start their day with continental breakfast in the café, and enjoy a delicious lunch or dinner in the Grand Dining Room. Once a week, all residents are treated to full cleaning services, including laundering bed linens and towels.

There are nine floor plans to choose from, ranging from one bedroom with one bath to two bedrooms with two full baths and two walk-in closets. All apartments include either a balcony or patio and a medical monitoring system that is easily accessed from several areas within each unit. Heat, water, electricity and basic cable services are also included.

With an average of 45 weekly events and activities to choose from, days at Abbey Park are full of fun and friendship. Activity Director Cindy Kometh and her assistant Karen

"They make us feel special here. I don't think we could find a better place to live."

Ed Kustron, Abbey Park resident

Hanley work full time to provide opportunities for socialization, entertainment and great food.

The Home of the Brave

Abbey Park also hosts monthly Huron Valley Am-Vet Post 2006 meetings for veterans and their spouses. Some veterans are eligible for up to \$1900 per month in reimbursed living expenses. "Many veterans are not aware of the Aid and Attendance Benefit available through the Veterans Administration." In addition to monthly meetings, the community recently dedicated their "Hall of Honor" commemorating the service of resident Veterans.

World War II Veteran, Ed Kustron, a resident of Abbey Park, is proud of his military service to his country and enjoys reminiscing with the 30 Veterans who are also neighbors in the community. Kustron and his wife, Margaret, moved to Abbey Park from Farmington Hills and are quite sure they've found a happy home. They've become regular players in card games, enjoy the food and new friends and are fond of the Hospitality Director Charles Duty, who regularly makes a special delivery of buttermilk - their favorite drink.

"They make us feel special here," Kustron said. "I don't think we could find a better place to live."

Residents stay connected with friends and family on the Abbey Park facebook page. Visit www.facebook.com to check out photos from year-round events, say hello to Abbey Park residents or keep up with scheduled events. Abbey Park also produces monthly newsletters, weekly activity schedule and a daily posting of menus, schedules and photos from previous events on their in-house monitor system.

"Our friendly staff members arrive each day and work with one directive: to treat our residents at Abbey Park as if they are our own parents," Ward said. "As a result, we all feel like part of one big family here; this is our home away from home."



Abbey Park at Mill River is a great place to call home for the holidays. In addition to dozens of holiday parties, events and concerts, life at Abbey Park includes weekly live entertainment, wine and cheese, Happy Hour, ice cream socials, Wii Bowling, movies and card parties.

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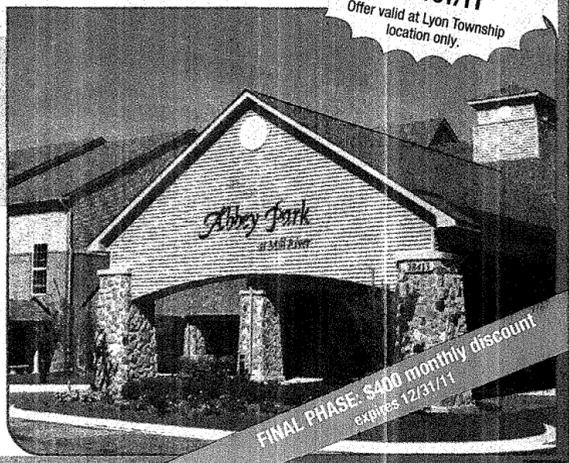


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SPORTS

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Churchill, Spartans ice foes at Invite

It proved to be a highly productive weekend for the Livonia Churchill boys hockey team.

The Chargers completed their two-game Metro Invitational sweep Saturday with a 5-0 triumph over Farmington at Novi Ice Arena.

Churchill, coming off a season-opening 9-2 win Friday over Clarkston, improved to 2-0 on the young season.

"We were a little slow out of the gate, but picked up the tempo," said Churchill coach Pete Mazzoni, whose team led 1-0 after one period. "We were able to get some good looks and did a good job of getting pucks to the paint."

Nick Proben tallied Churchill's first two goals including a power play effort with 8:33 left in the first period from Jake Otto.

Proben scored again with 10:02 remaining in the second period from Jim Lelekatch to make it 2-0.

The Chargers then added two more goals before the period ended for a 4-0 advantage — Blake Burnette from Mike Rybinski just 49 seconds later and Mike Gambino from Otto and Drew Puishes with 7:38 to play.

In the third period, Brad Milks notched his fifth of the season from Devin Smythe with 9:45 to go.

Senior Alex Estes had to make just 12 saves to notch his first shutout of the season.

Farmington's Jon Lethemon, a sophomore, stopped 42-of-47 Churchill shots.

The loss dropped the Fal-

Please see ICERS, B4



Madonna University goalkeeper Adrian Motta (Livonia Churchill) made 10 saves in Saturday's 4-1 loss at Rio Grande (Ohio) in the first round of the NAIA National Tournament.

MADONNA SPORTS INFORMATION

Season over

Rio Grande boots MU in NAIA's, 4-1

The Madonna University men's soccer team's improbable run to the 2011 NAIA Men's Soccer National Championship opening round came to an abrupt end on Saturday night with a 4-1 loss at the University of Rio Grande (Ohio) at Davis Field.

Rio Grande, the No. 5 national seed, scored a pair of goals in each half to earn the victory while improving to 18-2 overall and securing a spot in the Sweet 16.

The Crusaders were dealt a blow when all-conference defender Franco Giorgi went down just minutes into the match and missed the balance of the contest with a lower body injury.

Rio Grande got on the board in the 10th minute when Joel Thiessen finished off a rebound of a Rafael Maccauro shot for a

1-0 lead.

The nation's leading scorer, Richard Isberner, then made it 2-0 with his 28th goal of the season in the 25th minute to stake the home side to a 2-0 lead at intermission.

Madonna had a chance to get on the board in the 55th minute when freshman Ryan Williams struck a hard shot in on Jack Marchant, but the Red Storm goalkeeper just knocked the ball over the bar to keep MU off the board.

The Red Storm added two more goals for a 4-0 lead before freshman Nick Atwood (Livonia Stevenson) broke up the shut-out with his first career goal in the 81st minute after finishing off a lead pass from junior striker Dane Laird (Farmington Harrison).

"I am really proud of how the team kept competing all game,"

MU coach Eric Scott said. "Derek (Rosiek) and Cayle (Lackten) really stepped up when Franco (Giorgi) went down. This was Derek's best game in a Madonna uniform. I thought Dane (Laird) was fantastic today, especially in our goal sequence."

Junior goalkeeper Adrian Motta (Livonia Churchill) made 10 saves for the Crusaders, who closed the season with a 7-9-5 overall record after advancing to the program's third NAIA tournament since 2007.

MU bids good-bye to just one senior, defender Andrew Kidder (Macomb Lutheran North).

"I have a tremendous amount of respect for our only senior," Scott said. "I've had the privilege of coaching him the last four years and I am incredibly indebted to Drew for coming with me two years ago when we started here."

MSU's Kroll top finisher

Michigan State University sophomore Sara Kroll (Livonia Churchill) placed 51st overall in the 2011 NCAA Women's Cross Country Championship held in Terre Haute, Ind.

Kroll, the Spartans' top finisher, recorded a 6-kilometer time of 20 minutes, 37.4 seconds as the Spartans earned a 16th in the team standings with 386 points, only five behind 15th place Michigan.

Senior Rachel McFarlane (Churchill) recorded a time of 21:34.6 for 171st. She rallied late after splitting with a 10:30 clocking at the 3K mark.

It marked MSU's best finish at the year-end race since 2008 when the Spartans placed 11th overall. It was also MSU's 10th performance all-time with a finish in the top 20.

Georgetown claimed the women's team title with 162 points narrowly edging runner-up Washington (170) and Villanova (181).

Villanova senior Sheila Reid took individual honors in 19:42, while Oregon junior Jordan Hasay was also second in 19:42.

Kubicki 77th in NAIA meet

Freshman Bianca Kubicki (Canton) made Madonna University cross country history again on Saturday by placing 77th at the 2011 NAIA Women's Cross Country National Championships held at the Fort Vancouver (Wash.) Historical Site.

Kubicki covered the 5-kilometer course in 19 minutes, 14 seconds, good for the best finish in MU cross country history at the nationals.

Kubicki placed in the top third of the 323 runner field and was the fourth fastest runner to come from the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference.

MU harriers All-Academic

National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) announced its 2011 Men's and Women's Cross Country Scholar-Athletes following the conclusion of the 2011 National Cross Country Championships and a trio of Madonna University runners were honored.

Junior Tim Boes (Westland John Glenn) along with Kari Saarela (Livonia Franklin) and Cassie Yarnall (Auburn Hills Oakland Christian) were among the 455 student-athletes of both genders honored by the NAIA.

Boes (social work) has been the Crusaders' top men's runner each of the last three seasons while Saarela (nursing), making her third appearance on the list, returned to the course after missing all of 2010 with a leg injury.

Yarnall (sign language studies) is making her second appearance on the Scholar-Athlete list and was selected for the Michigan Campus Compact Spirit Award in 2010.

To be selected, a student-athlete must be nominated by his or her coach, be a junior or senior academically and have a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or higher.



Wayne State senior defensive end Jon Robinson (Livonia Churchill) is one of the team leaders as the Warriors prepare for Saturday's second-round NCAA Division II test at Nebraska-Kearney.

WAYNE STATE SPORTS INFORMATION

WSU gridgers seize moment

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

It was the first playoff game in the history of Wayne State University football and it will certainly go down as a memorable one.

The Warriors earned a 48-38 first-round NCAA Division II playoff victory during a six-inch blast of snow Saturday at St. Cloud State (Minn.), located an hour outside Minneapolis.

"It was a lot of fun," said WSU starting offensive guard Mike Hinkle, a Livonia native who prepped at Dearborn Divine Child. "I've never played in snow like that. All I kept thinking about was New England Patriots-Steelers game — seeing the offensive and defensive lines' breaths in the snow. That's what I was thinking



Mike Hinkle



Pat Cecile



Jon Robinson



Sean McAuliffe

about all time. I've never played in anything like before. It was a great experience."

Please see GRIDGERS, B4

Madonna men win third straight

A quartet of players scored in double figures to propel the Madonna University men's basketball team to its third straight victory with a 78-73 come-from-behind triumph Saturday over Alma College in the WHAC/MIAA Challenge held at the University of Michigan-Dearborn.

Sophomores Bobby Naubert (Livonia Stevenson) and Travis Schuba paced the Crusaders (3-4) with 17 points apiece. Naubert also dished out 10 assists.

A third sophomore, Fred Williams contributed 14 points, while junior Eoghann Stephens tallied 11 points and a like number of rebounds for a double-

COLLEGE HOOPS

double of his own.

Alma held the lead throughout most of the first half, claiming its largest advantage, 16-4, with 14:59 to go. The Scots enjoyed an 11-point lead, 34-23, with 6:59 left before the Crusaders began to make their move.

A triple from Williams began a 15-5 run over the final 6:47 of the half that pulled the Crusaders to within one, 39-38 after 20 minutes.

MU then took the lead for good by using the 14-2 run to open the half.

Combined over the final 6:47

and the opening 6:43 of the second half, the Crusaders out-scored the Scots 29-7 to build a 54-41 cushion with 13:17 left in the game.

Alma got to within four, 74-70, with 26 seconds left in the game, but made free throws by sophomore Matt Jenkins and Schuba sealed the win for the Crusaders.

Sean Clancy led the Scots (1-2) with a game-high 23 points to go along with 10 rebounds. Cory Schneider added 12 points.

Following a brief break for the Thanksgiving holiday, MU returns action 3 p.m. Saturday at Mount Vernon Nazarene

(Ohio).

MID MICHIGAN 78, SCHOOLCRAFT 74: Double-doubles by Karl Moore and Daniel Hill were not enough Saturday as Schoolcraft College (3-1) fell to host Mid-Michigan Community College (4-3) at Mount Pleasant Sacred Heart High School.

Moore finished with 20 points and 13 rebounds, while Hill (Wayne Memorial) added 14 points and 13 boards in a physical game marred by numerous fouls and turnovers.

Corey Reynolds (Livonia Clarenceville) chipped in with 10 points and six rebounds, while Derrick Hanson added nine points and four rebounds. Zachary Childress dished out five assists for the Ocelots, who led 33-25 at halftime.

Sheldon Lowman and Jake Blake paced the victorious Lakers with 20 and 15 points, respectively.

All-area soccer stars turn in pitch-perfect efforts

First team

Rene Mejia, GK, Sr., Plymouth: The acrobatic senior goalkeeper posted seven shutouts for the Wildcats, leading them to a record of 8-6-2 overall and 6-2-2 in the KLAA South.

For his efforts, Mejia was named to the All-KLAA 1st team.

"Outstanding goalie for the 'Cats," coach Jeff Neschich said. "He was a team captain and the vocal leader on the field."

"He made the outstanding saves for us all season and kept us in a lot of games."

Connor Furgason, Def., Sr., Canton: The senior and co-captain scored 17 goals, many coming off of corner kicks, and added nine assists for the Division 1 champion Chiefs.

Furgason was instrumental in Canton's lone goal in the final against Grand Haven as he screened the goalkeeper on the long shot by Daniel Ovesea.

Honors keep piling up for him, too. He was named to the All-KLAA, All-District, All-Region and 1st-team All-State teams.

And add to that lofty honors such as All-State "Dream Team," regional All-American and national All-American.

"Connor displayed a tremendous amount of leadership qualities that can unite any team," coach George Tomasso said.

Jake Genrich, Def., Sr., Salem: The senior defender began his three-year varsity Salem stint by starting in the Division 1 state semifinal in 2009 and he kept on accomplishing big things the rest of the way.

The team captain tallied four goals and four assists for the Rocks, who were in the state's Top-10 rankings for part of the season.

"Jake reads the game exceptionally well and has outstanding anticipation," coach Ed McCarthy said.

Genrich was named to the 2nd-team All-State and All-KLAA squads for his excellent season and was Salem's Most Valuable Defensive Player. He will play college soccer at Bowling Green.

