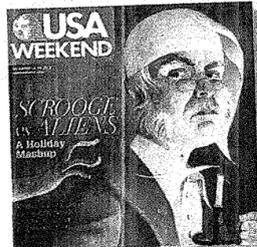


CHECK OUT OUR GUIDE TO THE PERFECT TREE SEE CLASSIFIED PAGE B7

LOOKING FOR FEATHERED FRIENDS COMMUNITY LIFE, B5

HOLIDAY MASHUP: SCROOGE VS ALIENS USA WEEKEND



**Reserve a seat**

You don't have be alone Christmas Day. That's the word from the folks at St. Dunstan Church, which is serving a holiday meal to folks from throughout the area who need a place to go Christmas Day. The free sit-down meal includes turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, salad, rolls, butter and an assortment of desserts. Guests need only bring their appetites. The dinner will be served 1:30-4 p.m. The doors open at 1 p.m. Reservations are preferred, however, no one will be turned away that day. For reservations, call Judy Larry at (734) 595-3049. The church is located on Belton, west of Inksater Road and south of Ford, in Garden City.

**Holiday show**

The Action Pack, a group of local theater students, will present *Spread a Little Joy: A Christmas Play* 6:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 22, in Meeting Rooms A and B of the William P. Faust Public Library, 6123 Central City Parkway, north of Ford, Westland. Geared for youngsters and teens, the play is about a young girl named Chloe who learns to appreciate the holiday season after a visit to the North Pole. Refreshments will be provided. A canned food donation box will be available. The Action Pack was started by Sarah Melas and Shannon Salisbury. Melas wrote a Christmas play with the hopes of finding a way to get her friends together and start performing again. "We hope that you all enjoy the show, and keep an eye out for The Action Pack as they continue giving and performing for the city," she said. To sign up to attend, visit the library website at westland.lib.mi.us/teens/events.

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**'... Never pay for what they have done'**

Mother finds no comfort in sentencing of daughter's killer



Laurie Morse told Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Ulysses Boykin her daughter Carlee "was too beautiful to be turned into what she became."

By LeAnne Rogers  
Observer Staff Writer

Justin Yoshikawa silently shook his head when asked if there was anything he wanted to say Thursday before being sentenced to spend 35 to 65 years in prison for murdering Westland teenager Carlee Morse. But the teen's mother, Laurie Morse, had something to say as she read a victim's impact statement, urging Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Ulysses Boykin to exceed the sentence specified in Yoshikawa's plea agreement. Both Yoshikawa and co-defendant Nicholas Cottrell pleaded guilty to a reduced charge of second-

degree murder. They were originally charged with first-degree murder which carries a mandatory sentence of life in prison without parole. "I was under the impression (guilty pleas for) premeditated and planned murders would keep these two off the streets forever," said Morse. "I know I agreed to the pleas but I didn't understand." A Belleville resident, Yoshikawa, 20, and Cottrell, 23, of Taylor, admitted luring Morse from the family apartment to kill her early Aug. 20, 2010. Yoshikawa, a former boyfriend of Morse, hid in the back seat of Cottrell's car as the girl got into the passenger seat. The men gave statements to

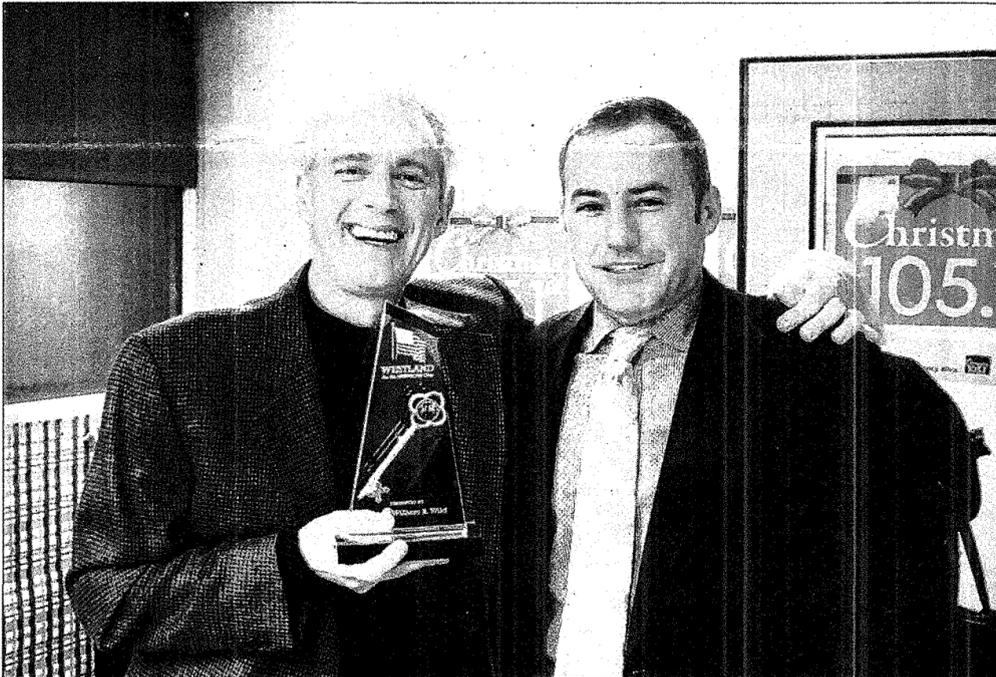
police and testified that Cottrell drove to a vacant nearby parking lot where he and Morse were to smoke marijuana. Instead, Yoshikawa used a dog leash to strangle Morse, described as 4-foot-8 and weighing about 80 pounds. "Carlee was in no way a perfect child but she was a girl who could light up a room with her jokes and antics," said Morse. Yoshikawa and Cottrell, already serving a 25- to 50-year prison sentence, described putting Morse's body into black trash bags before leaving it in a Dumpster. They told police they were unable to give a location where they had left her

Please see SENTENCING, A2

**Westland honors hometown celeb, Jim Harper**

By LeAnne Rogers  
Observer Staff Writer

As he wraps up his radio career, Jim Harper wasn't making an commitment about his retirement plans except for Dec. 16, 2012. "(Wife) Lynn and I will be cruising Ford Road waving like royalty," said Harper, after Dec. 16, 2011, was proclaimed Jim Harper Day in his hometown of Westland. A 1971 Westland John Glenn High School graduate, Harper has worked nearly 45 years in radio and mainly in the Detroit area. He officially retires on Friday, Dec. 23, with his last morning show at Magic 105.1/WMGC-FM where he has worked since July 2001 as morning host and program director. On Friday, Westland Mayor William Wild made a surprise visit to the Magic 105.1 studios in Ferndale to present



Long-time Detroit radio personality Jim Harper, who retires from his WMGC-FM morning show Dec. 23 received the key to the city from Westland Mayor William Wild. Harper grew up in Westland and is a 1971 Westland John Glenn High School graduate.

Please see HARPER, A2

**W-W Salvation Army looks for help to reach this year's Red Kettle goal**

By Julie Brown  
Observer Staff Writer

The familiar Red Kettles of the Salvation Army are again out in full force, although Wayne-Westland donations are down from last year. "We're just asking for any additional support they can give," said Capt. Derek Rose, corps commander for Wayne-Westland with wife Capt. Joana Rose.

This year's Wayne-Westland kettle goal is \$165,000, with an additional \$20,000 goal for mail donations. As of Dec. 14, the corps had collected about \$110,000 total, about \$10,000 behind last year at the same time. Donations to the Salvation Army have been down across metro Detroit. "We've had some very rainy

days," Derek Rose said. "Our bell ringers produce a lot less due to the weather." Rose noted many people are out of work and there have been cuts to government programs. "Everybody is hanging on to those pennies, more than in years past," he said. Checks payable to the Salvation Army are welcome at the



Jackie Lee of Westland rings a bell at one of the Salvation Army's Red Kettles outside Westland Shopping Center on Friday.

Please see RED KETTLE, A2

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# HARPER

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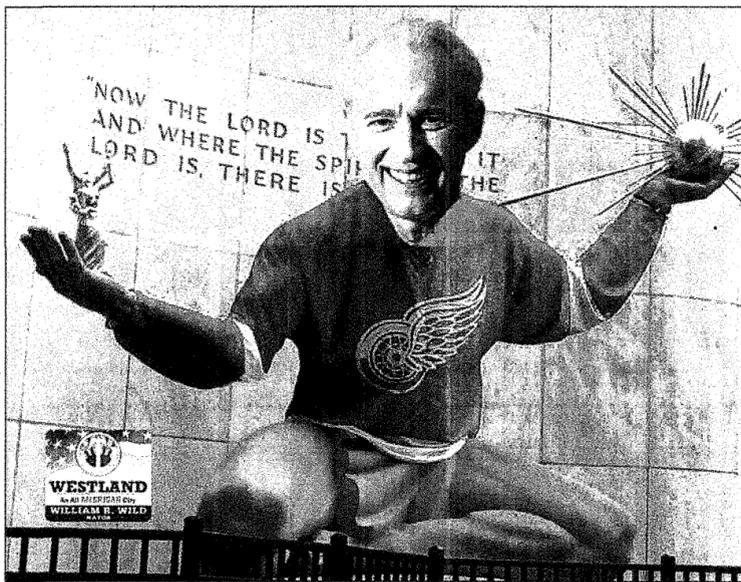
Harper with the proclamation, along with a key to city.

"I have no idea what is going on. My family is from Westland — did you finally discover a large oil well under my father's house," asked Harper, whose family name is Huzar. "My heart and soul are in Westland. It's my hometown. It's always a pleasure to see you — we love you."

Westland wanted to recognize Harper's long career and the fact that he's a Westland native, Wild said, so all 84,000 residents can celebrate Jim Harper Day.

"I don't know how they can celebrate except maybe moving their hairline back about three inches and expanding their foreheads," said Harper. "I'm really touched. I don't know what I will do to celebrate. I'll take time to reflect on how important growing up in Westland has been. That's where I got my values, my work ethic and my love of family."

Having moved to Westland in 1959, Harper recalled being part of the first family of what was then Nankin Township as his father served as the first township supervi-



This is a mock-up of the often-asked about statue of that radio personality Jim Harper that hasn't been built in Westland.

sor for six months. Harper also remembered his days as a *Westland Observer* carrier delivering about 400 copies per edition to homes — a task that required multiple trips home on his bicycle to pick up another load.

At 13 years old, Harper landed his first radio job in 1967 at WYNZ-AM, a small radio station in Ypsilanti. He hosted a 15-minute weekly Saturday show on teen issues.

Harper had stints at a number of radio stations in Michigan, a brief time in Texas and some time

in Ohio, but before his current work at WMGC had worked a couple of times for WNIC-FM as morning host, program director and later vice president of operations.

"It's not only Jim Harper Day, I also have the key to city to hand off to you," said Wild. "I gave it to Santa Claus a week ago and had to get it back from him."

Noting it was an actual metal key attached to plaque — not a chocolate key covered with gold foil, Harper said, "This is the coolest thing that

could happen."

But Wild had one more presentation for Harper.

"Jim always asks about his statue, it's under construction," said Wild, presenting a mocked up photo of the Spirit of Detroit statue with Harper's head and a Detroit Red Wing jersey. "We really have appreciated working with you."

Harper predicted the statue would prove to be a tourism boon for Westland.

Irogers@hometownlife.com (313) 222-5428

# SENTENCING

Continued from page A1

body, which hasn't been located.

"Why did it take two cowards to take her life? I find it amazing that they remember each word they spoke to each other and gruesome details," said Morse. "They drove on I-75 or I-96 but they can't remember where they went to throw what was to them a bag of trash."

Describing herself as angry and frustrated at her daughter's body not being found, Morse said she believes Yoshikawa, Cottrell and even Cottrell's mother, Tina Lowe, know where to find her. Lowe had pleaded no contest to a charge of interfering with a police investigation for trying to convince a witness not to come forward with information about the murder.

"She was too beautiful to be turned into what she became. Like any other family, we want to say goodbye and give her a proper burial," said Morse.

From her disappearance in August 2010

until Yoshikawa and Cottrell were arrested nearly four months later, Carlee's family searched for her not knowing she was murdered within an hour of leaving her apartment. Through the waiting and delays until the criminal case was resolved, Morse said she still doesn't know why her daughter was murdered.

"These criminals will never pay for what they have done," said Morse. "I don't know if Judge Boykin can change his mind but I would like a harsher sentence."

Sentencing Yoshikawa under the terms of the plea agreement, Boykin said that the sheer horror of the crime was beyond comprehension.

"This is a person whose life was taken in an extremely cruel manner. It makes it worse that the body has not been found," said Boykin, who urged Yoshikawa to provide information, if he remembers the location of Carlee Morse's body. "It would be of some comfort to the family."

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# CORRECTION

A story about the Wayne-Westland Community Schools in the Thursday, Dec. 15, issue of the *Observer* should have state that the district's building and grounds department's list of things that need to be done totals \$100 million.

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# RED KETTLE

Continued from page A1

Wayne-Westland Corps, 2300 S. Venoy, Westland, MI 48186. For information, call (734) 722-3660. Volunteer opportunities for bell ringers can also be found online at [www.ringbell.org](http://www.ringbell.org).

The local Salvation Army gives out toys and food to families in need

at Christmas, but efforts don't stop there. Rent, utilities, food, the feeding program for children, after-school program with tutoring, summer day camp and daily operations all depend on Christmas fundraising, Rose said.

"We have been praying quite a bit, we trust God provides what we need, he said.

Rose called this year "a little discouraging but

really it more challenges us" to avoid budget cuts. The corps has received some decent-sized checks, along with some \$100 and \$50 bills in kettles. So far, there haven't been any of the news stories seen elsewhere of gold coins dropped anonymously in a kettle.

"I think that would be amazing," Rose said, adding the Salvation Army appreciates all support given by the community.

Phil Hull, volunteer coordinator for the Wayne-Westland corps, agreed with Rose on the Christmas appeal's importance.

"It's absolutely critical," Hull said of the drive, which raises a significant part of the corps' budget. "A shortfall in our Christmas collections leads to further cuts which is something we desperately want to avoid."

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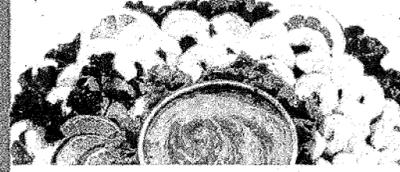


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# Wayne High band sets sights on new uniforms

By Sue Mason  
Observer Staff Writer

The members of the marching band at Wayne Memorial High School are looking for a few new friends — ones who would be willing to adopt a band uniform for \$350. If they find 75 people who would do that, the band would be on its way to have new, update uniforms by the 2012-13 school year.

The high school's Instrumental Music Boosters have begun a campaign, New Stripes for 2012, to fund raise to replace the 12-year-old uniforms that have begun to show their age. Some \$20,000 has already been raised, but it's estimated that the boosters will need close to \$50,000 to pay for 120-130 new uniforms.

"We've really been talking about it since last year, we want to update them for the time" said band director Matt Diroff. "We're looking for people who can donate a portion of the cost like for the pants, a hat, jacket."

The need for new uniforms was brought to the forefront this fall when Diroff ran out of uniform sizes for the musicians. It wasn't a case of not having enough big sizes, but having too many unusable uniforms. Diroff ended up dressing the pit in a slightly different all black uniform.

"It worked, it fit the music they were playing," he said. "We had other students who had to go to Kohl's and buy pants and make that fit as much as possible."



Instrumental Music Boosters are using a uniform jacket and pants to show why new ones are needed.

A problem with the current uniforms is that the white jackets get dirty very easily and the blue pants "are incredibly expensive and have to be ordered."

The new uniform that is in the design stages will have black pants which are easy to get because they're in stock. The current jacket is a two-piece while the new jacket will be a one-piece that zips in the back. Black will become the foundation color which will help the school's blue and gold colors "pop," Diroff said.

"We're still working on the design, it'll have a lot of black," said Diroff. "It'll be a much sharper look. What we really want to do is have a uniform style that is simple and design-wise will last awhile. It's a traditional look with updates."

Once the design is finalized the uniform company will create a sample so the school can get a feel the material and see how it will look as well as make adjustments. The plan is to have the uniforms done by the end of July or early August when the manufacture will come in fit the uniforms to the band members "and make sure they look the way they're supposed to be."

The boosters have to have the money secured by March 1 to try and provide a 90-day window to have them ready to wear. They don't want a situation where something doesn't come out right and the manufacture only has a week to fix it, Diroff said.

The boosters are doing a variety of fundraisers, including a bowling fundraiser at Wayne Bowl on Jan. 28 as well as a series of pancake breakfasts on Jan. 15 and 29 and Feb. 12 and 26. They have gotten support from Principal Valerie Orr who donated \$2,000 of the money she received from the Famous Footwear/Converse contest and are taking a tattered uniform around to businesses to get donations.

Donation levels tied to the cost of the uniforms. A friend's \$25 donation is the expected cost of a uniform accessory, \$50 the cost the hat and feather plume, \$100 a pair of uniform pants, \$250 the jacket and uniform accessories and \$350 a single uniform.

People or businesses who would like to make a donation can contact Diroff at diroffm@wwcsd.net or booster finance chair Susan Webb at webbs@wwcsd.net.

"The kids are so excited, they have nice uniforms that have been put to good use, but they like the idea of going out onto the field and have a new look," Diroff said. "I think the current seniors wish they could stick around for another year."

smason@hometownlife.com  
(313) 222-6751

# W-W seeks volunteers for Literacy Corps

By Sue Mason  
Observer Staff Writer

The Wayne-Westland Community Schools has put out the call for volunteers to work with students as part of its new Literacy Corps.

Having volunteers go into the classroom to read with children is nothing new for the district; however, the Literacy Corps is a more formal program that includes training for the volunteers.

"We're excited about it, the teachers are excited about it," said Paul Salah, deputy superintendent for instruction. "We hope it will rub off on the community."

Salah worked with Antoinette Griffith and Cyndi Morningstar in developing the initiative which will be offered initially at Adams Upper Elementary and Edison, Elliott, P.D. Graham, Hoover, Schweitzer, Wildwood, Taft-Galloway and Walker-Winter Elementaries.

"Our goals are to increase student achievement and increase community and student involvement," said Morningstar. "We know from research that the more the community is involved, the more students achieve. We want our students to be lifelong learners and readers."

The district has begun recruiting volunteers. In a letter that being sent out to parents, guardians, community stakeholders and business partners, Salah stressed that "families, community members and business stakeholders all have a vested interest in the growth and development of young people."

According to Salah, research has shown that linking the community to the classroom has a positive impact on academic achievement. Students who don't develop sufficient literacy skills are more likely to struggle with future employment, become incarcerated and less likely to continue their education beyond high school.

"We want this to be a huge partnership," Salah said. "We want to provide volunteers so student know what is a good reading habit. We had participation in reading programs the past like at Schweitzer, but those were like islands of excellence."

Volunteers also will be required to attend a two-hour orientation and training session. Two sessions will be

offered at 4 p.m. and 6:30 p.m., both on Tuesday, Jan. 17. The program will kick off at the start of the second semester on Jan. 23.

One of the tools volunteers will be provided with will be the Michigan Reading Association's *The ABC's of Reading Strategies for Volunteers*. Using every letter of the alphabet, the publication offers volunteers ideas and suggestions to help students learn to read.

"We don't want to put volunteers out there without providing some monitoring questions," said Griffith. "We don't want volunteers to give students the answers, we want them to help the students problem solve."

Opportunities to work in the classroom with youngsters will be flexible and based on the volunteer's schedule. It could be one hour a day or several days a week, once a week, even once a month.

"The need varies from building to building, we have some that have 100 percent participation," said Morningstar.

"As we go and talk about the Literacy Corps at staff meetings, we're asked if it's too late to sign up," added Griffith. "We have more children than volunteers right now."

The district has brochures available that explain the program that include a volunteer form to fill out. The information will be used to do a criminal background check. The completed form can be dropped off or mailed to the district's Human Resources Department at 36745 Marquette, Westland, MI 48185.

Volunteers will be notified in writing, if they are accepted into the program. And there is no deadline as to when people can sign up. Forms will be accepted at anytime.

"We're always looking for ways to improve student achievement," said Salah.

Board Secretary Cindy Schofield had her form filled out by the end of presentation on the program at this month's school board meeting.

"The Literacy Corps is something near and dear to my heart," she said. "I can't emphasize enough how we need the community to get behind this. There's a tremendous need out there."

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# Marriage proposal comes with picture with Santa Claus

By Sue Mason  
Observer Staff Writer

Stefanie Redding wasn't that keen about a visit with Santa. And she was sure when her boyfriend led her past the children waiting in line to see him, their parents were going to kill him.

But they ended up applauding after Lester surprised her with a ring and a request to marry him.

"I had an idea he might when he told me to keep the day open," said the Westland resident. "I had a hunch that's why I started throwing a fit, and when he got down on his knee I thought, 'Oh, God, it's coming.'"

"I was shaking really bad, and when she didn't answer right away, I really started shaking," he said. "She was like a deer in headlights."

The Belleville resident got the idea of proposing when he tried to book a dinner reservation at Antonio's but found out there would be a delay because of a lunch with Santa. The idea hit him to propose with Santa there, but when he couldn't get in on Santa's visit at the restaurant, he decided to see if he could catch the Big Man at Westland Shopping Center where mall management was more than happy to make it happen.

