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**WESTLAND**  
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# OBSERVER

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## Plea deal brings quick end to Carlee Morse murder trial

**By LeAnne Rogers**  
 Observer Staff Writer

On the third day of his jury trial for murdering Carlee Morse, Justin Yoshikawa accepted a plea bargain that will send him to prison for 35 to 65 years.

Yoshikawa, who turned 20 in July, pleaded guilty to second-degree murder which gives him the

possibility of parole. Had he been convicted as charged of first-degree murder, Yoshikawa would have faced a mandatory sentence of life in prison without chance of parole.

Before Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Ulysses Boykin accepted the plea, Yoshikawa was asked about his role in the murder by his attorney George Chedraue and

prosecutor Lisa Screen.

Responding to questions, Yoshikawa confirmed that he and co-defendant Nicholas Cottrell lured Morse, 16, from her family's Westland apartment late Aug. 19 or early Aug. 20, 2010.

Describing Morse as someone he dated briefly during the summer of 2010, Yoshikawa responded "Yes, sir" when asked

if he hid in the back seat of a car before strangling front seat passenger Morse and later placing her body in trash bags.

The court testimony mirrors the statements given by Yoshikawa and Cottrell after their arrests in December 2010.

Yoshikawa's plea comes on the heels of Cottrell, who entered a plea bar-

gain earlier this year with the condition of testifying against Yoshikawa, taking the stand and refusing to testify.

Cottrell, 23, had also been charged with first-degree murder but was sentenced to 25-50 years in prison after pleading guilty to second-degree murder.

**Please see PLEA DEAL, A2**

**WCG reunion**

The 27th annual holiday reunion for Wayne County General Hospital retirees and former staff will be held at the Café Marquette in the William D. Ford Technical Center in Westland 5-9 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 6.

The cost is \$16, including tip, for the buffet dinner. Dinner begins at 5:30 p.m.

For information and reservations, contact Dennis Abraham at (734) 721-2917 or fightingish316@scbglobal.net, Kay Shafi at (734) 427-3437 or chknlit@wideopenwest.com or Pat Ibbotson at (734) 331-9291 or pibbotso@aol.com.

For retirees and retired staff on Facebook, the group now has a Friends of Eloise page.

**Appointments**

The Westland City Council has approved the appointment of Brian Cameron as an alternate to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Cameron, who has a long history in residential construction and energy efficiency, was appointed as an alternate member to fill an unexpired term three-year term that expires May 12, 2013.

Rob Millard also was reappointed to three-year term on the Westland Brownfield Redevelopment Authority. The term that will expire Sept. 2, 2014. Millard has served on the authority since 2002.

**Like us and win**

Enter our Facebook contest for a chance to win two tickets to see the Detroit Lions take on the Minnesota Vikings on Dec. 11 at Ford Field. Our website, Hometownlife.com, is giving away two prime tickets to the game but you must act fast as the deadline for entries is midnight Dec. 8.

To enter, visit us on Facebook and click on the sweepstakes tab, or go to Hometownlife.com, and click on Detroit Lion helmet in our Don't Miss module. Share the contest link with a Facebook friend and get an extra chance to win, if they also enter the contest. The lucky winner will be selected at random Friday, Dec. 9.

## Holiday cheer

Card project sends troops thank-yous

**By Sue Mason**  
 Observer Staff Writer

For Debi Goetz, getting shoppers to sign holiday cards for the troops is a personal thing. Goetz was among a group of Westland Jaycees who were at Westland Shopping Center Friday to get 1,500 cards signed by shoppers and to collect donations to pay the postage of boxes they will send out this holiday season.

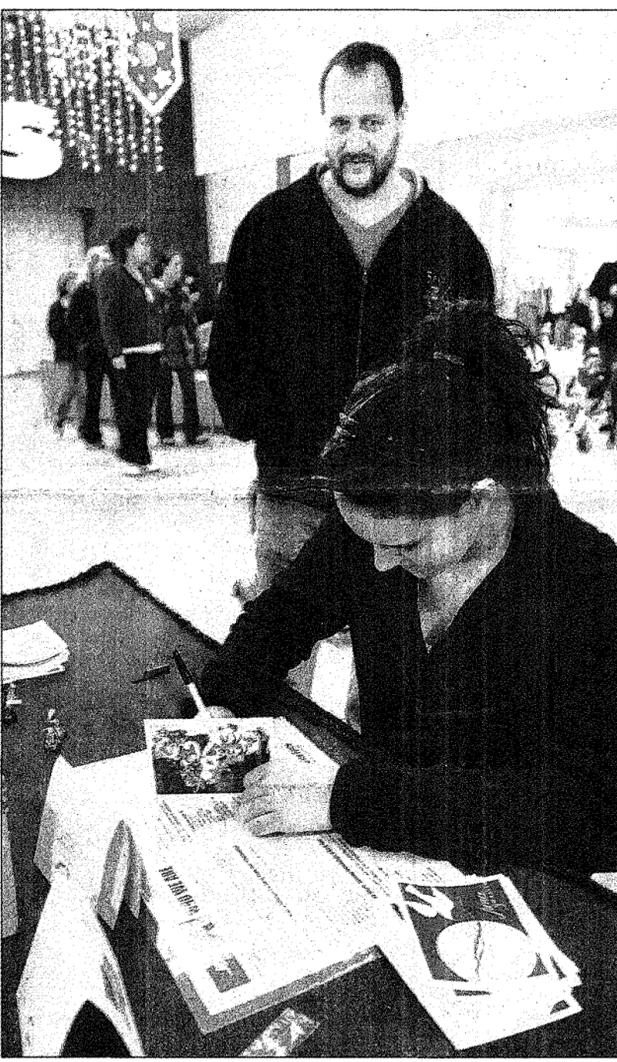
"I have a nephew in the Marines and one in the Air Force, my dad was in the service," said Goetz. "It's very important to thank the military for what they do."

This is the fifth year the Jaycees have had a booth at the mall on Black Friday. Positioned at the Kohl's entrance in Westland Shopping Center, a steady stream of shoppers stopped to sign a card, many after being invited to do so by Madison Leforge.

"I ask them if they'd like to sign a card for the troops and then give a thumbs up which means they said OK," said Madison.

"She's going to make a great salesman some day," said her mother, Melody, a Westland Jaycees.

**Please see CARDS, A2**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Brian Chalmers of Wayne waits as daughter Paige Chalmers fills out a Westland Jaycees holiday card for U.S. troops serving overseas.

## Park gets LED lights

**By LeAnne Rogers**  
 Observer Staff Writer

Things should be getting a bit brighter, not to mention more energy efficient, in Westland's Annapolis Park subdivision.

The council has approved using just over \$20,000 remaining in Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant funds to install LED street lighting in the subdivision.

DTE owns the light poles and would replace 31 street light fixtures under a sole source bid. The new lights would be retrofitted onto the existing light poles and save an estimated \$2,100 annually.

In 2009, the city received \$731,100 in grant funding that was used for energy retrofits at the Mike Modano Ice Arena — the single largest project — the Bailey Recreation Center and the Westland Police Department.

"This will close that grant down. It's a pilot program with the LED lighting in Annapolis Park," said Mayor William Wild. "It will give

**Please see LIGHTS, A2**

## New comment system requires real names of users

**By Larry Ruehlen**  
 Observer Staff Writer

It's the end of the anonymous era.

Hometownlife.com, the website for the Observer & Eccentric and Hometown Weekly Newspapers, now requires posters to sign on by using their real names. Company officials believe the move will result in a "higher-quality discussion" on story chats.

"We ask those submitting letters to the edi-

tor to sign their name to printed material and this is no different. I believe this new policy is a start in raising the level of quality discussion and engagement on our website," said Susan Rosiek, executive editor and publisher of the O&E and Hometown Weeklies and hometownlife.com.

Readers are required to log into a registered Facebook account to comment on Westland Observer stories at Hometownlife.com. Gannett Co. Inc. announced in October it will make that change for all of its U.S. community publishing and broadcast sites.

Other Gannett-owned sites affected in Michigan are the Lansing State Journal, Detroit Free Press, The Livingston Daily Press & Argus, Battle Creek Enquirer and WZZM-TV. The official Gannett-wide Facebook comments deployment began last week and is scheduled to finish in January.

News organizations that implement Facebook commenting abilities on their sites say they are seeing "higher-quality" discussion and a "significant increase in referral traffic," according to a report by Jeff Sonderman, a digital media fellow at The Poynter Institute in St. Petersburg, Fla., which advocates for journalistic excellence.

The Gannett changes to the new commenting system weren't reckless, said Luz Long, Gannett Digital

project coordinator.

"We understand that many users will not be able to use Facebook or are not interested in using Facebook to comment," the Gannett e-mail announcement sent by Long reads. "However, our aim is not to shut out participants from the conversation, but rather to provide a welcoming environment that encourages high-quality and relevant contributions."

**Please see COMMENTS, A9**

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Before After

## CARDS

Continued from page A1

Shoppers like Mark and Therese Waddell of Belleville accepted Madison's invitation, jotting down a "May God Bless you and keep you safe" message on the card.

"I think this is fantastic," said Mark Waddell. "We do a lot of fundraising and sending things to the troops."

Amy Morse, a teacher at Wayne-Westland's Hoover Elementary School, stopped by to get cards for her students to fill out.

"I have 34 kids that I'm going to have fill these out," she told Goetz. "This will be a great writing activity for them."

Goetz was pleased with the response from shoppers.

"We've been doing pret-

ty good, the donations have been wonderful," she said.

The cards will be included in boxes that are sent to soldiers they learn are serving overseas. This year, cards will go to a member's relative who is serving in Guatemala and the son of a Wyandotte Jaycee who just shipped out to Afghanistan. The donations help pay for shipping, and what's left will go for items the troops have on their wish list.

"Last year, we were able to send out three-four boxes," said Goetz. "We had cards, socks and sanitizers and a note in the box, telling the recipient what we did. Like a mom stopping by and giving us her son's name and we ask him to share with the other troops."

The Jaycees have heard back from some of the recipients of their holiday

cheer. One soldier posted on a Michigan Jaycees board and even sent photos. But it got even better, Goetz said.

"The next year, he was off and came here to sign a card," she said.

Goetz is getting help with the cards from her mother. She's getting the members of Daughters of the American Revolution and the Order of the Eastern Star to sign them.

For Madison, greeting shoppers and getting them sign cards was well worth giving up a day off from school. She wanted to come to the mall with her mother because of a card she had made last year. It went to soldier named Jake who let her know he appreciated the thought.

"I got a bracelet back from him," she said.

smason@hometownlife.com  
(313) 222-6751

# Holiday marketing effort under way

Westland's 2011 Shop and Dine Westland holiday campaign to promote the city's shopping and dining district as a regional destination is underway.

The Economic Development Department campaign's slogan is "Everything you need. Everything you want. For shoppers this holiday season." Westland's shopping and dining district is anchored by Westland Shopping Center, one of the country's original shopping centers, and is surrounded by more 160 shops, restaurants and services. A new addition to the shopping and dining district is the \$15 million MJR Westland Grand Digital Cinema, featuring 16 screens which opened earlier this month.

The seven-week campaign features radio spots on WMGC (105.1) and commercials on both WOW and Comcast on E, CMT, TBS and TLC, just to name a few. Creative print ads and the promotional commercials feature Westland resident and 2008 Miss Michigan Ashlee Baracy.

An shopping guide can be easily accessed by going to [www.cityofwestland.com](http://www.cityofwestland.com) and clicking on the Shop and Dine button. Display Banners promoting the Shopping and Dining District have been



Westland Economic Development Director Lori Fodale promotes the city's Shop and Dine Campaign on WLND's "The Buzz."

placed in high traffic city buildings.

"This is the third year of the Shop and Dine Promotion. It is a proactive campaign to brand

our Shopping and Dining District as the region's premier holiday shopping destination," said Westland Mayor William Wild.

## PLEA DEAL

Continued from page A1

Going against the advice of his defense attorney Solomon Radner, Cottrell refused to testify, telling Boykin that his plea had been the result of coercion by Westland police. Cottrell said he had lied when he had earlier testified the plea was coerced. Boykin is scheduled to hear arguments in Cottrell's efforts to withdraw his guilty plea on Dec. 12.

After it was clear that Cottrell would not testify, Boykin allowed the transcript of Cottrell's testimony from Yoshikawa's preliminary examination in Westland's 18th District Court to be read into the record. Screen and Chedraue read their parts of the transcript with a stand-in for Cottrell.

"We were about three-quarters done reading Nick's (Cottrell) testimony on Tuesday. Justin (Yoshikawa) knew the rest of it would be read," said Westland Police Sgt. Dan Serrano, the officer in charge of the case. "Justin saw the looks on the faces of the jurors. He started to hear the ice cracking under his feet."

Morse's mother Laurie and older sister Lauren were consulted before the plea agreement was accepted. Family and supporters of Yoshikawa were taken outside the courtroom by Chedraue before the plea was entered.

"The best outcome to have is that this little girl (Morse) be home — that this never happened," said Chedraue, who refused to comment on whether there had been earlier discussions regarding a plea. "He

(Yoshikawa) was looking at life with no parole. Now there is a chance that he will see daylight again."

Yoshikawa, a former Westland John Glenn High School student, is scheduled to be sentenced by Boykin on Dec. 15.

Morse's body has not been located. Yoshikawa and Cottrell told police that they were smoking marijuana and driving around randomly before placing her body into a Dumpster outside a church.

"This is the first murder case in Westland where there was no body. We had no witnesses and no crime scene," said Serrano. "These are things that you hold up (for convictions). We only had investigative reports."

irogers@hometownlife.com  
(313) 222-5428

## LIGHTS

Continued from page A1

us a good chance to look at those lights since they will all be in the same neighborhood."

With the projected annual savings, Wild said there would be a 10-year pay back on the cost for the new lights.

"We'll watch it and see

if it pays us back," said Wild.

The City Council also approved allocation of the remaining 2009 Justice Administration Grant to purchase a 2012 Ford Expedition four-wheel drive vehicle for \$28,795 through Gorno Ford, which offers the state bid price. The vehicle will replace a patrol car. It will be equipped with lights and sirens.

"We're gearing up for winter. Our response time suffered from the snowfall last year and we want to get ahead of it this winter," said Police Chief Greg Angelosanto. "We would not have been able to afford this vehicle without the grant."

irogers@hometownlife.com  
(313) 222-5428

# DTE Community Garden produces bumper crop

There was a bumper crop from the DTE Community Garden in Westland which produced a 2,553-pound of crops during 2011.

That's approximately 500 pounds more food than the garden produced in 2010 — the first year for the garden located on the DTE Energy property on Cherry Hill.

Nearly 300 listed volunteers worked almost

1,000 hours to accomplish this unprecedented task within Westland. The Westland Youth Assistance Program provided a great deal of help on a weekly basis with 13 teens pitching in repeatedly over the season. The volunteers included nine master gardeners, 21 citizens as well as DTE employees. Also, the 50 bags of leaves collected at the Senior Center were dropped off at the garden.

The food harvested from Westland's DTE Energy Garden was

donated to Gleaners Community Food Bank of Southeastern Michigan for distribution to the needy.

"This initiative has truly raised the bar for our eco-friendly efforts and how our city continues to give back to those who are struggling financially," said Mayor William Wild. "It is truly an illustration of what community stands for."

For more information on how to get involved with Mission: Green, go to [www.cityofwestland.com](http://www.cityofwestland.com).

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**CITY OF GARDEN CITY WINTER TAX NOTICE**

The 2011 winter taxes will be payable from December 1, 2011 through February 15, 2012 without penalty. Beginning February 16, 2012 thru February 29, 2012 a 3% penalty will be added to the unpaid taxes. Beginning March 1, 2012 all unpaid 2011 REAL property taxes must be paid to: Raymond J Wojtowicz, Wayne County Treasurer, The International Center Building, 400 Monroe, 5th floor, Detroit, MI 48226 with an additional 4% administration fee plus 1% per month interest computed from March 1, 2012.

ALLYSON M BETTIS-Treasurer-City Clerk

Publish: November 27, 2011 0E0876002 - 2x2.5

**NOTICE OF MEETING**

The annual meeting of stockholders of Wayne Masonic Temple Association, a Michigan non-profit Corporation, will be held at the Corporate Office located at 37137 Palmer Rd., Westland, Michigan 48186 on Tuesday December 13, 2011 at 8:00 PM for the election of Directors and other such business as may properly come before said meeting.

Publish: November 27 & December 4, 2011 0E08761493 - 2x1.5

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For more information about Cypher Research please visit [www.cypherresearch.com](http://www.cypherresearch.com)

0E08761555

# Gordon Chevrolet showcases children's 'Pictures of Hope'

The "hopes and dreams" of children in Detroit will be on display for the first time Tuesday at Gordon Chevrolet in Garden City.