Tyler Winningham, Def., Sr., Canton: Whenever Canton needed to take a key corner kick, it often was Winningham to handle the task.

Many times during the Chiefs' championship season, those corner kicks were perfectly placed inside the goal box and enabled teammates to finish off goals.

An all-around player, the defender collected nine goals and eight assists and was named to the All-KLAA, All-District and All-Region teams. Winningham also was selected as an All-State honorable mention player.

"Tyler displayed sportsmanship throughout the season and on one occasion helped an opposing injured player," Tomasso said.

2011 ALL-OBSERVER BOYS SOCCER TEAMS

FIRST TEAM

GK-Rene Mejia, Sr., Plymouth
DEF-Connor Furgason, Sr., Canton
DEF-Jake Genrich, Sr., Salem
DEF-Tyler Winningham, Sr., Canton
DEF-Alex Jones, Sr., Churchill
DEF-Mitch Boehm, Sr., Luth. Westland
MF-Brent Winkler, Jr., Farmington
MF-Jake Bur, Sr., N. Farmington
MF-Dan Ross, Jr., Ply. Christian
MF-Chris Ensor, Sr., Salem
F-Daniel Ovesea, Jr., Canton
F-Mitch Posuniak, Sr., Canton
F-Vaughn Frederick, Sr., Garden City
F-Zach Atwood, Jr., Stevenson
F-Jeff Thomas, Sr., Stevenson

SECOND TEAM

GK-Austin Valentine, Sr., John Glenn
GK-Matt Wisniewski, Jr., Garden City
DEF-John D'Agostino, Jr., Stevenson
DEF-Darren Sacks, Sr., Stevenson
DEF-Daniel Mullett, Sr., Ply. Christian
DEF-Ryan Haefner, Sr., Farm. Harrison
DEF-Andrew Crechiolo, Sr., Franklin
DEF-Michael Ambrose, Sr., Plymouth
DEF-Sean Kunde, Sr., Wayne Memorial
MF-Kyle Kansman, Jr., N. Farmington
MF-Donald Payne, Jr., Farmington
MF-Justin Bean, Sr., John Glenn
MF-Madala Mathurin, Sr., Harrison
MF-Mike Murphy, Jr., Churchill
MF-Chandler Olah, Jr., Plymouth
MF-Nathan Bergeson, Sr., Canton
F-Andy Hill, Sr., Farmington
F-Lewis Ellis, Jr., Redford Union
F-Jake Pascarella, Sr., Salem
F-Austin Henson, Sr., Churchill

COACH OF THE YEAR

George Tomasso, Canton

HONORABLE MENTION

Churchill: Colton Robison, Tyler Reetz, Derek Ralls; Franklin: Craig Beebe, Ryan Tikey, Gabe Edwards; Stevenson: Zack Zukowski, Alex Vrzoški, Chris Liepa; John Glenn: Alex Isaevski, Tyler Simpson, Bobby Mason; Wayne: Kevin Diehl, Zach Huffman, Jacob Charron; Clarenceville: Evan Gregg, Ma Sambou Jatta; Lutheran Westland: Ernie Babon, Seth Whitehouse; Huron Valley Lutheran: Justin Howell; N. Farmington: Alex Woods, Ronnie Basin, Patrick Cuffaro; Farmington: Tom Ashmore, Dominique Hajdu, Kevin Pachuta, Tommy O'Connor, Ryan Markiewicz, Alex Arlin, Brandon Schulz; Harrison: Trevor Kubitskey, Luai Fakhoury, Brandon Buckner; Plymouth: Viet Nguyen, Zach D'Agostino, Dohyung Kim, Mike Shackleford, Matheo Segovia-Plate; Salem: Blake Townes, Austin Covert; Canton: Steven Murphy, Shean Krollicki, Neil Zech, Ken Krollicki; Plymouth Christian: Alex Chapman, Jacob Bailey; Garden City: Richie Blevins, Josh Selinski, Brian Kalinowski; Redford Union: Jeff Swinea, Aaron Sandelin; Redford Thurston: Austin Alessandrini, Dylan Crompton.

Alex Jones, Def., Sr., Churchill: The senior central defender earned honorable mention all-state honors in Division 1 along with being named to the all-KLAA team.

"Alex was our best player," Churchill coach Reid Friedrichs said. "He's one of the best one-on-one defenders we've had at Churchill in a long time."

Mitchell Boehm, Def., Sr., Luth. Westland: The senior defender showed his versatility with 14 goals and two assists en route to Division 2 second-team all-state honors and first-team all-Michigan Independent Athletic Conference honors.

"Depending on the opponent and what the score was at the time Mitchell was asked to play several different spots on the pitch," Lutheran Westland coach Rich Block said. "So he never really had the luxury to just stay in one spot and pad his stats. Mitchell's dedication to the success of team and program came first to him, not personal stats or goals."

Boehm also played full time on Lutheran Westland's playoff-qualifying football team as a kicker and defensive back.

"Mitchell is a strong player physically, mentally and very highly skilled both technically and tactically," Lutheran Westland coach Rich Block said. "Mitchell's stats may have not been as elevated

as some, his value to our team was his strong presence goal line-to-goal line and touch line to touch line."

Boehm, a first-team Lutheran High School All-America, plans to play next season at either Madonna or Concordia (Wis.).

Brent Winkler, MF, Jr., Farmington: The junior midfielder is a three-year varsity starter for the Falcons, who are the OAA White Division champions. Winkler played a large role in Farmington having a 13-3-4 record as he scored 20 goals and had four assists. He was the offensive catalyst who often got things started and ended up on the finishing end. In his high school career, he has 36 goals and 22 assists.

Winkler, who was a team captain, is an all-league, all-district and all-state, third-team selection. He helped Waza FC West 95 win the U-16 State Cup last summer, and he has since joined the Columbus Soccer Academy Wolves U-16 team.

"Brent is one of the most talented players to ever play at Farmington," coach Luke Juncaj said. "He is a complete player who can be effective at any position. He has great speed and works extremely hard. Brent is a consistent player. This year he scored in just about every game."



Rene Mejia
Plymouth



C. Furgason
Canton



Jake Genrich
Salem



T. Winningham
Canton



Alex Jones
Churchill



M. Boehm
Luth. West.



B. Winkler
Farmington



Jacob Bur
N. Farmington



Daniel Ross
Ply. Christian



Chris Ensor
Salem



D. Ovesea
Canton



M. Posuniak
Canton



V. Frederick
Garden City



Z. Atwood
Stevenson



Jeff Thomas
Stevenson



G. Tomasso
Canton coach

Jacob Bur, MF, Sr., N.

Farmington: The senior midfielder was a three-year starter who also played defense for a portion of the season due to injuries. He moved back to attacking mid, scoring seven goals and making four assists. Bur was a major reason why the Raiders owned the midfield at the end of the season, according to coach Mike Horner. Bur was the player designated to take all corner and penalty kicks. He is an all-division player and an all-state academic honoree with a 4.0 GPA.

"Jake is every coach's dream," Horner said. "He is smart, mentally and physically tough and a consummate team player. As a captain, he provided steady leadership on and off the field. When our roster was riddled with injuries, Jake played wherever we needed him, from the back line to the front, without complaint. He never came off the field and had the stamina to play the entire game at a high energy level."

"In his natural position of center midfielder, he shut down the opponent's attack, forcing them to play wide or over the top. Jake was a playmaker on offense, especially in transition, where he was instrumental in starting most of our attacks. Opposing coaches were always relieved to find out he was a senior this year."

Dan Ross, MF, Jr., Ply. Christian: Experience with the Regional Olympic Development Program paid dividends for the junior, who scored 15 goals and 13 assists for the Eagles.

The team captain earned selection to the Class D All-State second team along with first-team honors in the district, conference and region.

"Dan Ross is an

extremely talented and gifted player," said PCA coach Nathan Yates.

"During my time as a soccer coach over the years I have never seen a player blessed with so many abilities."

"Throughout the season many teams we played against tried to refuse Dan the ball with no success. Dan found ways to get open and continue to be a dominant player on our team throughout the season."

Chris Ensor, MF, Sr., Salem: One of Salem's strong points was sturdy defense and the senior midfielder was one of the main reasons for that.

Ensor also contributed with his all-around play, which earned him an All-State honorable mention selection. He also was selected to the All-KLAA team.

"He has strong vision and was our leader in the midfield," McCarthy noted. "He was the key to our ability to keep possession of the ball."

Daniel Ovesea, F, Jr., Canton: It was the junior's goal that gave the Chiefs the D1 state championship, but he scored many big goals all year as he finished with 23 (along with seven assists).

Of course, the highlight came on Nov. 5 in the D1 final against Grand Haven at East Kentwood Crestwood Middle School.

Ovesea lofted a direct kick from midfield that landed inside the left post to provide the winning margin.

"Daniel displayed a sharp-shooting, goal-scoring mentality that led his team to victory," Tomasso said.

Mitch Posuniak, F, Sr., Canton: One of the offensive big guns for D1 state champion Canton, he tallied 18 goals and seven assists — including a big goal during the regional semifinal win over Dearborn.

Posuniak's senior season earned the co-captain several accolades, including selection to the All-KLAA, All-District and All-Region teams along with an All-State honorable mention nod. "Mitch displayed a desirable winning attitude that brought out a fierce competitor, and (he) led by example as the team followed," Tomasso said.

Vaughn Frederick, F, Sr., Garden City: Frederick enjoyed a record-setting season for the Cougars, netting 22 goals and 21 assists while leading his team to a Western Wayne Athletic Conference championship. Frederick combines uncanny dribbling skills, great vision and stellar speed. "Vaughn is a dynam-

ic player with a ball at his feet," said Garden City head coach Jason Dean. "He has the ability to beat defenders in space with an arsenal of moves that most college players have. Vaughn has an incredible ability to use his speed to break entire defenses down. His willingness to distribute the ball made him the total package."

Zach Atwood, F, Jr., Stevenson: The junior forward was the Spartans' MVP and leading scorer with 17 goals and 10 assists while earning all-KLAA, all-district and honorable mention all-state honors.

"Zach had an outstanding season for us, scoring a number of important, and often incredible, goals," Stevenson coach Lars Richters said. "He continues to work hard to learn and to improve himself as a player, and he has a very bright future ahead of him."

Jeff Thomas, F, Sr., Stevenson: The senior transfer finished the year with 11 goals and six assists while earning all-KLAA, all-district and honorable mention all-state recognition for the Division 1 district champions.

"Jeff was a huge addition to our team this season," Richters said. "He brought with him a great amount of high school and club experience, strong technical ability, and a competitive streak. He plays with a good blend of desire and style."

Coach of the Year

George Tomasso, Canton: The former goalkeeper of a state champion Canton team during the 1990s, Tomasso duplicated that feat as head coach of the 24-1-2 Chiefs.

Canton racked up championships in the KLAA South Division, Kensington Conference, over all KLAA, Division 1 districts, regionals and state finals.

"Six out of six trophies," Tomasso said. "What a great season that will always be remembered."

Tomasso and assistant coach Mark Zemanski emphasized to the team the importance of never letting up over 80 minutes and taking "ownership of performance."

With a strong group of senior leaders, that message resonated with the full squad as it battled back from adversity time after time.

In the district final against state-ranked Novi, the Chiefs rallied from a goal down and went on from there to run the table.

"We were very proud of the way the team responded after each half-time," Tomasso said. "As you may know, each time we played Novi we came back from a goal down in all three games to win."

"Throughout the season the team gained strength by realizing that the only way to win was to perform their best every minute of every game."

Canton followed the win over Novi with victories in the regionals against Dearborn and Ann Arbor Pioneer and with a 1-0 victory over defending D1 champion and No. 1-ranked Warren DeLaSalle in the state semis.

Of course, Canton capped it all off with a 1-0 victory over Grand Haven on Nov. 5 in the D1 final at East Kentwood.

That gave the Chiefs their first state title in 17 years, when Tomasso was in goal.

Although Tomasso said the 1994 title was special in its own right, coaching this year's team proved even more rewarding.

"These guys wrote their own destiny," he said, shortly after the championship victory.

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MHSAA GIRLS SWIM RESULTS



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Livonia Stevenson's Ashley Reed swims the butterfly leg in the 200-yard medley relay during Friday's preliminary heats at the MHSAA Division 1 state finals held at EMU's Jones Natatorium.

MHSAA DIVISION 1 SWIMMING & DIVING CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS
Nov. 19 at EMU's Jones Natatorium
TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Farmington Hills Mercy, 258 points; 2. Saline, 243.5 points; 3. Bloomfield Hills Marian, 165; 4. Hudsonville, 156; 5. Ann Arbor Huron, 153; 6. Ann Arbor Skyline, 147; 7. Holland West Ottawa, 146; 8. South Lyon, 125; 9. Zeeland, 104; 10. Clarkston, 103; 11. Novi, 102; 12. Lake Orion, 68; 13. Northville, 67; 14. Rockford, 57; 15. Jackson, 49; 19. Salem, 28; 37. Canton, 2.

FINAL HEAT RESULTS
200-yard medley relay: 1. Saline (Maddy Frost, Sammy Richard, Emily Lau, Cristina Czyrka), 1:45.97; 3. Mercy (Elliott Schinella, Maddy Loniewski, Annie Valentine, Roxanne Griffore), 1:46.57.

200 freestyle: 1. Maddie Wright (Waterford United), 1:49.04; 5. Sato Kakiyama (Mercy), 1:52.88; 6. Olivia Samoray (Mercy), 1:53.00.

200 individual medley: 1. Anna DeMonte (Huron), 1:59.67; 3. Loniewski (Mercy), 2:04.82.

50 freestyle: 1. Jaynie Pulte (Marian), 23.23.
1-meter diving: 1. Lauren Reedy (Rochester), 458.00 points; 7. Emmy Orrico (Mercy), 397.65.

100 butterfly: 1. Maddie Wright (Waterford United), 54.82; 5. Kakiyama (Mercy), 56.73; 6. Valentine (Mercy), 56.94.