"We were so excited," said Patrick Derrig, the mall's marketing manager. "It was so nice to be a part of something special like this."



Rob Lester slides an engagement ring on the finger of Stefanie Redding after proposing to her in front of Santa Claus at Westland Shopping Center Sunday.

Lester brought the ring and Redding to the mall. She insisted she didn't want to see Santa, but he was persistent, leading her past the youngsters because they had a "Fast Pass."

"It took a lot of persuading," said Lester. "She kept saying, 'I'm not going to do this.'"

While he pretended to try to reach his friend Patrick on his cell phone at worker took the ring he was holding behind his back and gave it to Santa.

"I wanted to buy a shirt and change and he said no," Redding said. "I texted a friend and she wanted to know if he was going to propose. I told her we were going to see Santa."

The couple met recently through a mutual friend and hadn't been seeing each other very

long. "It happened very quickly, we fell in love," said Lester. "I just wanted to do something different. Everyone got involved and it got a lot bigger than I thought it would be."

They're not sure when they will marry. Lester said it will be spontaneous. She wants a formal wedding, but they may do "the Vegas thing" first.

"It could be tomorrow, it could be next month," said Redding. "It likely be one day we'll say let's go to Vegas. My mother has told me to have a long, drawn out engagement, but she knows me better than that."

And their engagement photo? A picture with Santa.

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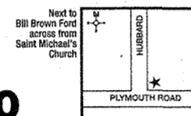
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# Keep children safe this holiday season

Family gatherings, special traditions, delicious treats. The holiday season may be the most wonderful time of the year, especially for kids. Unfortunately, for emergency room doctors, it's also one of the busiest.

Trauma and Injury Prevention Experts at the DMC Children's Hospital of Michigan are offer tips to protect little ones from some common holiday dangers, so

families can enjoy a season that's happy and healthy.

In keeping children holiday safe consider:

## Decorations

- Mistletoe, holly, poinsettias, Jerusalem cherry plants and others can pose potential poisoning risks. Symptoms can include rash, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea. Call the National Poison Center at (800) 222-1222,

if you suspect poisoning.

- "Bubble lights" contain methylene chlorides can be poisonous, if a child drinks the fluid from more than one light (even if labeled nontoxic).

- Snow sprays may be harmful, if the aerosol propellants are used improperly.

- Small tree ornaments, light bulbs, icicles, tinsel, small toys and common hol-

iday foods, such as peanuts or popcorn, pose a potential holiday choking hazards, if swallowed by small children, as these items may block the airway.

- Holiday tree needles, angel hair (made from finely spun glass) and ornament hangers can cause potential cuts, skin irritation or eye damage

## Holiday feast

- Minimize potential food poisoning by practicing by washing hands, utensils, dishes, and anything else that comes in contact with raw meat, including poultry and fish, and raw eggs before and after use. Store leftovers properly and heat them thoroughly before serving.

- Alcohol poisoning - Remove all empty and partially empty cups out of reach of children. Remember, children become "drunk" much more quickly than adults, so even small amounts of alcohol can be dangerous.

## Holiday trees

- Keep your live tree secured in a sturdy stand so that it doesn't tip over and keep it away from all heat sources, such as electrical outlets, radiators and portable space heaters. Replenish water receptacle regularly to keep tree from drying out.

- Be sure your artificial

tree is labeled "fire-retardant."

- Unplug all lights, both indoor and outdoor, and extinguish all candles every night before you go to bed.

- Avoid using real candles on a tree and keep them away from windowsills and mantles. Never leave the room with single candles or menorah candles burning.

- Use only flame-retardant decorations when decking your halls.

## Fire-free holiday

- Don't overload indoor or outdoor electrical outlets.

- Have your fireplace inspected before you light your first fire of the season, and never burn paper or pine boughs, since those materials can float out of the chimney and ignite a nearby home.

- Practice fire safety. Have a family emergency plan in the event of a fire.

- Check smoke detectors before you put up your holiday decorations.

## Accident-free holiday

- Keep pot handles turned away from the front of the stove and always keep the oven door closed. Keep watching eye on children while you bake or cook.

- Keep breakable ornaments out of young kids' reach — or keep them off the tree until your children are older.

- Parents can prevent a holiday ER visit by making sure the kids are buckled up securely during car rides and by not driving after drinking alcohol.

- Young kids should be supervised and should avoid dangerous sledding areas, such as rocky areas, steep hills, and crowded sledding hills.

## Safe toys

- Toys made of fabric should be labeled as flame resistant or flame retardant.

- Stuffed toys should be washable.

- Painted toys should be covered with lead-free paint.

- Art materials should say nontoxic.

- Crayons and paints should say ASTM D-4236 on the package, which means that they've been evaluated by the American Society for Testing and Materials.

- Steer clear of older toys, even hand-me-downs from friends and family, as they may not meet current safety standards.

- Make sure a toy isn't too loud for your child as it could contribute to hearing damage.

- Always read labels to make sure a toy is appropriate for a child's age. Age levels for toys are determined by safety factors, not intelligence or maturity.

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PAUL DEMOS	C013/C014	Misc. items
DONALD HILLARD	G002/33	Misc. household
TERRI KAY	B127	Misc. household items
EASTER WILLIAMS	B001	Misc. household
CHARLES CLEMENT	A017	Misc. household items
MICHAEL BOYD	B049	Misc. household
KRISTINA CAIN	G010	Misc. household
LAURIE POIRIER	B057	Misc. household
ANDREW DOBBINS	G026	Misc. household
ASHANTI BYRD	G037	Misc. household items
RALPH MANDELKA	C038	Misc. household items
JEFFREY CLISH	B018	Misc. household items
LALITA CLEGG	B134	Misc. household items
NIKUNJ BRAHMBAHATT	E016	Business furniture/equipment
CHRISTINE DIPPEL	B147	Misc. household items

Publish: December 15 & 18, 2011

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# Three county detention workers win state awards

Three employees of the Wayne County Juvenile Detention Facility in Detroit have won awards for meritorious service in 2011 from the Michigan Juvenile Detention Association.

**Brian Plowden** of Redford Township was honored as a Child Care Worker of the Year. Support Worker of the Year awards went to nurse **Cleofas Anasco** of Dearborn and **Latonya Hardy** of Westland.

Plowden, a juvenile detention specialist, joined Wayne County in 1990. A trainer for staff in the area of the control room operator, Plowden is updating a training manual for workers in the area.

"Mr. Plowden is the first juvenile detention specialist the residents encoun-



Plowden

ter," said Leonard Dixon, executive director of the juvenile detention facility. "He is always professional and goes to extra lengths to explain procedures to juveniles, who are sometimes anxious about this experience."

Anasco has helped diagnose major illness in newly admitted patients as a member of the health services department. She has been a Wayne County employee since 1990.

"Nurse Anasco is persistent and communicates well with physicians, co-workers, the nursing supervisor and others to



Anasco

ensure residents receive the best care," Dixon said. Hardy has managed the female youth at the detention facility. Since joining the social service staff two years ago, she has learned the rules of the facility and the state guidelines mandated to operate a child caring institution.

Said Dixon: "Hardy is a self-directed employee. She approaches each daily task as a goal to be accomplished."

The detention facility, operated by the Department of Children and Family Services, provides safe and humane services to



Hardy

juveniles pending completion of legal proceedings. Juveniles housed at the facility are

awaiting adjudication, sentencing or placement.

"We're proud of our Wayne County employees," said Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano. "Our three award winners are great examples of employees who take pride in what they do for the

public. They consistently provide quality services, often times under trying circumstances."

The employees received their awards at the annual Michigan Juvenile Detention Conference, held in Roscommon.

## H.Y.P.E. brings basketball clinics to Bailey Center

The Westland Parks and Recreation Department is offering children ages 6-14 some H.Y.P.E. during their Christmas vacation.

The department is partnering with the H.Y.P.E. (Helping Youth Progress and Excel) Athletics Community to offer two basketball clinics 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday, Dec. 27-29 and Jan. 3-5, at the Bailey Recreation Center, 36651 Ford, Westland.

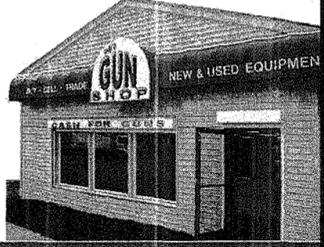
The clinics cost \$30 each, however, youth can register for the first session and get the second session for \$15. Registration can be completed at the Bailey

Recreation Center. Call (734) 722-7620 for more information.

The H.Y.P.E. basketball instructors include an experienced and reputable staff in the game of basketball. Jimmy King, former University of Michigan "Fab 5" member, McDonald's High School All-American and NBA player, will head a staff that includes Colin Wilkinson, a two-time national champion and captain at Rochester College.

For more information on H.Y.P.E., visit the website at [www.hypeathletics.org](http://www.hypeathletics.org) or call (313) 357-5458 or (866) 988-HYPE (4973).

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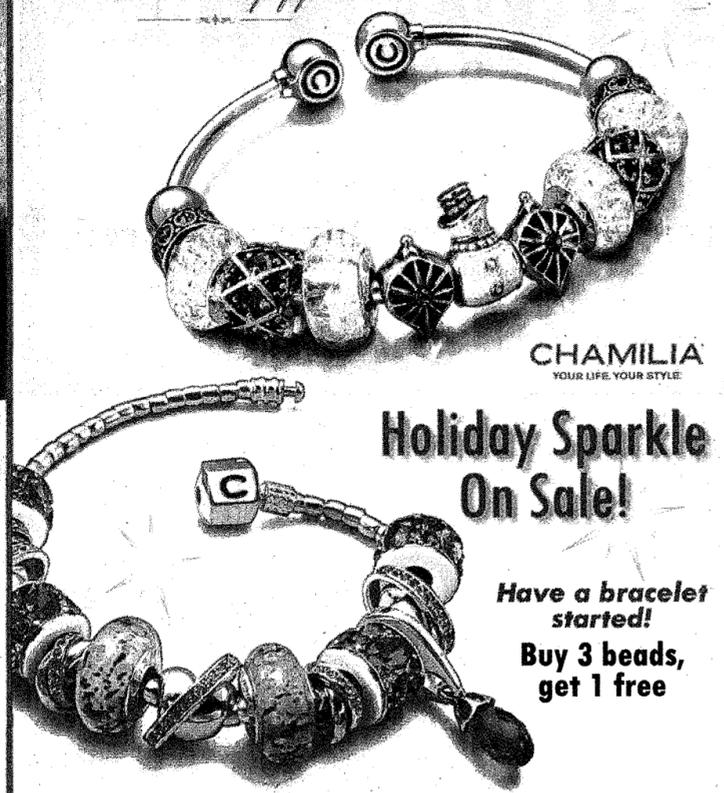
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# Diversified portfolio is best way to minimize risks

By Rick Bloom  
Guest Columnist

**Q:** Dear Rick: I've been retired for a couple of years and because of some bad investments, I decided to go back to work. I'll be working part time and will make enough money to help me cover my living expenses. Last year I had to begin taking money out of my IRA because I turned 70½. I also took money out this year. Since I am going back to work and won't need the money from my IRA, am I still required to take a distribution? Currently, in my IRA I have about \$100,000. I am an aggressive investor and

I have the money divided as follows:

- 50 percent — Emerging Market Funds
- 40 percent — U.S. Small Cap Fund
- 10 percent — High Yield Corporate Bond

I originally had a lot more in my IRA, however, some of my investments did not pan out and that's why my portfolio is about a quarter of what it was a few years ago. I realize I should make some changes and become more conservative. I'm hoping you can help me with the portfolio allocation.

**A:** Unfortunately, when it comes to required minimum distributions from IRAs, there are no exceptions. When you turn 70½, and every year thereafter, you must take a distribution. It does not matter if you need the mon-



Money Matters  
Rick Bloom

ey or not, you are still required to take your minimum distribution. Of course, that doesn't mean you have to spend the money, but it does mean you have to pay the tax on the money. Therefore, once you have withdrawn the money from the IRA, you can turn around and reinvest that money outside of a retirement vehicle. In your situation, that is a strategy that makes the most sense.

As to your portfolio, I agree that a realloca-

tion is required. The fact that you have 50 percent of your money in emerging markets is, as far as I'm concerned, irresponsible. Emerging markets are important places to invest, however, no matter how aggressive of an investor you are, 50 percent is just too much. Don't forget that emerging markets are new economies and subject to an inordinate amount of volatility.

In addition, I also believe that a 40-percent allocation to U.S. small companies is also too speculative. In your situation, the way I would reallocate the portfolio is to initially start with an allocation between stocks and bonds. The allocation I suggest is 65/35 with 65 percent in equity and 35

percent in bonds. I recognize that this is a much more conservative allocation than you had in the past and that bonds aren't paying high rates of return right now. However, it is important to remember that you're not just investing for today, you're also investing for tomorrow. You need a well-balanced and diversified portfolio, something that you did not have in the past.

Of the 65 percent that is in equities, I would allocate the money as follows:

- 5 percent — Emerging Markets
- 5 percent — Small Company International
- 10 percent — Large Company International
- 30 percent — Large Company U.S.
- 10 percent — Small Company U.S.
- 5 percent — Real Estate
- 10 percent — International Bonds
- 15 percent — High Grade Corporate Bonds
- 10 percent — U.S. Treasuries

I believe this portfolio would be more balanced and would certainly do a better job of managing risk. In this economic environment, managing risk is something that every investor needs to be concerned with. One of the best ways to manage risk is to have a balanced and diversified portfolio. Investors that are not balanced and diversified are taking unnecessary risks and that can cause problems in today's environment.

As we enter the new year, it is a great time for everyone to re-examine their portfolio and look for ways to better manage risk. It would be nice if we could eliminate risk, but we can't. However, we can manage it. Good luck!

**Rick Bloom** is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at [moneymatters@hometownlife.com](mailto:moneymatters@hometownlife.com). For more information, visit his website at [www.bloomassetmanagement.com](http://www.bloomassetmanagement.com).

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### GARDEN CLIPPINGS

**Blood drive**  
Garden City Hospital will hold an American Red Cross Blood Drive 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 22, in the Lower Level Classrooms of the Allan Breakie Medical Office Building, located on the Garden City Hospital campus at 6245 Inker Road.  
Appointments can be scheduled by calling (734) 458-4259. Walk-ins are welcomed.

**Coat Drive**  
The Garden City High School cheerleaders are conducting a coat drive for those in need.  
Donations can be dropped off at boxes at the high school, Douglas 3-4 Campus and Memorial 1-2 Campus now through Thursday, Dec. 22. All sizes of new or gently used coats, mittens, hats and gloves will be accepted.

**Toys for kids**  
Help the Garden City Goodfellows ensure there's no child without Christmas. Drop off new, unwrapped toys through

Please see CLIPPINGS, A9

# WHY YOU MUST ATTEND THE DEC. 19<sup>TH</sup> SCHOOL BOARD MEETING:

**Did you know?**  
Our Garden City Teachers have been working without a contract after months of negotiating with inaccurate numbers from the School District.

**Did you know?**  
The School District budget was inaccurate by OVER 6 MILLION DOLLARS!

**Did you know?**  
EVERY EMPLOYEE in our School District, BESIDES TEACHERS, already knows that they will pay 10% or LESS for their health insurance in 2012!

**Did you know?**  
Teachers are asking for a 20% contribution to their insurance, as opposed to a "hard cap", but the Board has yet to secure EVEN THIS for them!

**Our School Board URGENTLY needs to vote to secure Teacher contributions of 20% toward their health insurance at our NEXT School Board Meeting. State mandates will put the financial futures of our educators at risk for years to come based on THIS HEALTHCARE DECISION. Some of our best, brightest and most dedicated Teachers will struggle to provide for their families based on the outcome of this decision.**

**We need to keep these Teachers in GARDEN CITY for your children!**

**PLEASE DEMAND** that our Teachers are allowed to get back to focusing on student achievement in the classroom, instead of defending their livelihood and family healthcare!

**Call your School Board. Email your Superintendent. Tell them "NO HARDCAP!" on Health Insurance for Teachers!**

**WE NEED EVERY GARDEN CITY RESIDENT TO ATTEND THIS MEETING TO SHOW YOUR SUPPORT:**  
Tell your School Board and Administrators what YOU think as a voter, a parent, or a community member!

**SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**  
Monday, December 19, 2011  
Location: Memorial Elementary 1-2 Campus  
Start Time: 7:00 PM  
End Time: 9:00 PM

**READ THE FACTS:**  
[www.SupportGCEA.wordpress.com](http://www.SupportGCEA.wordpress.com)

Facebook.com/SupportGCEA

# CLIPPINGS

Continued from page A8

Wednesday, Dec. 21, at Century 21 Castelli, 1812 Middlebelt, Garden City. For more information about donating, call Barb at (734) 644-2402.

## Holiday shopping

A Kindle, a few good books or even some kitchen items. Residents who like shopping on Amazon.com can help the Garden City Public Schools support its staff and students by using the link on the bottom of the district's website at [www.gardencityschools.com](http://www.gardencityschools.com).

Simply use the link to enter the Amazon.com site, and a portion of any resulting purchases will be returned to Garden City Public Schools. Products do not cost any more by using the link, and shoppers don't have to do anything more than click on the link to start shopping.

However, shoppers must gain access to Amazon.com by clicking the link for Garden City Schools on the district's website for the GCPS to get credit for the purchases.

## Tax preparers

The Accounting Aid Society seeks volunteers for the upcoming tax season to learn to prepare taxes and file credits for middle- to low-income families in southeast Michigan.

Accounting Aid Society estimates that it will need 674 volunteers who will help 20,613 families receive \$24.4 million in refunds and credits. Tax sites will be in community centers, libraries and other locations throughout Wayne, Oakland, Macomb and Livingston



## Holiday cheer

Second- and third-graders from St. Raphael School brought holiday cheer to the residents of Wayne Living Center in Wayne on Dec. 13. The youngsters sang Christmas Carols and then gave ornaments to the residents at the end of the program.

counties from January through mid-April. Training includes tax law and tax computer software and is available at local colleges and universities, plus online.

For more information and to register, go to [www.accountingaidsociety.org](http://www.accountingaidsociety.org).

## Community Chat

Join Kerry Partin, a resident of Garden City, every Thursday night at 9 p.m. for his Internet talk show recorded live where the residents and surrounding communities are welcome to participate. Share your events, promotions or comments with your fellow residents and the communities. Also get the latest weather, entertainment, sports and much more.

Listeners can call in live at (724)444-7444 and enter the call ID 82757, or go to the chat room at <http://talkshoe.com/tc/82757>.

## Garden City Kiwanis

The Garden City Kiwanis Club of is recruiting new members to help provide assistance to the disadvantaged residents of our community — especially children — who are having a difficult time during this economic recession. Founded in 1948, the Kiwanis Club

of Garden City provides many community service projects each year including a "Baby Shower" for the Garden City Family Resource Center, a continuing Food Pantry drive, the Trauma Doll Project for hospitalized children, and the Third Grade Dictionary Project.

The club meets at noon on Thursdays at Aman-tea's Restaurant on Warren Road at Venoy in Garden City.

Anyone who is interested in attending one of the luncheons or with questions about the club's community involvement can call Gary Simon at (734) 751-4101.

## Garden City Rotary

The Garden City Rotary Club is on the hunt for new members.

The local club was chartered in 1940 as part of the worldwide Rotary International organization and is guided by the Rotary motto "Service Above Self." Charitable involvement covers the spectrum from local activities, such as college scholarships, literacy training, coats for needy elementary children, to projects including school construction and orphanage support in Latin America, as well as pure water, polio vaccination,

and other international humanitarian efforts.

Rotary offers a wonderful opportunity for people to provide service for others on many different levels and to the extent they feel comfortable doing so. At the same time, it offers the availability for weekly contact and socialization with other, like-minded, nice people.

The club meets at noon on Thursdays at Aman-tea's Restaurant on Warren Road just east of Venoy in Garden City. Individuals interested in more information about the club can call Steve Kelly at (734) 748-1345.

## Recycle for cash

Drop off used ink jet cartridges, cell phones, digital cameras and similar items at City Hall. Garden City Charities, a group formed by city staff, sends the items off to be recycled by Cartridges for Kids and gets cash in return. Money raised by Garden City Charities benefits local organizations.

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 Families socialize as they enter the Four Seasons dining room where tables are covered with festive green and red tablecloths. "It's great they do this for the residents so they aren't feeling lonely," said Carol Gannaway, party guest. "It's nice to see everybody together and happy," said Nancy Boland of Livonia. "It's great. It's fun," said Pat Lyden, RN, Four Seasons' Administrator. "It's an opportunity for families and residents to be together for the holidays."

