

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TAKE NURSING CAREERS FOR A TEST DRIVE

CLASSIFIED SECTION C

Dear Santa

Youngsters can be sure Santa knows what they want by writing a letter to Santa and sending it to the Observer, which will print them in the Thursday, Dec. 20, issue.

Letters should be emailed to smason@hometownlife.com. Parents, be sure to include a photo of your child in a jpg format, with their name, age, address and phone number. Only your child's name and age will be published. Letters can also be mailed to Letters to Santa, c/o Sue Mason, 615 W. Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226.

The deadline for all Santa letters is Monday, Dec. 10.

Holiday closings

All Wayne and Westland offices will be closed Thursday, Nov. 22, in observance of the Thanksgiving Day. Offices also will be closed Friday, Nov. 23.

The William P. Faust Public Library will close at 5 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 21. It will be closed Thursday-Friday, Nov. 22-23, and reopen at 9 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 24. The Wayne Public Library also will be closed Thursday-Friday, Nov. 22-23, and reopen at noon Saturday, Nov. 23.

Garbage in both Wayne and Westland and recycling and compost in Westland will not be picked up Thanksgiving Day. Thursday's pickups will be Friday and Friday's pickups will be Saturday. Police and fire services will not be affected.

See Carrie Underwood

Enter our Facebook contest for a chance to win two tickets to see Carrie Underwood in concert Nov. 25 at The Palace. Share the contest link with a Facebook friend and get an extra five chances to win, if they also enter the contest.

To enter, go to our website, Hometownlife.com and look on the right-hand side for a picture of Carrie Underwood in the Don't Miss module. Fill out a short form and you are entered for a chance to win.

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No contest plea entered in drunken driving death

By LeAnne Rogers
Observer Staff Writer

A Plymouth man has entered a no contest plea to charges of driving drunk and causing the death of Garden City man.

Robert John Montgomery, 79, is scheduled to be sentenced Dec. 7 on charges of driving under the influence of liquor causing death and a second charge of causing serious injury while under the influence.

Gary West, 56, of Garden City was killed in the July 24 accident at Ann Arbor Trail and Hines



Montgomery

Park Drive. His wife, Susan, 54, was critically injured in the accident.

Police said Montgomery had a .11 blood alcohol level at the hospital following the accident. The legal limit for drunken driving in Michigan is .08.

The accident happened just before 9:30 p.m. Police said the motorcycle ridden by the Garden City couple was southbound

on Hines Drive. As the motorcycle approached Ann Arbor Trail, police said a four-door sedan traveling northbound attempted to make a left turn onto Ann Arbor Trail.

"There were four witnesses at the scene who saw the defendant turn left in front of ongoing traffic," said Westland Police Officer Nathan McRae.

The motorcycle dropped to the pavement and began sliding. Police said the motorcycle struck the turning vehicle, causing both rider and passenger to be ejected. Susan West suffered injuries

to her shoulders, legs, arms and multiple broken ribs in the accident. Unlike his wife, Gary West was not wearing a helmet when the crash occurred.

The couple, Garden City residents for 28 years and the parents of three adult children, were known to ride their motorcycle on Hines Drive regularly.

There was no plea agreement made in connection with the no contest plea. Montgomery will be sentenced by Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Margie Braxton.

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

Give a cheer



PHOTO BY TOM BEAUDOIN

VIP special cheer team coaches Sharon Harding (left) and Debbie Cross of Wayne (right) help Davette Cotton of Canton, better known as Diva D, get ready for the next cheer.

Coach savors smiles of her special-needs team

By Sue Mason
Observer Staff Writer

Debbie Cross points across the room to a ledge filled with trophies and proudly announces that three of them were received by her VIP team.

For the Wayne resident, the trophies are validation that hard work pays off. Cross is the director for Special Needs Cheer for

Michigan Xtreme and the coach of VIP, a special-needs performance cheerleading team at Premier Athletics Michigan Xtreme in Plymouth.

"We have amazing athletes. They all have their individual struggles, but when they come together in the gym, they are just like any other athlete," Cross said. "Their big smiles and can-do attitude are infectious."

Cross started coaching the team three years ago after being approached by Lisa Hemmie, director of Premier Athletics Michigan Xtreme. Cross has coached for Special Olympics for 10 years and does softball in summer and has helped with the Autos for Autism car show for the Burger Center for

Please see CHEER, A4

W-W rec gets state grant to address obesity

By LeAnne Rogers
Observer Staff Writer

New after school programs and summer day camps aimed at getting local youngsters more physically active will kicking off in January thanks to a state grant.