100 freestyle: 1. Annie Jongekrijg (Lake Orion), 50.32.
500 freestyle: 1. Marah Pugh (Macomb Dakota), 4:55.54;

4. Kathleen McGee (Mercy), 5:03.62; 5. Olivia Samoray (Mercy), 5:04.17; 7. Lauren Seroka (Salem), 5:04.47.
200 freestyle relay: 1. Hudsonville (Michaela Rookus, Audra Thornton, Makayla Myers, Danielle Freeman), 1:35.46; 3. Mercy (Loniewski, Schinella, Kakiyama, Samoray), 1:36.34.

100 backstroke: 1. Anna DeMonte (Huron), 54.56; 4. Schinella (Mercy), 57.14.
100 breaststroke: 1. Ashleigh Shanley (Skyline), 1:03.91.
400 freestyle relay: 1. Hudsonville (Makayla Myers, Audra Thornton, Michaela Rookus, Danielle Freeman), 3:27.65; 4. Mercy (Kakiyama, Kathleen McGee, Roxanne Griffore, Samoray), 3:31.11.

CONSOLATION FINALS
200-yard medley relay: 16. Canton (Caitlin Orr, Hannah Jenkins, Delaney Adams, Destinee Barmore-Hicks), 1:52.67.

200 freestyle: 9. McGee (Mercy), 1:53.90; 16. Seroka (Salem), 1:55.79.

200 individual medley: 11. Valentine (Mercy), 2:10.43.

50 freestyle: 10. Schinella (Mercy), 24.31.

100 freestyle: 16. Griffore (Mercy), 53.88.

100 backstroke: 10. Abby Au-miller (Salem), 59.12; 14. Jordan Ewald (Mercy), 59.62; 15. Griffore (Mercy), 59.90; 16. Christine Edwards (Mercy), 1:00.03.

100 breaststroke: 9. Loniewski (Mercy)
400 freestyle relay: 13. Salem (Seroka, Maddie Gorman, Julia Suriano, AuMiller), 3:38.12.

AREA PRELIM RESULTS

200-yard medley relay: 19. Livonia Stevenson (Shaelyn Dolinski, Julia Hurley, Ashley Reed, Brenna Gabrielson), 1:53.15.

200 freestyle: 32. Sarah Cauzillo (Stevenson), 1:58.31; 33. Evelyn Stein (Stevenson), 1:58.32.

200 individual medley: 34. Dolinski (Stevenson), 2:17.62.

50 freestyle: 35. (tie) Gabrielson (Stevenson), 25.26.

100 butterfly: 23. Sara Stemen (Stevenson), 59.92; 31. Reed (Stevenson), 1:00.7.

500 freestyle: 23. Stein (Stevenson), 5:16.86.

100 backstroke: 21. Reed (Stevenson), 1:00.68; 34. Gabrielson (Stevenson), 1:01.6; 36. Dolinski (Stevenson), 1:01.88; 38. Emily Roque (Stevenson), 1:02.24.

100 breaststroke: 35. (tie) Cauzillo (Stevenson), 1:10.26; 39. Hurley (Stevenson), 1:10.89.

400 freestyle relay: 18. Stevenson (Cauzillo, Gabrielson, Stemen, Reed), 3:40.99.

DIVISION 3

Nov. 18 at Oakland Univ.
200-yard medley relay: 26. Livonia Ladywood (Nicole Munson, Caleigh Griffin, Alanna Tarnacki, Alaina Stevenson), 2:01.41.

100 butterfly: 19. Abby Pelon (Ladywood), 1:06.37.

500 freestyle: 27. Heather Pijor (Ladywood), 5:42.26.

100 breaststroke: 31. Griffin (Ladywood), 1:15.06.

400 freestyle: 24. Ladywood (Hannah Weaver, Pijor, Pelon, Stevenson), 3:57.8.

Madonna falls 82-53 in Challenge

An early double digit deficit was too much to overcome Saturday as the Madonna University women's basketball team fell 82-53 to Bethel College (Ind.) at the WHAC/MCC Challenge at Indiana Wesleyan's Luckey Arena.

Juniors Michelle Lindsey and Kaylee McGrath (Livonia Stevenson) paced MU with 14 and 10 points, respectively. Kristie Porada added eight off the bench, while Lindsey also grabbed a team-high six rebounds.

The two sides traded the lead back-and-

COLLEGE HOOPS

forth over the first five-plus minutes of the game until Bethel went on a 14-2 run over a four-minute span to take a 20-9 advantage with 10:06 to go.

MU (2-3) whittled the deficit down to just six, 32-26, with 3:35 left, but the Pilots closed the half on a 17-5 spurt to take a 49-31 lead going into halftime.

The Pilots' offense continued to click in the second half as the Crusaders could not get any closer than 18 the rest of the way.

Laura Johnson led Bethel (7-1) with a game-high 25 points, including 6-of-15 from three-point range. Ashlee Ort came off the bench to add 13, while Kristin Hicks added 12 (all on triples).

MU shot only 35.2 percent from the field (19-of-54) including 6-of-20 beyond the arc (30 percent).

The Crusaders are idle until Wednesday, Nov. 30, when Indiana Tech comes to the Activities Center for the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference opener for both teams.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

WYAA baseball

The Westland Youth Athletic Association will hold a baseball information meeting for parents and coaches at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 29 at the Lange Compound, 6050 Farmington Road (not of Ford Rod).

Plans for the 2012 baseball season will be discussed. For more information, call the WYAA at (734) 421-0640.

WYAA meeting

The Westland Youth Athletic Association will hold its annual meeting at 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 1 at the Lange Compound Building, 6050 Farmington Road (north of Ford Road).

The annual meeting agenda includes electing the 2012 board of directors, year in review and other WYAA business. For more information, call Keith DeMolay at (734) 516-9269.

WYAA volleyball

Registration for Westland Youth Athletic Association girls volleyball will be from 10 a.m. to noon Saturdays and 7-9 p.m. Wednesdays (or until teams fill) at the WYAA's Lange Compound, 6050 Farmington Road (north of Ford Road).

Registration will be for the following age groups: 9-11, 12-14 and 15-17. Games and practices will be held at the Bailey Recreation Center. Coaches are also wanted.

The WYAA will also stage a volleyball clinic for ages 9-11 from noon to 1:30 p.m.; ages 12-14, 1:45-3:15 p.m.; and ages 15-17, 3:30-5 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 3, at the Bailey Center.

You can also register for WYAA volleyball the day of the clinic. For more information, call Keith DeMolay at (734) 722-1251; or (734)

516-9269. You can also call the WYAA Compound at (734) 421-0640.

K-8 wrestling club

The newly-formed Livonia Wrestling Club for youths in kindergarten through eighth grade will be run from 6-7:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, Nov. 29 through March 29, at the Franklin High School wrestling room, 31000 Joy Road, Livonia.

All coaches and volunteers will be under the direction of the Franklin coaching staff.

The \$75 registration fee can be paid at the first practice of the season (includes T-shirt).

Checks should be made payable to: Livonia Wrestling Club.

For more information, e-mail Dave Chiola at chiola44@yahoo.com; or call (248) 752-2340.

Elks Hoop Shoot

The 2011 Elks Hoop Shoot contest, sponsored by the City of Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation, will be Saturday, Dec. 3 at the Livonia Community Recreation Center, located at 15100 Hubbard (at Five Mile Road).

Registration is free and starts at 8:30 a.m. followed by competition at 9 a.m. for boys and girls ages divisions 8-9, 10-11 and 12-13.

Each contestant will shot 25 free throws. Age-group winners advance to district competition in January.

For more information, call (734) 466-2410.

Pom Pon clinic

Livonia Franklin will stage a pom pon clinic for girls ages 5-12 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 15 at high school. Included in the \$20 cost is T-shirt and snack.

Participants will do a performance during the

Franklin boys basketball game Friday, Dec. 16 at home against Livonia Stevenson.

The registration deadline is Monday, Dec. 5. To pre-register, call Nancy at (734) 502-0877.

Softball camps

Coach Al White of Madonna University will stage a series of winter softball camps for ages 7-18 including:

Hitting - 9-11:30 a.m. (session 1) and noon to 2:30 p.m. (session 2) on Sunday, Dec. 18 (cost \$30);

Fundamentals (session 1) - 9-11:30 a.m. Saturdays, Jan. 7, 14, 21 and 28 (cost \$125 before Dec. 1 or \$150 after Dec. 1);

Fundamentals (session 2) - noon to 2:30 p.m. Sundays, Feb. 5, 12, 19 and 26 (cost \$125 before Dec. 1 or \$150 before Dec. 1).

For more information, visit www.MadonnaCrusaders.com; or e-mail White at awhite@madonna.edu.

You can also call the MU softball office at (734) 432-5783 or Steve Gentilia at (734) 776-1716.

Holiday soccer

The Michigan Bucks will stage its third annual holiday soccer tournament, Thursday-Friday, Dec. 29-30, at Ultimate Soccer Arenas in Pontiac.

The 8 vs. 8 format will guarantee all age boys and girls teams a minimum of three 50 minute games, with a championship final to be played for the top two teams in each group.

Team registration is \$395 (until Dec. 26), but all teams registering by Dec. 10 will receive a \$45 early registration discount (\$350 team fee).

For more information, visit www.bucksoccer.com or call tournament director Brandon Sizemore at (248) 977-9133.

Whalers continue hot streak, drop Rangers

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Two goals within five seconds on a 5-on-3 power play late in the third period Saturday lifted the Plymouth Whalers to a come-from-behind 4-3 victory over Kitchener at Compuware Arena.

The Whalers, who won for the third time in three nights and seventh straight game, tied the Ontario Hockey League contest on a power-play goal Stefan Noesen at the 18-minute mark of the third. Then right off the ensuing face-off, Rickard Rakell beat Kitchener's John Gibson for the winning tally.

Plymouth defenseman and captain Beau Schmitz (Howell) netted the first two goals against Gibson, who faced 50 shots.

Stopping 28-of-32 shots for the win was goalie Scott Wedgewood.

With the victory, the Whalers (16-6-2-1, 35 points) moved into first place in the West Division of the Western Conference and are tied for the conference lead with London, although the Knights have three games in hand.

Wedgewood also was the winning goalie on Friday at London, stopping all but one of 23 shots in a 4-1 win.

Rakell scored twice with other goals by Andy Bathgate and Alex Aleardi (Farmington Hills).

Thursday night, the Whalers kicked off a productive three-night span with a 5-4 overtime triumph at Windsor.

Plymouth jumped out to a 3-0 lead on first-period

goals by Garrett Meurs, Schmitz and Tom Wilson but the Spitfires tied the game 3-3.

Bathgate briefly enabled the Whalers to regain the lead, with J.T. Miller collecting his third assist of the night on the play. But Windsor forced overtime when Alexander Khokhlachev slipped a shot behind Plymouth netminder Matt Mahalak (28 saves).

Then less than a minute into OT, defenseman and Farmington Hills native Austin Levi took a feed from Noesen and beat goalie John Cullen to cap the win.

Plymouth will look to keep the hot streak going with two home games this week against Saginaw on Wednesday and Peterborough on Friday. (Both are 7 p.m. starts.)

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GRIDDER

Continued from page B1

The start of the game was delayed and half-time was extended from 20 to 50 minutes so maintenance crews could plow and keep the field turf clear.

"I've never played in a snow storm before," said WSU senior defensive end Jon Robinson, a Livonia Churchill grad who finished with three tackles on the afternoon. "I was looking forward to it because I watched the weather forecast and knew it would be snowing. "Once the game started I quickly realized that it wasn't as much fun as I thought because the snow wasn't wet, and it was clumping, and it was sticking to the bottom of my shoes so you couldn't get the best traction. But once I got used to that, the game was fun again."

It was a white Christmas that came 36 days early. "Unbelievable, it was the most fun I've ever had playing football my whole career and I've been playing since the fourth grade," said Pat Cecile, a redshirt junior defensive lineman who played at Livonia Franklin. "Playing in the snow was almost like a back yard game when you get your buddies together. It was a lot of fun."

Local products Hinkle, Robinson and Cecile are just three of the reasons why the Warriors, now 9-3 overall, travel again this Saturday to face second-seed University of Nebraska-Kearney in the second round of the playoffs.

Another contribution has come from 6-foot-2, 268-pound redshirt freshman Sean McAuliffe, another Franklin grad who has shored up the Warriors' H-back and tight end spot due to injuries. (Yet another local member of the squad is 6-3, 306-pound redshirt sophomore center T.J. Arancibia of Westland John Glenn, who has appeared in two games.)

"What happened is that we had actually lost two tight ends in the first couple of games," Wayne State eighth-year coach Paul Winters said. "It got to the point where we had four tight ends on the roster all injured, so we moved Sean (McAuliffe) over from defense. He was a big, strong body who can catch the foot-



T.J. Arancibia

ball so we moved over him over from defense and he's done a nice job for us."

Cecile and McAuliffe were also teammates at Franklin.

"It's funny because he came in as a defensive lineman like I did," Cecile said. "They needed him over at tight end and he was selfless about it. He was going to do whatever it took to get on the field. It's surprising, but he's like a utility guy. He plays fullback, tight end, anything."

Robinson, a 6-foot, 250-pound fifth-year senior, has started all 12 games and has 21 solo tackles, including two sacks, to go along with 13 assists.

"Jon Robinson plays with great heart, great intensity," Winters said of the All-Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Academic selection. "He works very hard. He's a relentless guy. And he's gotten better every year that he's been here. He's a leader ... guys follow him and they try and match his intensity."

Robinson, who has been commuting to the WSU campus all five years, was lightly recruited coming out of Churchill.

In fact, WSU was it. "There was not other place than Wayne State," he said. "My mom (Celia) has worked here 24 years, so since I've ever grown up I was pretty much a Warrior. I would have like to say I had a choice, but I wasn't heavily recruited out of high school. Coach Winters gave me a shot, I took the opportunity and I'm making the most of it."

On Saturday, St. Cloud put 38 points on the scoreboard, including 24 in the first half. But the host team rushed for only 141 yards on 23 carries.