PHOTO ABOVE: L to R: Bob Anderson, June Daly, Bob Anderson Jr., Cheril Hartman, Debra Anderson, Jim Hartman, Derek Anderson, Janis Boyless; seated front: Barbara Anderson, Four Seasons resident

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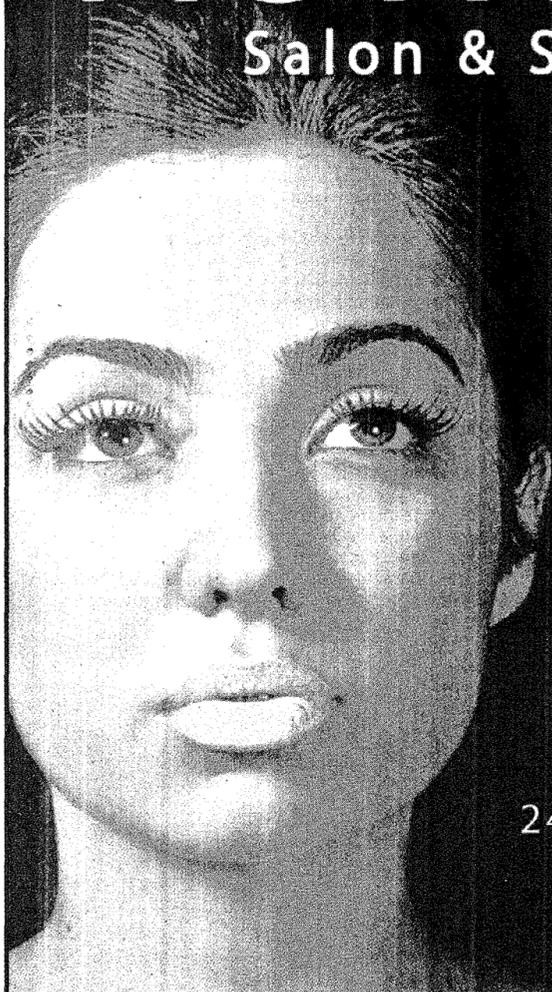
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# Seniors ring in the holidays at Friendship Center

Westland's Friendship Center was the place to be and be seen during the recent seniors Christmas Party.

Decorated for the holidays, the event was packed with seniors, many wearing festive sweaters and other holiday attire. The holiday meal was catered by Chef Tony Paquette and his students at the William D. Ford Career and Technical Center.

The food was served by elected city officials, including Mayor William Wild, members of the city council, Clerk Eileen DeHart, Westland Police Chief Greg Angelosanto, Deputy Police Chief Dan Karrick, Assistant Fire Chief John Adams and Parks and Recreation Director Robert Kosowski.

Westland 18th District Court judges Sandra Cicirelli and Mark McConnell also donned aprons and plastic gloves to help with the meal.

Wayne County Commissioner Joan Gebhardt (D-Livonia) helped serve the meal as did State Rep. Richard LeBlanc (D-Westland), who was joined by his wife Cheryl. Giving no quarter to working in the buffet line, LeBlanc donned a plastic apron but wore a long-sleeved white shirt.

Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano visited with the hundreds of seniors who came for the meal and entertainment.

Celisa Gutierrez played the harp to provide musical entertainment during the Christmas party. Music was also provided by the Capital City Ringers, who played the bells and also included a set of bongo drums.

The Friendship Center is now closed through Jan. 3 for the holidays.



Westland Parks and Recreation Director Robert Kosowski was ready to serve coffee during the Friendship Center Christmas Party.



Westland resident Earl Elliott (left) goes through the buffet line with food being served by Wayne County Commissioner Joan Gebhardt (D-Livonia), State Rep. Richard LeBlanc (D-Westland) and his wife Cheryl.



Ken Bauschat (left), Winnie Bauschat, Irene Kerr and Anna DeAguiar dig into the holiday meal at the Friendship Center.



Celisa Gutierrez played the harp during the Friendship Center's annual Christmas party.

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# McClary: Laws help collaboration

By Sue Buck  
Observer Staff Writer

Garden City Manager Darwin McClary is praising the passage of some new laws that will assist municipalities with regional cooperation.

Gov. Rick Snyder's signature Wednesday removed the road blocks, giving local governments greater flexibility in sharing services. According to the governor's office, the new laws also gives municipal leaders greater flexibility to work together.

Greater clarity to existing state law is another benefit. The changes were long sought by local officials and were called for by the governor in his message to the Legislature on Community Development and Local Government Reform.

"I applaud the efforts of the Michigan Municipal League in getting these changes passed," McClary said. "I am pleased that the governor signed these bills into law."

McClary said that these pieces of legislation are a fair compromise between municipalities and public employees while removing the barriers that used to exist in allowing communities to take advantage of economies of scale and efficiencies through collaboration and consolidation.

"While cities such as Garden City now have greater flexibility to work with its neighbors to provide public services, the rights of employees to collectively bargain on the impact of collaborative efforts remain intact," McClary said. "After all, our outstanding unions are our partners in any effort we undertake."

A press release from Snyder's office said that municipalities have been held back in the past.

"Local governments willing to share common services are often held back by the very laws intended to help them," Snyder said. "The reforms I have signed into law offer municipal leaders a clear path to common sense collaborations. By reaching across historical boundary lines, dynamic communities are built and valuable taxpayer dollars are saved."

The six bills the governor signed are:  
• HB 4309, sponsored by state Rep. Eileen Kowall, HB 4311, sponsored by state Rep. Paul Opsommer, and HB 4312, sponsored by state Rep. Thomas Hooker amend various acts relating to locally consolidated services. These bills specifically lift the requirement of maintaining prior labor contracts, staff seniority levels and benefit packages.

• Senate Bills 8 and 9, sponsored state Sen. Mark Jansen, create the Municipal Partnerships Act that authorizes municipalities and public entities to enter into contracts to provide common services. The Municipal Partnership Act also defines what a shared service contract can or cannot contain, excludes shared service contracts from being subject to a local referendum under a charter or ordinance and sets guidelines for funding joint ventures.

• SB 493, sponsored by state Sen. Arlan Meekhof, amends the Public Employment Relations Act to prohibit bargaining of agreements that limit a public employer's ability to enter into an intergovernmental agreement. The bill does not eliminate the ability to collectively bargain on the effect of an intergovernmental agreement that results in consolidated services.

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# BBB offers tips to avoid holiday travel headache

The holidays are a time of cheer, but they can also be a time for battling traffic and bad weather on the road. Staying safe should be a top priority for all travelers so Better Business Bureau recommends taking a few precautions when hitting the road this holiday.

"Before hitting the roads, give your car the attention that it needs," said Patrick Bennett, BBB director of community relations. "Make sure you are well-equipped and know where to turn should the unexpected happen."

BBB recommends taking the following steps for safe driving this holiday season:

- Create a car safety kit. Holiday driving often includes the threat of dangerous winter weather. Snow and ice lead to accidents, car troubles, long delays and road closures. You can prepare for bad weather by creating your own safety kit. Basics for the kit include blankets, flashlight with extra batteries, radio, first aid kit, jumper cables, non-perishable foods like granola bars and nuts, bottled water, an ice scraper and warm gloves.
- Take the car in for a checkup.

Breaking down on the side of the road can definitely put a damper on the holiday spirit. If your car is due for a checkup, take it in before making that long haul. At the very least, check the car's fluid levels, wipers and

tire pressure. Check the condition of your tires and, if you plan on driving through serious winter weather, consider getting snow tires.

- Take BBB with you.

When you're away from home or in the midst of an emergency, it's hard to know which businesses - such as tow trucks and locksmiths - you can trust. The good news is you can now rely on BBB's mobilized website or the BBB iPhone application for finding businesses you can trust when you're away from your computer.

- Start early and slow down.

The best way to fight holiday traffic is to give yourself some extra time to make the trip, and don't speed. Speeding leads to accidents, which slow traffic and cause bottlenecks. Also, if you're caught speeding by law enforcement, that adds travel time and puts a dent in your holiday spending.

- Drop the distractions.

According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, drivers who use hand-held devices are four times as likely to get into crashes serious enough to injure themselves. When you're behind the wheel, don't text and drive, use a hands free headset when talking on the phone, and get someone else to fumble with the GPS.

For more advice on staying safe over the holidays, visit us online at [www.bbb.org/us/consumer-tips-holiday](http://www.bbb.org/us/consumer-tips-holiday).

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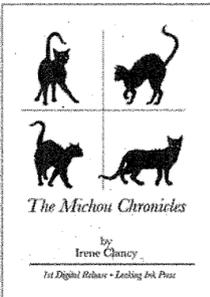


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by Irene Clancy

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### NOTICE OF SCHEDULE OF REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE WESTLAND CITY COUNCIL TO BE HELD DURING THE 2012 CALENDAR YEAR

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the City Council of Westland, Michigan will hold its regular meetings on the following dates during the calendar year of 2012, in the Council Chambers of the Westland City Hall, 36601 Ford Road, at 7:00 p.m. All meetings are held on the first and third Mondays of the month, except when a holiday falls on that Monday, in which case the meeting will be held on the next secular day that is not a holiday.

Scheduled Meeting	Mon. Cut-Off Date	Scheduled Meeting	Mon. Cut-Off Date
January 3, 2012 (Tues)	Dec. 22 (Thur)	July 2, 2012	June 25
January 17, 2012 (Tues)	Jan. 9	July 16, 2012	July 9
February 6, 2012	Jan. 30	August 6, 2012	July 30
February 21, 2012 (Tues)	Feb. 13	August 20, 2012	Aug. 13
March 5, 2012	Feb. 27	September 4, 2012 (Tues)	Aug. 27
March 19, 2012	March 12	September 17, 2012	Sept. 10
April 2, 2012	March 26	October 1, 2012	Sept. 24
April 16, 2012	April 9	October 15, 2012	Oct. 5 (Fri)
May 7, 2012	April 30	November 5, 2012	Oct. 29
May 21, 2012	May 14	November 19, 2012	Nov. 13 (Tues)
June 4, 2012	May 25 (Fri)	December 3, 2012	Nov. 26
June 18, 2012	June 11	December 17, 2012	Dec. 10

January 7, 2013      Dec. 27, 2012 (Thur)

Proposed minutes of the meeting will be available for public inspection during regular business hours at the Westland City Hall, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan, not more than eight business days after the date of said meeting and approved minutes will be available for public inspection during regular business hours, at the same location, not more than five business days after the meeting at which the minutes are approved. This notice is given in compliance with Act. 267 of Public Acts of Michigan, 1976.

EILEEN DEHART  
WESTLAND CITY CLERK-CMC

F:\ccsec\COUNCIL ITEMS\Schedule of Meetings\Council Meetings 2012.doc  
Publish: December 18, 2011

## 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 themselves 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.



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 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.

[www.ssdfighter.com](http://www.ssdfighter.com)

Attorneys Bieske and Alfonsi can 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.

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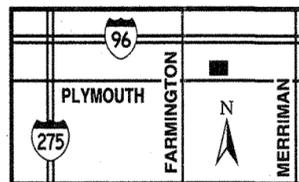
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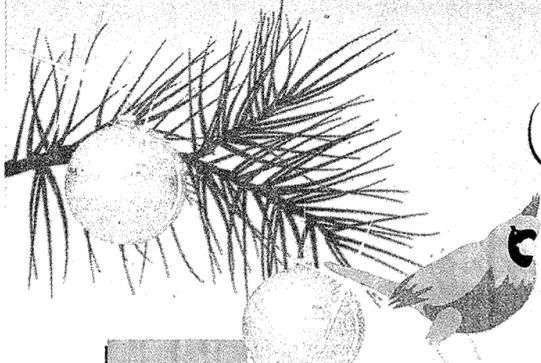
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# Community turns out for Wayne High Holiday Night

By Sue Mason  
Observer Staff Writer

Janet Tomlinson thinks a miracle similar to the loaves and fishes story in the Bible might have happened at Wayne Memorial High School at its Holiday Night for the Community.

With 900 people showing up the first year and 700 the next year, they decide to plan for a crowd of 850. When the evening was done this year, at least 1,380 parents and children had enjoyed a spaghetti dinner prepared by the culinary arts students at the William D. Ford Career Technical Center.

"Chef Tony (Paquette) and the students made spaghetti, salad and bread sticks, and everyone ate," said Tomlinson who heads up the Upward Bound program at the high school. "I don't know what he did but it was like the loaves and fishes."

Families throughout the Wayne-Westland Community Schools were invited to the Dec. 2 event that included the dinner, a visit with Santa for the youngsters, a chance to make ornaments, decorate cookies and write letters to Santa, have fun in inflatables and even visit a Secret Santa Shop.

The crowd was so large that they ran out ornaments to make so they used decorated Cutie oranges with cloves



Santa Claus poses for a photo with two-year-old Marley Yun. He stayed at the high school until almost 9 p.m., visiting with youngsters.

and called them orange-ments, Tomlinson said.

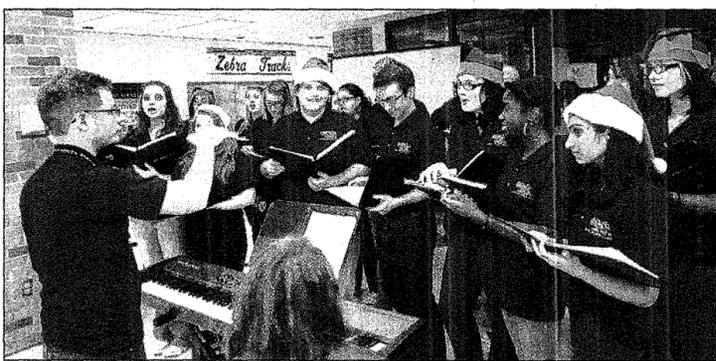
The event was the third such one the staff have stage since school started in September. It hosted Wayne Pride Night, its annual open house in September and did a Spooktacular in October. Both were well-attended, but nothing beat the crowds that flowed through the doors for the Holiday Night.

"It was the best, really extraordinary and a true community event," said Tomlinson. "It was just wonderful. These experiences speak to who we are at Wayne Memorial."

Planning for the event began last summer. The

event was made possible through sponsorships and donations, like the 1,000 cookies, frosting and sprinkles provided by School Superintendent Greg Baracy, which Tomlinson calls the "Cookie Monster," and \$1,000 from the Wayne High staff. One hundred Wayne High students volunteered to help with the setup and teardown, while 50 teachers were also involved.

"One of our counselors' husband plays the keyboard and he performed, teacher Erica Hannah and her husband did the photography," said Tomlinson, whose husband Roger did a reprise as Santa Claus, sitting



Brandon Tomblin directs Wayne Memorial's Vocal Dimensions which performed carols for the dinner guests in the high school cafeteria.



Students Desilda Cela, Gabriel Garsia and Alicia Smith pour pop for families enjoying the spaghetti dinner at the Holiday Night.

in his chair and listening to youngsters well after the party ended at 8 p.m.

"Charles Stanley, one of our longtime substitutes, was the DJ at the North Pole and the folks in transportation let us use their professional costumes.

There were gingerbread men, a snowman, Christmas tree and elves.

"Something like this creates a desire in the community to be a part of the school," said Tomlinson.

"We've become a hub in the community."

The gymnasium was transformed into the North Pole and that's where youngsters played with Legos, enjoyed the bouncers and visited with Santa. At the opposite end of the building, a room had been set aside for Wii Dance Revolution to holiday songs.

According to Tomlinson there was a lot of energy and electricity because of the people who came to the school.

"I'm glad the community wanted to be here, I'm glad they were comfortable with being here," she said. "When the kids walk in the door for Wayne Pride or for something like this, they realize this is a good place where they want to be."

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### INFANT CARE

**Time/Date:** 6:30-9:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 12

**Location:** Classrooms 1 and 2 at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, Five Mile and Levan, Livonia

**Details:** St. Mary Mercy Hospital is offering a "Getting to Know Your Newborn and Caring for the Sick Infant Care Class. Gain knowledge about caring for your newborn. This class taught by a registered nurse, will teach new parents the basic characteristics and needs of a newborn to include diapering, bathing, feeding, growth and development patterns. In addition to baby basics the class will also include how to recognize when a baby is sick. Car seat and home safety will also be covered. This class is open to anyone who cares for an infant. We encourage spouses or support person to attend this class at no additional cost. The fee is \$55.

**Contact:** To register, call St. Mary Mercy Hospital's Marian Women's Center at (734) 655-1162, or register online at [stmarymercy.org](http://stmarymercy.org) and click on "classes and events."

### ZUMBA FITNESS

**Time/Date:** 8 p.m. Thursdays, beginning Jan. 5

**Location:** Merriman Road Baptist Church, 2055 Merriman, Garden City

**Details:** Zumba Fitness classes at Merriman Road Baptist Church will feature rhythms set to high-energy Latin, international, and Christian music. Before you know it, you will be feeling fit and your energy level

will be soaring. It's easy to do, and suitable for all exercise levels. Registration is 7:30 p.m., class begins at 8 p.m. and is approximately one hour long. Adults 18 years or older only. Wear comfortable workout wear - a sweat towel and a bottle of drinking water are recommended, too. A donation will be taken at the door for every class to cover the cost of the certified Zumba instructor's services. Visit [www.MRBC.us](http://www.MRBC.us) and click on Women's Ministries, 'Girlfriends of Grace', and 'Zumba Fitness for Women' or e-mail us at [info@mrbc.us](mailto:info@mrbc.us)

**Contact:** For more information, call (734) 421-0472.

## EDUCATION

### WILLOW CREEK

**Location:** 36660 Cherry Hill in Westland

**Details:** Willow Creek Cooperative Preschool offers a Parent/Tot, Young 3's, 3-year and 4-year programs.

**Contact:** (734) 326-0078

### ST. DAMIAN

**Location:** 29891 Joy, Westland

**Details:** St. Damian Catholic School offers preschool for 3-4-year-olds and full day kindergarten through grade 8.

**Contact:** (734) 427-1680, [www.stdamian.com](http://www.stdamian.com).

### YWCA PRESCHOOL

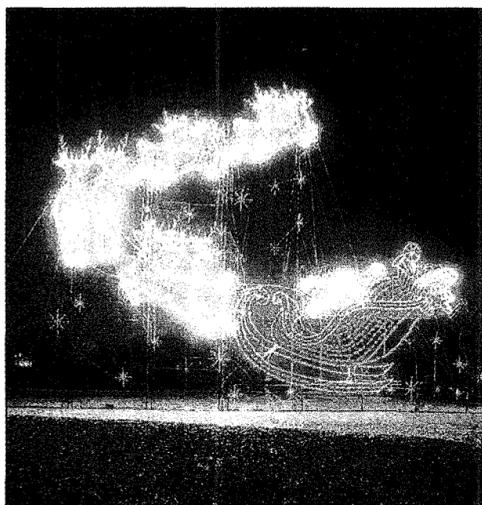
**Details:** The YWCA of Western Wayne County's Education Department offers quality preschool programs to children aged 2-5 years old at no cost to most families. There are many locations available throughout the community. Home-based programs are also available.

**Contact:** (313) 561-4110, Ext. 10

## ORGANIZATIONS

### FRIENDS OF ELOISE

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



## Ho, ho, ho

Take time to visit the annual Wayne County Parks Lightfest open 7-10 p.m. daily now through Dec. 31, except for Christmas Day when it will be closed. The Lightfest display stretches from Merriman Hollow in Westland to Warrendale Park east of Telegraph in Dearborn Heights where youngsters can stop and visit Santa's Workshop. Santa will be there from Thanksgiving until Dec. 23. Enter Lightfest at the Merriman entrance to Hines Park, north of Warren Road. There's a \$5 fee per vehicle.

**Location:** Collins House in the Westland Historic Village Park, 857 N. Wayne Road between Marquette and Cherry Hill, Westland.

**Contact:** Jo Johnson (734) 522-3918

### WESTLAND ROTARY

**Time/Date:** 12:15 p.m. Thursdays

**Location:** Joy Manor, 28999 Joy, east of Middlebelt, Westland

**Details:** Community Service programs and planning. Catered lunch; visitors welcome. Check [www.westlandrotary.com](http://www.westlandrotary.com) for more information about meetings, programs and events.

**Contact:** Jeff at (734) 261-5010

### AMERICAN LEGION

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

**Location:** Harris-Kehrer VFW Post, 1055 S. Wayne Road, Westland

**Details:** American Legion Westland Post 251 meets

at the VFW hall the first Tuesday of each month. The post welcomes all veterans male and female who have been honorably discharged.

**Contact:** Bill Acton at (734) 326-2607, Ron Nickels at (734) 455-3415 or visit the website at [www.post251.com](http://www.post251.com) or [www.post251.org](http://www.post251.org).

### LIONS CLUB

**Time/Date:** 11:45 a.m. the second Monday of the month and at 6:30 p.m. the fourth Monday of the month

**Location:** Big Boy Restaurant at Wayne Road and Hunter in Westland.

**Details:** The Westland Lions Club holds lunch and dinner meetings on Mondays.

**Contact:** For more information, call Debbie Dayton at (734) 721-4216.

### WRITING GROUP

**Time/date:** 7 p.m. the second Wednesday of every

month

**Location:** Wayne Public Library, 3737 S. Wayne Road, Wayne

**Details:** The Story Circle Network is made up of women who want to explore their lives and souls through life-writing, writing that focuses on personal experience through memoirs and autobiographies, in diaries, journals and personal essays. Participants should bring a notebook or laptop computer to each meeting to spend some time writing, and for those who are comfortable doing so, sharing their writing. Membership in Story Circle's National Network is optional. Participation in the group is free.

**Contact:** [www.storycircle.org](http://www.storycircle.org) or send an e-mail to [sheprey@yahoo.com](mailto:sheprey@yahoo.com)

### TOASTMASTERS

**Location:** Westland Easytalkers Toastmasters Club meets every Thursday at 6:45 P.M. in the lower level of the Bailey Recreation Center, located behind the Westland City Hall on Ford between Wayne Road and Newburgh.