The Wayne-Westland Parks and Recreation Department has received a \$95,000 grant from the Michigan Department of Community Health in a pilot program to help address childhood obesity — one of 10 agencies to receive funding.

"We're waiting for contracts and talking about winter-spring after school programs," said Wayne-Westland Parks and Recreation Director Nathan Adams.

Along with physical activities, the grant is funding a community garden that will be established adjoining the closed Lincoln Elementary School and \$8,000 for engineered wood fiber chips to be installed around the playscape at Attwood Park in Wayne.

That will be the second community garden — the existing garden located further west on Dorsey was set up by the Norwayne Com-

Please see GRANT, A2

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New Wayne-Westland edition debuts

Welcome to the new *Wayne-Westland Observer*.

The new edition expands our coverage of local government and business into the city of Wayne. It's a natural extension of what we are currently delivering to readers in Westland because over the last year, the two cities have merged fire and recreation services. In addition, the communities already share a large, active school district — Wayne-Westland Community Schools.

We are pleased to offer this new *Observer* edition and we are committed to expanding our award-

winning coverage — which we have provided for decades in our family of *Observer & Eccentric* newspapers — to the city of Wayne.

Led by Community Editor Sue Mason, our editorial staff also includes reporter LeAnne Rogers, photographer Stephen Cantrell and sports editor Brad Emons. Our advertising staff is led by retail sales manager Frank Cibor and Wayne-Westland account executive Cathy White.

To report news items, contact Mason at (313) 222-6751 or (734) 674-2332 or online at smason@

hometownlife or Rogers at (313) 222-5528 or lrogers@hometownlife.com. For questions regarding local advertising, contact Cibor at (734) 582-8368.

The *Observer* is pleased to offer home delivery service to our Wayne readers at a special introductory offer — which includes a \$10 gift card to a number of local merchants. Call (866) 887-2737 or go online at hometownlife.com/bestoffer to view all offers.

A meet and greet with our editorial and advertising staffs will take place in the coming weeks. Look for more information on

the event online or in print in an upcoming edition.

Look for our Thanksgiving print edition (in stores and homes) on Wednesday, Nov. 21, which includes lots of store inserts, a gift guide to help plan your holiday shopping strategy and a photo page on Saturday's Wayne Holiday Parade.

We welcome your comments and your suggestions for local stories.

Sincerely,
Susan Rosiek
publisher
srosiek@hometownlife.com



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PHOTO BY DAVID L. MALHALAB MNS PHOTO/M NEWS SERVICE

First for Lightfest

Sharon and Robert Bellinger of Westland were in the first car to enter the Wayne County Parks annual Lightfest after the grand opening ceremony Thursday evening. Lightfest is open now through Dec. 31 (closed Christmas Day), starting at Edward Hines Drive at Merriman in Westland and ends at Warrendale in Dearborn Heights. There's a \$5 per vehicle fee.

AROUND WESTLAND

WYAA signups

Westland Youth Athletic Association basketball registration will start soon for ages 7-8, 9-10, 11-12 13-14 and 15-16. Register online at wyaa.org. For more information, call Keith Demolay at (734) 722-1251 (leave a message).

Cookie Walk

The First United Methodist Church of Wayne will hold a cookie walk 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 8, at the church, 3 Town Square, across from the Wayne Office, in Wayne. Homemade holiday cookies and candies will be available. Cookies will be sold by the pound, candies by the pound. For more information, call (734) 721-4801.

Goodfellows Party

Wayne city employees and friends are being invited to the 26th annual Goodfellows Party slated for 5:30-9:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 7, at the Wayne Community Center, 4635 Howe at Annapolis.

Tickets are \$15 each and include two drink tickets, appetizers and door prize. There also will be prizes, raffles and auctions throughout the evening, DJ Steve with Swat Karaoke and juggling bartender Andy Bro.

Proceeds will benefit the Wayne Goodfellows' "No Child Without a Christmas Program." For tickets or to donate, call (734) 722-1111.

CORRECTION

The Michigan Philharmonic will perform at 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 18, at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton.

An incorrect concert time was listed in the entertainment section in the Thursday, Nov. 15 issue.

GRANT

Continued from page A1

Community Citizens Council. Citizens council president Henry Johnson wrote a letter in support of the grant, as did Westland Community Development Director Joanne

Campbell.

"What is grown will go to the families who live in the area. Westland Youth Assistance will oversee the garden," said Adams. "Wayne Youth Assistance does the garden in Wayne."