"We've had our ups-and-downs, but we've practiced sticking together through adverse situations as a defense," said Robinson, a physical education major who would like to coach some day. "The other teams make plays and they're on scholarship, too. When they make those plays — how are you going to respond? You've got to win the next play and win the series. In the first half of that game they made some plays on us, and then we turned it up a little bit. We executed

and got the butterflies out of our stomachs and we played pretty good football the second half."

The 6-4, 265-pound Cecile rotates between defensive end and tackle where he has eight solos and 12 assists, along with 1.5 sacks.

"Pat Cecile's a tough guy, really just brings toughness to the team and the defensive line, and intensity," Winters said of the criminal justice major and All-Academic GLI-AC pick.

A year ago, WSU finished 9-2, but did not get a playoff bid. This season the Warriors wound up 8-3. And despite losing their regular season finale to Findlay (Ohio), 43-42, the Warriors got the nod this season from the NCAA selection committee.

"Last year we built on it," Cecile said. "We really preach character and family. We really are a family. Everyone's got each other's back. There's no fighting over who plays, carries or anything like that. We play together and it shows on Saturdays."

Nebraska-Kearney, coming off a bye week, presents new set of problems for the Warriors.

"Their quarterback is real shifty," Cecile said. "They run a spread and incorporate a lot of option. Their running back was injured most of the year and now he's back. We'll definitely have to prepare like we did last week in practice, and focus on stopping the run and shut down their quarterback."

Wayne State sophomore running back Toney Davis broke the school record for yards rushing in a single game with 326 against St. Cloud State, eclipsing the mark of 316 set in 2006 by Joique Bell, now a member of the New Orleans Saints.

"I go against those guys every day in practice and they work pretty hard," Robinson said. "They are a great offensive line. I knew the way they were determined all week that they'd just block their butts off. Give credit to Toney (Davis), too, because they were giving him the initial hole and he was making people miss. They just couldn't tackle the guy. They were blocking down the whole field and doing a great job."

At 6-2, 296 pounds, Hinkle has started all 12 games and has filled in at center twice, including last Saturday when he finished

the game after starter Thom Box went down with a slight injury. Hinkle also played center when Box got sick in a 27-24 overtime win at Hillsdale.

"Mike (Hinkle) has played well for us," Winters said. "He's on the right side with Will Khoury (Canton) and we run behind them in critical situations."

"They weren't able to tackle him (Davis) and our offensive line did a great job. Sometimes it happens."

And because of the snowy conditions, running the football became a point of emphasis on Saturday against St. Cloud State.

"We've got two really good running backs," said Hinkle, a former St. Michael's Grad School griddier. "As an offensive line we take a lot of pride in our drive blocks. We work them every day. We take pride in our run-blocking mentality."

Hinkle, who has one more year of eligibility remaining, gravitated toward WSU with the help of offensive line coach Terrey Heffernan. The assistant also recruited his older brother Andrew, who wound up playing at Grand Valley State.

"I just seemed to fit there very well," Hinkle said. "I like everything they had to say and coach Winters is a great coach. At the time the program wasn't where it is today. He (Winters) turned the program around and we're in the playoffs for the first time in 94 years."

So what has been the key to Wayne State's success this season?

"We stress a family atmosphere here," Hinkle said. "We're closer than any other team we've been on and everybody hangs out with everybody — all year long, not just during football. It's definitely a family atmosphere and that's what sets us apart."

Nebraska-Kearney, sporting a 10-1 record, comes into the game as the favorite. The forecast for this Saturday is partly cloudy, windy and 45 degrees.

No snow on the horizon. "We're not done yet," Robinson said. "We like to be the underrated team. We play a lot better when we're the underdogs and no one thinks we have a shot to win."

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CC wins fight for Ford Field

By Ed Wright
Observer Staff Writer

As the sixth play of overtime unfolded during Saturday's Division 1 semifinal football game between Novi Detroit Catholic Central and Rockford, the stands were packed with thousands of energetic fans, close to 150 players jammed the sidelines and Ram defensive backs shadowed Shamrock receivers as they searched for openings in the north end zone of Battle Creek's C.W. Post Field.

But Catholic Central running Anthony Darkangelo was all ... by ... himself.

And for that, the Rams paid dearly.

With his team trailing Rockford, 20-17, and facing a second-and-goal at the Ram 7, Darkangelo slipped out of the Shamrock's backfield like a thief in the night, and with the closest Ram five yards away, hauled in Kyle Cooper's soft spiral to put the hammer down on CC's dramatic 23-20 victory.

The 12-1 Shamrocks earned a berth in Saturday's Division 1 final against Detroit Cass Tech (10-3), which upended Utica Eisenhower, 6-3.

Rockford finished 11-2 after getting knocked out in a semifinal nail-biter for the second consecutive year.

"The play is called 35 Wham and I wasn't the primary receiver," Darkangelo said, moments after he was mobbed by a mass of jubilant teammates. "It's supposed to go to our tight end, but I was wide open so Kyle threw it to me. I just wanted to make sure I caught it."

"It seemed like the ball took about two minutes to get there," Catholic Central head coach Tom Mach said, smiling, as he recounted the final play. "Anthony made a great catch and Kyle put it right where it should be. It was a hard-fought game. Rockford is one of the best teams we've faced this year. It was one of those games that you were just happy to be able to participate in. Both teams played terrific."

Darkangelo's catch capped a thrill-a-minute showdown that was stuffed with offensive fireworks and bone-crunching collisions.

After yielding 17 first-half points to Rockford's multidimensional, misdirection-loaded "Wings & Things" offense, the Shamrock's defense was locked and loaded during the final 24 minutes, shutting out the Rams until Steven Mette's 26-yard field goal in overtime gave Rockford a short-lived lead.

The Shamrock's defense limited the Rams to a 1-yard run by Connor Grady — who was stonewalled by CC's Aaron Hess and Clay Behrman — and a pair of incompletions prior to Mette's field goal.

"Before we went out there (in overtime), we talked about how hard we've worked this year and how much we wanted it," said CC senior defensive back David Racey, who picked off a pair of Mark LaPrairie aerials. "We know that if we believe in ourselves, no one can stop us."

Rockford managed just 89 yards rushing on 23 attempts. Most of the Rams' success came when LaPrairie hooked up with Brandon Lubenow, who snared eight passes for 127 yards.

Cooper was more than efficient, completing 8 of

14 passes for 102 yards and two touchdowns.

In addition to gaining 37 yards on 11 carries, Darkangelo completed both of his halfback passes — the second a 21-yard throw-back to Cooper that set up the Shamrock's second TD — for 45 yards.

Junior battering ram/fullback David Houle churned out 85 yards on 24 carries for CC.

It took Rockford just 14 seconds to light up the scoreboard. That's how long it took the Rams to execute a deceptive 97-yard kickoff return by Lubenow on the opening kickoff. Mette's first of two extra points made it 7-0.

The Shamrocks countered with a pound-it-out, 14-play drive that took them from their own 13 to the Ram 16. Facing a third-and-10, Cooper lasered a pass to Darkangelo in the back of the end zone, but the TD was disallowed when the referees ruled that Darkangelo had stepped out of the end zone prior to catching the ball. The drive stalled two plays later following a 4-yard run by Cooper and an incomplete pass.

Rockford extended its lead to 10-0 on its first offensive possession when Mette ripped a 40-yard field goal through a gusty 20-mph wind with 2:19 left in the first quarter.

After going three-and-out on its next possession, CC got the ball back when Racey stepped in front of a LaPrairie pass and returned it to the Ram 22.

Four plays later, Cooper connected with Matt Doneth on an 8-yard touchdown pass to bring the Shamrocks to within 10-7.

Rockford re-upped its lead 17-7 when LaPrairie tossed a 12-yard TD pass to Lubenow with 7:10 left in the half.

Houle bulled in from two yards out 56.4 seconds before the half and Alex Kozlowski's second extra point made it 17-14.

Unsatisfied with a three-point cushion and unwilling to take a knee, Rockford drove to the CC 9, but came away empty when Justin Wustman was pulled down at the Shamrock 1 after hauling in a short LaPrairie pass.

Powered by six up-the-gut runs by Houle and a 34-yard pass from Cooper to Racey, the Shamrocks steamrolled down to the Rockford 12 on its next possession, but had to settle for a 27-yard Kozlowski field goal that knotted the game at 17-17.

The defenses took over the rest of the half. Pivotal plays by the Shamrocks included a fourth-down tackle by Matthew Godin and Samuel Vaitkevicius on a fourth-and-six run by Brady Gent at the CC 39; and Racey's second pick of the game with 5:37 left in the game at the CC 32.

Rockford's Shain Showers rained on the Shamrock's best drive when he intercepted a Cooper pass in the back of the end zone.

The Shamrocks appeared to have the game won in regulation, but Kozlowski's 19-yard field goal attempt with 30.2 seconds left never got enough height and failed to clear the offensive linemen.

That set up the dramatic overtime and the final game-sealing catch by Darkangelo, who quickly went from being the most isolated guy in Battle Creek to the most popular.

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ICERS

Continued from page B1

cons to 0-2. **STEVENSON 3, LAKE ORION 2:** Dominic Lutz scored the game-winning goal from Nate Sink just 1:55 into the third period as Livonia Stevenson (2-0) held off the Dragons (0-2) in the Metro Invitational at Novi Ice Arena. Stevenson jumped out to a 2-0 first-period lead on Tra-

vis Harvey's power-play goal from Mario Tomei at 5:35 followed by Chris McDonald's goal from J.D. Byrne and Devin Kelly at 7:46.

Lake Orion tied it with a pair of goals during the final 2:17 of the second period — Shane Stockwell and Justin McKelvey (a power play).

Stevenson goaltender Connor Humitz stopped 21-of-23 shots, while Drew Galasso made 29 saves for the Dragons.

"It was good to get the win and go to 2-0 on the season," Stevenson coach David Mitch-

ell said. "Lake Orion is a good program — they were a state semifinalist last year. However, we will have to be better and more disciplined in future games. We have to continue to work to get better."

PIONEER 4, LADYWOOD 3: Caroline Hurd recorded a hat trick, including the tying and game-winning goals during the final period to give Ann Arbor Pioneer (1-0, 1-0) the Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League win over host Livonia Ladywood (0-1, 0-1) at Plymouth's Arctic Pond.

Ladywood jumped out to a 2-0 lead in the first period on goals by Lane Kolpacke (from Jackie Kristofik) and Hannah Pereira (unassisted) before Pioneer's Julia Franceschi answered from Shay Pinhey and Hurd.

Ladywood went up 3-1 on Pereira's second goal, but Hurd made it 3-2 before the second period ended on assist from Franceschi.

"We came out on fire scoring two goals in the first two minutes," Ladywood coach Bruce Peck said. "We kept up the attack and played relatively well for the rest of the period and most of the second. However, killing off penalties started to take its toll, and by the third period it caught up to us."

Hurd scored twice in the final period on an unassisted effort followed by the game-winner (from Franceschi).

Pioneer goaltender Pauline Arsenault stopped 19-of-22 shots, while Ladywood's Sarah Koch made 16 saves.

THE WEEK AHEAD

PREP HOCKEY
Wednesday, Nov. 23
Churchill vs. Stevenson at Edgar Arena, 6 p.m.
Friday, Nov. 25
(Cranbrook Invitational)
Stevenson vs. G.P. South, 5 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 26
Stevenson at Cranbrook Invitational, TBA.
MEN'S COLLEGE HOOPS
Saturday, Nov. 26
Madonna at Mt. Vernon Nazarene (Ohio), 3 p.m.
WOMEN'S COLLEGE HOOPS
Friday, Nov. 25
(Owens Turkey Trot Shootout)
Schoolcraft vs. Columbus State, 1 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 26
(Owens Turkey Trot Shootout)
Schoolcraft vs. Owens, 1 p.m.

Remember your loved ones that you've lost by placing a special holiday remembrance tribute for the holidays. The Observer and Eccentric/Hometown Weekly Newspapers will be publishing a special "In Remembrance" page for the holidays. Here's the perfect opportunity to honor the memory and celebrate the life of loved ones who hold a special place in your heart.

Prices start at \$15*
*1x2 remembrance ad
(Larger remembrance may be purchased)

Publications
Sunday, December 25th
Observer & Eccentric Newspapers:

Thursday, December 22nd
Hometown Weekly Newspapers:
(Milford, Northville, Novi and South Lyon)

Deadline
Monday, December 12th
For all publications

Call: 800-579-7355
Fax: 313-496-4968
Email: oeads@hometownlife.com

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Send calendar items to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com. Or mail items to Dargay, Observer, 615 Lafayette, Level 2, Detroit, MI 48226.

Nov. 24-30

HEALING SERVICE

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Nov. 30
Location: Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church, 9601 Hubbard, Livonia
Details: The Rev. Jennie Clark will preach at a special service of Hope and Healing
Contact: (734) 422-0494

PRAYER OPEN HOUSE

Time/Date: 7-10 p.m. Friday, Nov. 28
Location: Harvest Bible Chapel, 6420 N. Newburgh, Westland
Details: Open to all who want to drop in and pray or be prayed with
Contact: (734) 895-3280; www.harvestdetroitwest.org

VENDOR DEADLINE

Time/Date: Friday, Nov. 25
Location: Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 34567 Seven Mile, Livonia
Details: The last day for crafters/vendors to turn in rental applications for craft fair on Dec. 10
Contact: Judy Cook at (248) 442-8822

Dec. 1-7

CONCERT

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3; seating begins at 7:30 p.m.
Location: Old St. Mary's Church, 646 Monroe, at St. Antoine, in Greektown, Detroit
Details: The Madrigal Choral of Southfield presents its 2011 Holiday Concert. Advance tickets are \$18 for adults and \$12 for students. Cost at the door is \$20
Contact: (248) 804-1377, e-mail yourmcs@yahoo.com or order online at mscnotes.org

HANDEL'S "MESSIAH"

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3, and 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 4
Location: Fort Street Presbyterian Church, Fort and Third in downtown Detroit
Details: The Fort Street Choral and Chamber Orchestra present Handel's Messiah. Tickets are \$20
Contact: www.fortstreet.org or by calling (313) 961-4533

SUPPORT GROUP

Time/Date: 7-9 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 1



The Fort Street Choral and Chamber Orchestra will perform Handel's "Messiah" Saturday, Dec. 3, in Detroit.