**Details:** Toastmasters provides a supportive environment where members can overcome the fear of speaking in public. The membership is a diverse group from different walks of life.

**Contact:** For information, call Bill at (734) 306-3980 or Curt at (734) 525-8445.

### FISH DIAL-A-RIDE

**Details:** Fish Dial-A-Ride of Western Wayne County is seeking volunteer drivers and phone messengers. Volunteer drivers, using their own vehicles, designate days, times, and areas they are willing to drive. Volunteer phone messengers arrange client rides with our volunteer drivers one day each week from the comfort of their home. Fish Dial-A-Ride of Western Wayne County is a not-for-profit community service that provides free door-to-door rides to non-emergency medical and other necessary appointments for senior and disabled residents of Garden City,

Livonia, and Westland who are unable to drive and have no alternative transportation.

**Contact:** For more information, call (888) 660-2007 and leave a message.

### EARTH ANGELS

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

**Contact:** [www.earthangel-sontour.org](http://www.earthangel-sontour.org) or by e-mail to [eangel1986@comcast.net](mailto:eangel1986@comcast.net)

### TOPS 869

**Time/date:** Mondays, weigh-ins at 5:30 p.m., followed by the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

**Location:** Adams Senior Village, 2001 Kaley Ave., south of Palmer, Westland.

**Details:** The group is for people age 18 and older.

**Contact:** The group which meets on Mondays is for people age 18 and older.

### TOPS M128

**Time/date:** 7 p.m. Mondays

**Location:** Good Shepherd Reformed Church, 6500 N. Wayne Road, at Hunter, Westland

**Contact:** Pat Strong at (734) 326-3539 or Mary Lowe at (734) 729-6879

### CITIZENS FOR PEACE

**Time/date:** 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month

**Location:** Unity of Livonia Church on Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster, Livonia

**Details:** The group is dedicated to working for creation of a U.S. Department of Peace. All are welcome.

**Contact:** Colleen Mills at (734) 425-0079

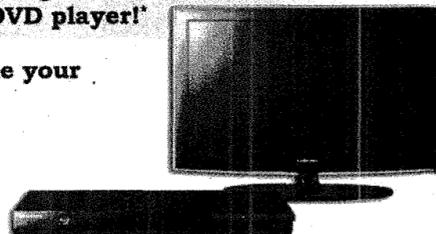
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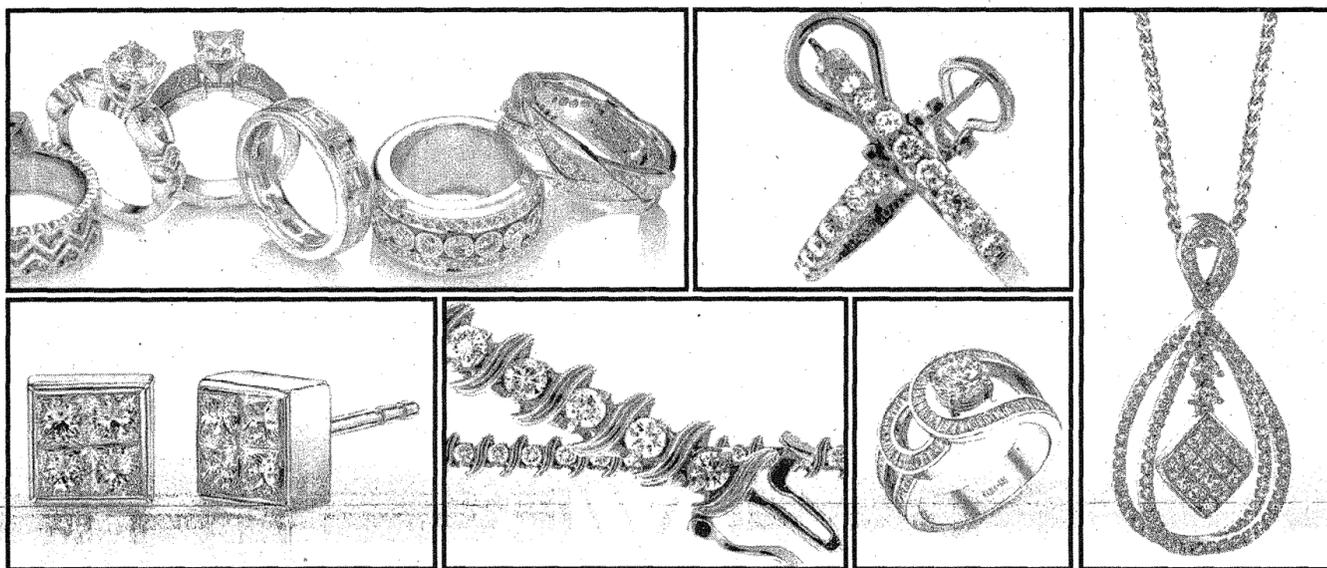
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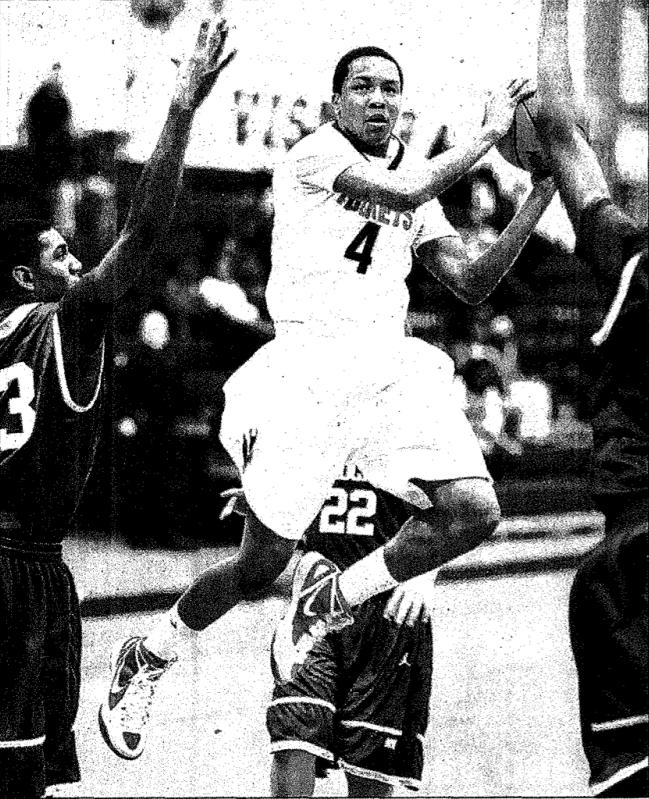


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# Rockets pound Novi, 56-29



Westland John Glenn sophomore guard Isaac Everette (4) splits a pair of Novi defenders in the lane during Friday's convincing 56-29 victory.

By Brad Emons  
Observer Staff Writer

Westland John Glenn's backcourt of Nick Daniels and Marquise Graves can create havoc on both ends of the floor.

And Novi found that out up close and personal Friday night as the host Rockets rolled to a 56-29 boys basketball victory to even their record at 1-1.

Novi, the Kensington Conference champion from a year ago, slipped to 0-5 overall.

Daniels, a 6-foot-1 junior, led all scorers with a game-high 24 points, including four triples.

Meanwhile, the 5-10 Graves scored only two points, but made his presence known on the defensive end as the Wildcats committed 16 first-half turnovers and shot only 1-for-12 from the field as Glenn raced out to a 26-10 halftime lead.

"Marquise Graves is a four-year varsity guy for me," Glenn coach Dan Young said. "He's a tremendous on-ball defender and he set the tone defensively with that. And the rest of our guys are trying to get better. I thought we guarded pretty well."

Novi struggled just trying to get into any type of offense.

"Our guards really had a hard time bringing the ball up, getting into the offense, getting passes," first-year Novi coach Brian Tass said. "It was pretty much a turnover festival."

Daniels, a shifty left-handed guard with deft ball-handling skills, made 9-of-17 shots from the floor.

"We've been playing against him the last few years," Tass said. "He's gotten better and better as a player defensively and handling the ball. Pretty impressed with his progress."

Glenn, however, had 19 turnovers on the game and Young said that aspect of the game needs to become sharper.

"Offensively, we've got a ways to go," he said. "Our flow is not quite there. We've got to move it from side to side. We're getting inside a lot, which is good. We're getting better at that because we've got some guys that can score in there. But we've got some things we've got to work on."

Senior forward Eric Covile came alive during the second half by scoring 10 of his 11 points.

Isaac Everette, a 6-3 sophomore guard, added seven points, while Ivan Miller came off the bench to add six for the

Please see **ROCKETS, B3**

## MSU's Gainer All-Academic

Michigan State University sophomore defensive end Jeremy Gainer (Livonia Clarenceville) was among 13 Spartan players named to the 2011 Academic All-Big Ten football team.



Gainer

To be eligible for the award, a student-athlete must be a letter winner in his second academic year and hold at least a 3.0 cumulative grade point average (on a 4.0 scale).

Gainer, a hospitality business major, carried a 3.13 grade point average.

The 6-foot-1, 228-pound Gainer was a standout on special teams appearing in all 13 games with six solo tackles and five assists, including two forced fumbles as the Spartans captured the Legends Division and finished 10-3 overall before losing 42-39 to Wisconsin in the inaugural Big Ten Championship game in Indianapolis.

MSU will be playing Georgia on Monday, Jan. 2, at the Outback Bowl in Tampa, Fla.

## Abron HM All-Big Ten

Michigan State University senior middle hitter Kyn-dra Abron, a former Miss Volleyball from Livonia Churchill High, recently earned honorable mention All-Big Ten honors in women's volleyball.

The 6-foot-1 Abron won conference recognition for the second time in her career, having been named to the first-team as a sophomore.

She finished second on the team in kills behind Jenilee Rathje with 4201 (3.44 per set), setting a new career high.



Abron

Abron has also set career marks in blocks with 89, which is tied for second on the team, and hitting percentage (.280).

"Kyn-dra really stepped up this year and carried a major part of our offense," MSU coach Cathy George said. "Her physicality was a major matchup concern for most teams in the league and her powerful attacking left a lasting impression on the coaches as well as opposing defenders."

MSU finished 22-12 overall and 10-10 in the Big Ten while earning an NCAA Tournament bid before losing to Texas, 3-0.

Abron had a team-high 22 kills in a 3-1 first-round NCAA win over Arizona.



# Stevenson staves off stubborn Wildcats

By Brad Emons  
Observer Staff Writer

Livonia Stevenson's hockey team found out Wednesday night that "gimmies" are far and few between when it comes to the Kensington Lakes Activities Association.

The state-ranked Spartans improved to 7-1 overall and 3-1 in the KLAA's Central Division with a hard-fought 4-3 conference crossover triumph over Plymouth in a game played at Edgar Arena.

Despite a six-day layoff, Stevenson built a 4-2 lead after two periods before hanging on for the victory.

"We've been off a week, but that's high school hockey," Stevenson coach David Mitchell said. "Sometimes you play three games in five days, then the next thing you know you have a week off. It's still up to us to maintain our sharpness in practice and be ready throughout the year each and every night because this league is a tough league and this schedule is tough."

Plymouth, now 3-5 overall and 3-4 in the KLAA South Division, made things interesting when Michael

Schultz scored from Jeremy Cigile just 5:50 into the final period to cut the deficit to 4-3.

"It was one of our better efforts, first through third (periods)," Plymouth first-year coach Gerry Vento said. "We had a couple of periods where we kind of sat back and it cost us, but in the end I thought it was one of our best games of the season."

The Wildcats got off two shots on goal during the final minute of play after pulling goaltender Rich Guglielmi for the extra attacker, but couldn't tally the equalizer.

"I thought we were physical and really got our forecheck going, kept them hemmed in — especially the third period where I thought we did a nice job, had a lot of chances, just couldn't bury them," said Vento, who was replaced behind the Stevenson bench after only one season last May after Mitchell decided to return as head coach following a one-year hiatus to serve as middle school administrator.

Stevenson bolted out to a 2-0 lead

Please see **HOCKEY, B3**



DOUGLAS BARGERSTOCK

Stevenson's Dominic Lutz (15) turns up the ice in Wednesday's 4-3 KLAA crossover victory over Plymouth at Edgar Arena.

# Tumbler nearly medals Skinner takes 4th in Age-Group Worlds

By Brad Emons  
Observer Staff Writer

The summer bottle drive and the garage sale made it all worthwhile for 2011 Livonia's Cassandra Skinner.

The power tumbler, a junior at Stevenson High, nearly made it onto the podium before settling for fourth place for Girls 15-16 at the 2011 Trampoline and Tumbling Championships held Nov. 24-27 in Birmingham, England.

Skinner ranked third going into the finals after scoring 61,200 points in the preliminary qualification round. In the finals she finished with score of 29,900 points (tied for fifth).

Lucie Colebeck of Germany captured the gold with a 33,000, while Febe Demulder of Belgium and Darya Mironova of Russia tied for the silver at 30,900 each.

"In prelims, I did extremely well," Skinner said. "I felt amazing going in. I was nervous, but I pulled through and



Livonian Cassandra Skinner recently returned from the 2011 World Age-Group Trampoline & Tumbling in Birmingham England with a fourth-place finish for Girls 15-16 in power tumbling.

was really excited. I was third going in and I was really proud of that, and everybody was excited for me.

"In the finals, I couldn't throw my higher difficulty pass. I had to lay up. Instead of doing it straight, I had to tuck it

in. It wasn't a bad pass, but it wasn't the pass I originally planned for. I was a little disappointed, but overall I'm proud of my performance."

An injury hampered Skinner throughout the competition.

"On the first day of training, when we got there, I ended up pulling my hip flexor so I was training through that the whole week," she said. "After my performance, my ankles and my hips were tended to feel a bit sore. Overall, I was so excited and happy with myself it really didn't matter what happened to me."

The trip was strictly business for Skinner. There was really no sightseeing.

"We didn't have much time for that because we were training so much," she said. "We were having two or three practices a day. We stayed with the team for the most part. There was a lot of team

Please see **SKINNER, B4**

# Grizzell lands grid position at Wayne

By Brad Emons  
Observer Staff Writer

Lee Grizzell is the latest hire to try and turn around the football fortunes at Wayne Memorial High.

The 35-year-old Grizzell, who spent the past six seasons at his high school alma mater Dearborn Edsel Ford as the offensive coordinator, was named varsity coach Tuesday by Wayne-Westland Schools athletic coordinator Greg Ambrose and Wayne Principal Valerie Orr.



Lee Grizzell

Grizzell, who replaces Kevin Weber, is no stranger to Wayne. He served as the boys track and field coach for seven years (2004-10) and has taught world history in the social studies department during the past 10 years.

Weber stepped down after four seasons to become assistant principal at Wayne where he replaces Julie Lublin, who took a leave of absence.

Grizzell played football at Edsel Ford and was an assistant to Jack Bridges, his high school coach, for four seasons. After Bridges retired, Grizzell stayed on to work nine years under current coach Mark Tyler.

"We're going to try and establish a strong work ethic and buy into the team concept," said Grizzell, a 1998 Kalamazoo College grad who played four years of football there as well. "My first goal is to make sure that they're student-athletes, and

Please see **GRIZZELL, B4**



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### PREP BOWLING RESULTS

#### BOYS DUAL MATCH RESULTS WESTLAND JOHN GLENN 24 NOVI 6

Dec. 14 at Super Bowl  
John Glenn scorers: Steven White, 236-192-428; Jordan Hornes, 183-244-427; Mitch Dean, 211; Tommy Ruark, 189; Mark Kassab, 186; Daniel Ammons, 172; split score, 182-168-350. Team totals: 1,001-962-1,963; Baker games: 142-215-357 (10 points).  
Novi scorers: Chad Smith, 209-198-407; Andrew Thorwall, 210-143-353; Mat Kotowicz, 173-137-310; Charlie Woods, 168-135-303; Cory Brown, 134-141-278. Team totals: 894-754-1,648 (2 points); Baker games: 149-168-317 (0 points).  
Glenn's dual match record: 5-0 overall, 3-0 KLA Central Division.

#### GIRLS DUAL MATCH RESULTS WESTLAND JOHN GLENN 17 NOVI 13

Dec. 13 at Super Bowl  
John Glenn scorers: Caitly Lenard, 194-183-377; Sara Aulidge, 172-154-326; Olivia Cabildo, 135-166-301; Montana Graszak, 176; Yvette Ayers, 131; Jessica Pate, 125; Bre Riblett, 111. Team totals: 757-790-1,547; Baker games: 137-125-262 (0 points).  
Novi scorers: Sara Schulz, 182-169-351; Shelby Limpert, 115-162-277; Abby O'Leary, 131-128-259; Jessie Snider, 110-129-239; Megan Engels, 115-114-229. Team totals: 653-702-1,355 (3 points); Baker games: 168-171-239 (10 points).  
Glenn's dual match record: 4-1 overall, 3-0 KLA Central Division.

#### WESTLAND JOHN GLENN 17 CANTON 3

Dec. 13 at Novi Bowl  
John Glenn scorers: Steven White, 282-214-496; Jordan Hornes, 279-173-452; Mitch Dean, 238-202-440; Thomas Brusseau, 199; Mark Kassab, 184; split score, 191-140-331. Team totals: 1,182-920-2,102 (17 points); Baker games: 205-160-365 (0 points).  
Canton scorers: Kurt Kowalski, 243-181-424; Josh Pozen, 247-173-420; Alex Champagne, 181-177-358; Gary Barrett, 172-180-352; Mike Richards, 203; split score, 158. Team totals: 1,001-914-1,915 (3 points); Baker games: 254-230-483 (10 points).  
Glenn's dual match record: 4-0 overall, 2-0 KLA Central.

#### WESTLAND JOHN GLENN 27 CANTON 3

Dec. 13 at Novi Bowl  
John Glenn scorers: Caitly Lenard, 153-171-324; Yvette Ayers, 142-137-279; Olivia Cabildo, 147-132-279; Montana Graszak, 179; Jessica Pate and Becca Lenard, 137 each; Bre Riblett, 125. Team totals: 896-756-1,452 (17 points); Baker games: 175-141-316 (10 points).  
Canton scorers: Charlotte Zimmer, 163-177-340; Jessica Holowicki, 123-165-288; Bri Bailey, 132-119-251; Amber Holly, 125-116-241; Beth Stark, 115-123-238. Team totals: 658-691-1,349 (3 points); Baker games: 144-126-270 (0 points).  
Glenn's dual match record: 3-1 overall, 2-0 KLA Central.

# 3/10

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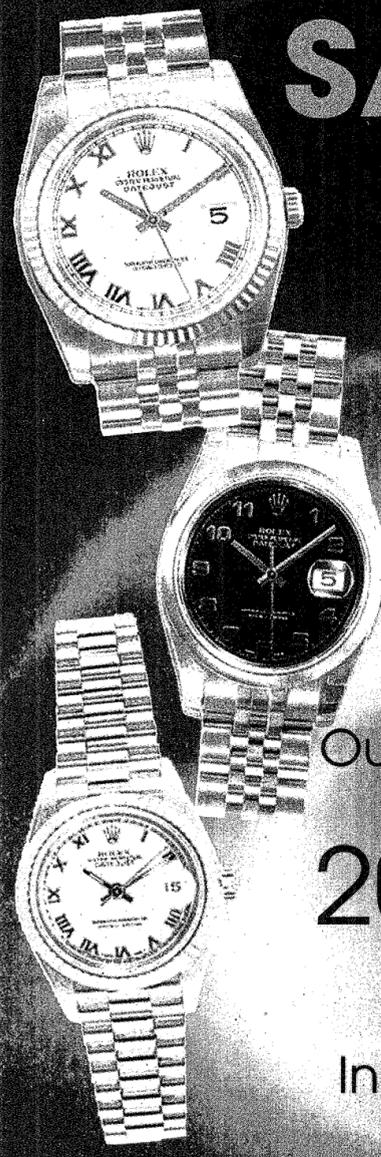
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# Clarenceville nails down 1st win

So much for the sophomore jinx. Ayanna Buckley, a 6-foot 10th-grader, poured in a game-high 24 points as Livonia Clarenceville notched its first victory of the season Friday with a 64-27 triumph at home over Madison Heights Madison.

Clarenceville (1-5) jumped out to a 20-4 first-quarter lead and took a 40-9 halftime advantage.

Junior forward Ashley Murphy chipped in with 16 points for the Trojans, who missed 12-of-13 free throws.

Alyssa Bennett scored 13 for the Eagles.

**LADYWOOD 61, GROSSE ILE 49:** Livonia Ladywood (4-2) overcame a sluggish start Friday to

beat the host Red Devils (0-3) in a non-league encounter.

The Blazers trailed 7-5 after one quarter before going on a 20-13 second-quarter run followed by a 20-14 third-period spurt.

Junior point-guard Andie Anastos led the Blazers with 18 points, seven rebounds and five steals.

Other contributions came from Briana Combs (14 points); Morgan Chops (eight points, eight rebounds); Kiley Gorski and Sara Even (seven points, five rebounds apiece).

Megan Swick tallied 14 points for the Red Devils.

The Blazers were 13-of-24 from the foul line, while Grosse Ile was 13-of-23.

**LUTH. WESTLAND 39, OAK. CHRISTIAN 31 (OT):** In a Michigan Independent Athletic Conference crossover Thursday, host Lutheran High Westland (3-3) pulled out the victory in overtime against Auburn Hills Oakland Christian (1-3).