Additionally, the grant also provides funding for local youngsters to vis-

it and participate in the Wayne and Westland Farmers Markets.

"We will also be holding a family health expo in August 2013 with free screenings of blood pressure, glucose and cholesterol," said Adams. "We don't have a location yet."

The MDCH pilot program is aimed at improving physical activity and healthy eating for children in kindergarten through sixth-grade in school programs that take place before school, after school and in the

summer. This program aligns with strategies outlined in the Michigan Health and Wellness 4 x 4 Plan which contains Michigan's priorities for obesity prevention over the next five years.

"Obesity now affects 17 percent of children and adolescents — triple the rate from just one generation ago. What's even more troubling is that today's children may be the first in history to live shorter, less healthy lives than their parents due to being overweight

and obese," said James K. Haveman, director of the MDCH. "I commend these agencies for their dedication to working with children and look forward to watching their progress as we work together to reduce childhood obesity."

For more information about the Michigan Health and Wellness 4 x 4 Plan and related resources, visit www.michigan.gov/healthymichigan.

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To My "Guardian Angel" Jonah,

As I'm sitting here writing this letter to you, so much is flashing through my mind.

How a man that I've never met, let alone know, took me under his wing and carried me through all that I have. How do you tell someone thank you that has done so much for you!

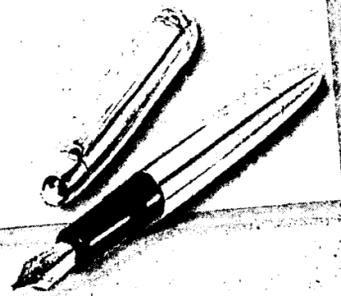
Jonah, I am humbled and I am overwhelmed! I thank you so much for all that you have done. I wanted to make sure you would be proud of me! I worked hard in Therapy. Thank you for helping me through my healing process, with my nursing care, medicine, feeding, physical therapy, occupational therapy and administrative needs. I want you to know that from my heart, you have done so much for me! I'm succeeding in my goal of healing in my total hip replacement. I also want you to know while I was at Westland Nursing & Rehabilitation Centre, so many people were so kind and caring. It was a wonderful place to go to heal and recuperate from an injury.

The administrative office, doctors, nursing, CNAs, therapy department, kitchen and staff, maintenance, grounds keeper, etc... everyone was so kind and helpful. Mr. Jonah, you have a wonderful establishment and a great staff of people working for you! They care about the people they care for. You are a wonderful man, with a heart of gold and a soul that will be rewarded over and over! Each day I thank God that he has his Earth Angels here on earth looking out for those who are in need. I am overwhelmed and thankful for all that you have done for me. A friend forever in my heart!

Always and forever,

Darline Woodard

P.S. My "Earth Angel" will always be in my prayers! I'm walking better each day.



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Customers, employees lament closing of Kowalski deli

By LeAnne Rogers
Observer Staff Writer

There was a long line and heavy hearts as customers stocked up at the Westland Kowalski deli which will be closing permanently on Wednesday.

"It's terrible, it's just not right. People plan on their meats for holidays," said Paulette Botzen of Westland. "I'm disgusted. This store has always been here. I depend on it for kielbasa, ham, stuffed cabbage. They have great baked goods, too. These ladies (who work at the deli) are so nice. It's just sad." Anita Solace drove over to the store from Canton to pick up some meats to take to her son when she visits him in Baltimore.

"I didn't see the news and didn't know the store was closing until I got here," said Solace. "I



STEPHEN CANTRELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Kelly Chenevert of Garden City has worked for 12 years at the Kowalski Deli which is closing on Wednesday.

had a list from my son. I'm traveling with garlic (bologna). I hope they put a lot of meats and stuff in (retail) stores. My whole family loves it."

Located on Middlebelt at Ann Arbor Trail, the store is one of four Kowalski delis - the others are in Hamtramck, Warren and Macomb Township - all closing the day before Thanksgiving. Along with Kowalski meats and sausages, the

deli also offered made-to-order sandwiches, soups, stuffed cabbage, baked and assorted condiments.

In announcing the closings last week, Kowalski officials described the decision to close the four retail stores as part of the company's shift to a refrigerated food company supplying other retailers.

"It's sad. This store has been here as long as

I can remember," said Garden City resident Linda Ferris, as she left the store with her purchases.

Like other customers, Ferris named favorite products, including fresh kielbasa, garlic bologna, ham and summer sausage, described as a larger, more heavily seasoned smoked kielbasa. "We read it was closing. I've stood in line halfway down the block at the holidays," said Mary Lou Cichy of Livonia, who was at the Kowalski deli with her husband Richard. "My kids aren't happy if the holiday sausage isn't on the table. It's not the everyday foods people will miss, it's the holiday traditions."