Location: Our Lady of Good Counsel School, Junior High Commons, 1062 Church, Plymouth

Details: New Beginnings is a support group for divorced Catholics. This will be the first of regular monthly meetings featuring guest speakers who will address topics central to the experience of divorced Catholics. The evening will begin with a talk by the Rev. John Riccardo, Pastor of Our Lady of Good Counsel, followed by a Q&A session. Participants can discuss issues related to divorce and faith in a safe, confidential, and prayerful environment. Pre-registration recommended
Contact: newbeginning-solgc@gmail.com

Dec. 8-14

CONCERT

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 9
Location: Geneva Presbyterian Church, 5835 N. Sheldon, Canton
Details: "Twelve Bells of Christmas," bell concert by the Capital City Ringers of Lansing, directed by Jane C. Wright. Donations accepted for admission
Contact: (734) 459-0013

CONCERT

Time/Date: 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11
Location: St. Aidan, 17500 Farmington Road, north of Six Mile, Livonia
Details: 30th Annual St. Aidan Christmas Concert, featuring the St. Aidan Adult and Children's Choirs, and the St. Aidan Contemporary Ensemble. There is a minimum donation of \$5 per person, along with two non-perishable food items. All proceeds will go toward food baskets for the needy
Contact: (734) 425-9333

CONCERT

Time/Date: 4 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 11
Location: Newburg United

Methodist Church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia

Details: Measure for Measure, a men's choral society, will present a holiday choral concert. The concert will be followed by a reception in the church's social hall. Proceeds from ticket sales will support a mission project in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, by a team of 10 Newburg Church members who will travel there in April 2012. Tickets are \$12. Sales will be final on Dec. 7.
Contact: (734) 459-5631

COOKIE WALK

Time/Date: 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 10
Location: Timothy Lutheran Church, 8820 Wayne Road, south of Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia
Details: Christmas cookies of all varieties will be available for sale by the pound along with various bake sale items
Contact: (734) 427-2290

CRAFT FAIR

Time/Date: 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 10
Location: Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 34567 Seven Mile, Livonia
Details: Craft/vendor fair with door prize raffles
Contact: Judy Cook at (248) 442-8822

Dec. 15-21

HANDEL'S "MESSIAH"

Time/Date: 7 p.m., Friday, Dec. 16 and 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 17
Location: Jefferson Avenue Presbyterian Church, 8625 E. Jefferson Ave., in Detroit's historic Indian Village neighborhood
Details: The Community Chorus of Detroit with the CCD Chamber Orchestra and soloists, and special guests, the Detroit Children's Choir's Touring Choir
Contact: www.communitychorusofdetroit.com

ONGOING CLASSES/STUDY

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

Time/Date: 7-8 p.m., second Monday of the month
Location: 34567 Seven Mile, between Farmington and Newburgh roads, Livonia

Details: Open Arms Bible class for adults with developmental disabilities and special needs. Includes songs, Bible lessons, crafts and activities, prayer, snacks and fun.

Contact: Pastor Scott Sessler at (734) 673-2485 or e-mail to pastorscott@emmanuel-livonia.org

Faith Bible Church

Time/Date: 9:45-10:45 a.m. Sundays through May 8
Location: 34541 Five Mile, Livonia

Details: "Four Views of the End Times" adult study

Also ongoing: "Life's Healing Choices" Study Group, 6 p.m., fourth Sunday through September, is for men and women who want freedom from hurts, hangups and habits of the past.

Contact: (734) 464-7990

Men's Bible study

Time/Date: Breakfast at 7 a.m. and study at 8 a.m.

Location: Kirby's Coney Island, 21200 Haggerty, Northville Township

Contact: John Shulenberg at (734) 464-9491

New Life Community Church

Time/Date: Jobs seminar, 8-9 am. Fridays; reading program for students in grades K-12 and martial arts

instruction, both at 10 a.m. Sundays.

Location: 42200 Tyler, Belleville

Contact: (734) 846-4615

Nicole's Revival

Time/Date: 10:30 a.m., Monday-Friday

Location: YWCA Northwest Branch, 25940 Grand River, west of Beech Daly, Redford

Details: KJV Scripture Reading, Communion and Prayer

Contact: (313) 531-1234

Our Lady of Loretto

Time/Date: 6:30-7:30 p.m. Monday

Location: Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford

Details: Scripture study

Contact: (313) 534-9000

Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

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Deadlines: Friday 4:15 p.m. for Sunday • Wednesday 9:45 a.m. for Thursday



HOOVER, FRANCES

November 19, 2011 Age 87 of Plymouth and formerly of the Wayne/Westland area. Born and raised in Wabash, IN. Beloved wife of the late Donald. Dear mother of Lesia (Kenneth John) McQuade, and the late Daniel and Clay. Sister to Kathryn (Raymond) Dillman, and the late Robert (Lois), Marland, and Byron (Anne) Halderman. Grandmother to Gregory Hoover McQuade and Jamie Lynn (Alan) Lewis. Great grandmother to Braden and Garret Lewis. Funeral services were held at The UH Funeral Home, 35400 Glenwood Rd., Westland, Tuesday, November 22, 2011 at 10 am. Interment took place at Glenwood Cemetery, Wayne. Family requests memorials to Concerns of Police Survivors, Inc. (COPS) PO Box 3199, Camdenton, MO 65020. Please view memorial and send tributes at www.uhfh.com



MULDOON, SARAH A.

Age 84, November 18, 2011. Beloved wife of the late Jerome Muldoon. Loving mother of Jack (the late Sue), Timothy (Fiancee Tina), Barbara (John) Salvatore, Kathleen (Dave) Nakoneczny and the late Norman and Douglas Muldoon. Dear grandmother of 9 and great grandmother of 2. Dear sister of Joan Connor and the late Tom, Harry, Joe and Norm. A Memorial Mass will be held at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 440 E. Washington, Howell, MI 48843, Tuesday, November 29, 2011 at 10 AM. In lieu of flowers contributions may be directed to the Muldoon family. Please share a memory of Sarah at www.rgrgharris.com.

ROBERTO, DAVID SCOTT

Age 22, of Farmington Hills, MI. Passed away November 19, 2011. Thayer-Rock Funeral Home.



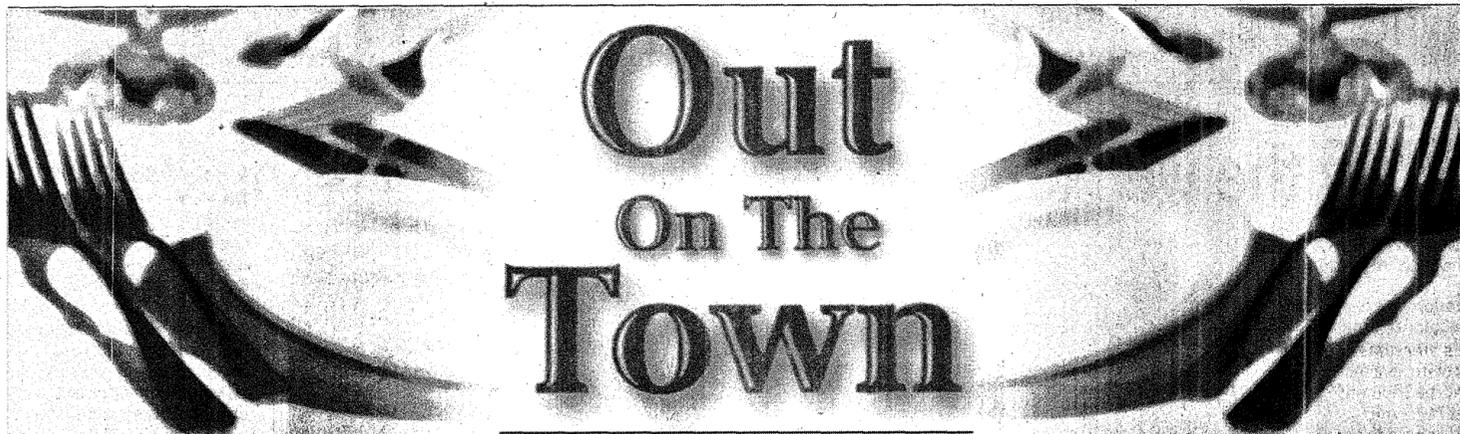
SARNS, RUSSELL

Passed away on November 11, 2011 at age 69. Resident of Livonia for 43 years. Beloved and thoughtful husband for 47 years to Judy (Mackinder) Sarns. Devoted father to David (Bianca) Sarns and proud "Papa" to 19-month old, Colin. Russ leaves behind his mother-in-law, Mariam Mackinder, brother-in-law, Frederick Mackinder (Kristina), sister-in-law, Peggy Jenkins, nephews, Christopher (Nicole) and Nicholas Mackinder and Jeffrey, Gregory, Steven Jenkins, niece, Mackenzie, great-nephew, Liam Mackinder, cousins, Eleanor, Bob, Terri and Laura. Russ worked for GM for 37 years. He was the proud owner of a 1955 Chevrolet Bel Air which was seen in the movie "Flipped" and was a member of the Eastern Michigan Camaro Club. Russ will be missed by his loving family and many friends as well. Funeral services were held on Monday, November 14, at the Fred Wood Funeral Home. To leave a condolence or share a special memory, go to Fredwoodfuneralhome.com

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Your Invitation to Worship

<p>CATHOLIC</p>	<p>UNITED METHODIST</p>	<p>PRESBYTERIAN (U.S.A.)</p>	<p>LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD</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 Mass Schedule: First Friday Mass 7:00 p.m. Saturday Mass 11:00 a.m. Sunday 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>ORCHARD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 30450 Farmington Road • Farmington Hills www.orchardumc.org 248-626-3620 Worship: 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. Christian Education for all ages Pastors: Carol J. Johns, Jim Braid, Margo Dexter</p>	<p>ROSEDALE GARDENS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) 9601 Hubbard at W. Chicago, Livonia, MI (between Merriman & Farmington Rds.) (734) 422-0494 Friends in Faith Service 9:00 am Traditional Service 10:30 am Visit www.rosedalegardens.org For information about our many programs</p>	<p>Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia Just north of I-96 www.christsaviorsavior.org Sunday Worship 8:30 & 11:00 am - Traditional Sunday School/Bible Class 9:45 am Early Childhood Center Phone 734-513-8413 Staffed Nursery Available Making disciples who share the love of Jesus Christ Pastors: Davenport, Bayer, & Creeden 734-522-6830</p>
<p>CHURCHES OF THE NAZARENE</p>	<p>PRESBYTERIAN</p>	<p>PRESBYTERIAN</p>	<p>Risen Christ Lutheran David W. Martin, Pastor 46250 Ann Arbor Road • Plymouth (west of Shadel) (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>PLYMOUTH CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 48801 W. Ann Arbor Road • (734) 453-1505 Sunday School - 9:45 A.M. Sunday Worship - 11:00 A.M. Sunday Evening - 8:00 P.M. Family Night - Wed. 7:00 P.M. NEW HORIZONS FOR CHILDREN LEARNING CENTER (734) 455-3198</p>	<p>EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN</p>	<p>EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN</p>	<p>LUTHERAN CHURCH WISCONSIN SYNOD</p>
<p>ASSEMBLIES OF GOD</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>WARD CHURCH 40000 Six Mile Road Northville, MI 48168 248-374-7400 www.wardchurch.org Traditional Worship at 8, 9:30 & 11 a.m. Contemporary Worship at 9:30 & 11 a.m. Children's Programs available at 9:30 & 11 a.m. The Traditional Service is broadcast on the radio each week at 11 a.m. on 580 AM</p>	<p>ST. PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL 17810 FARMINGTON ROAD LIVONIA (734) 261-1380 WORSHIP SERVICES SUNDAY: 8:30 A.M. & 11:00 A.M. THURSDAY: 6:30 P.M. website: www.stpaulsilivonia.org</p>
<p>OPEN ARMS CHURCH Worship: Sunday 10:30 am Children's Programs Available Kid's Stop Preschool Now Enrolling 248.474.0001 Meet our New Pastor Grady Jensen & Assoc. Pastor Abe Pazzini 33015 W. 7 Mile Rd. • Livonia 48152 Between Farmington & Merriman Across from Joe's Produce 248.471.5282</p>	<p>CONGREGATIONAL</p>	<p>North Congregational Church 36520 12 Mile Rd. Farmington Hills (bet. Drake & Halsted) (248) 848-1750 10:50 a.m. Worship & Church School Faith - Freedom - Fellowship Rev. Mary E. Riedron Senior Minister</p>	<p>For Information regarding this Directory, please call Donna Hart at 248-437-2011, Ext. 247 or e-mail: dhart@dnp.com</p>



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Enjoy the weekend at a museum, concerts, outdoors

By Sharon Dargay
 O&E Staff Writer

A Red Ryder Christmas Story has become a favorite seasonal exhibit at the Plymouth Historical Museum.

It debuted there in 2007, paid a return visit in 2009 and opened again last week for more than a month-long stay.

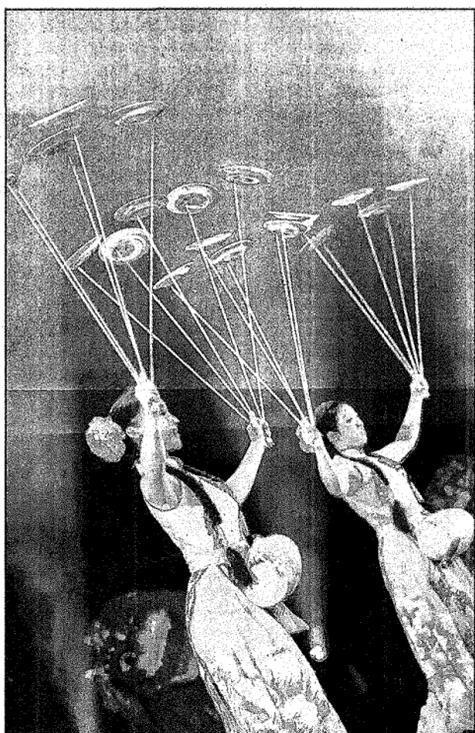
"We try to change it each time. This is the third time we're doing it but it's pretty popular and it's a perfect match for us," said Elizabeth Kerstens, executive director. "Plymouth was the home of Daisy."