Amanda Terranella, a 6-foot-1 senior center, had 15 points and 12 rebounds (including six on the offensive glass) to lead the victorious Warriors, who outscored Oakland Christian 8-0 in the four-minute OT.

Hannah Conley chipped in with eight points for the Warriors, who let a 31-21 lead slip away during the final three minutes of regulation.

Becky VanSloten and Erin Washington paced the Cougars with 15 and 10, respectively.

**PARKWAY 53, HVL 48:** Freshman Madison Dest's 22 points — all in the second half — went in vain Thursday as Westland Huron Valley Lutheran (0-2, 0-1) fell to host Sterling Heights Parkway Christian (2-1, 1-0) in a MIAC Red Division game.

Dest also grabbed 10 rebounds, while sophomore Dayna Schroeder chipped in with 12 points for the Hawks.

"We played more aggressive on

defense tonight, which we have been working on, which helped us create a more up tempo offense," HVL coach Kris Ruth said. "We did what I wanted them to do, however we just didn't finish."

"Freshmen Madison Dest had a great second half on the offensive side."

Seniors Alyssa Whitcher and Hannah Durham tallied 19 and 11 points, respectively, for the Eagles, who led 24-20 at halftime and held a 19-17 scoring margin in the final period.

The Hawks made only 12-of-28 free throws on the night, while Parkway was 9-of-16.

"We had some great looks at the basket all night, and we missed some pretty easy baskets," said Ruth, whose team couldn't convert three breakaway layup attempts. "We got to the line, which was great, but we did not finish it. You can't expect to win a basketball game when you miss 16 free throws."

## HOCKEY

Continued from page B1

in the opening period on goals by Nate Sink (from Thomas Ross) and J.D. Byrne (from Dominic Lutz and Greg Yon) at 9:54 and 13:36, respectively.

Plymouth's Sean Smiatacz cut the deficit to 2-1 at 14:12 of the same period on a power play from Dean Gunther and Mitch Claggett.

The Spartans then scored two more goals in the second period at 1:07 (Mario Tomei from Travis Harvey) and at 9:36 (Sink again from Tyler Roberts and Ross) before Claggett answered with the Wildcats' second power-play goal of the night from Matt Goertz and Smiatacz at 14:52.

And the Wildcats, who outshot Stevenson 19-17, kept coming in the third on Schultz's goal to cut the margin to one with 9:10 remaining.

But Stevenson junior goaltender Connor Humitz (14 saves) stood strong the rest of the way to preserve the victory.

"It was a good hockey game, good to get the 'W,'" Mitchell said. "Anytime you beat a quality club like a Plymouth, you're happy to get a 'W.' They're well-coached and they were able to get some power plays on us. We've got to stop taking penalties because good teams like that will do that to you. We had a good start, but teams like Plymouth are not going to quit. They played a complete hockey game. They have some skilled guys and really run a good power play, and they really have a good system. And tonight they ran it, and they got us."

Meanwhile, Vento is pleased that Gugliemi (15 saves) has returned to the game of hockey.

"Gugs hasn't played in four years," said Vento, who went 16-7-2 in his only season as Stevenson's head coach. "He's an all-state catcher. We talked to him about playing and he's come out and done that for us all year. He's kept us in games. I can honestly say goaltending has not cost us a game this year."

**NOVI 8, FRANKLIN 0:** On Wednesday, Ryan Kobylarek's hat trick spurred defending the Division 1 state champion Wildcats (4-4-1, 3-3-1), who exploded for six second-period goals to beat host Livonia Franklin (1-4-1, 0-4) in a KLAAs crossover at Edgar Arena.

Novi led 2-0 after one period on goals by Jon Mencer (from Brandon Ramsey and Mark Baker) and Kobylarek (from Curtis Herzog).

Just 3:03 into the second period, Kent Burnett scored on a power play from Derek Engebretson and Baker.

The Wildcats then scored five more times to invoke the eight-goal mercy rule in the final 8:30 — Baker (from Mencer and Burnett); Kobylarek, (from Travis Trainor and Herzog); Joshua Ward (short-handed from Christopher Kennedy); Luke Bageris (unassisted) and Kobylarek (from Trainor and Herzog).

Austin Petty got the shutout in goal for Novi, while freshman Matt Monendo got the start for the Patriots.

## ROCKETS

Continued from page B1

Rockets, who shot 18-of-37 from the floor (48.6 percent).

Daniels was the catalyst for most of Glenn's assists.

"I don't think he had hardly any turnovers," Young said of his junior standout. "He's a good scorer, a good shooter. He's a natural feel guy. He's got a good feel for the game. He likes the corner, he can shoot it with range. And he's a really, really good passer."

Meanwhile, Novi's top scorer was Brad Kozinski, who tallied six off the bench.

"We have a lot of work to do on everything," Tass said. "Not having summer with these guys really hurts. Skill-wise, we've got a lot of the basics to work on. It takes time."

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## KLAA GIRLS HOOPS

# Stevenson wins easy; Rockets take tune-up

It was over by halftime as the Livonia Stevenson girls basketball team led 35-12 en route to a convincing 61-25 victory Friday at home over Livonia Franklin.

Sophomore center Charlesann Roy paced the victorious Spartans, who improved to 2-1 overall, with 12 points and 10 rebounds.

Rachel Wilkinson, Jordan York and Molly Knoph each contributed seven points, while Mara Murray, celebrating her 17th birthday, spearheaded the Spartans' defense.

Junior guard Katelynn Devers paced the Patriots (1-3) with 10 points.

Stevenson shot 9-of-14 from the foul line, while Franklin made 5-of-12.

**JOHN GLENN 40, NOVI 27:** Purdue-bound Joslyn Massey finished

with 15 points, 14 rebounds, five steals and three blocks as Westland John Glenn (3-0) won Friday against the host Wildcats (4-1).

Erica Covile and ShaKeya Graves contributed eight and seven points, respectively, for the Rockets, who led 18-12 at the half before going on a 10-0 run to start the third period.

"Novi is a good team and it was a good test," said Glenn first-year coach Eric Kovatch, who also got key contributions from Stephany Brown and Abbey Wright.

Novi senior Abby Chandler scored all nine of her points in the second half, while sophomore Kerri McMahan tallied eight in the opening two periods.

The Rockets will travel Tuesday to face defending state Class A champion Inkster in an early season showdown. (Game time is 7 p.m.)

**SOUTH LYON 55, WAYNE 40:** Gabby Williams finished with 16 points and Emily Slaik added 14 to carry the Lions (2-2) to a KLAAs Kensington Conference crossover

win Friday at home over Wayne Memorial (1-4).

Sophomore Ashley Bland led the Zebras, who trailed 32-19 at intermission, with 13 points.

South Lyon made only 11-of-32 free throws (34.3 percent), while Wayne hit 9-of-17 (52.9 percent).

**S.L. EAST 41, CHURCHILL 34:** On Friday, Taylor Jones and Willow Cohn scored 12 and 10 points, respectively, leading host South Lyon East (4-2) past Livonia Churchill (2-2) in a KLAAs Kensington Conference crossover.

The Cougars helped secure the victory by hitting 18-of-19 free throws (94.7 percent), while Churchill was 9-of-12 (75 percent).

Senior Erin Menard led the Chargers in scoring with 13 points, while sophomore Cecillie Hansen added 10.

"We were tied with three minutes to go and then we turned the ball over in our half-court sets," Churchill first-year coach Matt McCowan said. "We played fast and played well. We'll get better at finishing and get stronger."



OBSERVER STAFF PHOTO

Franklin's Jacqueline Shields (left) and Alexis Smith (center) try and put the stops on Stevenson guard Molly Knoph during Friday's KLAAs crossover.

## MU men's cagers roll

Forwards Fred Williams and Tyler Coker each scored 16 points Friday as the Madonna University men's basketball team extended its program-best winning streak to nine games with a 81-62 triumph Friday over Roosevelt (Ill.) in the opening round of the BLT Sportswear & Apparel Crusader Classic.

Madonna (9-4), ranked No. 21 in the latest NAIA Division II coaches poll, jumped out to a 35-24 halftime lead.

Eleven different players scored as the Crusaders shots 28-of-56 from the floor (50 percent), including 11-of-26 from three-point range (42.3 percent).

Matt Jenkins added 10 points and a team-high five assists. Point-guard Bobby Naubert added a team-high eight rebounds.

The Crusaders also shot 14-of-17 from the free throw line (82.4 percent).

Brandyn Denson came off the bench to pace Roosevelt (2-7) with a game-high 17 points. Paul Tometchik added 11.

MU played Goshen (Ind.) College for the championship on Saturday.

# Spartans slide by Pats

## Wayne wins squeaker; Churchill romps

Livonia Stevenson improved to 3-0 on the boys basketball season Friday with a 51-41 triumph at Livonia Franklin.

Senior point-guard Jonathan Campbell led the Spartans in scoring with 17 points, while sophomore Devin Kelly chipped in with nine.

Vince Tomasi and Carey Cobb each added five points, while 6-foot-6 senior center Austin Bumpus grabbed a team-high 13 rebounds.

"Bumpus had his best game so far and was a huge presence defensively," Stevenson first-year coach Brandon Sinawi said. "And Devin (Kelly) did a tremendous job with getting tips on rebounds and offensive put-backs. Besides Jonathan, he was a difference maker."

Franklin (0-2) trailed 13-7 after one quarter and cut the deficit to 26-26 at halftime, but could get no closer.

Senior center Jacob Barham scored 12 points, while Olushakin Cole added six.

"Jeremy Rheault (Franklin's coach) had them play-

ing tough defense, but depth-wise I think we took over the second half," Sinawi said. "And Campbell was able to create plays for other guys."

**CHURCHILL 48, S.L. EAST 28:** Junior guard Robert Foster 18 points, six rebounds and four steals propelled Livonia Churchill (2-2) to a KLAAs Kensington Conference crossover victory Friday over visiting South Lyon East (1-3).

The Chargers jumped out to a 23-14 halftime lead and outscored the Cougars 25-14 in the second half.

Churchill shot 18-of-56 from the floor (32.1 percent) and 8-of-15 from the foul stripe (53.3 percent).

Sophomore Jack Leckner scored eight for East, which shot 11-of-39 from the floor (28.2 percent) and 3-of-7 from the line.

**WAYNE 47, SOUTH LYON 46:** On Friday, Thomas White's 10 points enabled Wayne Memorial (2-2) to get past the visiting Lions (0-2) in a KLAAs Kensington Conference crossover.

Dezmon Burleigh and Jordan Lowry each added eight points for the Zebras, who led 25-22 at halftime and 39-33 after three quarters.

Luke Short led South Lyon with 14 points, while Joe Remstad added eight.

The Lions, who shot 9-of-17

from the foul stripe, had a chance to win the game on the final possession, but turned it over.

**GROVES 47, C'VILLE 28:** Grant Henderson and Kyle Ervin led a balanced scoring attack with eight points apiece Friday to lead Birmingham Groves (2-2) past visiting Livonia Clarenceville (0-4).

Kassius Kelly, Sam Brown and Deavin Wilson each tallied six for the Trojans, who trailed 28-17 at halftime and 41-22 after three quarters.

Groves was 5-of-16 from the foul line, while Clarenceville made 5-of-11.

**LUTH. WESTLAND 43, FRANKEL 40:** Sophomore A.J. Seltz tallied 12 points and senior Dawson Davenport chipped in with 11 to propel Lutheran High Westland (2-2) to a non-conference victory Thursday at home over West Bloomfield Frankel Jewish Academy (0-2).

Senior Josh Snider paced the Lakers with 12 points.

"It was an all-out grind, they (Frankel) played zone and slowed us down with a three-quarter court and half-court traps," Lutheran Westland coach Doug Haller said. "But we played good defense and got enough stops in the fourth quarter."

Lutheran Westland made 14-of-19 free throws, only 2-of-7 in the final period.

Franklin was only 6-of-15 from the foul stripe.

## THE WEEK AHEAD

**BOYS BASKETBALL**  
Monday, Dec. 19  
Wayne at Riverview, 7 p.m.  
Tuesday, Dec. 20  
Seaholm at Franklin, 7 p.m.  
Annapolis at C'ville, 7 p.m.  
Thursday, Dec. 22  
Steve. at Garden City, 7 p.m.

**GIRLS BASKETBALL**  
Monday, Dec. 19  
Ferndale at Clarenceville, 7 p.m.  
Stevenson at W.L. West., 7 p.m.  
Tuesday, Dec. 20  
John Glenn at Inkster, 7 p.m.  
Garden City at Wayne, 7 p.m.  
Thursday, Dec. 22  
Edsel Ford at Franklin, 7 p.m.  
GC at Stevenson, 7 p.m.  
John Glenn at Belleville, 7 p.m.

**PREP HOCKEY**  
Wednesday, Dec. 21  
Churchill vs. Franklin at Edgar Arena, 6 p.m.  
Stevenson vs. South Lyon at Kensington I.H., 6 p.m.  
Ladywood vs. A.A. Pioneer at Veterans Arena, 7 p.m.

**PREP WRESTLING**  
Thursday, Dec. 22  
John Glenn Quad, 5:30 p.m.

**PREP BOWLING**  
Tuesday, Dec. 20  
(3:30 p.m. at Novi Bowl)  
Salem vs. Clarenceville.  
John Glenn vs. Plymouth.  
Wayne vs. Novi.

**COLLEGE WOMEN'S HOOPS**  
Wednesday, Dec. 21  
MU at Bowling Green, 7 p.m.

## BOYS SWIM RESULTS

**DUAL MEET RESULTS**  
**WESTLAND JOHN GLENN 102 GARDEN CITY 82**  
Dec. 13 at John Glenn  
200-yard medley relay: 1. Garden City (Alex Biegalski, Drake Viet, Colin McDonnell, Toby Down), 2:00.16; 2. John Glenn (Tim Moran, Razvan Sav, Jacob Burcicki), 2:14.02.  
200 freestyle: 1. Josh Wakeford (WJG), 1:56.73; 2. Brad Alholinna (WJG), 2:11.29; 3. Sean Daniels (GC), 2:19.64.  
200 individual medley: 1. Jake Ferguson (WJG), 2:16.2; 2. Viet (GC), 2:30.43; 3. Burcicki (WJG), 2:41.62.  
50 freestyle: 1. McDonnell (GC), 25.39; 2. Nick Stone (WJG), 25.47; 3. Cody Hodges (WJG), 25.5.  
1-meter diving: 1. Sean Taylor (WJG), 153.75 points; 2. Ainsworth Orr (WJG), 138.0; 3. Michael Snyder (GC), 94.30.  
100 freestyle: 1. Josh Jenderat (WJG), 59.22; 2. Daniels

(GC), 59.65; 3. Josh Farrough (WJG), 1:01.39.  
500 freestyle: 1. Aaron Alholinna (WJG), 5:57.45; 2. Josh Ferguson (WJG), 6:31.33; 3. Patrick McNally (GC), 6:57.62.  
200 freestyle relay: 1. Garden City (Viet, Down, Daniels, Cameron Cussen), 1:47.2; 2. John Glenn (Steve LeBlanc, Jake Ferguson, Jake Derring, Josh Wakeford), 1:52.54.  
100 backstroke: 1. John Kukulka (WJG), 1:07.73; 2. Biegalski (GC), 1:20.24; 3. Joe Stafiej (GC), 1:22.29.  
100 breaststroke: 1. Viet (GC), 1:09.23; 2. Dave Vader (WJG), 1:13.06; 3. Moran (WJG), 1:14.24.  
400 freestyle relay: 1. McDonnell, McNally, Down, Daniels, 4:12.09; 2. John Glenn (B. Alholinna, Stone, Rory Kemp, Jenderat), 4:35.06.  
Dual meet records: John Glenn, 1-0 overall; Garden City, 0-2 overall.

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# American Division champs



The Livonia Hockey Association Squirt Bruins captured the American Division in the 10th annual Dearborn Ice Skating Center's Thanksgiving Tournament. Team members include (top row, from left): assistant coach Mark Estes, assistant Roger Labby, head coach Justin Hemme, assistant Jeff Flannigan, assistant Michael DiCicco; (second row, from left) Grant Sobczak, Henry Shymanski, Jakob Hemme, Kaden Hemme, Drew Jenks; (first row, from left) Gianni Wolf, Steven Hicks, Jacob Visel, Evan Estes, Camden Smythe, Lincoln DiCicco, Alex Lambly, Nolan Niva, Anthony Gazzarato; (bottom at center) goalie Jack Coleman.

## SPORTS ROUNDUP

### Pitching clinic

Detroit Tigers pitching coach Jeff Jones will be the featured instructor at the pitching clinic hosted on Sunday, Jan. 22 by the Livonia Stevenson High baseball program.

Jones will be joined by former pro pitcher Dave Marcon, owner and scout of Indy Pro Showcase, along with the Stevenson coaching staff.

Session I (ages 9-12) will be from 10 a.m. until noon followed by Session II (ages 13-18) from 12:30-2:30 p.m. at the Stevenson fieldhouse.

The cost is \$40 (checks should be made payable to the Stevenson High School Baseball).

For more information, call Stevenson baseball coach Rick Berryman at (734) 455-8623; or e-mail Berry3724@aol.com.

### Baseball camp

The sixth annual Future Stars baseball camp will be from 9-11:30 a.m. (Session 1) and 12:15-2:45 p.m. (Session 2) on Saturday, Feb. 11 at Franklin High School, 31000 Joy Road, Livonia.

Session 1 consists of hitting, base running skills, and infield work, along with taking the extra base, hitting for average, and proper infield approach.

Session 2 consists of pitching and defense, pitch location, catching drills, and outfield approach.

Lunch will be from 11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. (bring your own).

The cost is \$30 per session or \$50 for both (includes T-shirt).

For more information, e-mail Franklin coach Matt Fournier at mfournie2@livoniapublicschools.org;

or call (734) 968-0499.

### 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 after Dec. 1).

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

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

### K-8 wrestling 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, 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 dchiola44@yahoo.com or call (248) 752-2340.

### Learn to Skate

The City of Livonia Department

of Parks and Recreation will offer its Learn to Skate winter session II beginning the week of Jan. 9 through Feb. 27 at Edgar Arena, located at 33841 Lyndon (one half mile south of Five Mile and just west of Farmington Road).

Each class for the eight-week program is 25 minutes.

Classes offered include: ages 4 and up - 5 p.m., 5:25 p.m., 6 p.m. or 6:25 p.m. Mondays; hockey skills - 6:25 p.m. Mondays; and 3-year-olds only - 5 p.m. Mondays. (No equipment is needed for boys hockey skills. No sticks or pucks are used. Limited skate rental is available at no charge.)

Walk-in registration will be from 6:30-8 p.m. (residents) and 7-8 p.m. (non-residents) on Wednesday, Jan. 4 at the Livonia Community Center, 15100 Hubbard (at Five Mile).

The fee is \$62 (residents) and \$76 (non-residents). Private lessons are also available. Call (734) 466-2412.

### 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).

Visit www.buckssoccer.com or call tournament director Brandon Sizemore at (248) 977-9133.

## GRIZZELL

Continued from page B1

take care of business in the classroom, and that they're fundamental-sound on the football field. That's our main focus - teaching them the game of football from a fundamental and a technique standpoint."

Grizzell will bring his own philosophy and style to the Zebras' program.

"I try to run a variety of things, but it all depends on the personnel," he said. "I still have to sit down and meet with the kids and go through some things. We'll run some full-house (back-field) stuff and variations of it. We'll run a little bit of 'pro' and a little bit of 'spread.' I've taken some aspects of different offenses and kind of incorporated them into a kind of hybrid offense. We'll do a lot of different formations.

"Defensively, we'll have an aggressive and attacking defense that comes up and has 11 guys on the ball - and we'll hit."

Grizzell inherits a 21-game losing streak. The Zebras last win came Oct. 2, 2009, against Livonia Churchill.

The Zebras also com-

pete in one of the most demanding divisions in the state, the KLA South which includes Canton, Plymouth, Livonia Franklin, Churchill and rival Westland John Glenn.

"I believe there's enough talent walking the halls of Wayne High School," he said. "My goal right now is putting together a good coaching staff. As long as we're willing to work hard - and my staff will be - we can succeed in this league. It's one of the toughest. The good thing is that it gives you good competition. The kids will have opportunities to become better football players because it. I embrace the fact that we're in a tough league."

Weber, meanwhile, finished with a 4-32 record, including back-to-back 0-9 seasons in 2010 and 2011.

"I resigned after the season," he said. "This (administration job) has been planned ever since I was in high school. What I'll miss is spending time with the kids, watching them grow and develop from 15-year-olds to 18-year-olds."

"I think he (Grizzell) will do a good job."

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## SKINNER

Continued from page B1

bonding and mostly we were at the training hall, or at hotel eating or sleeping. It's a beautiful city. All the people were great there and it was an awesome experience just to interact with all the countries there."

Meanwhile, Skinner took a couple of weeks off and has resumed training at All World Gymnastics in Warren.

"We don't really have much of an offseason," she said. "We have Nationals and the Winter Classic in February. I have only two months before I compete again. There's not too much time to take off for healing and stuff, but hopefully with last week and this week it can calm down a bit and slowly get back into the swing of things and take it from there."