Holiday cards, with the children's heartfelt dreams, will be celebrated and unveiled at a "Meet the Young Artist" party at 3:30 p.m. Nov. 29 at Gordon Chevrolet, 31850 Ford Road, Garden City. Photojournalist, author and creator of "Pictures of Hope," Linda Solomon, will congratulate each child at the celebration.

Solomon taught the children photography skills at the Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries earlier this fall, and Gordon Chevrolet surprised each child with a camera. Their assignment as young photojournalists was to capture their "hopes and dreams," which are now featured on holiday greeting cards.

Chevrolet has made it possible for 100 percent



of the proceeds of the poignant and self-esteem building "Pictures of Hope" cards to benefit the Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries. The holiday cards are available for purchase through the Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries at 150 Stimson St., Detroit, by calling (313) 993-4700 or online at [www.drmm.org](http://www.drmm.org).

"We are so excited about the unveiling of the pictures of hope Christmas cards," said Susan Ianni, general manager at Gordon Chevrolet. "Seeing the children again and watch-

ing as they see their picture transformed into a greeting card is going to be a heartwarming experience."

"We are thankful to GM and Linda Solomon for including Gordon Chevrolet in this experience," she said.

Gordon Chevrolet will give every customer who purchases a vehicle between Thanksgiving and Christmas a package of the holiday 'Pictures of Hope' cards. A matching donation will be given to the Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries by the dealership.

"We also are selling the cards as well for \$20 at Gordon Chevrolet with 100 percent of the proceeds going to the Detroit Rescue Mission," said Sheri Barber, Customer Relations at Gordon Chevrolet. "We have 500 packages of cards that will raise a lot of money to help women and children who receive services from the Detroit Rescue Mission."

## 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.

### Santa Visit

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.

### Project Heat

Needy older adults and adults living with disabilities can get free furnace cleanings and 15 point safety checks

as part of The Senior Alliance's Project Heat.

The service will be done between 8:30 a.m. and noon Saturday, Dec. 3, by a local company and available slots are limited. Project Heat is sponsored by the Southeast Michigan Air Conditioning Contractors of America. Forms must be submitted by Wednesday, Nov. 30. To obtain a form, call The Senior Alliance at (734) 727-2031 or the Westland Friendship Center at (734) 722-7628.



"2011-  
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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

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| All Med Medical                         | 6321 Commerce Dr., Westland                   |
| Bigby 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>

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## Showcasing technology

Westland State Rep. Richard LeBlanc (second from right) joins students from William D. Ford Career Technical Center who participated in the 11th annual AT&T/MACUL Student Technology Showcase, held Nov. 2 at the State Capitol Building in Lansing. Students are Mitchell Leinbach (from left), Arthur Roberts, Brandi Caloia and Natasha Ayala. The school was one of nearly 35 elementary, middle and high schools statewide that participated in the event, whose purpose is to show elected members of the Michigan State Senate and House of Representatives how technology is being used in the classroom to enhance student achievement. AT&T and the Michigan Association for Computer Users in Learning (MACUL) sponsor the event.

## Night benefits Big Brothers Big Sisters

The Student Activities Office and the Athletics Department of Schoolcraft College will sponsor a very special Spirit Night on Wednesday, Nov. 30.

Both the men's and women's basketball teams will take on Kellogg Community College in a doubleheader in the Physical Education Building on the college's main campus in Livonia. Admission is \$5 and special commemorative T-shirts will also be available for an additional \$5. All proceeds will benefit Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Metropolitan Detroit.

The Ocelot basketball

teams are starting the season strong and are looking forward to another season of many successes both on and off the court. The women will tip-off at 5:30 p.m. with guest coach Colleen Case, associate professor in the college's Computer Graphics Technology program calling the plays. The men will play at 7:30 p.m. with Chef Shawn Loving, certified executive chef and department chair of the Culinary Arts Department, serving as guest coach.

In addition, Ocelot fans in attendance will enjoy music by deejay Jason George of United Produc-

tions, half-time performances by the college's Dance Team and the Beat Boys Break Dance Team, and a number of other surprises. Free tickets to Phoenix Theatres at Laurel Park Place will also be given away, while supplies last.

The games will be broadcast live on Bright House Network's Channel 13 in Livonia by Schoolcraft College Media Services Department and members of the college's Video Production Club.

The Livonia campus is off Haggerty Road between Seven and Eight Mile roads.

## WCCCD helps assess work force needs

Wayne County Community College District is assessing the area's workforce needs and supplying metro Detroit employers, educational institutions, workforce development agencies, and policy makers with the information they need to further cultivate and transform the region's workforce as a partner in the Workforce Intelligence Network (WIN) for Southeast Michigan.

Funded by a three-year, \$1.5 million grant from the New Economy Initiative, WIN is a region-wide collaborative effort between metro Detroit's eight community colleges, seven workforce boards and economic development partners to assess and serve three primary roles for southeast Michigan:

- Gather, analyze and distribute real-time workforce data specific to southeast Michigan.

- Serve as a connection point for regional business, industry and other stakeholders in regard to workforce development.

- Research talent-related policy concerns.

For each role, WIN will understand needs and apply a plan of action to achieve desired outcomes. WCCCD serves on the WIN board and will help provide strategic direction for WIN and help implement collaborative regional strategies to support regional jobs.

"Collectively, these community colleges and workforce boards designed this concept to leverage assets to build a comprehensive and cohe-

sive workforce and talent system across the region," said WIN Executive Director Lisa Katz. "Their investment in this network will arm economic developers, business accelerators, colleges, universities, training institutions, employers and policy makers with the data and strategies they need to help redefine the region's workforce."

The Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) also is providing in-kind support to the WIN initiative, including technical expertise and resources.

WIN is made up of the following eight community colleges - Macomb Community College, Monroe Community College, Mott Community College, Oakland Community College, Schoolcraft College, St. Clair Community College, Washtenaw Community College and Wayne County Community College District. The seven workforce boards are Career Alliance, Detroit Workforce Development Department, Livingston County Michigan Works!, Macomb/St. Clair Michigan Works!, Oakland County Michigan Works!, Southeast Michigan Community Alliance and Washtenaw County Employment, Training and Community Services.

"We are very pleased to join forces with the other regional community colleges, workforce boards and economic development organizations in Michigan to create a strong and unified approach to address the current and future needs

for jobs and business development in our area," said Dr. Curtis L. Ivery, chancellor of WCCCD. "We believe this strategy not only allows us to share information and knowledge but will help to build stronger partnerships and create more employment opportunities for the people in Southeast Michigan."

WIN is working to address such regional workforce issues as:

- Identifying regional skill training needs of the corporate IT sector, a growth opportunity in southeast Michigan, and will coordinate accelerated training approaches for short term and ongoing industry needs. Moving forward, the WIN will also work to implement regional training strategies and leverage private, state and federal workforce training resources.

- Developing a career pathway for the energy workforce with special focus on entry level and apprenticeship resources. This sector is anticipating a retirement crisis among skilled workers and came to WIN to develop strategies for rebuilding the talent pipeline.

- Supporting the demand of the rebounding auto sector for skilled engineers and technicians with hybrid and electric vehicle expertise. WIN is working with business and government partners to bring together the combined expertise of regional workforce boards and community colleges to develop a blueprint for short and longer-term talent development.



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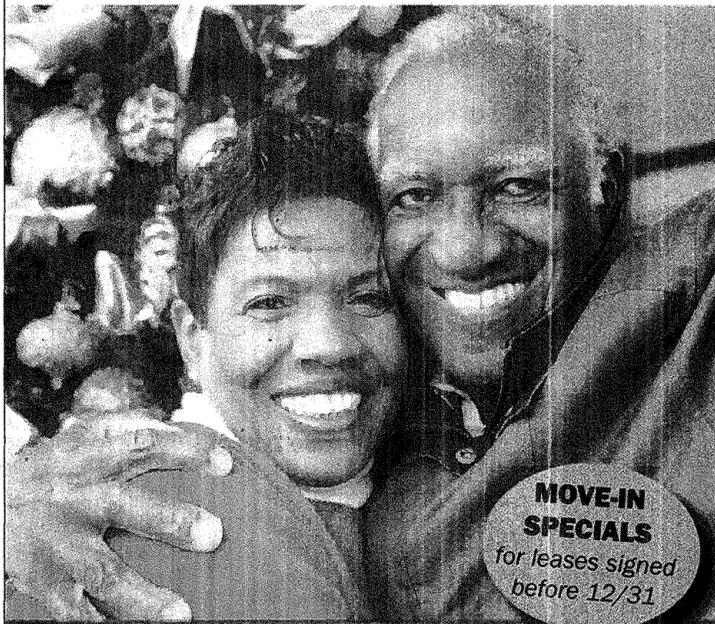
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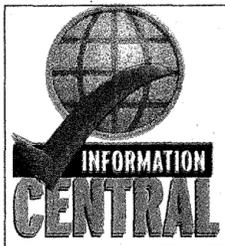
# Exhibit looks at homelessness

I know little about what it is like to be homeless. I was raised with a roof over my head and a family who fed and clothed me. I never had to ask for food, wonder where I was sleeping, or wonder whether I had enough clothing to keep warm through the night. But it should come as no surprise that homelessness is touching more people with our poor economy. With cold weather approaching, we should also take extra care to help those less fortunate in whatever ways we are able.

According to the National Coalition on Homelessness, homelessness is said to be on the rise in the last 25 years because of a rise in persons in poverty and a decrease in affordable rental housing. Homelessness is spread across many diverse groups, including families with children, African-Americans, whites, Hispanics, victims of domestic violence, veterans, persons with mental illness, and those unable to find adequate-paying employment (or any employment at all).

To help and hear more about what you can do, you can contact the Wayne County Family Center in Westland at (734-721-0590) or look for an opportunity to donate food to one of the numerous food banks in the area. The Westland Public Library has also worked with Gleaners Food Bank in the past and recommends looking at their resources and organizing principles, if you'd like to plan a food drive.

You can also visit the library through Nov. 29th as we help spread awareness through a photo exhibit by Lad Strayer. These photos were originally part of a book Strayer had done with poet and journalist, Jennifer Burd. On



Tuesday, Nov. 29, Burd will be here to read from her book and also to talk about issues and misconceptions. Those in attendance are asked to bring a poem or a non-perishable food good. For more information, contact the library at (734) 326-6123 or visit us on the web at [www.westlandlibrary.org](http://www.westlandlibrary.org).

Stop by the library seven days a week to find information, use a computer, attend a program, read a book or newspaper or relax. We're also open 24/7 at [westlandlibrary.org](http://westlandlibrary.org)

**HIGHLIGHTED ACTIVITIES**

**Writers Club:** 7 p.m. Nov. 28, age 16 and up

Have you written stories or poems that you would like others to hear, but not critique, in a casual atmosphere? Join us as Cheryl Vatcher-Martin leads the Westland Library Writer's Club.

**Daily Bread Photo Exhibit and Reading:** 7 p.m. Nov. 29

Journalist and poet Jennifer Burd will be here to read from her book based on the photos by Lad Strayer, a photographer from Adrian who tracked the life of homeless people in Michigan. Anyone inspired to write a poem, reflection, short story based on the photos exhibited are asked to read their work at this reading. Contact [andy.schuck@westlandlibrary.org](mailto:andy.schuck@westlandlibrary.org) or call (734) 326-6123 for more information.

**Afternoon Movie Classics - 1996:** 3-5:15 p.m.

Nov. 29  
Help us celebrate 15 years of serving the Westland area with afternoon showings of Best Picture nominees from 1996. Today's movie is *Fargo*, based on a true story about a car salesman who tries to pull off a blackmail,

but is a terrible criminal, and the persistent policewoman who finally catches him. This picture is rated R.  
**NaNoWriMo FINAL Write-In:** 6-8:45 p.m. Nov. 30  
Your time is over. Put down your pen - or keyboard. The deadline

is here. Time to submit your literary masterpiece. If you need a laptop to work on, just bring a state ID with your current address.  
**Computer Classes** are offered all year long. Contact the library to find out more. Call

(734) 326-6123

**Information Central** was compiled by Andy Schuck, library programs, adult services. The William P. Faust Public Library is at 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland. For more information, call (734) 326-6123 or go online to [westlandlibrary.org](http://westlandlibrary.org).

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Krysten Malloy of Garden City, arranges stock at the Hickory Farms kiosk in Westland Shopping Center.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Zac Pechin or Westland had the job of enticing early shoppers to try samples of BonBons doughnuts at Westland Shopping Center.

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# Shoppers tired, but happy with Black Friday deals

By Sue Mason  
Observer Staff Writer

Sitting outside Kohl's in Westland Shopping Center Friday morning, Natalie Joniec and Brooklyn McCannon had to admit they were about ready to go home.

The Redford Township teenagers had started out shopping at the Target store on Ford Road in Dearborn Heights and made it to the mall by 5 a.m.

"This is our first year doing this," said Joniec. "We started at Target

at midnight. It was crazy. The line went around the parking lot and they were only letting 30 people at a time in. We were at the back of the line."

According to McCannon, the girls called twin brothers Christian and Elijah Baker to join them while they shopped at popular stores like Aeropostale and Wet Seal, but by 9:30 a.m., they were getting tired.

"We've been going on two hours sleep, so we're probably going home," said McCannon.

The teens missed the

crush of shoppers who flocked to the mall for the midnight opening of Macy's and Kohl's as well as many other stores.

Mall marketing director Patrick Derrig's statement that "we got slammed, it was great," was confirmed Denise Staeb, who showed up before 4 a.m. to open her Hickory Farms Kiosk in the Central Court.

"When I came in the parking lot was fill all the way to Wayne Road and all around the mall,"

Please see SHOPPERS, A7

# SANTA SHOPS IN WESTLAND

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www.CityofWestland.com/shop\_dine

# SHOPPERS

Continued from page A6

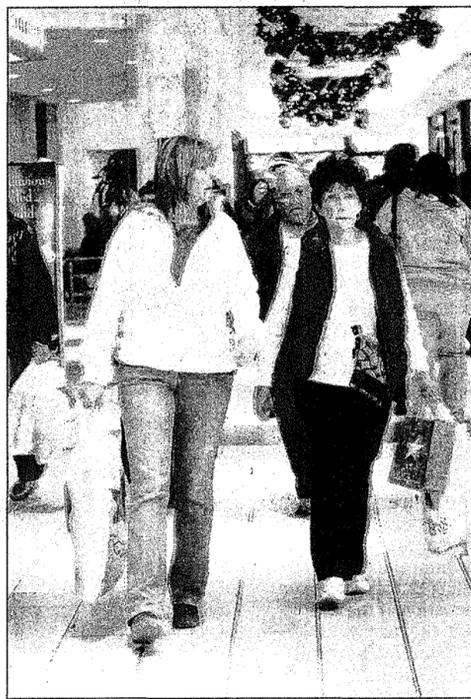
said the Westland resident who has had the Hickory Farms stand at the mall for 26 years. "When I came in a lot of stores were closed, but the mall was jammed. Victoria's Secret had to close their gate because there were too many people inside."

Staab opened her stand at 4 a.m. but by then a lot of the early bird shoppers were leaving.

"Now it's more like a normal shopping day," she said. "I didn't get the rush like I usually get."

Jan Covert of Lake Orion was among newbies doing Black Friday shopping. She had been invited to he daughter's home for Thanksgiving and to stay to get up early to go shopping.

"It's been fun but not as busy as I heard people talk about," she said, sitting outside Macy's with her granddaughter, Lauren Fallu of Livonia. "My daughter was shopping, so I took my granddaughter from her mom and had her walk around and show me what she likes,



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Mother-Daughter Shopping Team of Helen (right) and Cindy Kulas of Westland had found plenty of things to buy at 50 percent off.

then I would sneak off to shop."

According to Covert, her granddaughter showed her a few things she liked at Pink inside

Victoria's Secret.

"We've had our snack even though it's breakfast time, it's amazing what you can get done when it's early," she said.



Daniel Ross and daughter Anna Ross of Canton sat with packages, waiting for mom, Diana Ross who was shopping Friday morning at Westland Shopping Center.

Jody Cooper and Jen Rudd of Livonia headed out shopping at 5:30 a.m. and found plenty of bargains. They started shopping at the Target on Plymouth Road in Livonia and got there after the rush, snagging an \$85 Amazon Kindle and \$25 iTunes for \$20 each.

The two women have been hitting the stores on Black Friday for nine years. The neighbors meet a few days in advance to strategize and come up with a plan.

"We're looking for toys and video games, clothes, a bit of everything," said

Cooper.