Daisy Manufacturing Company sold Red Ryder BB guns which are central to the 1983 movie, *A Christmas Story*. In the film, the main character, Ralphie, longs for a Red Ryder BB gun for Christmas, but everyone from his parents to a department store Santa warns that he might shoot an eye out with the dangerous toy.

The museum's current exhibit includes both scenes from the film and BB guns on loan from private collections and the museum's own holdings.

Santa Claus also will be on hand from 1-4 p.m. every Saturday before Christmas, beginning Nov. 26.

Diehard fans will notice that the museum exhibit crew has changed some of the vignettes since 2009. The "Santa mountain," part of a department store scene, was eliminated this year and toys displayed in the store's window are different. But many favorite scenes have returned.



The National Acrobats of The People's Republic of China will perform Friday, Nov. 25 in Detroit.

"You can't do the exhibit without having Flick and his tongue (frozen) on a pole," Kerstens said. "And Scott Farkus, the mean guy. We've got a mannequin that looks just like him."

One of her favorite displays shows Ralphie dressed in a bunny suit on Christmas morning.

"One of the things that is so captivating about this exhibit is the way we have it set up. It's warm and cozy. It's a feel good type of thing. We have the lights dimmed and red and green outdoor bulbs strung across Main Street. It looks a lot like

the Main Street in the movie."

The Museum is open 1-4 p.m. Wednesday and Friday-Sunday. It's located at 155 S. Main Street, just north of downtown Plymouth. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$2 for students, 6-17; (734) 455-8940.

Looking for other fun family destinations this weekend? Here's a sampling:

- The Santaland Parade starts at 10 a.m. Friday, Nov. 26, at Garden City High School and travels south on Middlebelt to Ford Road, travelling east to the City Town Center parking lot. Who can



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Daisy memorabilia on display at the Plymouth Historical Museum.



Ralphie and the infamous bunny pajamas from Aunt Clara.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

resist the bands, floats, and hot chocolate afterwards?

- Billy Ray Bauer and Richard Bart present "Laughter on the Night After," a night of comedy, magic and music for all ages, 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 25, at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400

Cherry Hill Road, Canton. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Great Lakes Burn Camp. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for seniors, students and youth.

- Kensington Metropark offers a program for kids, 7-15, who want to learn more about farm

life, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Friday, Nov. 25. The fee is \$30 per child. Participants will work alongside farmers cleaning stalls, feeding animals and working on other daily or seasonal chores. Reservations are necessary. Call (248) 684-8632 or (800) 477-3178.

- Families will flip for The National Acrobats of The People's Republic of China, 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 25 at Music Hall, 350 Madison, Detroit. See incredible feats of balance, strength and flexibility. Tickets are \$50, \$40 and \$30. Call (313) 887-8501.

- Gemini — San and Laz Slomovits — play instruments galore and sing funny and sweet songs for the whole family, 1 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 27, at The Ark, 316 S. Main, Ann Arbor. Tickets are \$10; www.theark.org. Their Thanksgiving concerts have benefitted Mott Children's Hospital since 1994.

- Get outdoors and exercise off the turkey leftovers with Hiking Michigan, an organization that arranges hikes and snowshoe walks throughout southeastern Michigan. The next walk is noon-3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 27 in the Highland Recreation Area, 5200 Highland Road, White Lake. The Department of Natural Resources \$10 annual passport is required. The group will explore remains of Edsel and Eleanor Ford's old estate, as well as visit the Haven Hill Natural area on the north side of the lake created by the Fords' dam. The hike is dog-friendly and child-friendly. For information call (586) 446-7656 or (588) 295-7088.

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Animated film has heart, humor, high-tech North Pole

By Sharon Dargay
O&E Staff Writer

If you plan to see just one of the holiday films out this Thanksgiving weekend, you won't go wrong taking the family to *Arthur Christmas*, a fresh, funny twist on the classic Santa Claus legend by Aardman, the British animation studio that also brought moviegoers *Chicken Run* and the Wallace and Gromit characters.

I'm not a fan of the stop motion effects used in Aardman's earlier efforts, so I was pleasantly surprised to watch the film's inventive story unfold in 3D computer animation, the result of a team-up between the British studio and Sony Pictures Animation.

And although the visuals are more refined, the characters — three generations of the Christmas clan — are drawn Aardman style, with exaggerated features (Grandsanta's nose rivals the size of a potato) and out-of-whack proportions. But it's a perfect look for this dysfunctional family.



Meet the Christmas clan

Arthur Christmas, the hero of the film and Santa's youngest son, maintains an upbeat outlook on life and an adoration for his Dad, despite the lack of respect he gets from family members and elves alike. He's relegated to a tiny office

where he answers letters to Santa, while his older brother, Steve, runs Christmas like a high tech, precision military operation. On Christmas Eve, scores of elves drop down SWAT team style into homes from a hovering spaceship that resembles a cross between the Starship Enterprise and a sleigh, while Steve orchestrates the process from Mission Control.

Santa Claus is showing a bit of wear and tear after 70 missions around the world, but he has no plans of retiring any time soon and handing the family business to his ambitious elder son.

Grandsanta is retired, but can't stop talking about his own glory days, spent delivering presents from a mere sleigh drawn by flying reindeer. "I did 70 missions without all this malarkey," he grumbles. "What happened to going down the chimney?"

Heroic adventure

The real fun begins after the family discovers the "foolproof" corporate machine that Christmas has become has missed a child. Distributing billions of gifts in one night is no small feat and Steve pronounces the mission a success, anyway. He suggests sending the missed girl a gift by messenger, which will take five days.

Santa worries that he's just a figurehead, a "fat guy with a suit," but can't muster the initiative to do anything but fall asleep.

When Arthur vows to deliver the goods in person before sunrise on Christmas day, Grandsanta dusts off the antique sleigh, hooks up the flying reindeer and the pair — along with a stowaway elf — embark on a hilarious adventure around the world and a race against the clock.

Young children may have a hard time understanding some of the dialogue because the actors

all have British accents, but there is enough physical humor — Arthur furiously pedalling a tiny girl's bike, magic dust sending African wildlife skyward — to keep them awake.

Adults will find plenty to laugh at in the funny script and quirky characters.

I'm ready to skip the turkey dinner Thursday just to watch this gem again.

Arthur Christmas, a Columbia Pictures release, debuted for general audiences Wednesday, Nov. 23. It runs a little over 90 minutes and is rated PG

Other family movies that hit the big screen Wednesday, Nov. 23:

• *Hugo*: While looking for his missing family, Hugo Cabret discovers a robot in the walls of a Paris train station. The robot transports him to a world of wonder, mystery and magic where he meets girl who helps

him solve the mystery surrounding his missing family. The movie is based on Brian Selznick's award winning *New York Times* best-seller, *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*. The film is director Martin Scorsese's first film shot in 3D. Starring Asa Butterfield, Chloe Moretz, Jude Law, Christopher Lee, Sacha Baron Cohen and Ben Kingsley. Rated PG from Paramount Pictures.

• *The Muppets*: On vacation in Los Angeles, Walter, the world's biggest Muppet fan, and his friends Gary (Jason Segel) and Mary (Amy Adams) from Smalltown, USA, discover the nefarious plan of oilman Tex Richman (Chris Cooper) to raze the Muppet Theater and drill for the oil. Walter, Mary and Gary help Kermit reunite the Muppets to raise the \$10 million needed to save the theater. Rated PG from Walt Disney Pictures.

Get into the holiday spirit with seasonal favorites

By Jill Halpin
Correspondent

Sugar plum fairies and toy soldiers will soon join symphonies, bands and choruses in bringing smiles to audiences across the metro area.

It's a special time of the year for both performers and show-goers alike, according to dancer Kendall Snow, 20, of Livonia.

"It's definitely my most favorite time of the year and *The Nutcracker* really gets me in the holiday mood," he said.

Snow, a 2009 graduate of Livonia Stevenson, began dancing at Bunny Sanford's School of Dance in Livonia as a child. He vividly remembers dancing in one of his first holiday performances of Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker* and playing the role of a young boy, Fritz. Now a communications arts major at Michigan State University, Snow makes it a point to return each holiday season to dance in the school's production of the ballet.

On stage

"I went from playing Fritz, the youngest male role, to playing Fritz's father this year. It's so awesome to still be able to do this," said Snow, adding that he makes an effort to stay in shape all year, even working out with weights when he is away at school so he will be ready for the performance.

He returns to the stage Saturday, Dec. 3 in the Livonia Symphony Orchestra's holiday production, "Stories of the Season." It will feature excerpts from *The Nutcracker*, conducted by Volodymyr Shesniuk,



Guest artists Leonid Flegmatov and Dawnell Dryja will dance with the Plymouth-Canton Ballet Company.

symphony music director. Snow will be joined on stage by other dancers from Angie Hahn's Dance Academy as well as the Livonia Civic Chorus.

According to Rose Kachnowski, president of the Livonia Symphony Orchestra, the program will begin with Christmas music, including favorites such as *Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas* and *O Little Town of Bethlehem*. The audience will have a chance to sing along with some songs. The second act of the show is the performance of *The Nutcracker*, with vocal accompaniments by the Livonia Civic Chorus. In Farmington, dancers from the Positive Attitude Dance Academy will join forces with Curtain Call Dance of Canton to bring audiences a performance of *The Nutcracker* and something more — a chance to give something back to the community.

All proceeds from their hour-long performance of Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker* at Farmington's Civic Center Theater, Sunday, Dec. 4 will go to the Farmington-area Goodfellow, who provide assistance to needy families during the holidays. In addition, Goodfellow volunteers in the lobby will

accept donations of non-perishable food items and new, unwrapped toys, said Laurie Smalis of Farmington, owner of Positive Attitude.

"Everyone likes to give something to others during the holidays. This is a great opportunity for people to donate to the community and see a great performance, too," said Dorrie Milan of Plymouth, co-owner of Curtain Call Dance. "The kids absolutely love the idea of working on a fundraiser to help other people out."

Smalis said she, too, has noticed the dancers and their families really getting behind the idea of contributing to others.

"It really gives the kids a sense of giving back to the community and not getting wrapped up in themselves. They really respond to it. They can see that even in a small way, in doing something that you do every day, like dance, you can still be helpful to others," Smalis said.

The first-time collaboration features dancers from both dance studios ranging in age from 6-17 years, as well as a performance by a very special guest, 83-year-old Robert Brown of Westland.

Brown, who also happens to be Curtain Call

owner Milan's father, will perform the role of Herr Drosselmeyer in the show. Although this is not the first time he has played a role in one of his daughter's shows, he is "always game to try anything," said Milan. "He's going to be terrific."

Looking for holiday events to enjoy and or entertain visiting family this season? Here's a sampling of what's going on locally:

CANTON

• The Central City Christmas Spectacular, billed as the "most explosive Christmas show around," is on stage, 6 p.m. Dec. 15-16, and noon and 5 p.m. Dec. 17-18, at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road. Tickets are \$20 and are available at Central City Dance Center, 6700 Canton Center Road or by calling (734) 459-0400.

• Cherry Hill Singers Christmas Concert, 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 9 in The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road. Tickets are \$8-\$10 call (734) 394-5300 or visit www.beckridgechorale.org.

• "Santa Lives! Yes Virginia, There is a Santa Claus," Thursday-Sunday, Dec. 8-11 in The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road. Performance times vary. Tickets are \$10. Call (734) 394-5300 or visit www.spotlightplayersmi.org.

• Plymouth Community Band's Christmas Festival, 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 16 in the Canton Little Theater, Canton High School, 8415 North Canton Center Road. Admission is free.

• The Nutcracker presented by The Michigan Philharmonic with the Plymouth Canton Ballet Company, 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2 and 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 4 in Salem High School Auditorium, 46181 Joy Road. Tickets \$15-\$20; call (734) 451-2112 or visit www.michiganphil.org or www.plymouth-cantonballet.org.

FARMINGTON

• Excerpts from The Nutcracker LIVE performed by the Positive Attitude Dance Academy and Curtain Call Dance, 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 4 in Farmington's Civic Theater, 33332 Grand River Ave. Tickets are \$15; call (248) 476-2099.

• The Most Wonderful Time of the Year concert presented by the Novi Choralaires, 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 9, in the First United Methodist Church of Farmington, 33112 Grand River Ave. Tickets \$10-\$12 at the door.

FARMINGTON HILLS

• Farmington Community Band's "The Holiday Show," 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11 in the Harrison High School Auditorium, 29995 W. 12 Mile. Admission is free.

• Michigan Classic Ballet Company Presents The Nutcracker, 11 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3 and 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 4 in Mercy Auditorium, Mercy High School, 29300 W. 11 Mile. Tickets \$17-\$22; visit www.michiganclassicalballet.org. Nutcracker Tea with the Michigan Classic Ballet Company, 1:30-2:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 4. Tickets are \$15 and do not include admission to show; visit www.michiganclassicalballet.org.

LIVONIA

• Angie Hahn's Academy of Dance presents The Nutcracker at 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 17, at Stevenson High School, 33500 Six Mile. Tickets are \$7, available in advance at the studio or at the door. Young audience members can receive sweets and treats after each performance.

• St. Olaf's Christmas Festival LIVE features a live performance of more than 500 musicians performing a Christmas concert on the campus of Minnesota's St. Olaf College, 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 4 at AMC Livonia 20, 19500 Haggerty, north of Seven Mile. Tickets \$18-\$15. Call (734) 542-3191.

• Livonia Symphony Orchestra presents "Stories of the Sea-

son" Christmas Concert, featuring The Nutcracker excerpts with Angie Hahn's Academy of Dance, along with the Livonia Civic Chorus, 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3 in the Louis Schmidt Auditorium, Clarenceville High School, 20155 Middlebelt. Tickets are \$5-\$20; call (734) 421-1111 or visit www.livonia-symphony.org.