"There's no (Age Group) Worlds next year because of the Olympics. I just have to ride this season out and see where it goes. After

I competed, the (USA) team delegation director approached me and she said in 2013 she wants to nominate me for Senior Elite so I can represent the United States in the World Cup in Colombia in 2013. When I go Senior, the USAG sponsor us, so if I get to that point it's really more like a professional kind of thing than anything else."

And that's good news for the Skinner family, who have had to take out second mortgages and hold fundraisers just to have enough money to keep Cassandra's Olympic dreams alive.

"The bottle drive raised \$700, and garage sale people came up and donated a lot of money," Cassandra said. "They came up with \$1,500 alone in that. It was really a humbling experience just having people who were willing to support me in my endeavors. It was really humbling to have the people come out and support me."

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The City of Wayne is currently accepting applications for **Finance Director/Treasurer**

Salary range \$75,000 - \$85,000 DDO Minimum qualifications include a Bachelor Degree in Finance and/or Accounting with a minimum of 5 yrs. experience in municipal finance administration, including investment and electronic data processing responsibilities.

Applications are available in the Personnel Dept., 3355 S. Wayne Road, Wayne, MI 48184 or at our website: www.ci.wayne.mi.us/personnel.html

Completed applications must be received in the Personnel Department by 4:30 p.m. on January 5, 2012. Resumes without completed applications will not be accepted. Faxed or emailed applications will not be accepted.

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### Help Wanted-General

**Social Worker**

West Hickory Haven Skilled Nursing Center is looking for a well-organized team player to fill a position as a Social Worker. Bachelor's degree in Social Work or related field required. Applicant must enjoy working with the elderly and have the ability to multi-task. Position duties include conducting resident assessments and MDS work.

Send resume to: amatovskic@peplinskgroup.com or apply in person at: 3310 W. Commerce Rd. Milford MI 48380

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### Help Wanted-Office Clerical

**Administrative Assistant**

Premier Livonia Dental Office is seeking a motivated and dependable dental assistant for a full time position. Dental exp is required. Must possess strong listening, computer and multi-tasking skills. 5 day work week incl. Tues evenings & Sat.

Fax resume: 734-462-6405 or email: info@livoniantdentistry.com

**DENTAL ASSISTANT**

Very well established family oriented, cosmetic dental practice in Birmingham seeking full time (35-40 hrs) dental assistant with some experience. Must have strong people skills, friendly, well-spoken, punctual, charismatic, organized & willing to learn & grow with us! Benefits avail.

Email resume to: aneta8304@gmail.com

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### Help Wanted-Dental

**DENTAL ASSISTANT**

Premier Livonia Dental Office is seeking a motivated and dependable dental assistant for a full time position. Dental exp is required. Must possess strong listening, computer and multi-tasking skills. 5 day work week incl. Tues evenings & Sat.

Fax resume: 734-462-6405 or email: info@livoniantdentistry.com

**DENTAL ASSISTANT**

Very well established family oriented, cosmetic dental practice in Birmingham seeking full time (35-40 hrs) dental assistant with some experience. Must have strong people skills, friendly, well-spoken, punctual, charismatic, organized & willing to learn & grow with us! Benefits avail.

Email resume to: aneta8304@gmail.com

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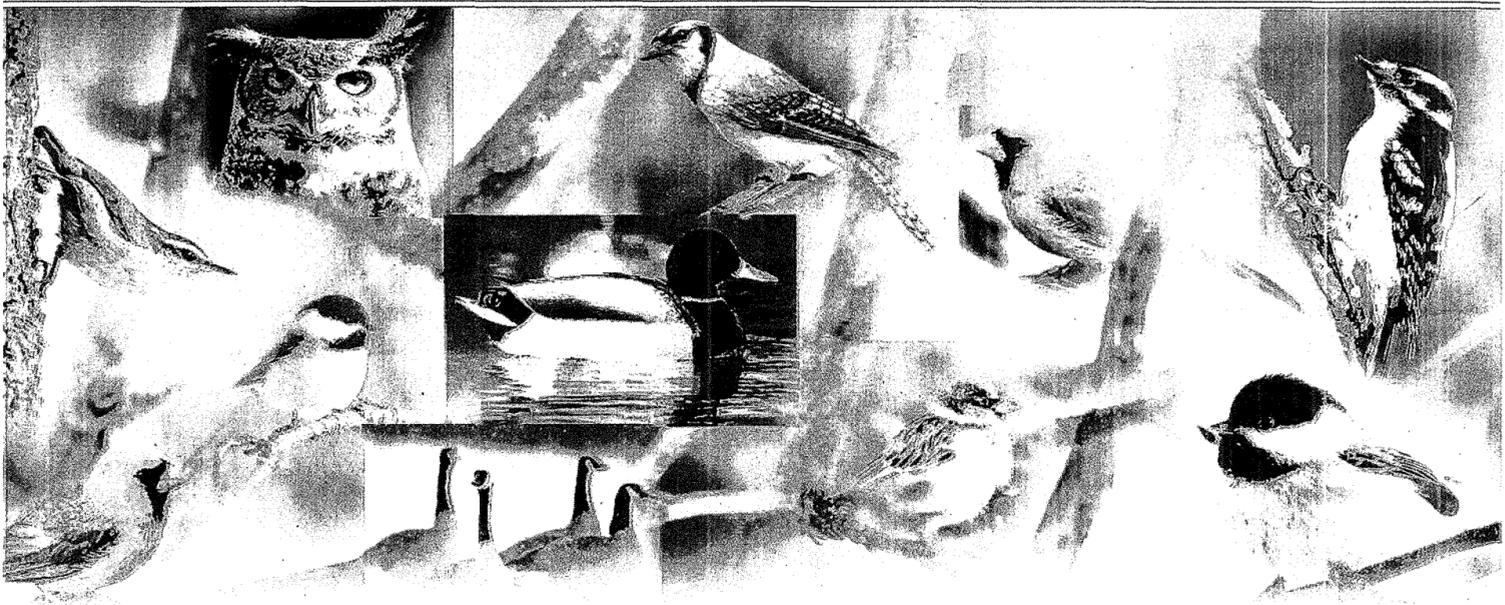
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## Audubon volunteers look for feathered friends

By Sharon Dargay  
 O&E Staff Writer

Richard Jensen will count birds Sunday, Dec. 18.

It's a pre-Christmas tradition that the Farmington Hills man has maintained for 38 years.

"We start at five in the morning. We play a tape of owl sounds and owls respond," Jensen said. "Sometimes you can make out their shadows. Sometimes if you have a flashlight, you can just (shine) it quickly over the birds."

Jensen always brings along a flashlight for his pre-dawn ritual in northwest Oakland County the Sunday before Christmas. After sun-up, binoculars come in handy as he and count partner, Dorothy McLeer, an interpretive naturalist for University of Michigan-Dearborn, spend the next nine

to 10 hours sighting birds, listening for their sounds and counting the different species they see along roads, in fields and wooded areas west of Pontiac airport.

"I've had the same area since the 70s," said Jensen, who searches for birds in "section four" of a circle of land that's 15 miles in diameter. Volunteers with the Detroit Audubon Society, including Jensen, divvy up the territory into one-mile sections for the group's annual Christmas Bird Count. The Count, which collects data on numbers of birds and species, is part of the National Audubon Society's 112-year-old Christmas Bird Count, that runs from Dec. 14-Jan. 5, 2012 this season. During the three-week period, local Audubon chapters in North America choose one day to brave the elements and

collect data, which scientists use to look at trends in bird population and migration.

Tim Nowicki of Livonia leads the Detroit Count, which takes place in northwest Oakland County the Sunday before Christmas.

Nowicki, who works as a naturalist at Independence Oaks County Park near Clarkston, joined the Christmas Count as a teenager, while growing up in Dearborn.

"My parents would drop me off at Cranbrook (in Bloomfield Hills) and I would go out with a gentleman who surveyed section nine of the Count," said Nowicki, who also bird-watched while in college. "When I got back from college I got the same section I had when I was a teenager."

**Revealing numbers**  
 As Count leader,

Nowicki collects results from Jensen and other section volunteers. He summarizes the work and submits it to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

"A lot of information is used to compare populations. We learn where birds overwinter, what species might be declining," Nowicki said. "There have been some remarkable shifts, in that years ago the house sparrow was commonly counted and it has dropped in numbers. Tree sparrows used to be commonly counted but because of changes in habitat and because of development they've dropped in high ranking status."

Volunteers used to see kestrels on every Count, but in recent years they've seen them less frequently.

Ducks and other water fowl, owls, mourning doves and many birds

seen at backyard feeders, such as cardinals, chickadees and blue jays are commonly seen during the Christmas Bird Count.

Volunteers try not to identify the same birds twice, but with common species there's no way they can be certain, Nowicki said.

Occasionally they sight a bird that's rarely seen during the Christmas Count.

"House wrens have been seen on occasion. Usually they are in southern states by now," said Nowicki, who recalls seeing a "cool" rough legged hawk during a previous Count. "You never know for sure what you'll see."

**Hooked on birds**  
 Jensen became interested in bird-watching and counting after seeing a king rail at his first Christmas Count in Kalamazoo while visiting

in-laws. His father-in-law was treasurer of the Michigan Audubon Society and an avid bird-watcher.

"That's probably the only time a king rail has been seen on the Christmas Count in Michigan," Jensen said, recalling the event in 1972.

"I studied the field guides and got hooked. It's like a competition with yourself — it's a lot like golf. You're competing with yourself to see how many birds you can identify without checking the field guide. Or how many you can identify by their song."

Although the Detroit count has ended, there's still time to get involved with the Christmas Bird Count in southeastern Michigan. Both Jensen and Nowicki said participants should wear boots

Please see FRIENDS, B6

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**ZOO ANIMALS CELEBRATE HOLIDAYS**

Detroit Zoo animals will get their holiday presents right on time for Hanukkah and just a few days early for Christmas and Kwanzaa.

Naughty or nice, the animals will receive environmental enrichment in the form of treat-filled piñatas, wrapped like holiday presents in traditional colors of the three holidays, on Wednesday, Dec. 21.

The festively decorated packages and other enrichment treats will be prepared and placed in the animals' habitats to stimulate natural behaviors such as foraging and stalking.

Here's the enrichment schedule:

- 10:30 a.m. – Tigers and meat-filled piñatas
- 11 a.m. – Snow monkeys and holiday goodies.
- 11:30 a.m. – Bear-den bears and produce-filled piñatas

- Noon – Wolverines and meat- and bone-filled piñatas

- 12:30 p.m. – Polar bears and ice treats, along with a fish-filled piñata
- 1 p.m. – otters and ice treats

The holiday treats are among the many forms of environmental enrichment used daily at the Detroit Zoo to make the animals' habitats more dynamic and engaging.

The Detroit Zoo is open 10 a.m.-4 p.m. daily, except Christmas and New Year's Day, at 10 Mile and Woodward, just off the I-696 expressway. Admission is \$12 for adults, 15-61, \$10 for senior citizens, 62 and older, and \$8 for children, 2-14; free for children under 2. For more information, call (248) 541-5717 or visit [www.detroitzoo.org](http://www.detroitzoo.org).

**Hungarian group offering scholarships**

The Hungarian Arts Club will present the works of its scholarship winner and introduce girls of Hungarian descent to society at its annual debutante ball, Feb. 4, 2012, at the Dearborn Inn.

The organization, founded in 1958, awards a scholarship each year to a student of Hungarian descent who is enrolled in a fine arts college level program in dance, music, painting, sculpture, drama, theater or photography. Scholarships of up to \$2,000 are available.

The winner will perform or display their art at the White Rose Ball,

a formal, black-tie ball with traditional ballroom dancing. At the ball, debutantes and their escorts will perform the Palotas, a traditional dance of the Hungarian royal court. Each debutante will be introduced to the Hungarian community.

The Hungarian Arts Club has awarded more than \$60,000 in scholarships to students of Hungarian descent. It also has donated to the community to bring Hungarian culture to others. Funds were donated to establish the Hungarian Room at Alex Manoogian Hall at Wayne State University and to Michigan State

University to acquire an antique cymbalom—a traditional Hungarian instrument. A bust of Franc List, sculpted by a Hungarian artist, was donated to Ford Auditorium during a reception to honor Antal Dorati, then the director of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

The Hungarian Arts Club also has been a strong supporter of other Hungarian cultural clubs and organizations. Not only was it one of the founding members of the Hungarian-American Cultural Center, but it also provided financial support to Dancers Hungaria, a group dedicat-

ed to the preservation of Hungarian folk dancing. The Club also has sponsored numerous activities at the Holy Cross Hungarian Church Festival.

Other efforts to bring Hungarian culture to the metro area have included hosting a Hungarian exhibit at Oakland University and a month-long Hungarian artifact display at the Livonia Library.

For more information about membership, tickets, scholarships, or participation in the Ball as a debutante or escort, call Linda Enyedy at (248) 352-0927 or Jana Johnson at (734) 459-5253.

**Drum classes return to Plymouth arts center**

Professional drummer and instructor Pat Paul Sorise will teach two series of classes beginning in January 2012 at the Plymouth Community Arts Council, (PCAC).

Lessons for beginner and advanced drummers will be held at the Artsco House, adjacent to the PCAC building at 724 N. Sheldon, Plymouth.

Beginner Drum Set 100, ages 7 to adult, will cover holding drum sticks, drum rudiments, and how to count and play quarter and eighth notes. It will introduce the drum set. Classes will run 5-5:45 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 11-Feb. 1. The

new Advanced Drum Set 200, for ages 7 to adult will run 5:45-6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 11-Feb. 1 and will identify drums/cymbals, wrist and hand techniques and basic foot patterns. Students also will learn about counting, measures, time signatures, different tempos and will get a chance to play a full drum set.

Prices are \$64 for members and \$74 for nonmembers for each four-class series. No drumming experience is necessary. All skill levels can participate.

Sorise studied at East Detroit Conservatory under Ray Parker. He continued to drum through junior and high school and then

attended Eastern Michigan University playing with various bands. He has been teaching privately for over 25 years and taught classes at Apollo Music in Ann Arbor, Drum Shop in Dearborn, and East Detroit Conservatory. Pat also plays in the band All Directions, which performs at concerts, clubs and private parties. All Directions has recorded two CDs.

To learn about other opportunities at the PCAC or for a complete list of classes, visit [www.plymoutharts.com](http://www.plymoutharts.com), stop in the PCAC, or call (734) 416-4278.

joining the Audubon's Great Backyard Bird Count, Friday-Monday, Feb. 17-20, 2012. The count is a joint project of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Audubon, and Bird Studies Canada.

Participants of all ages count birds anywhere for as little as 15 minutes a day during the four-day period. They tally the highest number of birds of each species seen together at any one time and report their findings to the Great Backyard Bird Count Web site. Check it out at [www.birdsource.org/gbbc](http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc).



JOHN MEYLAND  
Ducks are a common sight on the Audubon's Christmas Bird Count.

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**WHEN GOUT IS IN DOUBT**

The public may believe that a pain in the foot is gout. Physicians are taught that in the foot, gout can be everywhere, but what is anywhere in the foot is not necessarily gout.

Making a distinction between what is gout and what is not becomes important as other conditions that look and act like gout require treatments different from what treats gout.

These other conditions are pseudogout and hydroxy apatite crystalline arthropathy. These two conditions share common characteristics with gout that make them difficult to distinguish from gout. Both gout, pseudogout and hydroxy apatite come on suddenly, usually at night or on awakening in the morning, commonly involve the great toe, and if not treated, resolve in 4-5 days.

The only way that a physician can make a certain diagnosis between these three conditions is to see the crystals of each in a specimen of synovial fluid obtained when the patient has an acute attack of joint pain and swelling. Often the opportunity to obtain fluid for analysis occurs rarely making it difficult to make a firm diagnosis.

Making the correct diagnosis is important because the physician can treat gout with colchicine, allopurinol or Uloric. Pseudogout will respond at times to colchicine, but never to allopurinol or Uloric, and hydroxyapatite will only respond to steroids and never to colchicine, allopurinol or Uloric.

Making a correct diagnosis is of particular importance, because once on allopurinol or Uloric a person must take that medicine every day for the rest of his or her life.

**FRIENDS**

Continued from page B5

and dress for the weather.

"We've had years where it was snowing so hard, you couldn't see. Then you'd be lucky if you stepped on a bird," Jensen said.

**Sign up**

The Rockwood count is Monday, Dec. 26. E-mail Tom Carpenter at [Tcarpen1980@yahoo.com](mailto:Tcarpen1980@yahoo.com)

Join a Detroit River count with Jim Fowler on Jan. 1, 2012. E-mail to [jafowl@comcast.net](mailto:jafowl@comcast.net).

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### Holiday gathering

Milena Cankovic of Dearborn Dynamic Toastmasters welcomes Ivory Williams, storyteller, to the group's Christmas party. Williams was the guest speaker at the organization's holiday dinner party on Tuesday, Dec. 13, at One Under Bar and Grill in Livonia. The Dearborn Dynamic Toastmasters, a group dedicated to developing public speaking and leadership skills, meets at 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays at Unity of Livonia, 28660 Five Mile.

## Practice moves to new location in Livonia

Dr. Rita Sabbagh, Obstetrics & Gynecology, has opened a new office, Ladies Health Place, at 19924 Farmington Road in Livonia.

Sabbagh specializes in obstetrics, high-risk pregnancy, adolescent gynecology, menopause and more.

The Northville resident received her medical degree from Aleppo University, Aleppo, Syria, and was chief resident of Obstetrics & Gynecology at the North Oakland Medical Center, Pontiac. She is a dip-

lomate of the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and member of the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and American Medical Association.

Ladies Health Place is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through December. Starting next month, hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday and Wednesday and 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Tuesday and Friday.

For more information, call (248) 442-2222.



Sabbagh

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**Dearborn Office**  
(Located just inside North entrance of AAA Headquarters Bldg.)  
1 Auto Club Drive  
Dearborn, MI 48126  
313.336.1534  
800.287.0046

**Livonia Branch**  
(At Newburgh)  
37401 Plymouth Road  
Livonia, MI 48150  
734.464.8079

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# 2011 CHRISTMAS TREE GUIDE

Find your perfect tree by visiting one of these fine businesses!

U-CUT-FIR, PINE and SPRUCE  
Open 7 days, 10AM 'til DUSK  
CLOSED THANKSGIVING DAY

**HOLTZ CHRISTMAS TREE PLANTATION**

9381 Day Road near Maybee, MI  
734-587-3155

Trees for higher ceilings (up to 20 ft. tall)

**SPECIALS**  
Directions: South on US-23 to exit 25. Right on Plank, 7 miles to Day Rd., turn left 3 miles to farm P. Holtz Est. 1947

**North Star Premium Christmas Trees**

3ft-12ft Trees:

- Douglas, Fraser & Concolor Firs
- Scotch & White Pine
- Blue & White Spruce

• Potted trees • Tree stands • Wreathes  
• Roping • Grave Blankets

**10% OFF WITH AD!**  
Bring in your stand we will fresh cut, prune & fit your tree to your stand!

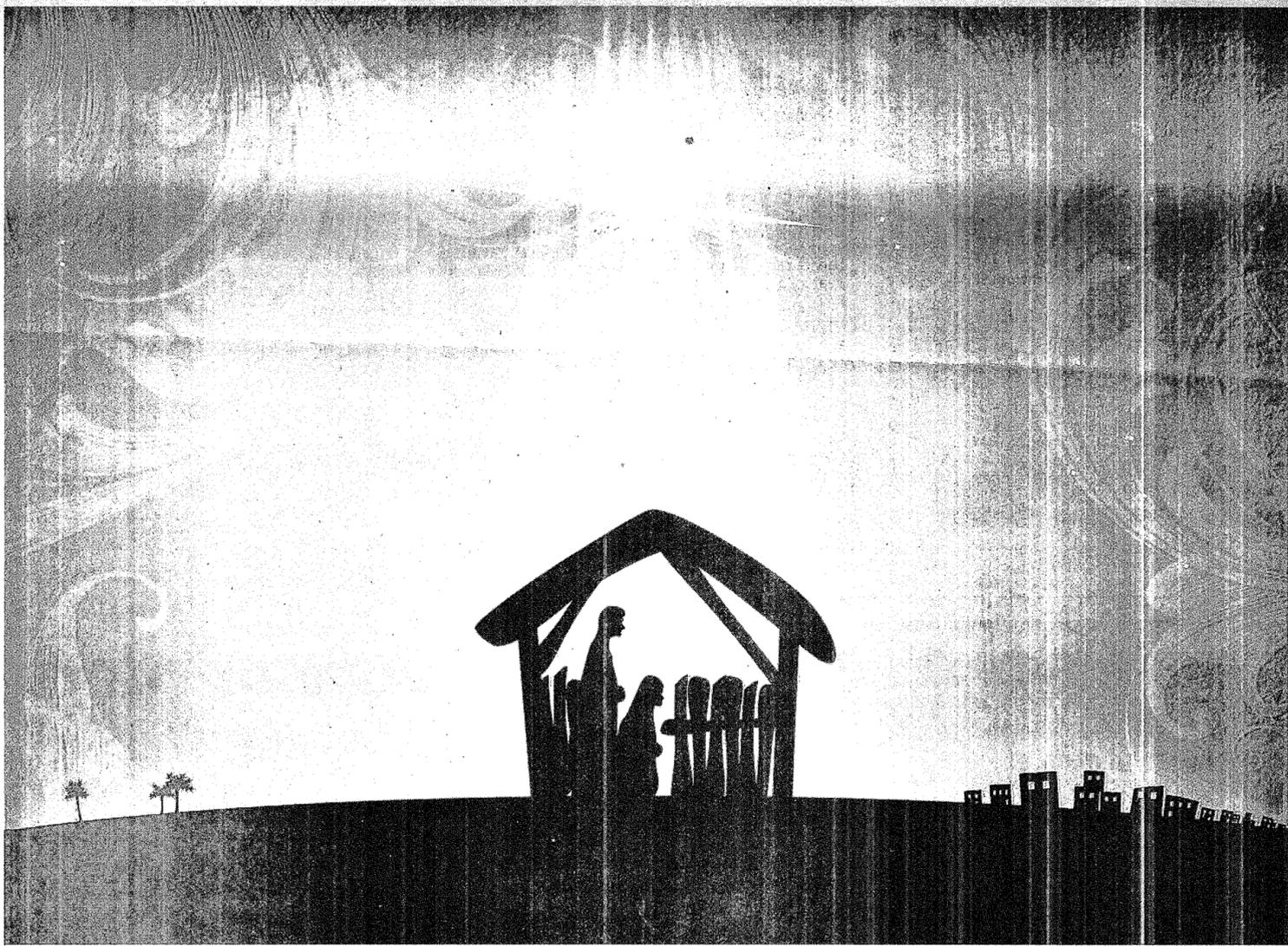
7300 N Wayne Rd • Westland  
N of Warren, next to McDonalds  
(734) 578-7038  
Open 7-days a week