"We're heading to Lane Bryant and Kohl's and then we're going home," added Rudd. "We're almost done with the shopping we'll do this year."

Cindy Kulas and her mother, Helen, were at Kmart at 7 a.m. Everything they'd bought, "except fragrances, were 50 percent off."

"We've got coupons, too," said Cindy Kulas. "We'll probably be out another two-three hours. We have to hit Office Max and Lowe's yet."

Christine Neuhoff of

Romulus and her children, Gabrielle and Garrett, as well as Mary Everhart of Livonia had started at 9:30 p.m. Thanksgiving evening and had taken a few breaks during their 12 hours of shopping.

"We did Walmart, it was absolutely crazy," Neuhoff said. "It's a good thing the stores have long hours."

Daniel Ross and daughter Anna of Canton may have had the best job of all — sitting with the shopping bags while his wife, Diana, shopped.

Anna and Diana hit Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi at 4:30 a.m. then went home to get Daniel before going to Art Van.

"Mom goes out and does this every year, we came and got him and did Art Van," Anna Ross said.

"We were trying to get her a kitchen table, she got her Christmas present early," said Daniel Ross.

The Rosses weren't sure how long their wait would be. Diana, according to her husband, "doesn't quit easily."

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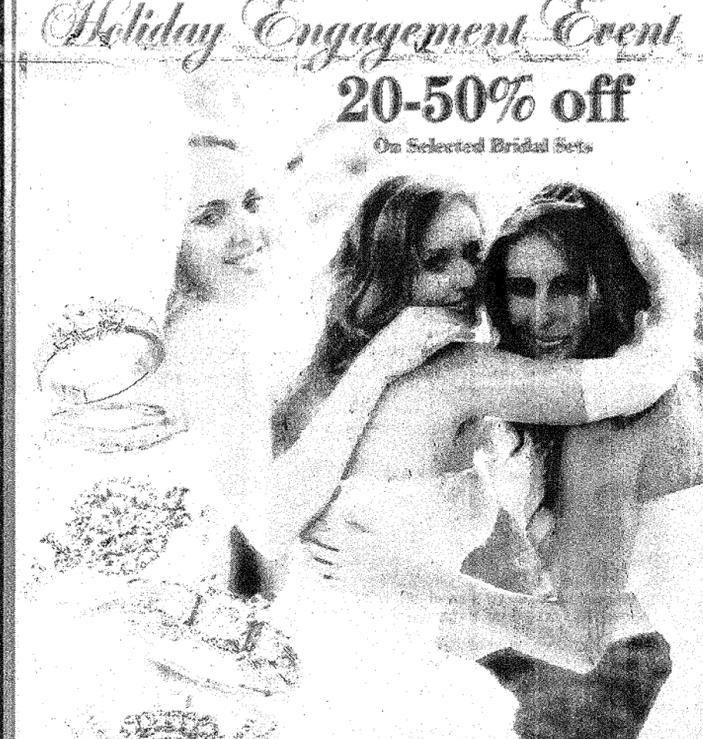


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## Resident says debit card used for unauthorized purchases

### GARDEN CITY

#### Drug possession

A 30-year-old Dearborn Heights man was arrested Nov. 22 after police responded to the 29500 block of James to investigate a reported suspicious vehicle.

The police K9 alerted on the vehicle and officers discovered marijuana, police said. Additionally, the man was found in possession of a knife with a 7-inch blade which violates city ordinance, police said.

The man was taken to jail and issued violations.

#### Suspended license

Officers arrested a 33-year-old Garden City man Nov. 22 for driving while suspended after reportedly watching him commit a traf-

fic infraction at Ford and Middlebelt. The officers also discovered the driver had no proof of insurance and the license plate did not belong on the vehicle, police said.

#### Fraud

A resident in the 27800 block of Sheridan called police Nov. 21 after discovering unauthorized transactions on her debit card. The victim told police she checks her balance daily and discovered nearly \$600 in purchases charged against her account. Her banking institution told her the purchases were made online.

#### Warrant arrest

A 30-year-old Garden City man was arrested Nov. 20 for outstanding warrants after police responded to a home in

the 29500 block of Sheridan to investigate a family dispute, police said.

Officers learned that no assault took place but a computer inquiry revealed warrants for receiving and concealing stolen property and failure to comply with a vehicle immobilization order, police said.

The man was taken to the police station where he was held for bond or court.

A fight in the lot of 7-Eleven, at 28205 Ford Road, Nov. 20 resulted in the arrest of a 23-year-old Livonia man for outstanding warrants, police said.

Officers originally responded to the business on a hold-up alarm. As the first officer arrived, he spotted a car leaving the location and made a traffic stop. Other arriving offi-

cers discovered there was no hold-up and the alarm was triggered by an employee because of the fight.

The first officer discovered outstanding warrants on the man he stopped and took him into custody. Unable to post bond, the man was turned over to Westland Police Department.

A 48-year-old Garden City man was arrested Nov. 19 for a warrant issued by Monroe County Friend of the Court.

An officer on patrol who had prior knowledge of the warrant saw the man and stopped to talk with him. Upon confirmation of the warrant, the man was taken into custody, police said. Unable to post the \$15,000 bond, the man was lodged for pickup by the Monroe County Sheriff.

## 2 charged with thefts from unlocked cars

Cell phones, GPS units, sunglasses, an iPod, a digital camera and a bag of tools were among items reported stolen from vehicles in the early hours of Nov. 21.

Westland Police reportedly recovered a number of the items when a man and woman were arrested for larceny from a vehicle. The man also is facing a charge of assaulting a police officer. Officers were checking the area of South Marie

and Cherry Hill just after 3:30 a.m. in response to a call about two subjects looking into vehicles. The man and woman were described as riding bicycles.

The officers located a woman on a bicycle at Cherry Hill and Norma. The woman, a Southgate resident, told police she was riding to her boyfriend's apartment. The boyfriend, a Westland man, soon arrived crossing Cherry Hill to join his girlfriend.

After being told witnesses called about people looking inside unlocked vehicles, officers said the pair both admitted going through vehicles looking for items to steal. The pair reportedly told police they hid two back packs containing stolen items somewhere along Cherry Hill after seeing a police car pass by.

Officers located both back packs, recovering GPS units, a Droid cell phone, tools, sunglasses, a jewelry box containing gold jewelry and assorted tools, police said.

Police located one homeowner after turning on the recovered GPS unit and using it to find a home address.

While at that home, the officer reported the male suspect threatened to assault him. When the male suspect was being taken to a holding cell, he became argumentative about his property, the officer said.

As the man continued to be uncooperative, the officer said the suspect was told several times to sit down but he refused. When the officer placed a hand on his shoulder, he said the suspect slammed his knee into the officer's groin causing extreme pain.

Eventually, officers were able to get the suspect into a cell. In later statements to police, the suspects told officers they had entered 10-15 unlocked vehicles, police said.

Both suspects, David Alan Robey, 19, and Elizabeth Mary Mullinax, 17, were arraigned on multiple charges of larceny and receiving stolen property. Robey was also charged with assault and battery. Not guilty pleas were entered.

#### Larceny

A 42-inch television valued at \$600 was reported stolen from the wall of the television room at American House, 1660 S. Venoy, Nov. 18.

By LeAnne Rogers

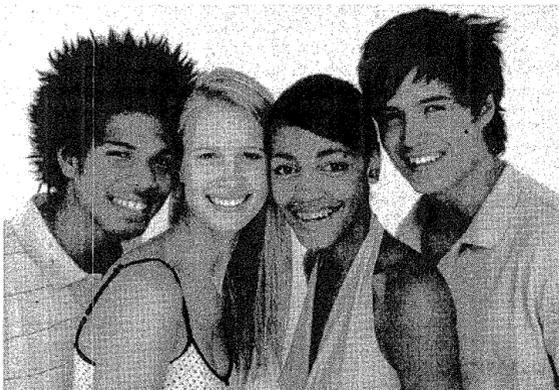


Robey



Mullinax

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It's amazing how different life can be after a split second collision.

One minute everything is fine, the next you are hurting for days and uncertain if life will ever get back to normal. Tasks you used to perform with ease, like reading, concentrating or even sleeping, now take more energy and cause annoying pain.

If you feel like this, or have any of the symptoms listed above, you could be suffering from whiplash. Whiplash is an injury to the spine caused by a jerking motion, either backward, forward or from the side.

Whiplash can severely damage your ligaments, even if you feel just a little sore after the accident. If not healed properly, painful scar tissue will develop, causing misery in your neck joints for decades.

One medical study concluded 43% of patients "will suffer long-term symptoms following 'whiplash' injury, for which no conventional treatment has proven to be effective."

This means that almost half the people who have neck trauma from a car wreck will suffer for years. Plus the traditional methods of treatment like neck collars, 'wait-and-see', and pain pills are not working.

#### Could This Non-Invasive, Natural Treatment Be The Answer To Your Pain?

My name is Dr. Greg Kramer, clinic director at Livonia Spine and Injury Center. I've been helping people heal and be pain free after car wrecks for over 20 years. Chiropractic treatment has proven to be a very effective method of healing whiplash injuries. Here's the results of one chiropractic study...

"The results of this retrospective study would suggest that benefits can occur in over 90% of patients undergoing chiropractic treatment for chronic whiplash injury." -- European Spine Journal

#### Special Opportunity To Have A Professional Evaluation

For 14 days only, I'm running a very special offer where you can find out how bad your injuries are and if I can help you.

What does this offer include? Everything I normally do in my "Car Wreck Evaluation". Just call before December 14, 2011 and here's what you'll get...

- An in-depth consultation about your problem where I will listen...really listen...to the details of your case.
- A complete neuromuscular examination.
- A full set of specialized x-rays to determine if a pinched nerve in the neck is contributing to your pain. This is an important step in collecting proof of your injury.
- A thorough analysis of your exam and x-ray findings so we can start mapping out your plan to being pain free.
- You'll see everything first hand and find out if this amazing treatment will be your pain solution, like it has been for so many other patients.

Until December 14, 2011 you can get everything I've listed here for only \$35. The normal price for this type of evaluation including x-rays is \$250 -- you're saving a considerable amount on this offer.

Now you may be wondering why as a doctor, I would practically give away my services. It's simple really. I've seen too many people come in years after their car accident, and have nasty, degenerative arthritis, most of which could have been prevented with the right care early on. I'm tired of seeing this scenario over and over, so I wanted to offer this special evaluation to help make a difference.

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to a pain-free, normal living. Feeling tight joints rest, relax, free up. Feeling muscles tied in knots become more supple.

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#### Here's What To Do About Your Pain

Call 248-615-1533 between the hours of 9:30 am and 6:30 pm Monday through Thursday and tell the receptionist you'd like to come in for the Special Car Wreck Evaluation before December 14, 2011

Call today and we can get started with your consultation, exam and x-rays as soon as there's an opening in the schedule. Our office is called Livonia Spine and Injury and you can find us at 34441 Eight Mile Rd, Suite 116 Livonia in the Charles Town Office Center (southwest corner of Eight Mile and Gill)

Sincerely, Greg Kramer, D.C., DAAML

P.S. What will your pain feel like months, even years, from today?

A study published in the *Journal of Bone and Surgery* looked at people who had been in a car accident 15 years ago. They found that 70% of the whiplash injured patients continued to complain of problems related to the original accident.

With women it was even higher -- 80% still had symptoms after 15 years!

Don't let scar tissue build up and be painful for life. Take me up on my offer and call today 248-615-1533.

Dr. Kramer is a Diplomate American Academy of Medical Legal Professionals. This is a national medical research organization that provides the latest research on the diagnosis and treatment of spinal trauma related conditions.

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Paper angels bearing the name of loved ones decorate the Angel Tree of Remembrance at the RG & GR Harris Funeral Home in Garden City.

# Funeral homes offer services of remembrance

The R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Homes and Cremation Services of Livonia and Garden City will hold their 21st annual Services of Remembrance Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 3-4, for families who have lost a loved one this year and in the years past.

At the services, family members will be invited to place an angel with their loved one's name on a tree where it will remain until after Jan. 1.

A popular Children's Table is available for kids to design their own angel ornament to help them express their feelings on getting through the holidays after a loss

will be given and a carol will be sung before all the names are read. Refreshments and fellowship can be enjoyed indoors following the service.

- The service at the R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home - Livonia Chapel - at 15451 Farmington Road (just north of Five Mile) will be held at 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3. Call (734) 422-6720 for more information.
- The service at the R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home - Garden City Chapel - at 31551 Ford Road (just west of Merriman) will be held at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 4. Call (734) 425-9200 for more information.

## COMMENTS

Continued from page A1

"By holding commenters accountable for their actions through Facebook, the hope is that this will help keep the conversation interesting and stimulating for the rest of us."

### Pilot study

Gannett selected five sites of varying audience sizes to pilot the changes over the course of a few months, Long said. The pilot sites were ksdk.com, 13wmaz.com, travel.usatoday.com, news-press.com and desmoinesregister.com. The changes were prompted in an effort to keep up with digital media trends, Long said.

Gannett will continue using Pluck, the company's current application programming interface for commenting, to power other website components, such as reader blogs. Alternatives to the Pluck API system, however, will be "explored in the coming months," according to Gannett's announcement.

The new system prohibits pornography, hate speech, threatening language, graphic violence, bullying and spam, aligning with current Gannett moderation guidelines which ban abuse, harassment, threats, vulgarity and spam.

## FAQs

**Q: Why the switch?**  
**A:** The decision to change our commenting tool was not made lightly. We understand that many users will not be able to use Facebook or are not interested in using Facebook to comment. However, our aim is not to shut out participants from the conversation, but rather to provide a welcoming environment that encourages high-quality and relevant contributions. By holding commenters accountable for their actions through Facebook, the hope is that this will help keep the conversation interesting and stimulating for the rest of us.

**Q: What are the benefits of using my Facebook account on www.hometownlife.com?**

**A:** Once you log into your Facebook account and start commenting, there will be no need to maintain a separate login on the site. Plus, you will be able to use the Facebook grammar filter; "Like" and follow other readers' posts; include your friends in the conversation; get instant notifications when someone responds to your comment; view the most relevant comments from friends, friends of friends and the most active threads; and

hide spam.

**Q: I'm logged into my Facebook account, but unable to comment.**

**A:** If you are signing up for Facebook just to post a comment keep in mind that new accounts will have to make a few friends and upload an avatar before becoming "active" and participating on the site. This helps to establish your identity as well as the identities of others using Facebook. For issues concerning Facebook we encourage you to check with their Help Center, <http://www.facebook.com/help/issues/>.

**Q: Can I leave a comment if I don't have a Facebook account?**

**A:** After the switch is made to the entire site, anyone wishing to post a comment will need an active Facebook account. If you don't have one, don't worry. It's easy to sign up at [Facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) <http://www.facebook.com>.

**Q: Why does my Facebook photo and username appear on the page when I haven't posted a comment?**

**A:** If you're signed into Facebook, you will be able to see your information, but it will not be visible to anyone else until the comment publishes.

**Q: If I post a comment will other people be able to see my information or photos?**

**A:** What others see when they click on your information is

determined by your Facebook privacy settings. For assistance in updating your settings please visit the Facebook Help Center <http://www.facebook.com/help/privacy>.

**Q: Do the site's Conversation Guidelines still apply?**

**A:** Yes, you make a difference in the community when you add civil and respectful contributions to the conversation and report abusive comments and identities. If you suspect someone is using a fake or abusive account, report them directly to Facebook by clicking on the user's profile, then clicking "Report/block this person" at the bottom left of the page. For abusive or inappropriate comments, click the "X" in the upper right corner of the comment and report it as spam or abuse.

**Q: Why can't I see the comments?**

**A:** Comments on [www.hometownlife.com](http://www.hometownlife.com) are public, which means anyone logged in or out of Facebook should be able to view them. If you cannot see the comments, check with your IT department. It is common practice for government agencies and certain employers to block the Facebook application from their servers.

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## Power plays lift Chargers

### 4-0 triumph vs. Spartans

By Brad Emons  
Observer Staff Writer

Livonia Churchill has come out of the gate quickly to open the 2011-12 boys hockey season.

The Chargers scored three power-play goals to improve to 3-0 overall with a 4-0 victory Wednesday night over rival Livonia Stevenson in the traditional Thanksgiving Eve battle at Edgar Arena.

It was also the Kensington Conference opener for both teams.

Each team took eight penalties in the highly-charged game, but Stevenson took the worst of it as the Spartans slipped to 2-1 overall.

The Chargers got a first-period break when senior defenseman Jim Lelekatch, fighting off a penalty, scored shorthanded goal at 4:10 when his shot from near center ice took a crooked hop and handcuffed Stevenson goalie Connor Humitz, who had ventured off to the side of his own net while awaiting to clear the puck.