• The Livonia Civic Chorus presents "Believe," 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 18 in Clarenceville High School, 20155 Middlebelt. Tickets \$10-\$12; available at Livonia Recreation Center or call (734) 542-907; visit <http://www.livoniacivicchorus.org> for more information.

NOVI

• Novi Choralaires present "The Most Wonderful Time of the Year," 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3 in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile and 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 4 in Church of the Holy Family, 24505 Meadowbrook. Tickets are \$10-\$12 at the door.

NORTHVILLE

• BeckRidge Chorale and Orchestra present "Night of Joy," 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3 and 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 4 in Northville High School, 45700 Six Mile, Northville Township. Tickets are \$12-\$18 call (888) 459-4887 or visit www.beckridgechorale.org.

PLYMOUTH

• Michigan Philharmonic presents "Home for the Holidays," a family-friendly concert at 6 p.m. and a traditional concert at 8 p.m., both on Thursday, Dec. 15, in the Penn Theatre, 760 Penniman. Tickets \$10-\$22; call (734) 451-2112.

• Noel Night with the Michigan Philharmonic, 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 8. Event includes a holiday performance and a chance to socialize with musicians in an intimate setting in a private home. Tickets \$65 per person. Call (734) 451-2112 or visit <http://www.michiganphil.org> for more information.



December 3-4, 2011
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Admission - \$5 per car

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The Holiday Craft Extravaganza promises to be a shopping treasure trove of one-of-a-kind gifts, fine jewelry, gourmet treats, holiday décor and more. It takes place at the Suburban Collection Showplace December 3-4, 2011.

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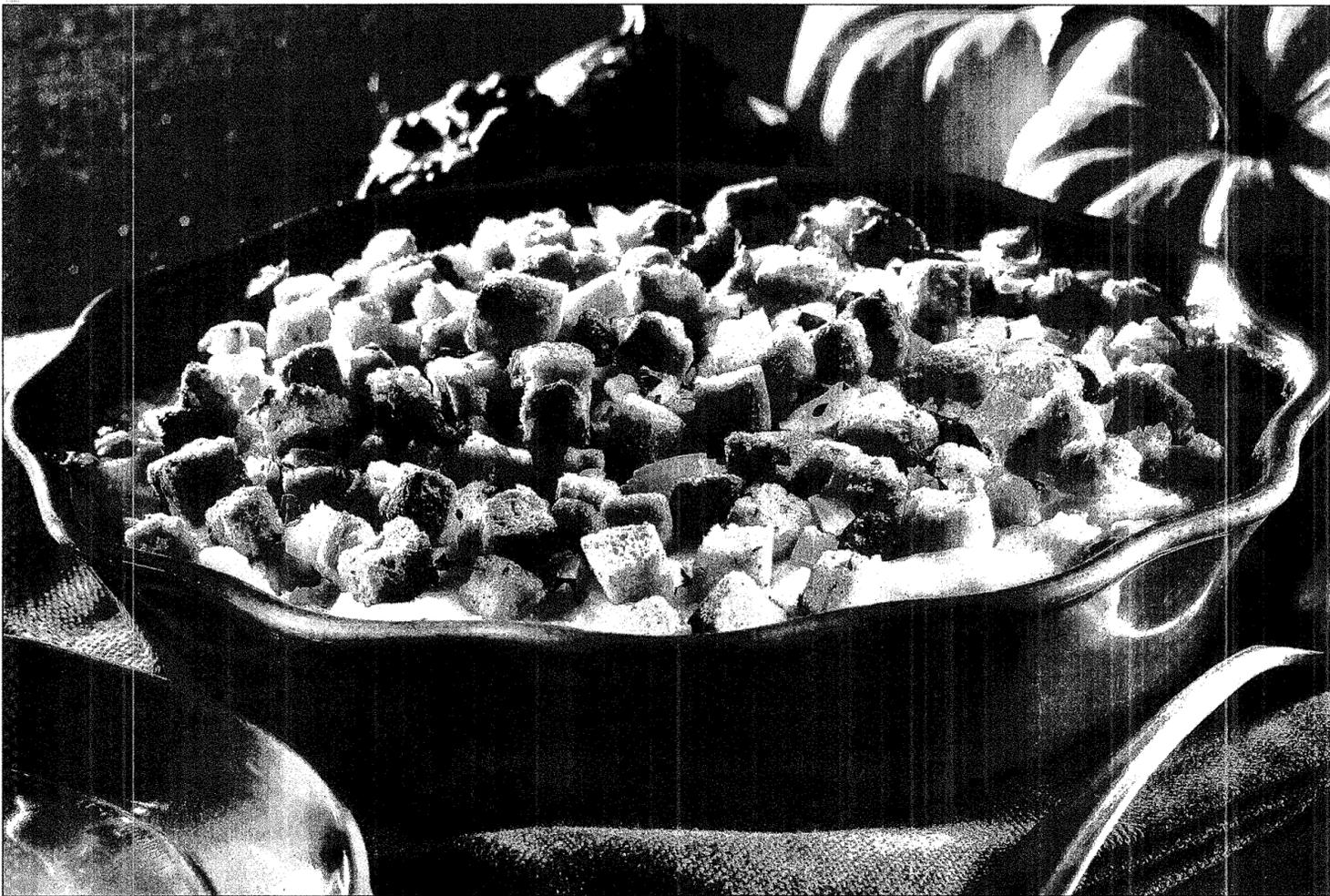
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Turkey Casserole

Lovin' TURKEY LEFTOVERS

Make sure you buy a big turkey this year, because you'll want plenty left over to make these tasty post-holiday recipes.

From a savory sandwich and hearty salads to easy turnovers and a simple casserole, there are plenty of delicious ways to finish off turkey leftovers. You can even keep the flavors of the holidays going with Bobby Flay's recipe for moist and delicious "Stuffing" Crusted Turkey Cutlets. He uses leftover poultry seasoning for flavor and Hellmann's® Mayonnaise to keep them tender and juicy.

For more great ways to love your leftovers, visit www.hellmanns.com.

Turkey Casserole

Serves: 6
Prep Time: 15 minutes
Cook Time: 40 minutes

4 cups leftover prepared stuffing, divided
4 cups coarsely chopped leftover cooked turkey (about 1 pound)
½ cup Hellmann's® or Best Foods Real Mayonnaise, divided
½ cup whole berry cranberry sauce
2 cups leftover mashed potatoes
1½ cups shredded mozzarella cheese (about 6 ounces)
Preheat oven to 375°F.

Spray 8-inch baking dish with no-stick cooking spray. Spoon in 2 cups stuffing, then top with turkey.

Combine ½ cup mayonnaise with cranberry sauce; evenly spread over turkey.

Combine remaining ½ cup mayonnaise, potatoes and cheese in large bowl. Evenly spread on turkey, then top with remaining 2 cups stuffing.

Bake 40 minutes or until heated through. Let stand 10 minutes before serving. If desired, garnish with dried cranberries.



Leftover Turkey Super Sandwiches

Leftover Turkey Super Sandwiches

Serves: 4
Prep Time: 10 minutes

4 tablespoons Hellmann's® or Best Foods Real Mayonnaise
8 slices whole grain bread
½ cup prepared stuffing
½ pound sliced leftover or deli turkey
½ cup cranberry sauce or whole berry cranberry sauce
1 small apple, cored and sliced

Spread mayonnaise generously on 4 bread slices. Layer stuffing, turkey, cranberry sauce and apple on bread slices. Top with remaining 4 bread slices.

Turkey Fiesta Salad

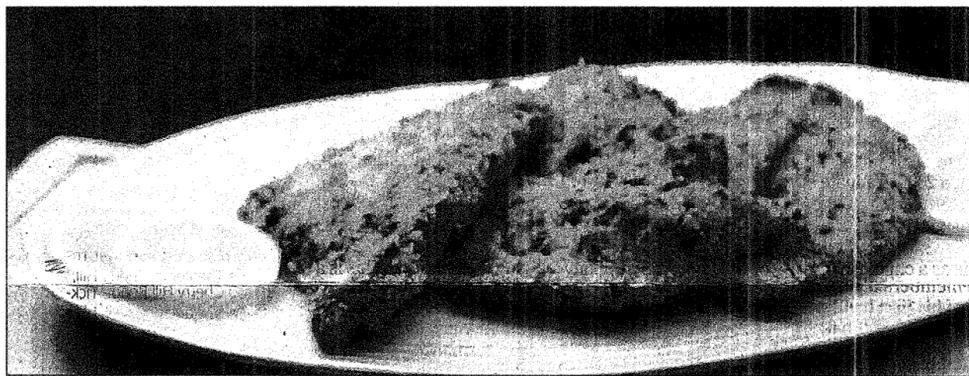
Serves: 4
Prep Time: 10 minutes

½ cup Hellmann's® or Best Foods Real Mayonnaise
½ cup prepared salsa
6 cups torn romaine lettuce leaves

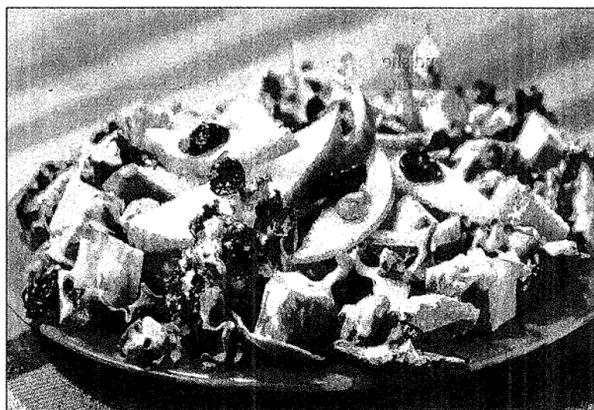
2 cups diced cooked turkey
4 slices bacon, crisp-cooked and crumbled
Combine mayonnaise and salsa in small bowl; set aside.

Combine remaining ingredients in large bowl. Just before serving, toss with mayonnaise mixture.

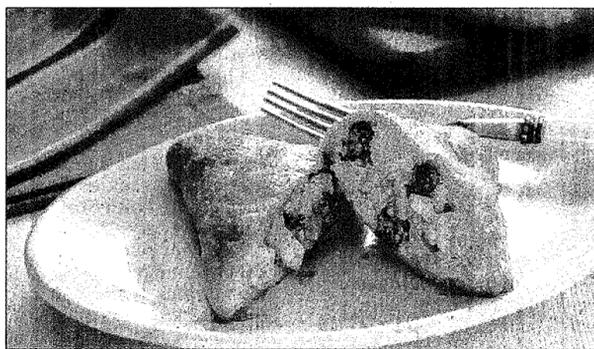
Serve, if desired, with your favorite salad fixings, such as chopped tomatoes, black beans, shredded cheese, sliced pitted ripe olives, sliced green onions and/or tortilla chips.



"Stuffing" Crusted Turkey Cutlets



Blushing Cranberry and Pear Turkey Salad



Turkey Turnovers

Turkey Turnovers

Serves: 8
Prep Time: 15 minutes
Cook Time: 12 minutes

2 cups shredded cooked turkey
½ cup shredded cheddar cheese (about 4 ounces)
1 cup chopped cooked broccoli
½ cup Hellmann's® or Best Foods Real Mayonnaise
½ teaspoon salt
½ teaspoon ground black pepper
2 packages (8 ounces each) refrigerated crescent rolls

Preheat oven to 375°F. Combine all ingredients except crescent rolls in large bowl.

Separate each package crescent rolls into 4 squares; press diagonal perforations to seal.

Spoon turkey filling onto center of each square. Fold dough diagonally over filling to form triangles; press edges firmly to seal.

Arrange turnovers on baking sheet; brush tops lightly with additional mayonnaise.

Bake 12 minutes or until golden. Serve warm.

"Stuffing" Crusted Turkey Cutlets

A Bobby Flay Recipe
Serves: 4
Prep Time: 15 minutes
Cook Time: 10 minutes

2 cups panko or plain dried bread crumbs
3 tablespoons finely chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
½ cup Hellmann's® or Best Foods Real Mayonnaise
2 tablespoons Dijon mustard
1 teaspoon poultry seasoning
4 turkey cutlets (about ½ inch thick)
4 tablespoons canola oil, divided

Combine bread crumbs, parsley, salt and pepper in large shallow dish; set aside.

Combine mayonnaise, mustard and poultry seasoning with wire whisk in small bowl and season, if desired, with salt and pepper.

Season turkey, if desired, with salt and pepper. Brush 1 side of each turkey cutlet with mayonnaise mixture, then coat in bread crumbs.

Heat 2 tablespoons oil in 12-inch nonstick skillet over medium-high heat and cook 2 turkey cutlets, bread side down, 3 minutes or until golden brown and a crust has formed. Turn over and cook an additional 2 minutes or until turkey is thoroughly cooked. Repeat with remaining oil and turkey.

Blushing Cranberry and Pear Turkey Salad

Serves: 4
Prep Time: 10 minutes

½ cup Hellmann's® or Best Foods Real Mayonnaise
½ cup whole berry cranberry sauce or cranberry relish
4 cups torn romaine lettuce leaves
2 cups baby spinach leaves or mixed salad greens
2 cups diced cooked turkey
1 medium pear, cored and thinly sliced
½ cup toasted chopped pecans
½ cup thinly sliced red onion

In medium bowl, combine mayonnaise and cranberry sauce; set aside.

In large bowl, combine romaine, spinach and turkey. Just before serving, toss with mayonnaise mixture. Top with pear slices, pecans and onion. Garnish, if desired with dried cranberries.

Note: Recipe can be doubled.

Pairing up Thanksgiving Day feast

Thanksgiving is around the corner, and many will be hitting the grocery store to stock-up in preparation for the national day of gluttony.

On a day when the table swells with dozens of dishes, how does one choose the appropriate beer(s) for the occasion? The good news is there is no wrong answer, since beer pairing is more art than science, and beauty is in the eye of the beholder.