Another customer, a Redford man who didn't

want his name used, agreed about the holiday traditions. But he will also miss everyday items from the store.

"I like the lunch meat. I came in anytime I wanted fresh lunch meat. It was a lot better than Kroger and those," he said. "You could grab a sandwich and soup."

The Westland deli has four employees with 12 to 21 years on the job.

"They told us Monday (Nov. 12) morning. We're sad, it will be tough," said Kelly Chenevert, a Garden City resident who has worked at the store for 12 years. "A couple of customers walked out crying."

The draw for customers is the quality of the meats and also the customer service, she said. "That's what I heard

from customers. Some of these people have become friends," Chenevert said. "They might give us a little bit of a hard time. It's a totally different atmosphere. Some customers are coming back for us (this week) and that made me feel good."

One customer came in with a rose and a lottery ticket for Chenevert and another clerk.

As for the future, Chenevert said Kowalski might have openings at the Hamtramck plant but she wasn't sure what would happen.

"I just want to get through this (closing). Then it will hit me," she said. "I'm not a young chicken anymore."

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Author talks about 'Sanders' book

By Sue Buck
Observer Staff Writer

Remember the "Good Ol' Days" when you could order a delicious Sanders Hot Fudge sundae in a special Sanders ice cream shop?

The Garden City Library is presenting a special, free program about the traditional Sanders confectionery at 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 29.

It will feature author Greg Tasker and his book, "Sanders Confectionery."

"Garden City Public Library is pleased that we have once again started to invite authors to speak at the library about their books," said Garden City Library Director

Lawrence Marble. "This month, we are fortunate to have local author Greg Tasker, come to the library to talk about his book Sanders Confectionery."

Tasker, a Detroit-based journalist, will discuss his first book, published in 2006, about the history of Sanders.

Tasker was passionate about Detroit history when he wrote "Sanders Confectionery."

"He looked at Sanders as a Detroit icon," Marble said.

Tasker wrote, "Detroiters stood two and three deep behind lunch counters for tuna or egg salad sandwiches, devil's food butter cream 'bumpy' cake and hot fudge sun-

daes."

Marble believes guests will enjoy the presentation. "We look forward to the talk about the history of Sanders," Marble said. "We will be serving Sanders Bumpy Cake after the author talk."

The talk will be held in a back room of the Garden City Library which is located on Maplewood, west of Merriman. Use the Balmoral entrance.

To attend, contact the Garden City Library to register.

Sign up for this event at the library or call, (734)-793-1830. Seating is limited.

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CHEER

Continued from page A1

with Autism in Garden City. However, she had "no experience" in coaching cheerleading. Hemmie told her that was no problem and the rest, as the say, is history.

"It's something I've been wanting to do for five years, but before I implemented it, I wanted to have everything in place to handle it and I finally did," Hemmie said. "The kids do a great job. I'm impressed with every kid in this gym."

The VIP team members are 12-26 years old with disabilities ranging from autism and severe seizure disorder to being wheelchair-bound. They practice Sundays at Premiere Athletics and do exhibitions at venues around the Detroit area and in Ohio.

Cross shares coaching duties with Sharon Harding and has five junior coaches who have helped make the team what it is.

"The junior coaches made the team, they made it happen; they know what we want the team to do and they do it," Cross said. "Sharon came on this year to help me coach. What I miss or I don't see, she does and corrects it."

"I love doing this," said junior coach Wynnter Nickles of Farmington Hills. "It's so much fun and I get service hours for school."

Getting started

When Cross said yes to Hemmie, her first phone call was to 26-year-old Holly Ranta of Canton, whom she coaches in Special Olympics. "She loves this. She looks forward to coming and going to all of the events," said her mother Judy Ranta.

Cheer is just one of the many activities she does. Holly, who has epilepsy and has seizures every



Holly Ranta of Canton and Daniel Cross of Wayne hold up Cassidy Harding in one of the team's stunts.



Natalie Anderson, 13, of Wixom shows she has no fear as she gives a cheer.

day, also is in two dance classes — jazz and ballet — and swims "like a little fish in water." She plays soccer, basketball, bowling and softball for Spe-

cial Olympics, but her big sport is track and field.