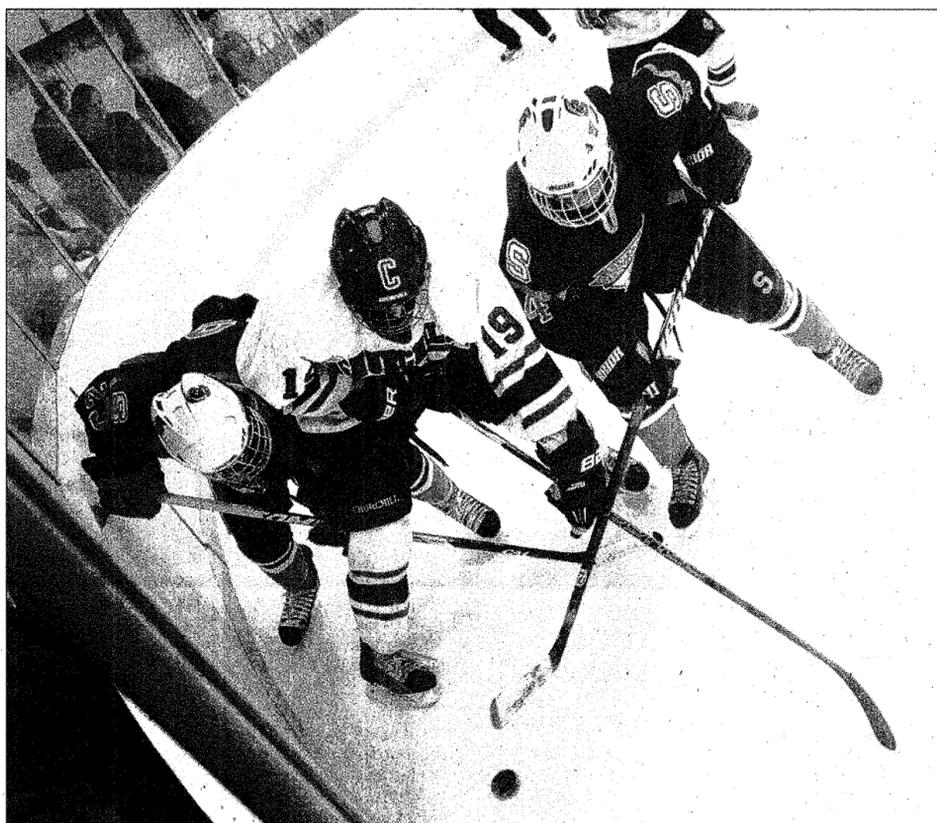
"We worked a lot on special teams this week," Churchill coach Pete Mazzoni said. "We had a chance to see them play last weekend and typically this game comes down to controlling your emotions, being disciplined and special teams.

The first (goal) was a fluke one, but sometimes you get them and sometimes they go against you, but it was nice to get the power-play goal."

The Chargers, meanwhile, had to fight off two early Stevenson power-play efforts before Lelekatch's goal.

"I kind of thought after the first period we kind of got it out of our system," Mazzoni said. "Everybody got their first hit in, but some guys wouldn't let it go. We were lucky that it didn't cost us.

Please see CHARGERS, B3



Churchill's Mike Gambino (19) fights for the puck along the boards against Stevenson's Tim Kelly (23) and Greg Yon (4) during Wednesday's Kensington Conference opener.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## Ross, Lutz spur Stevenson win

By Brad Emons  
Observer Staff Writer

Sophomore Dominic Lutz tallied a pair of third-period goals to break open a close game Friday as Livonia Stevenson advanced to the finals of the Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook Invitational boys hockey tournament with a 4-1 triumph over Grosse Pointe South.

Senior Thomas Ross, back from a two-game disqualification, added three assists as the Spartan improved to 3-1 overall.

The Spartans were coming off a 4-0 loss Wednesday to rival Livonia Churchill.

"We played better and it was a nice bounce-back victory," Stevenson coach David Mitchell said.

"We got better as the game went on and played a good third period."

Stevenson took a 1-0 lead at 8:59 of the first period on freshman Michael Sinclair's first goal of the season from Ross and Jake Kierdorf.

At 12:02 of the second period, Nate Sink scored on a bang-bang passing play from Ross and Mario Tomei to make it 2-0 in favor of the Spartans.

But the Blue Devils (1-2) scored with 1:06 left in the same period on Shane Sparkman's goal from Frank Welscher and Andrew Addy.

At 10:53 of the final period, Lutz gave Stevenson some breathing room with a goal from

J.D. Byrne and put it away with 1:13 remaining in the game with his second, an empty-netter from Sink and Ross to complete the scoring.

Stevenson junior netminder Connor Humitz was sharp, stopping 28-of-29 Grosse Pointe South shots. His counterpart, C.J. Schebil, made 26 saves.

In the other first-round game, host Cranbrook edged Grosse Pointe North, 2-1.

Stevenson and host Cranbrook were set to play at 2:30 p.m. Saturday for the championship.

"The key is to keep getting better, learn from this and move on," Mitchell said.

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## Westland 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 (north of Ford Road).

Plans for the 2012 baseball season will be discussed.

For more information, call the WYAA at (734) 421-0640.

## WYAA meets

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.

## 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 shoot 25 free throws.

Age-group winners advance to district competition in January.

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

## Hoop dreams

### Blazers, Rockets, Stevenson lead way

By Brad Emons  
Observer Staff Writer

Tuesday's tipoff for the 2011-12 girls basketball season may prove to be a carryover from the end of the 2010-11 season.

That's because Livonia Ladywood (18-6), Westland John Glenn (19-4) and Livonia Stevenson (14-8) appear to be the three strongest teams once again.

Ladywood reached the Class A regional semifinals before getting knocked off by Detroit King, 61-44.

The Blazers, under second-year coach Anthony Coratti, should challenge defending Class B state champion Dearborn Divine Child, Farmington Hills Mercy, Birmingham Marian and Warren Regina for a Central Division title.

Junior point guard Andie Anastos, a first-team All-Observer pick, averaged nearly 15 points and five assists during a breakout sophomore season.

She is joined by returnees Briana Combs, a senior 3-point marksman, Morgan Chops, Shelby Walsh and Kiley Gorski.

The biggest loss will be replacing forward Teresa Wojnarowski, a second-team All-Area selection. "Having gotten to coach these kids over the last several years and watch them develop," Coratti said, "I'm extremely excited for this season to begin because I know we will compete and put forth a great effort, which is

Capsule outlook of area teams, B2.

Please see BASKETBALL, B2



John Glenn senior forward Erica Covile, who has signed with Temple University, is recovering from August knee surgery.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## Lady Ocelots avoid turkey vs. Columbus

There were some tense moments Friday, but the Schoolcraft College women's basketball team pulled out a 72-70 victory over Columbus (Ohio) State in the opening round of the Owens Technical Community College Turkey Shootout in Toledo.

Charlise Slater, a 5-foot-8 sophomore guard from Ann Arbor Huron, scored 13 of her team-high 17 points during the second half as the Lady Ocelots rallied for the victory.

Unranked Schoolcraft (5-0) trailed 62-54 before mounting a comeback with an 18-8 run to finish the game.

Slater hit the game-winning layup with 21 seconds remaining and sophomore guard Diamond Tolliver split a pair of free throws with eight seconds left to provide the final margin of victory.

Chelsie Damron's 18-foot jumper at the buzzer missed for Columbus State, which slipped to 5-1 overall.

Ashley Beemon, a freshman guard from Saginaw, added 12 points for the victorious Lady Ocelots, who led 33-32 at halftime. Sophomore guard Shawnicka Thomas (Warren Fitzger-

Please see OCELOTS, B4

## Pom clinic

Livonia Franklin will stage a pom pon clinic for girls ages 5-12, 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.

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

## K-8 mat club

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

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.

## GIRLS BASKETBALL CAPSULE OUTLOOK

## LIVONIA CHURCHILL

Head coach: Matt McCowan, first season.  
League affiliation: KLAAs Kensington Conference (South Division).

Last year's overall record: 2-19.  
Notable losses to graduation: None.  
Leading returnees: Erin Menard, 6-1 Sr. C; Julia Szuba, 5-4 Jr. G; Sydney Anderson, 5-8 Jr. G; Mackenzie VanAmberg, 5-7 Sr. G; Lindsey Dusablon, 5-8 Sr. G.

Promising newcomers: Cecilia Hansen, 5-9 Soph. F.

McCowan's 2011-12 season outlook: "As a team we're looking forward to the season. We will play high energy defense, giving teams different looks and keeping them on their toes. Offensively, we'll put the girls in the right position to succeed and have to work on shot selections and taking care of the ball. We have girls that work very hard and are hungry for success. We'll play as a team, trust our teammates and play with heart."

## LIVONIA FRANKLIN

Head coach: Bob Ostrowski, second year.  
League affiliation: KLAAs Kensington Conference (South Division).

Last year's overall record: 10-11.  
Notable losses to graduation: Chelsea Williams (first-team All-Area); Amanda Borieo (fourth-team All-Area).

Leading returnees: Katelynn Devers, Jr. G; Alexis Smith, Sr. G-F; Jackie Shields, Sr. F; Heather Dawson, Sr. F.

Promising newcomers: Julie Magdowski, Soph. F; Natalie Desautel, Jr. G; Caitlin Milican, Jr. G; Natalie Modes, Jr. G; Morgan Larkin, Fr. F.  
Ostrowski's 2011-12 outlook: "It's a young varsity team with above average athleticism. There are three seniors on the varsity squad, along with seven juniors, one freshman and one sophomore. This team has a great will to win and should compete very hard throughout the season."

## LIVONIA STEVENSON

Head coach: Jen Knoph, third season.  
League affiliation: KLAAs Kensington Conference (Central Division).

Last year's overall record: 14-8.  
Notable losses to graduation: Kristen Balhorn, Monika Rudis.

Leading returnees: Jordan York, 5-7 Sr. G (third-team All-Area, All-KLAA, 10.8 ppg); Molly Knoph, 5-2 Sr. G (fourth-team All-Area, All-KLAA, 8.7 ppg); Charlesann Roy, 6-0 Soph. F.

Promising newcomers: Mara Murray, 5-10 Jr. F; Brenna Gabrielson, 5-10 Jr. F.  
Knoph's 2011-12 outlook: "We are starting to come together. We have an interesting mix of experience and raw talent. The hope is that what we lost in height will be made up for with our athleticism and speed. Although we appear young on paper — three of our four sophomores played quality minutes on the varsity last year; they should step on the court with even more confidence this season, especially Charlesann, who is just so strong in the paint. Compounded with our senior leadership, we have the makings of a fantastic season."

## WESTLAND JOHN GLENN

Head coach: Eric Kovatch, first season.  
League affiliation: KLAAs Kensington Conference (South Division).

Last year's overall record: 19-4.  
Notable losses to graduation: Andrea Gordon-McClain (fourth-team All-Area); Michelle Vanover.

Leading returnees: Erica Covile, 6-0 Sr. F (first-team All-Area); Joslyn Massey, 6-0 Sr. F (second-team All-Area); Shakeya Graves, 5-8 Jr. G; Kaira Barnes, 5-2 Soph. G; Stephany Brown, 5-8 Sr. G; Abby Wright, 5-4 Sr. G; C.J. Hicker-son, 6-0 Sr. C.

Promising newcomers: Keirra Jordan, 5-8 Jr. C.  
Kovatch's 2011-12 outlook: "We have a great group of talented girls that enjoy playing with each other. The KLAAs South has sent a member of its division to the state final four the last three years. We're hope with hard work we can be as successful as those teams."

## WAYNE MEMORIAL

Head coach: Leslie Williams, fifth year.  
League affiliation: KLAAs Kensington Conference (South Division).

Last year's overall record: 3-18.  
Notable losses to graduation: Jane Thayer, Chantel Nolden, Moncia Ovidenie, Destini Woodall.

Leading returnees: Jaylyn Hammac, 5-8 Sr. G-F; Holland Boertje, 5-9 Sr. G-F; Ashley Bland, 5-4 Soph. G; Tiara Childers, 5-6 Sr. F.

Promising newcomers: Kayla Horn, 5-5 Fr. G; Sarah Lovelady, 6-0 Soph. C.  
Williams' 2011-12 outlook: "Wayne has always represented a team of student-athletes that possess the heart and the will to succeed. Each member of this team develops fundamentally and works hard on each element of their game. The team is cohesive and will compete."

## LIVONIA LADYWOOD

Head coach: Anthony Coratti, second season.  
League affiliation: Catholic League (Central Division).

Last year's overall record: 18-6.  
Titles won last year: Central Division co-champions and Class A district champs.

Notable losses to graduation: Teresa Wojnarski (second-team All-Area), Alyssa Anastos, Katy Rooney, Shannon Hogg.

Leading returnees: Andie Anastos, 5-9 Jr. PG



Livonia Stevenson senior point guard Molly Knoph (20) returns for the 14-8 Spartans.

(first-team All-Area, 14.8 ppg, 4.8 apg); Briana Combs, 5-7 Sr. G (7.8 ppg); Morgan Chops, 5-11 Sr. F; Shelby Walsh, 5-6 Jr. G; Kiley Gorski, 5-10 Jr. F.

Promising newcomers: Haley Walter, 5-9 Sr. G; Andria Gietl, 5-9 Jr. G; Lauren Kozlowski, 5-4 Jr. G; Sarah Wojnarowski, 5-8 Jr. G; Courtney Mercier, 5-7 Jr. G.

Coratti's 2011-12 outlook: "We have a great group of seniors who all work extremely hard and are very competitive. We may be a little undersized, so we really want to get into people defensively and look to push the tempo on the offensive end. Our coach staff (Amber Willoughby and Scott Combs) is very optimistic about what this group can accomplish because we have such a great group of kids that provide a nice blend of talent."

## LIVONIA CLARENCEVILLE

Head coach: Katrina Vanover, second season.  
League affiliation: Independent.

Last year's overall record: 8-15.  
Notable losses to graduation: Jenna Burgess, Brittany Tallman.

Leading returnees: Angela McAlpine, 5-9 Sr. F-C; Ashley Murphy, 5-11 Jr. F; Ayanna Buckley, 6-0 Soph. F; Jodi Ankiel, 5-7 Jr. G.

Promising newcomers: Mikala Kieling, 5-7 Soph. G.

Vanover's 2011-12 outlook: "We have a lot of returnees and everybody who is back played in the district championship game last year. They're eager to get to the same spot and win it this time. They know what it takes, they're excited about season and they want to play their best basketball each game. We have to work on protecting the ball. They were working over summer to get better at it. Instead of dribbling out of a trap, they've learned it's easier to pass out of it. We also have a lot of big girls who can put on floor as well and pick up the slack as well."

## LUTHERAN WESTLAND

Head coach: Sandi Wade, second season.  
League affiliation: Michigan Independent Athletic Conference (Red Division).

Last year's overall record: 2-19.  
Notable losses to graduation: none.

Leading returnees: Amanda Terranella, 6-1 Sr. C (All-MIAC Blue; 17 ppg, 9 rpg); Taylor Wiemer, 5-8 Sr. G; Aldreanna Fikes, 5-10 Jr. F; Hannah Conley, 5-9 Sr. G; Erica Killiari, 5-6 Sr. G; Shannon Abbott, 5-6 Jr. G; Allisa Flury, 6-0 Jr. F.

Promising newcomers: Chandler Davenport, Jr. G; Marcella Flury, Jr. F; Julia Yancy, Soph. G.

Wade's 2011-12 outlook: "Last year as the new head coach with young players, we had a lot of learning to do and hit many road blocks. It was definitely a rebuilding year. This year, however, we are ready to have a winning season and be competitors in the MIAC Red division. With my starting five returning I think we are experienced, talented and ready to play with confidence. We will have senior leadership from my four seniors on the floor, strong post payers and experienced guards. They all are hard working, dedicated girls who have been working hard so far this season in practice. We are looking to have a great season."

## HURON VALLEY LUTHERAN

Head coach: Kris Ruth, 11th season.  
League affiliation: Michigan Independent Athletic Conference (Red Division).

Last year's overall record: 6-13.  
Notable losses to graduation: Katie Nell, Becca Lovell.

Leading returnees: Dayna Schroeder, 5-8 Soph. F; Megan Prieskorn, 5-8 Jr. F; Paige Schmidt, 5-6 Sr. G; Gabriel LeClerc, 5-7 Sr. G.

Promising newcomers: Julie St. John, 5-7 Fr. F; Madison Dest, 5-7, Fr. G; Sarah Setian, 5-5 Soph. G; Ashley Hower, 5-9 Soph. G; Brooke Kuehn, 5-4 Soph. G.