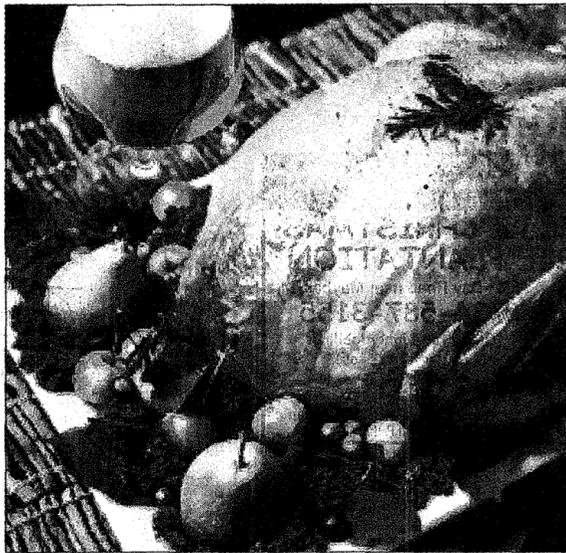
Beer Tracker

Nate Parsons

A rule of thumb for a successful pairing is that the drink should complement the food with either a contrasting or similar flavor profile. The challenge is that pairings work best with a singular soul mate like an artesian cheese or a lush dessert. The Thanksgiving experience is hardly a monogamous encounter, making it a challenge for any beer connoisseur. Fortunately, with the right line up, beer can win over the ardent wine lover when the most important meal of the year is on the line.

Aperitif or Starter

As guests arrive, hand them something crisp, cold and refreshing. Something from the pilsner family is a good fit. It will heighten the senses, stir



up an appetite, and won't dull the palate with excessive alcohol. Furthermore, the clean finish will cut through any salty snacks circling the room.

- Pilsner Urquell — Light straw in color and crystal clear. Aroma is floral with a taste to match and it finishes with a hint of clean spice.

- Victory Prima Pils — A tasty lager with a hoppy floral taste. Crosses traditional Bohemian flavor with Yankee ingenuity for a well-balanced lager.

Appetizer or Primer

Depending on the venue this course can be a challenge for

the beer aficionado. Think something midrange with citrus tones that cleanse the palate without scraping the throat... sorry no hop bombs here. These two offer earthy tones that compliment a wide range of fare without stealing the show.

- Saison Dupont — Nice aromatics and a hazy straw hue, well-seasoned but not overpowering. Hints of citrus, white pepper and clove are balanced with a hit of prickly carbonation for a quenching finish.

- Hennepin Farmhouse Ale — Rustic in scent with an earthy palate cut by tangerine spice. Sweet malty flavors interplay

with citrus tones and the lively carbonation tickles the tongue.

The Main Event

Typically a bold offering works here, something worthy of the 36-hour lead time required pull off such a beastly event. A muscle beer from the cellars of a Belgian monastery seems appropriate for the occasion. No doubt either of these recommendations will impose their will, but also court the complexities of flavors found in an all-out feast.

- Westmalle Trappist Triple — Sweet breadly malts mingle with spices to deliver a well-balanced high octane offering. The finish warms the mouth with drying alcohol and the carbonation cleanses the back of the throat.

- Orval Trappist Ale — Considered dry ale, it pours a dusty orange and boasts a rocky three-finger head. The mouth is sweet with dry fruits, but the clean finish will leave taste buds pining.

Dessert

Whether it's pumpkin, pecan or sweet potato pie, there are a number of offerings that will compliment this course. Some enthusiasts push for a sweet beer such as Chimay Grande Reserve or a fruit-infused Lindamans Framboise. Others may prefer the bitter bite of coffee found in Bells Java Stout or Founders Breakfast Stout. If an early exit from the table is appealing, head to the sofa with

a bottle of dessert in time to catch the opening drive.

- Brooklyn Chocolate Stout — Infused cocoa is the backbone of this robust black stout. Rich chocolate spreads across the palate before roasted malt thins out the sweetness. The finish offers a hint of plum before exiting on a bed of dry cocoa.

- Southern Tier Pumping Ale — An intense offering worthy of the imperial moniker. Deep full-bodied offering dominated with sweet nutmeg, cinnamon, and ginger. Creamy malts coat the mouth finishing with a rich presence.

Pairing beer with food is not an exact science, but these selections should offer direction when looking to impress the relatives at this year's sit down. All the offerings mentioned can be found at local beer caves around the metro area. Cheers!

- Hiller's, 425 North Center Street, Northville

- The Wine Palace, 13971 Middlebelt, Livonia

- Holiday Market, 520 South Lilly, Canton

- Super Fine Wine, 1634 Haggerty, Canton

- Beer Barron, 19610 Middlebelt, Livonia

- Meadows, 21099 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills

- Brass Mug, 19213 Newburgh, Livonia

- Bella Vita, 28870 W 12 Mile Road, Farmington Hills

Nate Parsons can be reached at modevin@yahoo.com

Sweeten holiday fare with Michigan-grown chestnuts

By Sharon Dargay
O&E Staff Writer

Fire up the charcoal. It's chestnut season. If you've got the roaster, Virginia Rinkel can supply the nuts.

She and other members of Chestnut Growers Inc., a cooperative of 40-some Michigan chestnut farmers, are taking their products, including chestnut flour, freeze-dried slices, whole and peeled, fresh chestnuts, on the road through December, visiting farmer's markets in metro Detroit.

"It's one way to educate the public that we're around," Rinkel said. "We need more growers and are experiencing more interest all the time in chestnuts."

With approximately 154 chestnut farms, Michigan claims more growers than other states. But Rinkel said the cooperative hopes to convince other Michigan farmers, such as cherry growers, to cultivate an acre or two of chestnut trees along with their regular crops, helping bolster the state's chestnut yield and meet growing demands for the product.

"By February our freezer is going to be full. We've had some orders for 5,000 pounds the last few years," she said, adding that Whole Foods and other local markets carry Chestnut Growers Inc. products.

Co-op members, like Rinkel and her husband, Bob, who own Vicary Road Chestnut Farm in Leslie, north of Jackson, grow Chinese, European or Japanese chestnuts. Most of the American chestnut trees were wiped out in the early 1900s by blight.

Chestnut Growers Inc. processes and sells their products at farm markets and to retailers. Members peel the chestnuts, which can be frozen, used whole, sliced and dehydrated or ground into flour. Whole unpeeled chestnuts, sold by the bag, must be scored before they are roasted. Peeled, fresh whole chestnuts should be stored in the refrigerator.

"Chestnuts are 70 percent moisture. It's constantly wanting to mold. But that's external mold that is easily wiped off. You won't get internal mold for months," Rinkel said, explaining how to store fresh chestnuts. "You just need to flip the bag every few days in the refrigerator. It's a whole new thing that people just need to be educated to."

Chestnuts are fruits that contain few oils, unlike most nuts. They spoil easily when left at room temperature and nutritionally are more like grains because they contain more starch than protein. They are gluten-free and sweet.

Roasting

When preparing chestnuts for roasting, score the fruits by making a long cut in the shell across the middle of the nut. The opening will allow steam to escape from the nut. Failure to score the nut can cause it to pop and splatter.

Roast chestnuts by placing them in a chestnut roasting pan or old-fashioned fireplace popcorn cooker. Roast on coals or fire for 15-25 minutes. Shake them often.

For oven roasting, place chestnuts on a cookie sheet with raised edges. Add a little water to the pan. Roast for 20-30 minutes at 350 degrees.

Microwave by wrapping six to eight scored chestnuts in a damp paper towel. Microwave on high one or two minutes.

Use dehydrated, frozen sliced or chestnut flour in cooking. Here are a few recipes from the Chestnut Growers, Inc., that use the cooperative's chestnut products:



Hummus

8 ounces CGI freeze-dried Chestnut "Slices" (rehydrated in 16 ounces boiling water) or use 1 pound fresh or frozen-peeled chestnuts

1 1/2 cup reserved chestnut water

1/2 cup lemon juice

2 large cloves garlic (sieved)

1 teaspoon salt

Freshly ground pepper

1/2 teaspoon ground cumin

3 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil

2-4 tablespoons pine nuts (to taste)

4 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley or cilantro

1 cup (8 ounces) Tahina

Dash of paprika

For making hummus from freeze-dried chestnut "Slices," bring 16

ounces water to a boil in small saucepan and add freeze-dried chestnut "Slices" stirring to

rehydrate. Reduce to a simmer and cook for 15 minutes. Drain the chestnuts, reserving any liquid. Add enough water to this liquid to measure 1 and 1/2 cups liquid. If cooking fresh or frozen-peeled chestnuts in small amount

of water, reserve water and adjust as for the freeze-dried "Slices."

In a food processor or blender, fitted with a steel blade, process the lemon juice, garlic, salt, pepper, cumin, chopped fresh parsley or cilantro, pine nuts and at least 1/2 cup of the reserved cooking water liquid. Add rehydrated chestnuts and continue blending, adding more reserved liquid if needed, blending to very smooth consistency. Pour into large bowl and hand stir in tahini last and blend till you have a smooth consistency.

Serve with cut-up raw vegetables, crackers or warm grilled pita bread cut into wedges.

Note: You also can add cayenne pepper to the hummus. Sometimes leftover hummus tends to thicken. Just add some water to return it to the right consistency.

Cream of Chestnut Soup (vegan style)

4 ounce bag "Chestnut Chips"

4 cups water

1 carrot (7 baby carrots)

1 celery stalk

1 medium onion

1 clove of garlic

1/2 teaspoon nutmeg

1/2 teaspoon thyme

Chop vegetables and garlic and place in 4 cups of water in large saucepan. Cover and bring to boil. Reduce heat to simmer, maintaining a low boil. Add "Chestnut Chips" and continue to low boil for 20 minutes. Carefully

remove to blender. If short on liquid, add water to make an even 4 cups. Blend to smooth consistency (about 45 seconds). Salt and pepper to taste. This is a simple base for a delicious soup. Do not hesitate to experiment with other ingredients. For variety, try adding additional spices, parsnips, squash, sweet potato, apple or 1/4 cup Madeira wine. Add Canadian bacon if meat is desired.

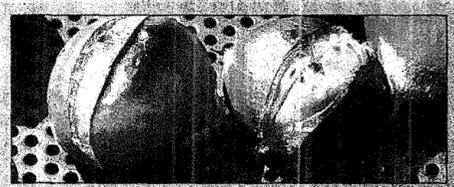


PHOTO BY MARIO MANDUJANO

CHESTNUT ROASTINGS

Chestnut Growers Inc. will roast chestnuts and sell chestnut products at these locations:

- 7 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3, Royal Oak Farmer's Market, 316 E. 17 Mile, two blocks east of Main, in downtown Royal Oak

- 7 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 10, Detroit Eastern Market, 2934 Russell, Detroit

- 7 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 17, Ann Arbor Farmer's Market, 315 Detroit Street, Ann Arbor

Contact: www.chestnutgrowersinc.com; (800) 667-6704; chestnuts4U@hotmail.com

French Sponge Cakes

1/2 cup sifted "fine" chestnut flour

1/2 teaspoons baking powder

1/2 teaspoons salt

3 whole eggs — separated

1/2 teaspoon almond extract

1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract

6 tablespoons sugar or Splenda

Preheat oven to 350°F -180°C

Sift together flour, baking powder, and salt. Beat egg yolks in a small bowl, rapidly, until very thick and lemon colored (at least 5-7 minutes), adding almond and vanilla flavorings during the beating.

With clean beaters, (or another beater set) beat the egg whites until stiff and shiny. Add sugar, (1 tablespoon at a time about every 45 seconds) and beat on high constantly. Continue to beat rapidly until whites are very stiff and glossy.

Gently fold in the beaten egg yolks with large rubber spatula until just combined, using large turning over and under motion with spatula. In the same manner, fold in the dry ingredients until just mixed. Do not over beat.

Using two teaspoons, (one to pick up batter from bowl and the other to push it onto the cooking tray) drop onto baking sheets, 2 inches apart.

Bake for 10 minutes or until light golden brown. Remove at once to rack to cool.

TIP: For better results in increasing egg white volume, put bowl, beaters, and spatula used to turn batter in the freezer for a short time 5-10 minutes before using. Take out from freezer and use immediately.

French Sponge Cake Cookies on the left side of the plate are made with chestnut flour; those on the right side are made with regular, white flour. Virginia Rinkel, a Michigan chestnut grower, says the cookies with chestnut flour are sweeter and easier to remove from the baking sheet.

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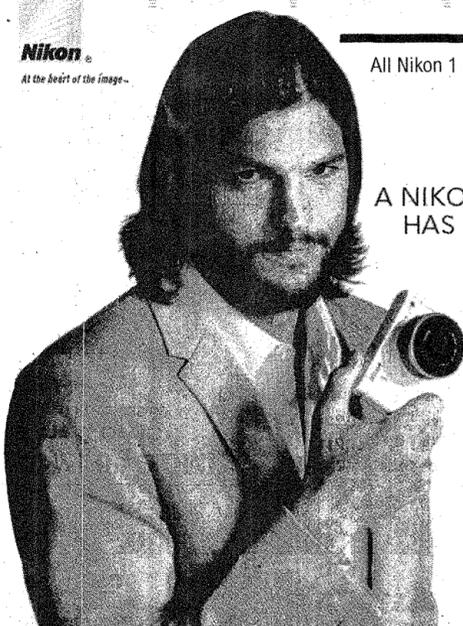
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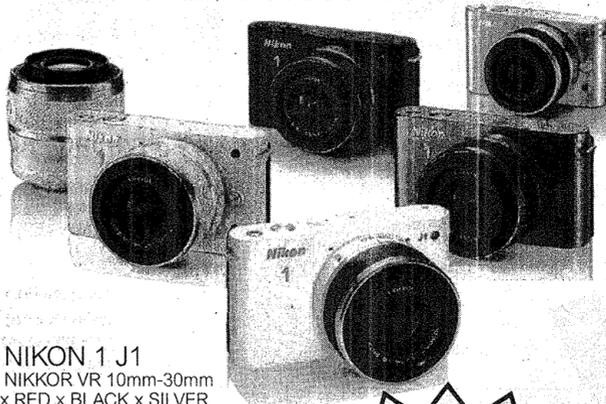
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