Northville • Salem  
**Tree Farm**  
4-35 ft Trees:

You cut • We Cut • Pre-Cut  
Blue & White Spruce  
Scotch & White Pine

**FREE DELIVERY!**  
**10% OFF WITH AD!**

10045 Six Mile (6 Mile & Chubb Rd)  
248-767-4447



# Christmas Worship Directory

**Christmas Eve, December 24**  
*with High School & Children's Ministry*  
 Family Service: 7 PM  
*Children's Program*  
 Traditional: 11 PM  
*Choir & Choir*  
**Christmas Day, December 25**  
 Service: 10 AM

**FRANKLIN COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
 26425 Wellington Road, Franklin, MI  
 (248) 626-6606 www.franklinchurch.us

**Covenant Community Church**

25800 Student - Redford, MI 48239 - 313-535-3100  
 (1 block north of Five Mile on Beech Daly)  
 www.covenantredford.com

**Christmas Service Schedule**

Saturday, December 24, 2011 - 6 pm  
 Sunday, December 25, 2011 - 11 am

**Holy Trinity Lutheran Church**  
 39020 Five Mile Road, Livonia  
 734.464.0211 www.holytrinitylivonia.org

**Christmas Eve**

5:00 pm Family Worship with Holy Communion  
 7:00 pm Candlelight Worship with Holy Communion  
 10:30 pm Festival Prelude of Christmas Music  
 11:00 pm Candlelight Worship with Holy Communion

**Christmas Day 10:00 am** Holy Communion

Founded in Faith • Grounded in Scripture  
 Surrounded by Grace  
 Celebrating a 50 Year Faith Journey

**Farmington First United Methodist Church**  
 33112 Grand River, Farmington 48336  
 Just east of Farmington Rd.

Christmas Eve Children's Play at 4:30pm, FREE  
**Silent Mice, Holy Mice**

Traditional service at 10:00 p.m.  
 Christmas Day ~ Service at 10 am

God loves you and there is nothing you can do about it  
 www.farmingtonfumc.org

**WARD CHURCH**

**Home Christmas SERVICES**

5:30 PM  
 7:00 PM

www.wardchurch.org

**St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church (WELS)**  
 17810 Farmington Road ~ Livonia, Michigan  
 734-261-1360 ~ website: stpaulslivonia.org

**Christmas Worship at St. Paul's**

Christmas Eve Worship.....6:30 p.m.  
 Christmas Day Worship.....10:00 a.m.  
 New Year's Eve.....6:30 p.m.

Come and worship with us!

**ST. JOHN'S CHURCH**  
 EPISCOPAL ANGLICAN

*Please join us in celebrating Christ!*

**Christmas Eve — Saturday, December 24th**  
 The Vigil Mass of the Nativity (Family) — 6:00 pm  
 The Solemn High Mass of the Nativity — 10:00 pm

**Christmas Day — Sunday, December 25th**  
 The High Mass of Christmass Day — 10:30 am

**New Year's Eve — Saturday, December 31st — 4:30 pm**  
**New Year's Day — Sunday, January 1st — 10:30 am**

555 S. Wayne Road, Westland, Michigan  
 www.stjohnschurchwestland.com • (734) 721-5023

**Swingin Christmas Eve**

Big Band Express Orchestra  
 4 & 7.00 pm

Childcare provided infant to 6 yrs

Candlelight Service  
 11:00 pm

Hors d'oeuvres & desserts served  
 prior to the programs

**Christmas Day Service**  
 11:00 am

**Trinity Church**  
 10101 W. Ann Arbor Rd Plymouth www.trinityepc.org

**ROSEDALE GARDENS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

~Christmas Eve Services~  
 Saturday, December 24, 2011

5:00 p.m. - Family Service  
 Featuring Children's Choir and Youth Handbells

10:00 p.m. - Candlelight Communion Service  
 Featuring Adult Chancel Choir and Handbell Choir

~Christmas Morning Worship~ 10:30 am  
 Rev. Steve Clark, Pastor  
 Rev. Kellie Whitlock, Pastor

**Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church, USA**  
 9601 Hubbard at West Chicago • Livonia, MI 48150  
 734.422.0494  
 www.rosedalegardens.org  
 Wheelchair Accessible

LOOKING FOR AN EXCITING WAY TO SPEND YOUR CHRISTMAS EVE?  
 JOIN US AT NORTHRIDGE FOR THE CELEBRATION!

**DECEMBER 24**

ANN ARBOR-SALINE 5:00P  
 PLYMOUTH 1:00P • 3:00P  
 BRIGHTON-HOWELL 5:00P  
 5:00P • 11:00P

For more information, visit NorthRidgeChurch.com.

**Christmas at the Kirk**

December 18  
 4:00 PM Service of Lessons and Carols

December 24 - Christmas Eve

11:00 AM Young Family Service  
 Ms. Kelly Boubel Shriver

8:30 PM Holy Night Service  
 Dr. Norman Pritchard

4:00 PM Family Service  
 Rev. William Adams III

11:00 PM Holy Night Service  
 Dr. Norman Pritchard

6:00 PM Family Service  
 Rev. Carol Tate

**Kirk in the Hills**  
 1340 West Long Lake Road • Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48302  
 (248) 626-2515 kirkinthehills.org

Send items for the religion calendar to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com. If including a photo, it must be in jpg format, attached to the e-mail.

Dec. 18-31

**BREAKFAST**

**Time/Date:** 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 18

**Location:** St. Theodore Social Hall, 8200 N. Wayne Road, Westland

**Details:** All you can eat, pancakes, French toast, sausage, ham, scrambled eggs, applesauce, coffee, tea, juice, milk with appearance by Santa Claus; \$3 for adults, \$1.50 for children, 2-10

**Contact:** (734) 425-4421

**SOUP & SCRIPTURE**

**Time/Date:** 6 p.m. supper, followed by service at 7 p.m. Dec. 21

**Location:** Timothy Lutheran Church, 8820 Wayne Road,

Livonia  
**Details:** Hearty soup and bread supper followed by Advent service  
**Contact:** (734) 427-2290

Jan. 1-11, 2012

**CATHOLIC PROGRAM**

**Time/Date:** 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 11-Feb. 15

**Location:** St. Michael the Archangel Church, 11441 Hubbard, Livonia

**Details:** "Catholics Returning Home," is a six-week series of meetings designed to answer questions and provide a forum for non-practicing Catholics who might be interested in discussing a possible return to the church. Each session will be facilitated by former lapsed Catholics in a very casual, non-threatening environment, with plenty of opportunities for practical and open questions, answers, conversation, and

discussion  
**Contact:** (734) 261-1455, ext. 207  
**NEW SERVICE**  
**Time/Date:** 10:10 a.m. Sunday, beginning Jan. 8, 2012  
**Location:** Plymouth First United Methodist Church, 45201 North Territorial Road in Plymouth

**Details:** A new 55-minute contemporary worship service called Impact will feature a praise band, lots of upbeat music and a powerful message in a relaxed atmosphere. Child care will be offered  
**Contact:** (734) 453-5280

**THESIS**

**Time/Date:** 7 p.m. Jan. 2, 2012

**Location:** Gesu Catholic Church, 17180 Oak Drive, Detroit

**Details:** Helen Marie Berg, senior at Catholic University, will present her thesis: "In Unity, There is Hope: A Story of a Detroit Parish." She will tell the story of how Gesu

Catholic Church and School has changed as Detroit has changed.

**Contact:** (313) 862-4400 or visit <http://gesudetroit.org>

**ONGOING CLASSES/STUDY**

**Emmanuel Lutheran Church**

**Time/Date:** 7-8 p.m., second Monday of the month

**Location:** 34567 Seven Mile, between Farmington and Newburgh roads, Livonia

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

**Contact:** Pastor Scott Sessler at (734) 673-2485 or e-mail to [pastorsscott@emmanuel-livonia.org](mailto:pastorsscott@emmanuel-livonia.org)

**Faith Bible Church**

**Time/Date:** 9:45-10:45 a.m. Sundays through May 8

**Location:** 34541 Five Mile, Livonia

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

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

**Contact:** (734) 464-7990

**Men's Bible study**

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

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

**Contact:** John Shulenberg at (734) 464-9491

**New Life Community Church**

**Time/Date:** Jobs seminar, 8-9 a.m. Fridays; reading program for students in grades K-12 and martial arts instruction, both at 10 a.m. Sundays.

**Location:** 42200 Tyler, Belleville

**Contact:** (734) 846-4615

**Nicole's Revival**

**Time/Date:** 10:30 a.m.,

Monday-Friday  
**Location:** YWCA Northwest Branch, 25940 Grand River, west of Beech Daly, Redford Township

**Details:** KJV Scripture Reading, Communion and Prayer  
**Contact:** (313) 531-1234

**Our Lady of Loretto**

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

**Location:** Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford

**Details:** Scripture study  
**Contact:** (313) 534-9000

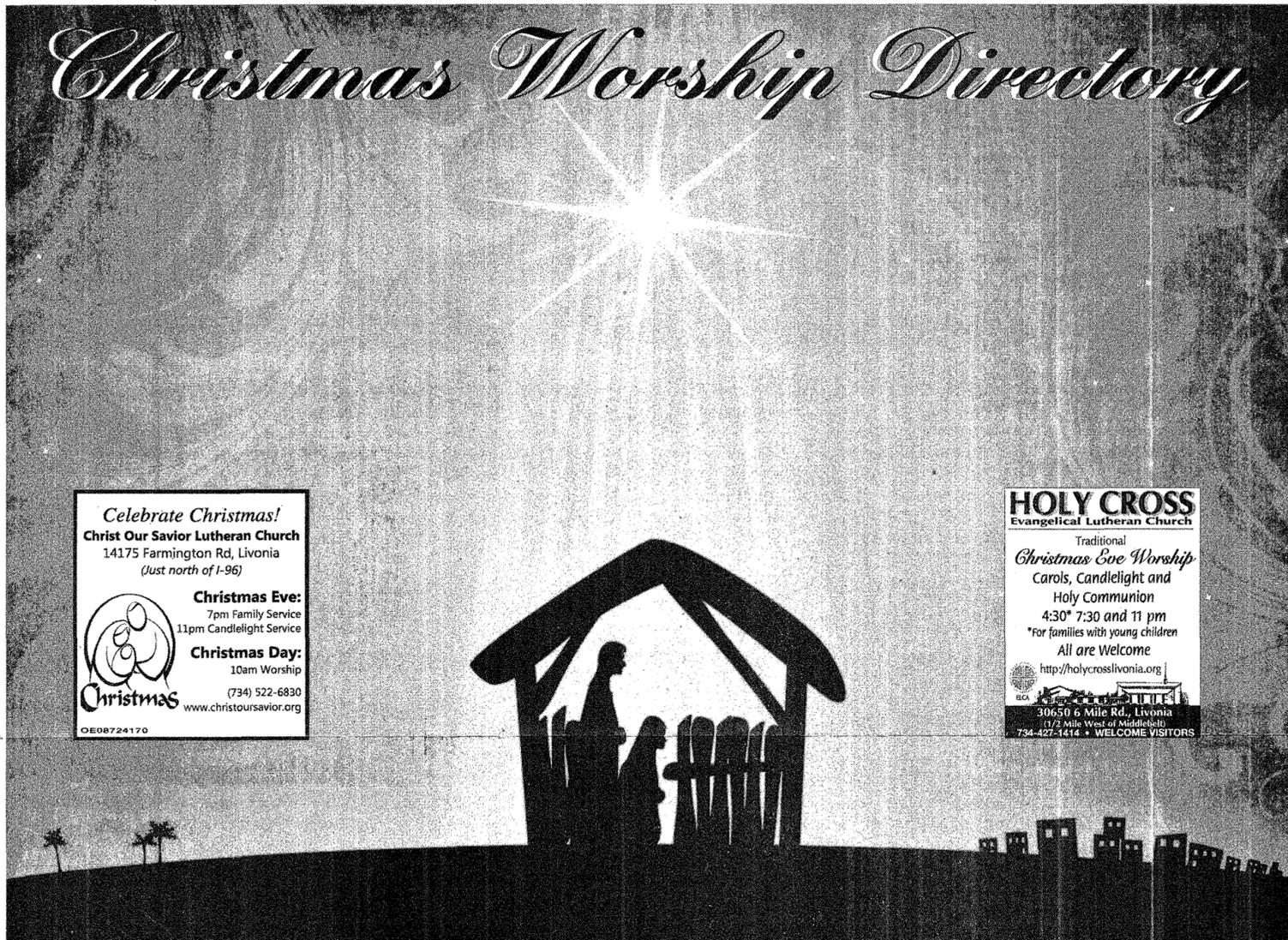
**St. Michael the Archangel**

**Time/Date:** 7-8:30 p.m. the first and third Tuesday.

**Location:** School library, 11441 Hubbard, just south of Plymouth Road, Livonia

**Details:** Catholic author and bible scholar, Gary Michuta, leads a study of Letter to the Hebrews. The sessions are open to all, regardless of their faith or parish affiliation

**Contact:** (734) 261-1455, Ext. 200 or [www.livoniastmichael.org](http://www.livoniastmichael.org)



*Celebrate Christmas!*  
**Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church**  
14175 Farmington Rd, Livonia  
(Just north of I-96)

**Christmas Eve:**  
7pm Family Service  
11pm Candlelight Service

**Christmas Day:**  
10am Worship  
(734) 522-6830  
[www.christsaviorsavior.org](http://www.christsaviorsavior.org)

**HOLY CROSS**  
Evangelical Lutheran Church

Traditional  
*Christmas Eve Worship*  
Carols, candlelight and Holy Communion  
4:30\* 7:30 and 11 pm  
\*For families with young children  
All are Welcome

<http://holycrosslivonia.org>

30650 6 Mile Rd., Livonia  
(1/2 Mile West of Middlebelt)  
734-427-1414 • WELCOME VISITORS

**Christ the King Lutheran Church**  
[www.ChristTheKingLivonia.com](http://www.ChristTheKingLivonia.com)

9300 Farmington Road - Livonia, MI 48150  
(734) 421-0749  
The Rev. James L. Fogle, Pastor

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship with Communion**  
5:30 & 11:00 pm

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**  
21200 Southfield Rd., Southfield  
(248) 569-2972 [www.fbc-detroit.org](http://www.fbc-detroit.org)

**ADVENT WORSHIP SCHEDULE**  
*December 18th - Fourth Sunday of Advent*  
11:00 a.m. Worship: Christmas Pageant  
*Saturday, December 24th - Christmas Eve*  
5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Service  
*Sunday, December 25th - Christmas Day*  
11:00 a.m. Worship

**St. John's Episcopal Church**  
*Where you will experience the joyful love of Christ*

**Christmas Services • Dec. 24**

4:00 pm Family service with Holy Eucharist and Pageant  
10:30 pm Carols and Anthems  
11:00 pm Traditional Holy Eucharist with Adult Choir & Organ

574 S. Sheldon Rd. • Plymouth, MI 48170  
**734-453-0190**  
[www.stjohnsplymouth.org](http://www.stjohnsplymouth.org)

**Celebrate Christmas at St. James!**  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18 AT 4:00 PM  
*Caroling, Caroling: An Alfred Burt Family Christmas*

CHRISTMAS EVE, SATURDAY DECEMBER 24  
5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist and Christmas Pageant  
10:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist & choral service - *Music at 9:30 p.m.*

CHRISTMAS DAY, SUNDAY DECEMBER 25  
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

355 W. Maple 248.644.0820  
[stjamesbirmingham.org](http://stjamesbirmingham.org)  
The Reverend Robert L. Hart

**St. James**  
Episcopal Church  
*The Heart of Birmingham*

**North Congregational Church**  
36520 W. Twelve Mile Road, Farmington Hills, MI  
248-848-1750 [northcongregationalchurch.org](http://northcongregationalchurch.org)

Sunday, December 18, 2011 10:30 a.m.  
Worship, Children's Christmas Pageant

Saturday, December 24, 2011  
**CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE**  
7:30 P.M. — "The Light of All People"

Rev. Mary E. Biedron, Senior Minister

**ST. ANNE'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**

Tridentine Latin Rite Mass 734-462-3200  
38100 Five Mile Road Livonia, MI 48154  
One quarter mile West of Newburgh Road

**Christmas Mass Schedule**

Christmas Eve	Confessions	11:00-11:50 pm
Christmas Day	Midnight Mass	12:00 am
	Morning Mass	10:00 am
	Confessions	9:30 am

**Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church**  
16360 Hubbard Drive  
Between 5 & 6 Mile Roads  
**734-421-8451**

**Christmas Eve Candlelight**  
10:30 P.M.

**Christmas Day**  
10:30 a.m.

**Come home this Christmas**  
A warm welcome awaits you

**NEWBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia, MI  
Rev. Marsha M. Woolley, Lead Pastor  
Rev. Paul Perez, Deacon

**CHRISTMAS EVE**  
5:00 p.m. Children/Family Friendly Service  
7:00 p.m. Festival Worship and Candlelight  
11:00 p.m. Lessons, Carols, Candlelight & Holy Communion

December 25 we will have a Family Worship Service for all ages at 10:00 a.m.

**Resurrection Parish**  
48755 Warren Rd., Canton, MI 48187  
734-451-0444  
[www.resurrectionparish.net](http://www.resurrectionparish.net)

Saturday, December 24th: Christmas Eve Masses—4:30 PM (Church); 4:30 PM (All Saints Catholic School Gym); 10:00 PM (Church)

Sunday, December 25th: Christmas Day—10:30 AM

Saturday, December 31st: Solemnity of Mary Mother of God—4:30 PM

Sunday, January 1st: Solemnity of Mary Mother of God—8:30 AM & 10:30 AM

**PLEASE JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE THE SAVIOR'S BIRTH!**

**First United Methodist Church of Birmingham**  
*Christmas Worship*

Contemporary Christmas Eve  
Friday, December 23  
7:00 pm in the Christian Life Center

Christmas Eve, December 24

2:00 p.m. Traditional sanctuary service  
4:00 p.m. A worship service for children younger than five years old and their families  
5:30 p.m. A family worship time led by children in first through fifth grades  
7:00 p.m. 9:00 p.m. & 11:00 p.m. Traditional Services

Christmas Day  
December 25  
10:00 AM only in the sanctuary  
Family Worship

1589 West Maple Road  
Birmingham, MI  
(248) 646-1201  
[www.fumcbbirmingham.org](http://www.fumcbbirmingham.org)

# Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

View Online  
www.hometownlife.com

12/18/11 B10

1-800-579-7355 • fax 313-496-4968 • oeobits@hometownlife.com

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



**CURRY, MATHILDE H.**

"HILDE"

Of Farmington Hills, Passed away on December 9, 2011 at Livonia Woods Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Livonia. Mathilde was born December 4, 1925 in Augsburg, Germany. She was trained as a childrens nurse and took great pride in her ability to care for children. She married William G. Curry "Bill", a United States Army Sergeant, in Germany on February 14, 1953. They made their home in the United States, living in Detroit, then later in Southfield. Hilde became an American Citizen in 1960. Bill preceded her in death on October 17, 1991. Hilde touched the lives of many families as she baby-sat for their children. She was a positive and loving influence to these children, now adults. Hilde is survived by her nieces and nephews in Germany, many dear friends and her church family at Nardin Park United Methodist Church, Farmington Hills. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, January 7, 2012 at 11:00 AM at Nardin Park United Methodist Church, 29887 11 Mile Rd. (E. of Middlebelt Rd.), Farmington Hills. Memorials suggested to Nardin Park United Methodist Church. Arrangements entrusted to the Heeney-Sundquist Funeral Home, downtown Farmington. (248-474-5200) heeney-sundquist.com



**DELY, JOHN E.**

Age 56 December 14, 2011 of Westland. Beloved son of the late Steven Dely and Patricia (Harold) Diegel. Loving brother of Kathleen (Greg) Jalynski, Michael Dely, Constance (Mike) Harris, Karen (Ron) DeBus, Patricia (Tim) Gohl, Marie Bennett, Susan (John) Evans, Bonnie Miller, Sandra (Wade) Bemis and Vicki (Gary) Mize. Also leaves many nieces and nephews. Visitation Sun 2-9 PM at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 980 N Newburgh Rd (btwn Ford and Cherry Hill) Westland. Funeral Service Mon 10 AM at the funeral home. Interment Parkview Memorial Cemetery, Livonia. Memorials to the American Lung Association would be appreciated. To share a memory, please visit vermeulenfuneralhome.com



**FIDGE, WEYONA LEE**  
"PINKY"

Of Manchester, MI, age 76, passed away on Thursday, December 15, 2011 at the Chelsea Retirement Community. She was born on October 13, 1935 in Detroit, MI, the daughter of Doc and Lee (Rosentrater) Higgins. On September 17, 1955 she married Thomas J. Fidge, Jr. and he survives. Lee had lived in the area since 1985, coming from Plymouth. She had been a Plymouth Township Trustee, worked on the Rouge River Clean-Up Project, and was involved with local politics. She also had worked at the Manchester Gravel Pit, was a member of the Garden Club, had a cooking page in the Manchester Enterprise ("Thyme in the Kitchen"), and "raised cattle." In addition to her husband, she is survived by three children: Lawrence (Pamela) Fidge of Westland, Jeffrey (Deb) Fidge of Northville, and LesLee (David) Turner of Dexter; three grandchildren; and a half-sister, Kathleen Laderman of Florida. She was preceded in death by her parents. Funeral Services will be held Monday, December 19, 2011 at 11:00 a.m. from the Staffan-Mitchell Funeral Home, Chelsea with Rev. Kathy Schell officiating. Burial will follow at Washtenong Memorial Park, Ann Arbor. The family will receive friends at the funeral home on Sunday from 2-4 p.m. Expressions of sympathy may be made to the Humane Society of Huron Valley.