Ruth's 2011-12 outlook: "We are really young and hoping to mature as the season progresses. We have been stressing defense and discipline in practice. I have seen some great improvements in these first few weeks of practice, so hopefully that continues throughout the rest of the season."

## Scott works to build LTU soccer program

By Dan O'Meara  
Eccentric Staff Writer

Jamie Scott is busy getting the word out these days about the new Lawrence Tech University women's soccer team.

Scott was hired last summer to coach the start-up program, and she's been working to build a recruiting base and promote a school noted for its academics and not athletics.

Women's soccer is part of an expanded sports program at Southfield-based LTU, which begins competition in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference next year.

Scott has no players at present, but she hopes to have her first commitments in the coming weeks. She has the better part of a year to put together a team before the first game next Sept. 29 at LTU.

"We're looking for local talent as well as Michigan-based talent," Scott said, adding she used the occasion of a recent California trip for a wedding to do some recruiting.

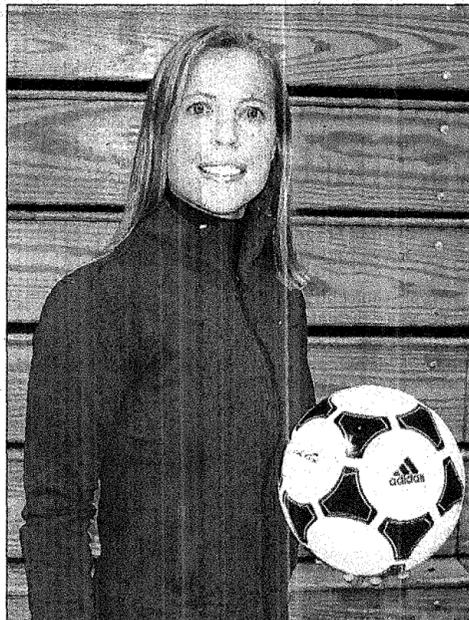
"We have really shown our face in multiple tournaments in Illinois and Indiana, trying to get our name out there. A lot of people are not aware of Lawrence Tech and, if they are, they're not aware we have a soccer team.

"It's almost like marketing when you start something new — how do you market your product or project? People know Lawrence Tech for its strong name in academics, and what we have to do is put together a really strong soccer program. I'm confident we can do that."

Scott, who was raised in Livonia and has coached more than 10 years for the Canton Soccer Club, has previous experience with new programs.

After playing high school soccer at Livonia Churchill, she played for coach Rick Larson at Madonna University when it started a team.

In the third year, Scott helped the Crusaders reach the semifinals of the NAIA national tournament in 2000. LTU also will be an NAIA member, and Scott hopes for quick



Former Livonia Churchill and Madonna University soccer player Jamie Scott is coach of the new women's team at Lawrence Tech University.

success with the Blue Devils, too.

"I know the challenges of a new program, but I also know the potential," she said. "Who isn't going to want to go for an NAIA championship? We'll be doing the same."

Scott plans to build a roster of 20-25 players, and she has compiled a list of 35 prospects that she's working to recruit. Scholarship money will be available on a case-by-case basis. A tryout session for enrolled students is planned for a future date. "We did reach out to existing Lawrence Tech students, and we have a good handful of girls who are interested," Scott said. "They'd just been waiting for Lawrence Tech to establish a soccer program. Other than that, recruiting is just a huge thing for us right now."

Needless to say, Scott is looking for players for all positions and a variety of abilities.

"Offense, defense, attackers, midfielders, players who can possess the ball, players who are crafty and creative, fast players," she said. "It runs the whole gamut. We have to have all different dynamics, and that's what makes your team strong."

Scott thought it might be difficult finding players at LTU and attracting

others because of its academic emphasis and no history in the sport, but that hasn't been the case.

"From the amount of responses we've gotten from players online, I think there's a huge talent pool that we'll be able to tap into," she said.

"Initially, I thought that would be a challenge, but I don't find that at all."

The metro-Detroit area has become a hotbed for soccer over two decades, and it will Scott's prime recruiting territory. "It was popular when I was playing," she said. "Now, it's amazing how many soccer players there are in the area."

Scott, who had been a social worker until the coaching gig came along, is grateful for the opportunity to work full time in her chosen sport.

"I love learning about the different facets of what it takes to be a college coach," she said. "I love being out on the soccer field, coaching players and giving back to the game."

"I'm very excited for this season. I look forward to building a team that can endure the challenges and collectively see the possibilities as I can."

Scott just needs some players now and time to get ready for that first game at home on Sept. 29, 2012.

## BASKETBALL

Continued from page B1

really all you can ask for a coach."

Westland John Glenn, featuring two NCAA Division I signees, lost only four games last season, including three to KLAAs South Division rival Canton, a two-time Class A state semifinalist, and Inkster, the defending state champion, 68-44, in the Romulus district final.

Eric Kovatch takes over as varsity coach for Mark Anderson and inherits a loaded squad featuring Purdue-bound Joslyn Massey, a 6-foot senior forward and second-team All-Area pick who averaged 15 points and eight rebounds per game after transferring in from Detroit Renaissance.

Massey is joined by first-team All-Observer selection Erica Covile, a 6-foot senior guard-forward who is bound for Temple. Covile, who averaged 13 points and 10 rebounds, is still recovering from August knee surgery and may not be ready for game action until late December.

The Rockets also return starters Kaira Barnes, a shifty 5-2 sophomore

guard, and left-handed junior sharpshooter Shakeya Graves.

Livonia Stevenson, meanwhile, could be a factor in the KLAAs Central Division race with the return of veteran guards Jordan York and Molly Knoph, along with 6-foot sophomore post player Charlesann Roy, who started her entire freshman year.

The Spartans reached last year's Class A district final before being ousted by Ladywood.

Livonia Franklin (10-11), under second-year coach Bob Ostrowski, lost the last two players from the Patriots' 2009 Class A runner-up squad to graduation, including the area's leading scorer in Chelsea Williams (now at Wayne State).

Livonia Churchill (2-19) is under new management as Matt McCowan, a former Stevenson JV coach, takes over for Kevin Etue and Chad Jenkins.

Jenkins resigned following the season; Etue got the job in June, but had to resign a month later after taking an assistant principal position at Churchill.

The Chargers' top returnee is 6-1 senior center Erin Menard, who averaged eight points and

eight rebounds per game.

Wayne Memorial (3-18) also hopes to move up in the KLAAs South Division with the return of seniors Jaylyn Hammac and Holland Boertje.

Lutheran High Westland (2-19) will move from the Blue Division to the more friendly Red Division of the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference.

Second-year Warriors' coach Sandi Wade has a strong nucleus returning led by 6-foot senior Amanda Terranella, who averaged 17 points and nine rebounds a year ago.

Next-door neighbor Westland Huron Valley Lutheran (6-13) remains in the MIAC's Red Division as Kris Ruth returns to the bench after a one-year hiatus, replacing Karen Stockdale.

The Warriors are led by 5-8 sophomore Dayna Schroeder.

Livonia Clarenceville (8-15) remains an independent under second-year coach Katrina Vanover and will boast a tall front line led by 5-9 senior Angela McAlpine, 5-11 junior Ashley Murphy and 6-foot sophomore Ayanna Buckley.

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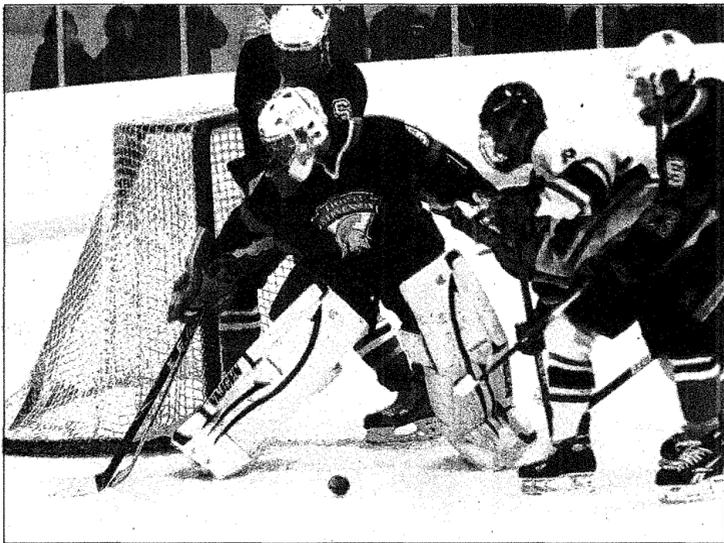
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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Stevenson goaltender Connor Humitz makes the pad save in front of Churchill's Devin Smythe (8) and teammate Tim Kelly (23) during Wednesday's Kensington Conference opener at Edgar Arena.

## CHARGERS

Continued from page B1

Way too many penalties for my liking."

Churchill then scored three times within a span of 45 seconds midway through the second period to take command.

Blake Burnette tipped in Nick McGee's shot from the point at 7:37 to make it 2-0 and Nick Proben made it a three-goal cushion at 8:12 off assists from twin brother Ben Proben and Jake Otto.

And just nine seconds later, Devin Smythe scored again for Churchill (with Brad Milks and Nick Proben assisting) to stun the Spartans.

"It was a tough way to start, but he (Humitz) bounced back real well and we killed some penalties there at the end of the first (period)," Stevenson coach David Mitchell said. "It was still 1-0 after one, but the penalty bug again hit us. We can't take penalties against good teams

like Churchill. If you do that, they capitalize and they got three power-play goals in the second and that was difference."

The third period was more free flowing, but Churchill senior goaltender Alex Estes was up to the task and recorded 18 saves to notch his second straight shutout.

"Alex — it seems like he's been back there forever," Mazzoni said. "He's very technical-sounding. He's grown a little bit, he's stronger and his confidence from last year has carried over. Because of that, we're going to play a little more up-tempo and maybe take some chances. It's nice to have that stopper back there."

Stevenson was only outshot 22-18, but it was the four penalties during the second period that proved to be a killer.

"We played a better third (period), but give them (Churchill) all the credit in the world," Mitchell said. "They came out and were ready to play, and put us on our

heels a little bit. We need to learn from this and move on.

"We have a very new team and only seven guys back from last year, so the biggest thing is to learn from this and move forward. We have to understand, work on things and clean things up. We preach whatever happens we have to get better tomorrow."

Churchill returns to the ice next Wednesday to play at defending Division 1 state champion Novi. (Game time is 8 p.m. at Novi Ice Arena.) Stevenson plays at 5 p.m. Friday against Grosse Pointe South in the Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook Tournament.

"We'll work on conditioning for sure," Mazzoni said. "We've got a lot of things we need to work on. A lot of situations now that we're into it. Sometimes you don't see them until you get into the games. We'll definitely keep the boys busy."

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# Whalers' hot streak ends

By Tim Smith  
Observer Staff Writer

After feasting on Ontario Hockey League opponents to the tune of eight straight wins, the Plymouth Whalers didn't have room for one more on the night after Thanksgiving.

Despite a spectacular penalty shot goal by forward and Farmington Hills native Alex Aleari, the Whalers gave up a late goal Friday night to fall 4-3 to the visiting Peterborough Petes in a non-conference tilt.

That stopped the Plymouth hot streak, but not before it propelled the Whalers to the top of the OHL West Division with a record of 17-7-2-1 (two points up on idle Sarnia).

"Playing better defensively, that was the key (to the winning streak)," Whalers head coach Mike Vellucci said following the game. "And competing hard every shift and winning loose pucks. But defensively we weren't very good tonight and it caught up to us."

The Petes were outshot 47-31, yet came away with the win when center Alan Quine chipped the puck past Whalers goalie Scott Wedgewood with 1:49 to go.

Winger Matt Puempel outworked the Plymouth 'D' behind the net and centered the disc to Quine right on the doorstep.

Vellucci said it was "brutal" to have a defensive letdown so late in a tie game. But he credited Petes netminder Andrew D'Agostini (44 saves) for giving his team a chance.

### Goal of the night

The highlight for the crowd of just under 2,900 at Compuware Arena was Aleari's penalty shot goal with 10:29 left in the

second period to make it a 3-3 game.

Aleari had been tripped up as he dashed to the net on a partial breakaway. On the ensuing penalty shot, he veered to the left, cut inside and back out again before lifting a backhand under the crossbar for his 15th goal of the season.

"That was a great goal, a great move," Vellucci said. "He had four or five chances to score and probably should have (drawn) a few more penalties."

According to Aleari, it was his first penalty shot goal in two tries with the Whalers (having missed one against Sarnia).

"I was trying to go (with) speed and do a move I'm comfortable with," Aleari said. "Which is making a hard leg kick and going to the backhand and trying to get it up. And it ended up working out."

Aleari's goal momentarily stopped Peterborough's momentum, following two Petes goals scored just 54 seconds apart by forwards Andrew Yogan and Austin Watson.

Yogan finished Watson's perfect pass from the right half-wall, snapping a high shot past Wedgewood to make it a 2-2 game.

Then, with 12:17 to go in the period, Watson had a gaping net to tap the puck into after a tic-tac-toe play frustrated Plymouth's defense.

"It was just bad defensive zone coverage," Vellucci said. "We were with the guy both times and didn't tie up the stick, got outworked."

In the first period, the Petes (14-7-2-1 in the Eastern Conference) started the scoring on the

power play with 12:07 to go. Winger Lino Martschini tallied the marker.

Plymouth appeared to tie the game up a minute later when center Mitchell Heard — parked in front of D'Agostini — redirected a point blast by defenseman Nick Malysa. But officials waved the goal off, ruling Heard hit the puck in with a high stick.

The Whalers finally got on the scoreboard with 3:09 remaining in the period.

Right wing Garrett Meurs forced a turnover in the Peterborough end, then ripped a shot from between the circles high into the net past D'Agostini. Credited with an assist on the tally was center Rickard Rakell.

With 14:52 left in the second period, the Whalers briefly took a 2-1 lead.

The work of forwards Andy Bathgate and Aleari deep in the Petes' zone resulted in the goal by linemate Jamie Devane (his eighth).

Aleari dished the puck across the crease to Devane, who made no mistake with his shot taken near the left post.

**PLYMOUTH 7, SAGINAW 3:** On Wednesday at Compuware Arena, the division-leading Plymouth Whalers kept on rolling with this Ontario Hockey League victory.

Plymouth's eighth straight victory featured two goals by forward and Farmington Hills native Alex Aleari, giving him 14 on the season. Also slipping two pucks behind Saginaw goalie Jake Paterson (45 shots, 38 saves) was forward Stefan Noesen (goals 7-8).

Other goals for Plymouth (17-6-2-1) were netted by Rickard Rakell (15), Mitchell Heard (12) and Garrett Meurs (9).

## SPORTS ROUNDUP

### 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.

### 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](http://www.MadonnaCrusaders.com); or e-mail White at [awhite@madonna.edu](mailto: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](http://www.bucksoccer.com) or call tournament director Brandon Sizemore at (248) 977-9133.

## THE WEEK AHEAD

**GIRLS BASKETBALL**  
Tuesday, Nov. 29  
C'ville at Franklin, 7 p.m.  
Glenn at Edsel Ford, 7 p.m.  
Taylor Truman at Wayne, 7 p.m.  
Luth. NW at Luth. W'sld, 7 p.m.  
Nouvel at Ladywood, 7:30 p.m.  
**Thursday, Dec. 1**  
Inter-City at C'ville, 7 p.m.  
**Friday, Dec. 2**  
W.L. Western at Franklin, 7 p.m.  
Stevenson at Edsel Ford, 7 p.m.  
Ladywood at Powers, 7 p.m.  
Luth. W'sld at Annapolis, 7 p.m.  
**PREP HOCKEY**  
Tuesday, Nov. 29  
Ladywood at Liggett, 5:45 p.m.  
Wednesday, Nov. 30  
Franklin vs. Plymouth

at Edgar Arena, 6 p.m.  
Churchill at Novi, 8 p.m.  
**Friday, Dec. 2**  
Franklin vs. Brighton at Edgar Arena, 6 p.m.  
Ladywood vs. Port Huron at McMorrans Arena, 8 p.m.  
Stevenson vs. Salem at Ply. Cultural Ctr., 8:30 p.m.  
**Saturday, Dec. 3**  
Franklin vs. A.A. Skyline at U-M's Yost Arena, 6 p.m.  
Ladywood vs. G.P. South at Arctic Pond, 7:30 p.m.  
**GIRLS COMPETITIVE CHEER**  
Saturday, Dec. 3  
Novi Fire Up Inv., 7:30 a.m.

**MEN'S COLLEGE HOOPS**  
Wednesday, Nov. 30  
MU at Indiana Tech, 7:30 p.m.  
Kellogg at S'craft, 7:30 p.m.  
**Friday, Dec. 2**  
S'craft at Lorain (Ohio), 1 p.m.  
**Saturday, Dec. 3**  
S'craft at Lakeland 1 p.m.  
Cornerstone at MU, 3 p.m.  
**WOMEN'S COLLEGE HOOPS**  
Wednesday, Nov. 30  
Kellogg at S'craft, 5:30 p.m.  
Indiana Tech at MU, 7:30 p.m.  
**Friday, Dec. 2**  
(Gillette Inv. at K'zoo Valley)  
S'craft vs. Sinclair, 5:30 p.m.  
**Saturday, Dec. 3**  
MU at Cornerstone, 1 p.m.  
Gillette Invitational, 1 or 3 p.m.

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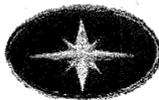
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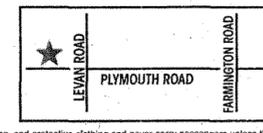
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# Seventh heaven: Rice takes D2 title

By Marty Budner  
Eccentric Staff Writer

The trick, apparently, was to score more than 14 points.

In two previous late-stage playoff meetings with Lowell, Rice lost 34-14 (2009 state semifinal) and 35-14 (2002 state title game).

Their third meeting in Friday's Division 2 state championship game was a completely different story at Detroit's Ford Field.

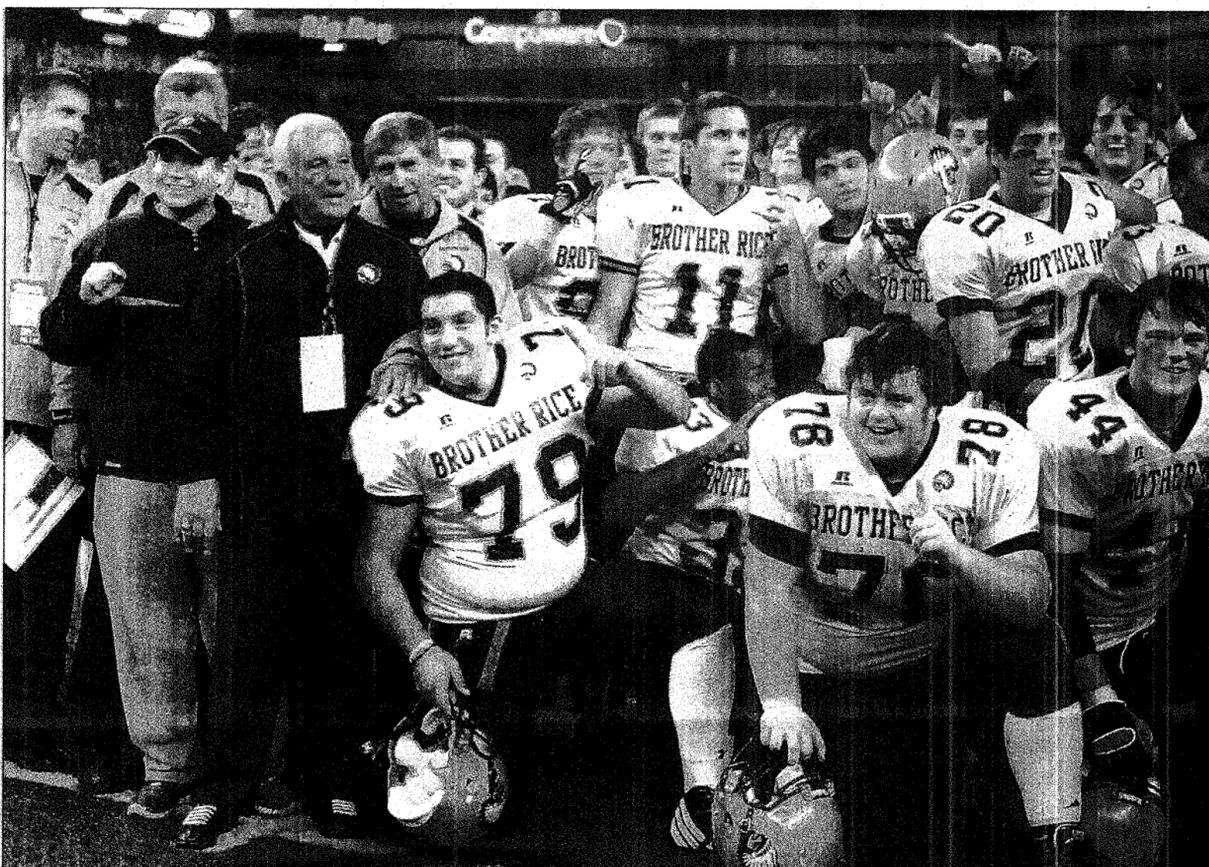
This time, the Warriors held the high-scoring Red Arrows, who had been averaging 36 points per game, to a pair of touchdowns and cruised to a convincing 24-14 triumph.

The victory brought home Rice's seventh MHSAA state championship, and first since 2005, when it beat Hudsonville.

"It's everybody's dream to win a state title," said senior workhorse running back Devin Church, who scored three touchdowns and raced to a Rice single-game record of 244 yards rushing. "To walk away with a ring is a blessing."

Brother Rice's legendary head coach Al Fracassa said he's going to miss his star running back, who is headed to the University of Toledo. Church gained more than 900 yards in leading Rice to five straight playoff wins. "Devin is a great running back, and he's done that every year for three straight years," Fracassa said. "He played a good game today. He's a very persistent Warrior and we're sure going to miss him."

"This was a very good game. Those kids from Lowell never gave up and



JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPH

Birmingham Brother Rice head coach Al Fracassa (third from left) and his football players celebrate the program's seventh Michigan High School Athletic Association championship Friday afternoon at Ford Field. The Warriors defeated Lowell, 24-14, in the Division 2 title game.

they showed a lot of character. You have to be a little bit lucky to get here. It's very difficult to come to a championship game and win it. It's really something."

The first half ended with Rice holding a 14-7 lead.

The Warriors struck pay dirt on their first possession when Church capped a 10-play, 57-yard drive with a 1-yard run. Jason Alessi booted the extra point for an early 7-

0 lead, which stood until midway through the second quarter.

Lowell's offense got into gear and went 71 yards in 13 plays. The five-minute drive ended with an 18-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Gabe Dean to flanker Luke Bigham. Grant Brueker's extra-point tied the game at 7-7.

The Warriors took their lead at the half when Church raced 53 yards around left end on a sweep after faking a

reverse. The Warriors scored the first 10 points of the second half to take a 24-7 advantage. Alessi booted a 26-yard third-quarter field goal and Church accounted for the final touchdown on a 15-yard fourth quarter run.

Lowell, which went most of the game trying to figure out a running attack against the aggressive Rice defense, passed its way to the game's final touchdown. The Dean-

Bigham combination connected on a 9-yard pass with three minutes left in the fourth quarter.

Lowell finished with 245 total offensive yards, just 55 on the ground. Rice also picked off three Red Arrows passes, including two by Eddie Kidd. Linebackers Mark Doman and Jon Reschke paced the defense with 13 and 10 tackles, respectively.

"I think Forest Hills Central had the best defense we've faced all

year, but Rice's was 1-A," said Lowell head coach Noel Dean, whose team finished the season with a 12-2 overall record. "We knew coming in that they were good athletes and strong up front."

"Some of it was being out-matched in certain spots. You have to give them credit. When you're out-matched, you're out-matched."

Rice ended its championship year with a 10-4 overall mark.

## OCELOTS

Continued from page B1

ald) chipped in with nine points, nine rebounds and six assists.

Karis Watts led Columbus State with 16 points, but it was nine below her average. Bailey Pier-

ron chipped in with 12 points.

Schoolcraft struggled at the foul line, hitting only 19-of-35 (54 percent), while going 26-of-58 from the floor (45 percent).

Columbus State was 16-of-22 from the free-throw stripe (73 percent) and 25-of-64 from the floor

(39 percent). Schoolcraft rebounded the Cougars 41-37, but committed 22 turnovers to Columbus State's 21.

The Lady Ocelots closed out play in the Turkey Shootout Saturday against 10th-ranked Owens.

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<b>Help Wanted-General</b> <b>Activities Aide</b> West Hickory Haven Nursing Center is looking for an energetic team player to fill a position as an activities aide. Position duties include running entertainment programs for residents, as well as assisting certified nurse aids on the floor with resident care. Must be state C.N.A. certified. Apply in person at: West Hickory Haven 3310 W. Commerce Rd. Milford, MI 48380	<b>Help Wanted-General</b> <b>ASSEMBLY</b> Start your new year off right: dynamic manufacturer in Plymouth is looking to increase production staff. We are eager to train dependable, bright individuals who can demonstrate a strong work ethic and positive attitude. Entry level, full and part time, day-shift positions are available. High school diploma required. Our modern manufacturing facility is very clean and houses the latest in innovative equipment. Competitive wages and a generous benefit package including 401(k), EOE. Email resume to: <a href="mailto:hplymouth@yahoo.com">hplymouth@yahoo.com</a>	<b>Help Wanted-General</b> <b>AUTO BODY MANAGER</b> For busy collision repair facility with several locations. Must be licensed & I-Car certified. Exc. pay & benefits. Email resume to: <a href="mailto:employeecc@comcast.net">employeecc@comcast.net</a>	<b>Help Wanted-General</b> <b>CLEANERS</b> , Full-Time for area homes. \$10/hr. start. No nights/wkends. Car req. Plymouth. 734-812-5683	<b>Help Wanted-General</b> <b>High Pressure Boiler Operator/HVAC Service Tech</b> FT. Immediate opening in Southfield MI. 5 yrs. exp. with HP boilers and auxiliaries, MAUs, pumps etc. Must have strong mechanical/trouble shooting skills motivated & willing to learn. Competitive wage and compensation package send resume to: <a href="mailto:jobs11@octenair.com">jobs11@octenair.com</a>	<b>Help Wanted-General</b> <b>JEWELRY SALES</b> Full + Part-time + Seasonal Start up to \$14 Exp up to \$21 Benefits + Bonus - No Nights! 734-925-3200 Fax 525-1443 <a href="mailto:jobs@jewelryexchange.com">jobs@jewelryexchange.com</a>	<b>Help Wanted-Office Clerical</b> <b>LEGAL SECRETARY</b> Central Oakland County Law Firm seeks Full Time Legal Secretary with a minimum of two years legal experience. Experience in Probate and Estate Planning a Plus. Please send resume to: Observer & Eccentric 6200 Metropolitan Pkwy Sterling Heights MI 48312 <a href="mailto:oeresume@hometownlife.com">oeresume@hometownlife.com</a> Reference Box 1875	<b>Help Wanted-Medical</b> <b>Certified Medical Coder/Biller</b> Great opportunity in a favored workplace. Busy academic neurosurgical practice is looking for an energetic, self-motivated Certified Medical Coder and Biller. Office located in Detroit. Compensation commensurate with exp. Excellent benefits available. Please fax resume: 313-966-0368 or email to: <a href="mailto:kmacphee@med.wayne.edu">kmacphee@med.wayne.edu</a>	<b>IT'S ALL AT YOUR FINGERTIPS!</b> Jobs! Auctions! Real Estate! Apartments! Garage Sales! A Top Notch Service Directory!
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## Pines and poinsettias

Growers promote buying local, live

By Sharon Dargay  
 O&E Staff Writer

Cash Tryban hopes to sell 400-500 Christmas trees this year from a lot in Farmington Hills.

The Cheboygan tree farmer — a former resident of both Livonia and Farmington Hills — set up shop last Sunday at 10 Mile and Orchard Lake Road and will show and sell pines, firs and spruces to customers through Dec. 24.

"Last year we left at 2 p.m. Christmas Eve," said Tryban, who has sold at the location for 20 years and grown trees since the 1960s, when he and his wife, Pat, bought the farm from his parents. "We like to stay to the end, unless we happen to sell out.

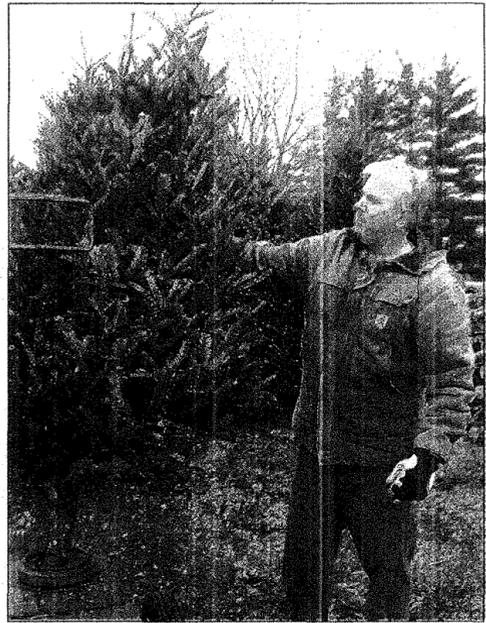
Being that we do stay to the end, we pick up customers where other lots are closed. There could be 10-15 people that come in the last day. We don't make a ton of money that day, but we're not looking for top price. All we want to do is pay our expenses for staying that additional day. The next year, those people who came in late will come back.

"We always stay right to the very end. It's hard, but you get one shot (to sell) each year."

Tryban is in a race against the calendar to

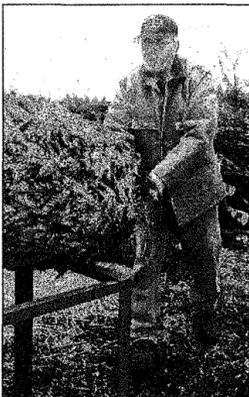


Cash Tryban (left) and his grandson, Jake Tryban, 19, set fresh trees into place on their lot in Farmington Hills.



Son-in-law, Wayne Silchrist, places a tree on a device that shakes needles loose.

PHOTOS BY JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Cash Tryban places netting on a Christmas tree.

unload his fresh trees in little more than a month. He's among 700 Christmas tree growers in Michigan, a state that ranks third nationwide in the number of trees harvested each year.

### Live vs. artificial

This year he and his fellow tree farmers, as well as poinsettia growers, will get some help convincing Michiganders to buy locally-produced Christmas trees and plants through a state-wide promotional campaign called "Make it a Real Michigan Christmas."

The Michigan Christmas Tree Association, Michigan Floriculture Growers Council and Michigan Floral Association, in cooperation with Michigan State University's Department of Horticulture, AgBioResearch received a \$75,000 USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant to spread the word about the benefits of buying live trees and poinsettias from Michigan producers.

The campaign makes the case that live trees benefit the environment, can

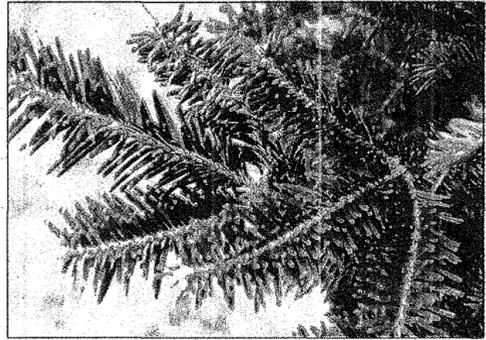
be recycled, bring fragrance into the home and help fuel the state's economy. It points out that artificial trees are made of plastics and metals, and that a majority of them are imported from China.

"Why not support Michigan-grown trees?" Tryban said. "Trees are good for the environment. When we cut one we replace it with two."

### Lengthy grow time

It takes approximately eight years to grow a Christmas tree. Some varieties stay in the ground for 9-12 years before harvest.

Mike Dinser of Dinser's Greenhouse in Novi, begins growing poinsettia plants about seven months before they are ready for sale. He buys poinsettia cuttings from a plant breeder and begins growing stock plants in the spring.



Fraser fir

"We'll start in the middle of July pulling cuttings off the plants and propagating them. They'll grow through the summer and as we get into September, starts the process of initiating flowers."

The center of the plant is the flower. The colorful, showy "blooms" are modified leaves called bracts.

Dinser's, a third generation family business, sells

poinsettias to retail customers, as well as wholesale clients, such as churches, flower shops and stores that use live seasonal plants for decoration.

"I see early sales are good. We've already brought in some extra plants," Dinser said. "Our sales are up over last year. That's a good sign for

Please see LIVE, B7

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# Holiday movie, Santa visit benefits needy

See *Miracle on 34th Street*, meet Santa Claus and get in the running to win a gift basket when you bring a food donation or personal hygiene item to the 8 p.m. show, Friday-Saturday, Dec. 2-3 or 2 p.m. matinee, Saturday, Dec. 3, at the Redford Theatre, 17360 Lahser, at Grand River, in Detroit.