**KRUEGER, JR.**  
**CHARLES CHRISTIAN**

Age 80, known to all as "Charley" passed away on December 2, 2011. He was born September 17, 1931 in Detroit, Michigan, the son of Charles C. and Gertrude W. Krueger (nee Klotz). He graduated from Redford High School in 1949 and in 1953 from Michigan State University in East Lansing. He is survived by his wife Carolyn M. Krueger (nee Hill) whom he married on September 6, 1952. He is also survived by sons Charles W. and Robert C. (Lee Ann Overhiser) and daughter Karen M. (John) Zimmerman (nee Krueger). He had four cherished grandchildren Cody Krueger, Carolyn, Elizabeth and Jack Zimmerman. Mr. Krueger was Vice President of Engineering at McIntosh Division of Masco Industries. He retired following 34 years of service. Formerly he had been with General Motors. Charley was a member of Fellowship Presbyterian Church of Livonia, a First Lieutenant of the U.S. Air Force, the Society of Automotive Engineers, Redford Metropolitan Lodge #152 F&AM, Moslem Shriners, Phi Delta Theta fraternity and the MSU Alumni Association. His hobby was woodworking and many family members and friends have the projects he made with loving care. His Memorial Service was held Wednesday, December 7 at Fellowship Presbyterian Church in Livonia with Reverend Dr. James N. McGuire officiating. Interment at Rural Hill Cemetery in Northville. Memorial donations may be made to Fellowship Presbyterian Church, 16360 Hubbard Rd., Livonia, MI 48154. Share memories with Charley's family at: www.harryjwillfuneralhome.com

**ROWE, GEORGE H.**

Age 77 of Plymouth, passed away suddenly August 20, 2011. Beloved husband of Shirley. Loving father of Darrell (Heidi), Denise, and Doug (Kam). Dear brother of Joyce Steward. Proud grandfather of Brendon, Liesel, Nicholas, Karla, Ryan, Jenine, Bridgette, Andrew and the late Mathew; and great-grandfather of Brendon, Karsin, Braylon, and Arleigh. Also leaves Dutchess faithful companion of twelve years. Retired from General Motors after 23 years of service as a process engineer. A memorial gathering will be held Wednesday at 4 PM until the 7:00 PM Memorial Service at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 46401 West Ann Arbor Road (between Sheldon and Beck) Plymouth. Memorials contributions may be made to American Heart and Stroke Association and the American Britany Rescue. To share a memory please visit vermeulenfuneralhome.com



**Tupaj, Stanley**

Age 90. Beloved husband of Lottie. Dear father to Tom of Colorado, Patricia Robak, Laurie (Kerry) Banka, Gary (Teresa) of Virginia, and Carol Prokop. Proud grandfather of 7. Loving brother of Sophie (Don) Pfeiffer, Henry Tupaj and the late Mary Navin. Visitation was held at Fred Wood Funeral Home-Rice Chapel Thursday. Funeral Service was Friday at St. Colette Catholic Church, 17600 Newburgh Rd., Livonia. Memorial Contributions may be made to Michigan Parkinson Foundation, 30400 Telegraph Road, Suite 150 Bingham Farms, MI 48025. Please visit online guestbook fredwoodfuneralhome.com



**SPRINGER, ANN L.**

December 13, 2011, age 71. Life long resident of Plymouth. Graduated from Plymouth High school, Class of 1958. Received her Bachelor and Master degrees from the University of Michigan. Worked as a librarian both for the Plymouth Library and for Pfizer Corporation in Ann Arbor from where she retired. Survived by her husband William and her two daughters from a previous marriage (Horvath), Carol (William) Gardner and Lynn (Christopher Allan) Horvath. Grandmother of Alex, Zoe and Jay. Sister of Jean (William) Weber, Jim (Cathy) Cooper and Susan (Brian) Howe. A private family memorial service is planned. Contributions suggested to the Friends of the Plymouth Library or Arbor Hospice. Share your special thoughts and memories at www.schrader-howell.com



**WILSON, WILLIAM**

Age 76. Beloved husband of Shirley (nee Davies). Devoted father of Michael (Shawn) Wilson, and Tracy (Marty) VanEe. Loving grandfather of Samantha, Nathan, Jacquelyn, Rachel, Carly, Isabella and Jack. Fond brother of Judy (Tom) Piccinin and the late Hugh Wilson Jr. Ford Motor Employee for over 33 years. Graduate of Tulelake High School, CA & Kent State University and a US Air Force Veteran. Visiting Thurs Dec. 15th 3-8 pm at Charles Step Funeral Home 18425 Beech Daly (Brw 6-7 Mile.) in State Friday 10:30 am until 11 am services at St. Paul Presbyterian Church. Interment at Glen Eden Cemetery. Donations to Michigan Humane Society or Wounded Warriors Project appreciated. Condolences to StepFunerals.com

**THOMAS, RUTH H.**

Age 92, of South Lyon, formerly of Farmington Hills, passed away peacefully on December 9, 2011. She was born April 17, 1919 in Pittsburgh, PA to Frank and Ida (nee Smith) Manns. Ruth was united in marriage to John G. Thomas on July 26, 1941, and they spent 70 loving years together until his death in October. She received a Bachelor of Science in Education from the University of Pittsburgh and began her teaching career with High School English. She continued teaching throughout her life moving from High School to Elementary School and ending her career with Preschool. Finding the greatest joy in the early education of children, she founded Farmington Presbyterian Preschool; where she also served as the Director. Ruth was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Farmington and Chapter 221 of the Eastern Star. She was a wonderful mother, who was very loving and kind; she always cared more about others than herself. Ruth enjoyed cooking and baking, and was known for her delicious cherry pie and fudge. She also enjoyed sewing and doing a variety of crafts. Ruth is survived by her adoring children, Susan (Donald) Lyons, David (Kathy) Thomas, and Nancy (Scott) Kistler; her grandchildren, Michael Lyons, Gethin (Amanda) Thomas, Boo Hee Thomas, and Marged Thomas; and her great granddaughter, Zoe Kelly. She was also loved by many nieces and nephews. Ruth was preceded in death by her beloved husband John G. Thomas, her parents, and her sister Edna Sweeney. A memorial service will be held at a later date, where she will be laid to rest with her husband at Oakland Hills Memorial Gardens in Novi. The family would appreciate memorial contributions to Michigan Humane Society, 30300 Telegraph Rd., Ste. 220, Bingham Farms, MI 48025 or Farmington Presbyterian Preschool, 26165 Farmington Rd., Farmington Hills, MI 48334. Arrangements entrusted to Casterline Funeral Home, Inc. of South Lyon.

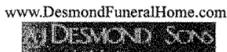
**LARABELL, JAMES L.**

Age 58 of Westland. Father of Jennine. Brother of Phyllis, David, Chuck, Russell, Paul, Mike, Gerald and Patricia. Memorial Gathering Monday 9:30-11am. Service 11am at funeral home. Arrangements by Fred Wood Funeral Home-Rice Chapel, Livonia.



**METZLER, DOROTHY**

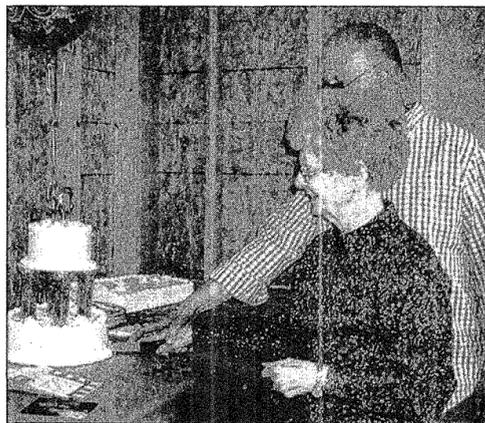
December 11, 2011, Age 92. Wife of the late Paul D. Loving mother of Robert P. and Patricia Houtteman (Dennis). Dear grandmother of Steve Houtteman (Pamela). Great-grandmother of Mason and Owen. Services have been held. A.J. Desmond & Sons, (248) 362-2500. Memorial tributes to 1st United Methodist Church, 1589 W. Maple Rd., Birmingham, MI 48009-1297. View obituary and share memories at www.DesmondFuneralHome.com



**MEYER, JAMES FREDERICK**

Age 77, December 14, 2011, of Livonia. Beloved husband of Meredith. Loving father of Michael, John, Daniel, Sharon Droste, David, Timothy, Andrew and Christian. Dear brother of George, Virginia and Donna Jean. Grandfather of 22. A Funeral Service was held at R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home, 15451 Farmington Rd., Livonia, December 17, 2011. Jim was a Sgt in the US Marine Corp serving in the Korean Conflict. He was a member of Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church since 1973. His family suggests donations to either the Marine Corp. League or Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church. Share a memory at www.rgrharris.com

## Milestones



Ronald and Margaret Swick cut an anniversary cake together.

## 50th wedding anniversary

Ronald and Margaret (Mault) Swick of Westland marked their 50th wedding anniversary on Nov. 25. The couple married in 1961 at Sheldon Methodist Church in Canton.

The couple met and grew up in Canton, where Margaret attended Sheldon school and graduated in 1961 from Wayne High School. Ronald went to Truesdell school and graduated from Plymouth High School in 1961. They moved to Westland in 1973 and are still in the same house.

Ronald retired from Cadillac Livonia after 38 years. Margaret was a homemaker but also worked a few part-time jobs over the years. They have a daughter, Terri Brusseau, also in Westland.

Ronald enjoys bowling with his grandsons. He and Margaret like to watch them compete in high school and league bowling. Ronald also has collected three classic cars and enjoys going to car shows during the summer. Margaret enjoys crocheting baby hats for preemies at local hospitals. She donates them through the senior center in Westland.

The couple has raised many orphaned litters of kittens, bottle feeding them day and until they are big enough to go to good homes. The kitties they have kept all have slight disabilities. They are Missy, Topsy and Miracle, all names appropriate for their conditions and circumstances.

Margaret's anniversary present was a new puppy, a Chihuahua named Paco. They also have a dog named Shorty.

The couple celebrated their landmark anniversary by buying themselves a new car.



Ronald and Margaret Swick of Westland

## Ballesteros-Brown

Nelly Adriana Ballesteros and Andrew Frank Brown announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be is the daughter of Elizabeth and Manuel Ballesteros of Ypsilanti. She graduated Dec. 17 in mechanical engineering from the University of Michigan-Dearborn and plans to work for Tenneco in Monroe.

Her fiancé, son of Patrick and Jane Brown of Farmington, earned his B.S. degree in mechanical engineering in 2006 from Michigan State University and graduated from Farmington High School in 2003. He is employed by Toyota.

A September 2012 wedding is planned at Our Lady of Sorrows in Farmington.



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## Rutkowski-LaBean

Kellee Renee La Bean and Joseph J. Rutkowski were married Nov. 11, 2011 in Plymouth. Timothy James La Bean officiated.

The bride, daughter of Arnold and Sandra La Bean of Westland, earned a bachelor's degree in education from Wayne State University and is employed as a substitute teacher.

The groom, son of Philip and Linda Rutkowski of Port Austin, earned a BA in criminal justice from Madonna University and is a sergeant in the U.S. Marine Corps.

The bride's attendants were Tamara Lazette and Kimberlee Coughlin, both matrons of honor, and bridesmaids LeeAnn Rutkowski and Sara Michael.

The best man was DJ Mitchell. Groomsmen were Greg Parker, Chris Siller and Timothy La Bean. A reception at Roma Banquets in Westland followed the ceremony. The couple took a honeymoon trip to Puerto Rico. They reside in Garden City.

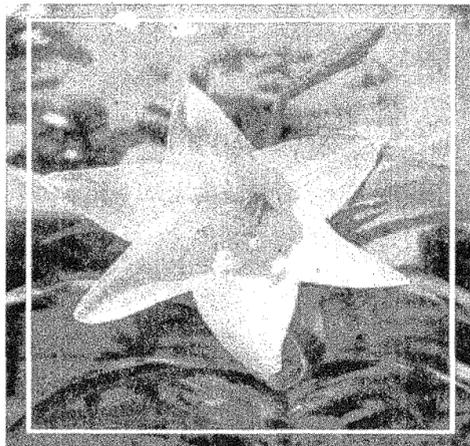


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They reside in Garden City.

May peace be with you in this time of sorrow.



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## Consumer website lists chemicals in children's toys

Parents can check the amount of BPA — bisphenol A, the same toxic chemical already banned in plastic baby bottles and sippy cups — in 650 brand name toys on HealthyStuff.org, a Michigan-based Web site.

The information comes from a report based on industry data. It names toys that contain BPA, a toxic hormone-disrupting chemical, and it reveals a toxic ingredient, nonylphenol ethoxylates (NPEs) in 300 household paints, as well as several cleaners, wood finishes and home maintenance products.

Studies have shown that BPA and NPEs (nonylphenol ethoxylates) mimic the sex hormone estrogen. BPA harms brain development, behavior and the prostate gland, among other adverse health effects. NPEs are highly toxic to aquatic life, degrade into a long-lived chemical that builds up in the food chain, and may harm reproduction and development in humans.

*Poison in Paint, Toxics in Toys*, was released by the Environmental Health Strategy Center in Maine and summarizes the first chemical use reports submitted by product manufacturers under a new state chemical safety law passed in Maine. Similar state laws go into effect in Washington and California next year. Coinciding with the report's release, Senator Rebekah Warren, D-Ann



Arbor, introduced the Safe Children's Products Act, legislation similar to Maine's law that provides information to the public on chemical ingredients in children's products.

"This report illustrates the important role states have in providing chemical safety data in the absence of federal reform," said Rebecca Meuninck, who co-released the report. She also serves as environmental health campaign director for the Ecology Center — the organization that created

HealthyStuff.org — and Michigan Network for Children's Environmental Health.

"Michigan families deserve the same protections as families in Maine, so we applaud Senator Warren's introduction of the Safe Children's Products Act."

The Safe Children's Products Act would require the state to create a list of chemicals of concern in children's products, based on sound science and require toy importers and large manufacturers to disclose the

presence of chemicals of greatest concern in their children's products.

To read the lists of toys containing BPA and household products with NPEs, visit [www.healthystuff.org](http://www.healthystuff.org).

The Michigan Network for Children's Environmental Health is a coalition of Michigan health professional, health-affected, and environmental organizations dedicated to changing policies and practices that expose children to environmental toxicants.

## Mammogram service offers risk assessment

St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia is offering a new mammography service, MammoPlus, that includes a digital mammogram and a lifetime risk assessment for breast cancer.



Mohindra

"We want to provide our patients with a bigger picture than simply traditional breast cancer screening," stated Medical Oncologist Dr. Ramesh Mohindra, a medical oncologist and medical director of Breast Health Services at St. Mary Mercy Hospital. "Regular mammograms are essential in the fight against breast cancer... a digital mammogram can detect breast cancer up to two years before the patient even experiences symptoms and this risk assessment provides an even more complete evaluation. The sooner breast cancer is discovered, or the threat of it, the better the chance of beating it."

With MammoPlus, each patient is offered the National Cancer Institute's Breast Cancer Risk Assessment as part of their standard mammography service.

"This tool helps us gather information about the patient's personal health and breast history that assist us in determining if she may be at increased risk for developing breast cancer," stated Diagnostic Services Director Mary Tocco, St. Mary Mercy Hospital.

If the patient's risk score requires further review, she and her referring physician are alerted and within 48 hours she receives a call to discuss MammoPlus results. An appointment can be scheduled at that time for more in-depth assessment, followed by an interview with the hospital's high risk coordinator. An analysis report is prepared based on the patient's answers to questions about her personal life and family risk.

There is no additional cost for MammoPlus. For more information, call the hospital at (734) 655-4216.

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With the New Year around the corner, now is the time to look back to the past, and more importantly, forward to the coming year. What do you want (or need) to do to follow through on those changes?

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

- 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.
- Michigan Bariatric Institute Seminar**  
Guest speaker Tallal Zeni, MD  
Thursday, February 2, 6 p.m.  
Call 877-WHY-WEIGHT to register or for more information.
- "Stay Awake" Series: Insomnia and Sleep Hygiene**  
Guest speaker Punitha Vijayakumar, MD  
Neurologist and Board Certified Sleep Specialist  
Thursday, February 9, 7 p.m.  
Call 734-655-4640 to register or for more information.
- Let's Talk: Heart Health**  
Guest speaker, an expert in Cardiology  
Wednesday, February 15, 6 p.m.  
Call 734-655-8940 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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- AdvanceTrac® Electronic Stability Control System • My Key

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18 city / 27 highway MPG<sup>2</sup>

**\$199**

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\$2,176 Cash Due at Signing

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- MyKey • Perimeter Anti-theft Alarm
- 6-speed Select Shift Automatic Transmission with Paddle Activation
- Sync with Traffic, Directions and Information

Extra \$1,000 Holiday Cash + \$500 Trade-in Assistance

2012 EDGE SE FWD



19 city / 27 highway MPG<sup>2</sup>

**\$189**

For 27 months for current A/Z plan lessees\*  
\$2,843 Cash Due at Signing

- 3.5 Ti-VCT V6 Engine
- 6-Speed Automatic Transmission
- AdvanceTrac® with Roll Stability Control™
- AM/FM Stereo/Single CD-Player with MP3 Capability • Dual Chrome Exhaust Tips
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\$750 Trade-in Assistance

17 city / 23 highway MPG<sup>2</sup>

**\$159**

For 27 months for current A/Z plan lessees\*  
\$2,843 Cash Due at Signing

- Sync, Tow & Chrome package
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- AdvanceTrac® with Roll Stability Control
- Trailer Sway Control

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(1) Includes acquisition fee, waived security deposit, and excludes title, taxes and license fees. Some payments higher, some lower. Not all lessees will qualify for Ford Credit Red Carpet low mileage lease. Residency restrictions apply. Special lease rates are for eligible A/Z Plan lessees. Payments include \$500 Renewal Bonus Cash with exception of the 2012 Focus. F-150 payment includes \$750 trade-in assistance. Edge Payment includes \$500 trade in assistance. You must currently lease a Ford product and finance through Ford Credit. See dealer for qualifications and complete details. Take retail delivery from dealer stock by 1/3/12. \$250 Holiday Cash on Focus, \$750 Holiday Cash on Escape, \$1,000 Holiday Cash on Edge and \$500 Holiday Cash on Fusion, Taurus. All applicable Holiday Cash is included in payment shown. (2) MPG estimate based on 2012 Focus SE SEDAN with SFE Package- EPA-estimated 29 city/40 hwy, 2012 Fusion SEL 2.5L I-4 Engine with 6-speed automatic 23 city/33 hwy, 2012 Escape 2.5L I-4 Engine 21 city/28 hwy, 2012 Taurus SEL 3.5L V6 engine 18 city/27 highway, 2012 Edge SE 3.5L V6 engine 19 city/27 hwy, and 2011 F-150 Super Cab 5.0L V8 engine 17 city/23 hwy. (3) Horsepower and torque achieved with premium fuel. (4) MSRP, A Plan price is for qualified, eligible A Plan customers and excludes document fee, destination/delivery charge, taxes, title and registration. Optional equipment not included. Not all vehicles qualify for A Plan price. (5) Driving while distracted can result in loss of vehicle control. Only use mobile phones and other devices, even with voice commands, when it is safe to do so. Not all buyers will qualify. See dealer for qualifications and complete details.