Donations will go to St. Christine's Soup Kitchen and Pantry. Patrons will receive one raffle ticket for each donated item for chances to win a gift basket.

Santa also will be on hand at each show to greet attendees and pose for photos — bring your camera.

Doors will open one hour before each show. Donations will be collected as patrons enter the theater. All tickets are \$4

and parking is free and supervised.

For more information call (313) 333-0080; www.redfordtheatre.com

Santa will visit other locations around metro Detroit over the next few weeks. Here's a sampling:

- Canton Santa brunch — Ticket deadline is Monday, Nov. 28 for brunch, Sunday, Dec. 4, at Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway, Canton. Cost is \$16 for ages 13 and older; \$12 for ages 4-12; and children, 3 and under are \$4. Doors will open at 11 a.m. and Santa arrives at 11:30 a.m. Following the brunch, the kids can pose for photos with Santa. Parents may bring cameras and video equipment to capture the moment. Children also will receive a holiday souvenir, crayons, and a placemat to color.
- Detroit Zoo — Breakfast

with Santa, 8 a.m. and 10 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 3, 10 and 17 in the Wildlife Interpretive Gallery, located at the zoo, Woodward Ave., and Ten Mile (I-696 service drive) in Royal Oak; (248) 541-5717.

- Downtown Plymouth — See Santa noon-5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3, 10, and 17 and Sunday, Dec. 18; 5:30-8:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 9; and 4:30-8:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 23, at his house in Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth; www.plymouthmich.org
- Historic Greenmead — See Santa at the historic village's Quaker Meeting House — it will be decorated in a "Holly Dolly Christmas" theme — 1-4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11, at Greenmead, located on Newburgh at Eight Mile, in Livonia. Admission is \$3 for adults and \$2 for children and includes cocoa and cookies, candy canes and a craft activity. In addition to

meeting Santa, participants can tour the village and hear a free concert by the Schoolcraft College Choir, at 3 p.m. in the village church.

- Laurel Park Place — Santa photo hours are 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Saturday, noon-6 p.m. Sunday and 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Dec. 24. Santa poses with pet cats and dogs 6-9 p.m. Monday through Dec. 12.
- Old Village Plymouth — Santa will be on hand 4-6 p.m. Dec. 7 in Cannon Park, on Farmer near Starkweather, in Plymouth.
- Redford Santa brunch — Get refreshments, make crafts and pose for a photo with Santa, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Dec. 10, at the Redford Township Community Center, 12121 Hemingway. Tickets are \$6 and must be purchased in advance. Call Leisure Services at (313) 387-2650.
- Twelve Oaks Mall, Breakfast with Santa Claus at Ma-



The Redford Theatre will show "Miracle on 34th Street," Dec. 2-3.

ys, 9 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 10 and 17, Sunday, Dec. 11 and 18. Includes entertainment, breakfast and a visit from Santa; \$16.95 per person and \$12.95 for children under 10. Reserve at (877) 556-2297. Tickets must be purchased in advance at the Summit Front Desk, located at, during normal business hours. Online registration is not available. For more information about the Santa Brunch, please call 734/394-

5460 or visit Cantonfun.org

- Westland Shopping Center — Santa greets children 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Friday through Dec. 9; 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2; noon-6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 4; 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 10, 17 and Monday-Friday, Dec. 19-23; 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Monday-Friday, Dec. 12-16; 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11 and 18 and 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Dec. 24.

## Arthritis Today

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### DIET AND GOUT

The popular view is that a person with gout must watch his diet. That means stop beer, wine, or scotch and substitute water, lots of it. Lobster, shrimp, steak, liver, sardines, asparagus, mushrooms are out of the diet. If the person is overweight then weight loss is a must.

For the most part the medical community thinks otherwise. Of course eating to excess is unhealthy. Being overweight is not good, and urging a person to achieve a reasonable weight is an appropriate medical recommendation whether the patient does or does not have gout. The same can be said for drinking wine; each individual has a capacity that is appropriate for that person, beyond that amount do not go.

In addition, gout and alcohol share a special relationship. Alcohol interferes with the kidney's normal excretion of uric acid, the cause of gout. In England in the 18th century, popular Portuguese wines were imported in lead lined casks. The lead leached into the wine; the combination of lead and wine proved lethal to the kidney's capacity to rid the body of uric acid. As a result, England experienced a near epidemic of gout with wine taking on the role as the cause. The idea that wine causes gout carries on to this day even though lead lined wine casks were left behind 200 years ago.

Patients are disappointed that physicians don't spend time giving instructions on diet. But doctors feel, correctly, that a reasonable diet combined with the medications available to treat gout, suffice to control the condition. The patient can live without restrictions.

# Annual luncheon spotlights centenarians

The Senior Alliance (TSA) honored clients who are 100 years or older during a special luncheon earlier this month at Andiamo's Restaurant in Dearborn.

Bob Brown, executive director at The Senior Alliance stated, "Our seniors have given 100 years plus to the community and the luncheon provided us an opportunity to show appreciation and grat-

itude."

TSA and some community officials wanted to let the honorees know their lives have not gone unnoticed.

The honorees were Beatrice Archibald, 103 of Canton; Ida Paglialongo, 101 and Susan Swoish, 102, both from Allen Park; Janie Lewis, 105, of Redford; and Dorothy Thomas, 103, of Dearborn

Heights.

Felice "Tony" Lalli, the mayor of Allen Park, Dan Paletko, the mayor of Dearborn Heights, and Phil LaJoy, Canton supervisor, also were on hand.

Other participants were Swoish's niece, Katherine Stasevich; Thomas' daughter, Delores Munoz and her daughter-in-law, Millie Socull.

# Indian spiritual teacher visits Michigan

Mata Amritanandamayi, a mystic and philanthropist, also known as "Amma" the "hugging saint" from Kerala, India, will present spiritual teachings and blessings beginning Sunday, Nov. 28, at the Hyatt Regency Dearborn.

For the past 35 years, Amma has blessed and consoled individuals

throughout the world with hugs.

Her visit to southeastern Michigan will begin with a free program at 8 p.m. Sunday. The evening will include spiritual discourse by Amma, followed by inspired devotional music, meditation and Amma's personal blessing.

A free program will run

11 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday, Nov. 28 and will include a short meditation followed by Amma's blessing.

The free program will start at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 1. The evening will include a spiritual discourse, followed by a ceremony to promote peace and well being. Amma will give personal blessings to individuals begin-

ning at approximately 9 p.m. and continuing into the next morning.

A three day retreat, from Tuesday-Thursday, Nov. 29-Dec. 1 also is available. Pre-registration is required at Amma.org.

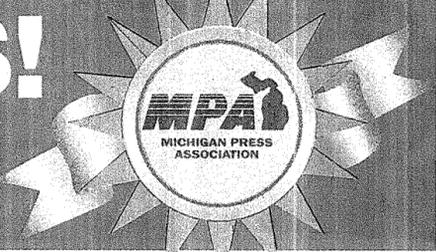
The Hyatt Regency Hotel is located at 600 Town Center Drive, Dearborn.



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# LOCAL MATTERS!

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**News Enterprise Reporting:** 1st Place Canton Observer, 3rd Place: Milford Times

**Design:** 1st Place Northville Record, 2nd Place Novi News

**Feature Story:** 3rd Place Canton Observer

**Editorial Writing:** 1st Place South Lyon Herald, 2nd Place Birmingham Eccentric

**Editorial Pages:** 2nd Place Milford Times

**Local Columnist:** 1st Place Plymouth Observer, 3rd Place Birmingham

**Sports Picture:** 1st Place Novi News, 3rd Place Novi News

**Sports Writing:** 1st Place Novi News

**Sports Feature:** 1st Place Farmington Observer, 3rd Place Northville Record

**Sports Coverage:** 3rd Place Northville Record

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### Advertising

**Best Ad Idea:** 1st Place Livonia Observer, 3rd Place Livonia Observer

**Best Color Idea:** 1st Place Livonia Observer, 2nd Place Livonia Observer

**Best Special Section:** 2nd Place Livonia Observer, 3rd Place South Lyon Herald

**Best Classified or ROP Automobile Ad:** 1st Place Livonia Observer, 2nd Place Livonia Observer, 3rd Place Livonia Observer





JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Cash Tryban sells fresh wreaths in addition to Christmas trees on his lot in Farmington Hills.

**LIVE**

Continued from page B5 growers."

**Customer service**

Tryban said sales lagged "a bit" two years ago and went up "a couple of percentages" last year.

"I believe this year we'll stay at a steady pace. Eighty to 90 percent of our clientele come back every year. We've had people who moved to Powlerville and Brighton, who come back

to our lot to buy a tree," Tryban said.

"The biggest thing I think we do that big box stores don't do is we answer questions. The second thing is we service the tree. We shake the tree, cut it, make sure they get what they want. We try to set up every tree individually so people can walk around and take a look and go from there."

Tryban's offers fresh wreaths in addition to a variety of trees, includ-

ing balsam, scotch pine, concolor, fraser fir, blue spruce, white spruce, white pine and more. Prices range from \$18-60.

Dinser's sells a variety of poinsettias, ranging from four inches to "bushel basket" size, in colors including creamy white, vivid white, red, pink and marble.

For more about the Make it a Real Christmas campaign visit [www.RealMichigan-Christmas.com](http://www.RealMichigan-Christmas.com).

# Bowl sale includes lunch, benefits pantry.

Schoolcraft College's annual Empty Bowl Project sale and luncheon will run 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday, Dec. 5, in the VisTaTech Center on the college's main campus, located on Haggerty between Seven Mile and Six Mile, in Livonia.

Ceramic bowls and other ceramic pieces created and donated by the students enrolled in ceramics classes at the college will be sold. Items range in price from \$10-35.

Each bowl includes a bowl of soup, a piece of bread and a glass of water provided by the college's Culinary Arts and Food Services departments. The simplicity of the meal is meant as a reminder that needy residents need help year-round.

All proceeds from the event benefit the Schoolcraft College Student Food Pantry, which provides food for students and families who need assis-

tance. The food pantry opened in April 2011 and operates on donations from students, staff, faculty, and the community. To date, the pantry has received nearly 5,000 pounds of donated goods and serves 38 families.

In addition to helping the hungry, the ceramic pieces can be used as holiday gifts. The items for sale include a wide array of stylings, from the very simple to more intricate pieces of art.

"This is a great event for the local community and students to come together for a cause that knows no boundaries. We are hoping that people can find the time, make the commitment, and get involved with this singular effort that can make such a profound local impact," stated Todd Stowell, Student Activities coordinator.

For more about Schoolcraft College, visit [www.schoolcraft.edu](http://www.schoolcraft.edu).

**TIPS FOR A 'REAL' MICHIGAN CHRISTMAS**

For trees:

- When shopping, give the tree a little shake. A few falling brown needles are common; a shower of green needles indicates dryness
  - Gently grasp a branch and pull it toward you. Just a few needles should come off if the tree is fresh
  - Avoid trees with stiff needles that are losing color
  - When you get the tree home, cut a 1/2 inch off the end and put the tree into water immediately. If you're not putting it up right away, put it in a cool, shaded area such as a garage or porch.
  - Keep your tree fresh by watering. Make sure there is plenty of water in the tree stand
  - Display the tree away from heat sources such as registers, radiators and fireplaces
- For poinsettias:
- Look for fresh leaves and full plants
  - Choose bracts (modified leaves) that

have no green on them

- Avoid plants with fallen or yellowed leaves
- The poinsettia should look balanced and attractive from all sides
- Remove the foil covering the drain holes. Water when the plant feels light. Water in a sink. Allow to drain and water again. Don't let the poinsettia wilt and don't let it sit in water. Empty the pot's saucer
- Place the poinsettia in indirect light. Six hours of light is idea. Don't let the plant touch a cold window pane
- Ideal indoor temperature is from 60-70 degrees. Keep poinsettias away from warm or cold drafts from radiators, air registers, doors or windows
- Placing a poinsettia in a cool room, 55-60 degrees at night will extend blooming time
- Don't fertilize when the plant is in bloom

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[www.redfordtheatre.com](http://www.redfordtheatre.com)  
313.333.0080

**SOCIAL SECURITY**

Many people are wrongly rejected when they apply for Social Security Disability benefits. Money was taken out of their paychecks for Social Security taxes to ensure that they would receive disability benefits if they could no longer work full-time. Sadly, the government denies approximately 60% of those who apply for disability benefits.

Attorneys J.B. Bieske and Jennifer Alfonsi have 42 years combined experience representing only Social Security disability clients. And they personally meet with all clients and appear personally at all court hearings. Many large firms assign inexperienced attorneys to your case. And some of these firms are located thousands of miles away and only fly the attorney in the day of the court hearing. Attorneys Bieske and Alfonsi have vast experience before local Michigan judges.

Attorneys Bieske and Alfonsi often make a winning difference at the application stage. And, if an appeal is necessary they have won several hundred cases before a court date is even set.

Those denied can appeal on their own but statistics for many years reveal that those represented by attorneys win a much higher percentage of appeals. And attorneys who specialize in Social Security Disability cases win a much higher percentage yet.

In addition to practicing only Social Security disability law attorney Bieske has written a book for attorneys about the

subject and has been interviewed on various television programs. Both attorney Bieske and Alfonsi have also been interviewed on radio programs and have given speeches to many groups.

Attorneys Bieske and Alfonsi offer free phone or office consultation. If they represent you, there will be no fee charged until after the case is won. The fee is a percentage of retroactive benefits.

Bieske and Alfonsi represent clients from all over the state of Michigan. Their Livonia office is on Six Mile Road just west of I-275. Their Novi office is located on Haggerty Road just north of 12 Mile Road. Call them at 1-800-331-3530 for a free consultation if you have been denied, or if you are thinking of possibly applying for Social Security benefits.

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Donate a new gift to a local child in need

Give gifts from Nov. 6 to Dec. 9.

Bring a new unwrapped gift to one of the office locations below and as our way of saying thank you, receive a coupon for a free Buddy's 4 square cheese pizza.\*

All gifts will be given to Methodist Children's Home Society in Redford and Orchards Children Services in Southfield.

**Methodist Children's Home Society** is a 94-year old agency that responds to the needs of abused and neglected children by providing residential, adoption and foster care services.

**Orchards Children's Services** is a 50-year old agency that helps local troubled, abused and neglected children specializing in foster care and adoption.

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The Scoop on the Holidays

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at these two locations

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101 N. Lafayette  
South Lyon, MI 48178

Friday, December 9, 2011  
3 p.m. - 5 p.m.  
41304 Concept Drive  
Plymouth, MI 48170

All unwrapped gifts will be accepted Nov. 6 through Dec. 9 at the addresses listed above. \*while supply lasts

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



**CAPRARO, HEIDI LOUISE (NEE BRANDT)**

Heidi was born Oct. 30, 1966 in Mt. Clemens, MI. She has surrendered herself from this earthly home November 22, 2011 after having a rare clear cell cervical cancer for nearly three years. Heidi was the Assistant Principal for Northville Hillside Middle School. She graduated from Eastern Michigan University in 1989 with a BS. Received a MA later and took education leadership at Concordia. She began teaching in Northville in 1990 at Meade's Mill, Cooke and Hillside. She taught 6th grade science. Heidi received the "National Presidential Award for Excellence in Science Teaching" in 2002 for Northville Schools, and went to Washington D.C. to the White House to meet President and Mrs. Bush. In 2004-5, Heidi was awarded the outstanding Educators award "Michigan Teacher of the Year." Heidi wanted to make a difference, she so loved what she did. She was the beloved wife of Riccardo Capraro, a wild life artist, a most devoted mother to her precious and beloved children Ariana and Corey of Howell, MI. She was a beloved dedicated daughter to Richard Brandt, Aus Gres, formerly of Mt. Clemens, MI, her mother and step father Astrid nee Meller, and Abe Payapilly, Plymouth, MI, and FT. Myers, FL. Heidi was a loving and adored sister to George Payapilly, Berkeley, CA, and Ann Arbor, MI, and to Jennifer Case, her husband Jason, and nieces Madeline and Olivia of Northville, MI, and nephew Jimmy Kremer, Kalamazoo, MI. Heidi will be missed by her beloved classical music teacher, Mrs. Kan, as she now teaches her children. How very much we love you, Heidi, we will miss you, and our tears will flow, till we meet again. We wish to thank everyone for Prayers sent in Heidi's name. In lieu of flowers, donations could be made to: Ariana & Corey Capraro Education Fund, 1st National Bank, 101 E. Grand River, P.O. Box 800, Howell, MI 48844-0800; 517-545-2227. A memorial service will be held at a later date.



**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 Uht Funeral Home, 35400 Glenwood Rd., Westland, Tuesday, November 22, 2011 at 10 a.m. 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.uhtfh.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.rggrharris.com.



**LEGG, (nee LUCAS), MARY ELIZABETH**

Passed from this life to her eternal reward on Thanksgiving Day, November 24, 2011. She shared joy for 86 years, and left peacefully. Born in Harrodsburg, Kentucky on January 30, 1925 to Paul Givens Lucas, Sr. and Tillie Clarence Lucas, who predeceased her. Mary was married for 52 years to the only man she loved, Howard Wesley Legg (1919-1999). Mary was the devoted and loving mother to Charlotte Anne (David Edward) Olson, of Oswego, Illinois; Suellen Newsom, of Farmington Hills and Michael William Legg, of Farmington. Mary shared immense joy with her grandsons Gregg (Angela) Newsom II, David Henry (Julia) Olson, Steven Olson, and William Legg III. She also loved her great grandchildren Ashley, Ethan, Aya and Henry. Also surviving are her nephew Paul (Ilene) Merrihew, and niece Lori Lucas Schultz, and great nieces and nephews Kristen, Katie & Karen Schultz and Robyn and Paul (Michaela) Lucas IV. Mary was predeceased by her sister Nora Merrihew, brother Paul Lucas Jr., brother-in-law Eugene Merrihew, sister-in-law Marlene Lucas, and nephew Paul Lucas III. Mary was a Christian, not just in name but deed. She found ways every day to bring comfort to those around her, be they family, friends or strangers. She was care giver to literally dozens of family members, church members or friends. Her memory will be treasured, and her loss will be felt by many. Visitation Sunday 1-9 p.m. at Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, 33603 Grand River Ave., Farmington (West of Farmington Road). Funeral Service Monday 10 a.m. (in state 9 a.m.) at First United Methodist Church of Farmington 33112 Grand River Ave., Farmington. (East of Farmington Road) Memorials to the Salvation Army. www.thayer-rock.com



**POGUE, JAMES E.**

84, of Farmington, November 22, 2011. Jim is survived by his beloved wife of 61 years, Jo; loving children, Ellen (Ronald Greiner) Pogue-Greiner, Cindy (Dan) Aepelbacher, James Houston (Sandra) Pogue and Kimberly (David) Krause; his brother, Fred (Hazel) Pogue; and 10 cherished grandchildren, David and Kaitlyn, Tim, Kirsten and Bryan, Ashley and Connor, and Jamie, Quinn and Jaden. Memorial Service Friday, Dec. 2, 11:00 AM (gathering after 10 AM) at the First Presbyterian Church, 26165 Farmington Rd., (at 11 Mile Rd.), Farmington Hills. Memorial tributes suggested to Karmanos Cancer Inst., karmanos.org, or the Arthritis Foundation, Michigan, 1050 Wilshire Dr., #302, Troy, MI 48084. Arrangements entrusted to the Heeney-Sundquist Funeral Home, downtown Farmington (248-474-5200). heeney-sundquist.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, Marjann 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

**MOFFAT, DONALD ARTHUR**

Of Ann Arbor died at home on Saturday, November 19, 2011, surrounded by family and friends. Don is survived by his loving wife, Paula (Richardson) Moffat; his son, Douglas Arthur (Jennifer) Moffat; two granddaughters, Audrey and Josie Moffat; sister, Janet Moffat (the late Rev. Barton W.) DeMerchant; nephews Robert (Susan) Tomsett, Jr. and Duncan (Wendy) Tomsett; two nieces, Beth (Eric) Diaddorio and Susan (Richard) Beck; four cousins, and a host of friends. He was predeceased by his beloved daughter, Elizabeth S. Moffat, in 1992. Don was born in Windsor, Ontario on May 2, 1947, the son of Arthur William Moffat and Jean Lee Moffat. He was raised in Detroit, graduated from Mumford High School in 1965, and received his B.S. degree from Wayne State University. He spent most of his professional life in the financial services area. He was a past-president of the St. Andrew's Society of Detroit. His passion was amateur athletics. His game was hockey, which he played and coached. He derived great satisfaction from serving as a volunteer for the USA Hockey Coaching Program. Don enthusiastically supported Computare teams and the University of Michigan sports. A gathering celebrating Don's life, "Skate and Celebrate, Part II", will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, December 2, 2011 at the Computare Sports Arena, 14900 Beck Road, Plymouth, MI. Memorial contributions may be made to the Beth Moffat Memorial Scholarship Fund through the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation, 301 North Main Street, Suite 300, Ann Arbor, MI 48104. Please visit www.muhighannarbor.com to leave the family your thoughts and condolences



**DAWSON, nee POIRIER LOIS (IRENE)**

Died on November 19, 2011 in Renaissance Gardens at Fox Run in Novi, Michigan. She was 88 years old. Born in Saginaw, Michigan on December 29, 1922, she was the daughter of Walter F. and Irene M. Poirier. Lois is survived by her son and his wife, Walter and Laura Dawson, by her daughters and their husbands, Laura and Jack Keaton and Donna and Gary Rinkenberger. She has 8 grandchildren, Michael (Julie) Keaton, Owen (Nicole) Keaton, Kristan (Kirk) LaFon, David (Megan) Dawson, Gregory Dawson, Aryn (Tim) Shillair, Brenda (John) Wilshire and Bryce Rinkenberger, and 10 great grandchildren. Lois graduated from Milwaukee Downer Seminary (1941) and attended Ohio Wesleyan University in Delaware, Ohio where she met her husband. She married Donald Dawson at St. Paul's Memorial Church in Detroit, Michigan on May 6, 1944. For over fifty years she was a member of First United Methodist Church in Birmingham where she was a frequent volunteer and particularly known for her continuing sales of "House Pins" for Habitat for Humanity. She was also a volunteer server for the Men's Club at the Birmingham Community House. She and Don were avid Square Dancers. In the summers, she was a member of the Grand Lake Chapel in Presque Isle, Michigan and active in that community. She was known all her life as a superb knitter and crafter and for being a devoted Mom. A memorial service will be held for her on December 3rd at 1pm at the First United Methodist Church 1589 W. Maple Rd. Birmingham, Michigan. In lieu of flowers, contributions in her memory can be made to First United Methodist Church 1589 W. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009 or to Ohio Wesleyan University 61 S. Sandusky St. Delaware, Ohio 43015. Written condolences may be sent to: The Rev. Walter Dawson at: wingandprayer3@gmail.com



**Moore-Freeman**

Ryan Moore and Jamie Freeman were married Nov. 12, 2011, in Grosse Pointe Farms. The bride, daughter of Wayne and Carol Freeman of Sterling Heights, graduated from Adlai Stevenson High School in 2003 and received a master of public administration (MPA) degree from Oakland University in 2007. She works for the Charter Township of Oakland.

The groom, son of Annette and Fred Kirschweg of Westland and Tom and Dana Moore of Pinckney, graduated from Livonia Churchill in 2004. He recently graduated Warrant Officer Candidate School and flight school in Fort Rucker, Ala. He is a Chinook helicopter pilot with the National Guard.

The newlyweds reside in Rochester Hills.

## Milestones



**Ed and Rita Fenwick of Westland**

### 50th anniversary

Edward and Rita (Oliver) Fenwick of Westland celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Nov. 11. The couple married in 1961 in Detroit.

Their children are Karen and Harvey Frederick of Fenton and Mark and Peggy Fenwick of Canton. Grandchildren are Nicole and Ryan Fenwick.

Edward was employed by Detroit Diesel/Penske, for more than 30 years and retired 12 years ago. Rita is a homemaker.

The couple enjoy traveling and are members of Livonia Elks and St. Mary's Catholic Church of Wayne.



**The Fenwicks in 1961, the year they married**

Plans for celebration included a trip to Las Vegas, Nev. and a family gathering at the Tipping Point Theatre in Northville and dinner at La Bistecca in Plymouth.

### Page-McMullen

Tracy Leigh McMullen and Bernard Joseph Page were married Aug. 20, 2011, alongside the Shiawassee River at the DeVries Nature Conservancy in Owosso. Pastor Michael Bennett officiated the outdoor ceremony that was punctuated with claps of thunder.

The bride is the daughter of Michael and Janet McMullen of Perry. The groom is the son of Arthur and Eileen Page of Canton.

Presented in marriage by her parents, the bride was attended by Heidi Frei as maid of honor. Bridesmaids were Michelle McMullen and Jessica McMullen, the bride's sisters.

Jeffrey Degenhardt was the best man. Groomsmen were Joseph Porubsky and Timothy Magers. Ushers were Jonathan Page, Brian Page and Kenneth Page, the groom's brothers.

Emma Badgley, the bride's goddaughter was the flower girl. Evan Badgley, the bride's godson, was the ring bearer. Junior ring bearer was the groom's godson, Owen Magers.

Michele Johns accompanied the outdoor ceremony on organ and Katie Greenough accompanied on flute.

The reception was held at Our Lady of Good Council in Plymouth and was catered by the



**groom's company, A Family Affair Catering.**

The bride is a graduate of the University of Hawaii-Hilo with a bachelors degree in marine science. She is also a graduate of Michigan State University with a professional masters degree in zoo and aquarium management. She is currently the environmental education coordinator for the DeVries Nature Conservancy in Owosso where the ceremony was held.

The groom is a graduate of Schoolcraft College with a degree in culinary arts. He is also a graduate of the State University of New York-Delhi with a bachelors degree in hospitality management. He currently runs a family catering business, A Family Affair Catering of Plymouth.

The couple resides in Owosso.

### Carter-Grant

Marianne Carter and Brian Grant announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Floyd and Nancy Carter of Ponce Inlet, Fla., earned a BA degree in education from Madonna University and teaches fifth grade in Southfield. She's working on a master's degree in education at Madonna.

Her fiancé, son of Ken and Roxanne Grant of Livonia, is finishing up his last year at Walsh Col-



**lege, pursuing a degree in business.**

A June 2012 wedding is planned at Crystal Gardens in Howell.

## RELIGION CALENDAR

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

### Nov. 27-30

**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

**Dec. 1-7**

**CAROLFEST**  
Time/Date: 10:15 a.m. church service, 11:45 a.m. brunch, 12:45 p.m., CarolFest, Sunday, Dec. 4  
Location: St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, 27475 Five Mile, Livonia  
Details: St. Paul's Singers, children, instrumentalists and congregation, will present a plethora of carols — traditional, folk and contemporary — in the church sanctuary; RSVP for the brunch  
Contact: (734) 422-1470

**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 Chorus 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

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## Learn the signs of COPD, lung cancer

Lung cancer and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) are two of the deadliest diseases in the country, yet they remain largely unnoticed, according to the American Lung Association.

"Lung cancer and COPD are two of the most life-changing and life-threatening diseases in the country," said Dr. Norman H. Edelman, chief medical officer of the American Lung Association. "There is no better time than now to learn about these diseases and support patients and loved ones who are affected by them."

As part of the Lung Association's commitment to lung health, COPD and lung cancer are featured on its Web site throughout the year to raise awareness and provide lung health resources. The Lung Association has also partnered with the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) and others on NHLBI's COPD Learn More Breathe Better campaign to educate the public about the early symptoms and signs of COPD.

Lung cancer is the leading cancer killer in the country, while COPD, which includes emphysema and chronic bronchitis, is the third leading cause of death in the U.S.

Approximately 373,500 Americans are living with lung cancer. In 2011, more than 221,000 new cases were diagnosed and about 157,000 Amer-



Snuff out that cigarette. The American Lung Association says smoking, including secondhand smoke, is a major cause of both lung cancer and COPD.

icans were expected to die from lung cancer.

The leading cause of lung cancer is the inhalation of cigarette smoke, both firsthand and secondhand. Other causes include radon exposure and industrial exposures to hazardous materials like asbestos and arsenic; even some genetic factors pose a lung cancer risk.

"Lung cancer is responsible for nearly 30 percent of all cancer deaths in America — more than any other cancer," said

Dr. Edelman. "That startling reality must change. No one deserves to bear the burden of lung cancer. We need all Americans to understand the severity of lung cancer and do what they can to help prevent it and support the fight for a cure."

COPD is a lung disease characterized by an obstruction to airflow that interferes with normal breathing and over time makes it very difficult to breathe. Although more than 12 million Americans are known to

have COPD, up to 24 million may have the disease because it often goes undiagnosed. COPD is not curable, but it is preventable, and can be treated and managed on a daily basis. People at risk of COPD, especially current and former smokers with COPD symptoms, should consult their physicians about a spirometry test in order to diagnose the disease as early as possible and begin treatment.

As with lung cancer, the primary cause of COPD is the inhalation of cigarette smoke. Other causes include exposure to occupational dust particles and chemicals, as well as a rare genetic mutation called Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency.

"COPD can be treated and managed effectively, particularly when the disease is diagnosed early," Edelman said. "Treatments and comprehensive care can decrease COPD symptoms, reduce hospitalizations and enhance overall quality of life. Patients should confer with their physicians for ways to reduce symptoms and diminish further serious damage to their lungs."

The American Lung Association funds research that focuses on preventing lung cancer, increasing the survival rate and reducing its effects on patients' quality of life.

To learn more about these diseases or to take action, visit [www.midlandlung.org](http://www.midlandlung.org)

## Area Run/Walk benefits Arthritis Foundation

Juvenile rheumatoid arthritis patient Taylor Gray of Farmington Hills is this year's honoree of the annual Arthritis Foundation Jingle Bell Run/Walk.

She'll be among hundreds of runners and walkers who will raise awareness and funds through the event, which will start at 9 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 3, at Northville Downs Race Track. Participants wear holiday costumes and tie jingle bells to their shoe laces for the 5K run/walk.



Taylor Gray of Farmington Hills will participate in the Jingle Bell Run Dec. 3 in Northville.

Gray is an active 13-year-old girl who loves basketball and softball. She was diagnosed with juvenile arthritis when she was 16 months old. The disease has affected her wrists, ankles, knees toes and fingers. She also has endured joint pain, injections and

infusions.

"I have been weaned off of my medications twice in the past 11 years and we hoped, and thought, my arthritis was in remission. Both times it came back with a vengeance and it took longer each time to get my pain and swelling under control," she stated.

Taylor has participated in Camp Dakota, a camp for children with arthritis and related diseases, and she is captain of Team Determination for the Jingle Bell Run/Walk.

"At times, I am extremely frustrated and angry that I have this disease. I have moments where I feel sorry for myself and wonder why I have to suffer from this. But then I remember what my Mom says... that God has chosen me to stand up and educate people and let them know that kids get arthritis too," she stated.

The Jingle Bell Walk/Run will offer competitive timing, awards in 14 different age categories and a post-race party sponsored by Qdoba, Busch's, Biggby, Powerade. There will be a "Snowman Shuffle," a quarter mile fun-run for kids under 12, as well as prizes for the biggest team, biggest fundraiser and most inventive costume.

Register by Monday, Nov. 28 to be guaranteed an official long-sleeve cotton Jingle Bell Run/Walk shirt.

The last day to register online is Nov. 30. Visit [www.arthritis.org](http://www.arthritis.org) and click on Jingle Bell Run/Walk to register. Proceeds will help fund research at Michigan universities, heighten arthritis awareness, and grow and expand services programs the Arthritis Foundation offers.

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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](mailto:oeads@hometownlife.com)

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### St. Mary Mercy Hospital's UPCOMING HEALTH INFORMATION PRESENTATIONS

- **Center for Joint Replacement Seminar**  
Guest speaker Jeffrey Mendelson, MD  
Wednesday, November 30, 6 p.m.  
Call 734-655-2345 to register or for more information.
- **Michigan Bariatric Institute Seminar**  
Guest speaker Tallal Zeni, MD  
Thursday, December 1, 6 p.m.  
Call 877-WHY-WEIGHT to register or for more information.
- **Fall Prevention**  
Guest speaker Kevin Moore, OTR, MSA, WCC  
Wednesday, December 7, 7 p.m.  
Call 734-655-8950 to register or for more information.
- **Michigan Bariatric Institute Seminar**  
Guest speaker Tallal Zeni, MD  
Thursday, January 5, 6 p.m.  
Call 877-WHY-WEIGHT to register or for more information.
- **Keeping Your New Year's Resolution**  
Be successful at keeping your exercise and nutrition goals.  
Guest speaker Kevin Moore, OTR, MSA, WCC  
Thursday, January 19, 7 p.m.  
Call 734-655-8950 to register or for more information.  
Location: Bailey Center in Westland
- **Center for Joint Replacement Seminar**  
Guest speaker David Mendelson, MD  
Thursday, January 26, 6 p.m.  
Call 734-655-2345 to register or for more information.

#### REGISTER NOW!

Presentations are free, but registration is required. Visit [smarymercy.org](http://smarymercy.org) and click on *Classes & Events* or call designated number above.

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