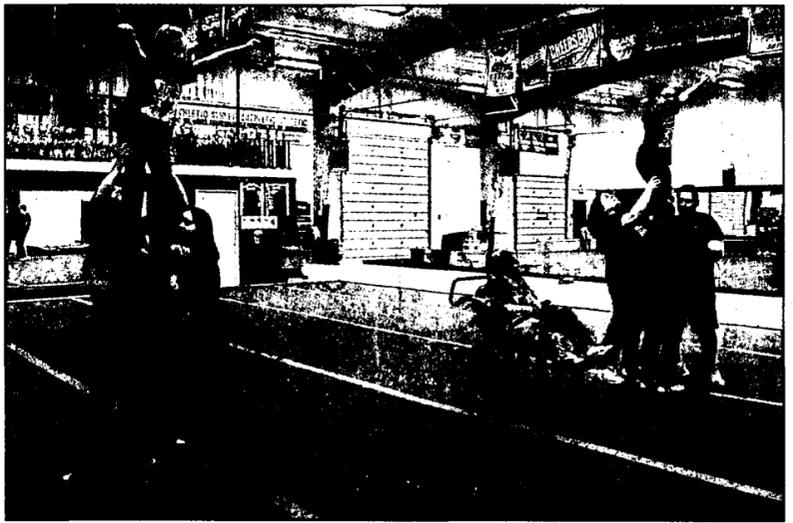
Despite having seizures daily, she has graduated from Schoolcraft College and has been accepted to the University of Michigan-Dearborn. She hopes to become a special-needs teacher, although she is taking a break this year, her mother said.

"Being accepted was quite an accomplishment," Judy Ranta said.

Janis Huff's daughter Nicole also has done cheer all three seasons.

"It's great when the kids get included in the things the others do," her mother said. "Nicole likes anything showy. She likes her sports, she's very athletic, but she likes the things that are showy and have costumes. She wants to go to Hollywood."

Huff said her daughter, who has Down syndrome, has a "pretty smile, is talkative and isn't bash-



PHOTOS BY TOM BEAUDOIN

The VIPs' routines include cartwheels, forward rolls and pyramids.

ful."

And it shows. "I love it, it's really good," the 22-year-old Nicole said. "This is a good program for me. They make me feel welcome."

Her biggest achievement since joining the team has been being able to do a thigh stand as part of a four-person pyramid, she added.

Huff likes seeing the "big brilliant" smiles on the kids' faces and the support that's given by the other students.

"They show a lot of support, they cheer our kids on," she said. "It's good for them and it's good for our kids."

Diva D

Davette Cotton, better known as Diva D, has a smile that lights up a room. She's the wheelchair-bound member of the team. She holds poms in her hands and is wheeled around by one of the coaches as her teammates do their splits and jumps.

The cheer team was one of the things her mother, Stephanie Cotton of Canton, wanted to do with her daughter. She got connected with the group through Harding.

"She loves it, she's a

people person," her mother said. "She likes the attention and they give her a lot of it. She really likes it and likes showing off while she's here."

"I'm very impressed with this team. Diva fits right in," she added. "They do treat them like VIPs."

The lone male member is Cross's son Dan, who attends Burger Center for Students with Autism in Garden City. He's the base of the pyramid and identifies himself as the team leader.

"I get to help everyone out on the floor," he said. "If they're not in place, I help them."

At 13, Natalie Anderson is the youngest team member. Her mother Sue found the team on the Internet. There also was one in Shelby Township, but Plymouth is closer to their home in Wixom. She had come thinking it would be a standard cheer team, but saw there was music and "shaking around."

For Nicole, each year has brought a new accomplishment. Last year, she learned to do a somersault. This year, she raises her hands above her head at the top of the pyramid.

"What's so nice with cheer is that if you're

not so perfect, it's OK," her mother said. "This is something very doable for her. It's really been a nice activity for her."

Like Cotton, she likes how other students gather in front of team and cheers it on. They make them feel welcome.

"And these coaches have been awesome, they include her in everything," she said. "She loves her coaches, she's very comfortable with them."

According to Hemmie, each team member has different abilities and those abilities are put into the routines.

"Whatever they can do, we will try to incorporate them into the routine so they have their own highlight," she said. "It's really interesting to watch them. Debbie has done an amazing job."

"Everything we have them do accentuates their strengths," Cross said. "Natalie likes to do a forward roll, so we accentuate that. The first time she did one, she screamed, 'Miss Debbie, watch' and I had to. It's their huge, huge smiles that makes it all worthwhile."

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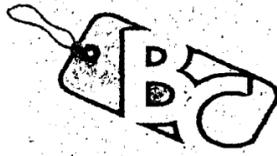
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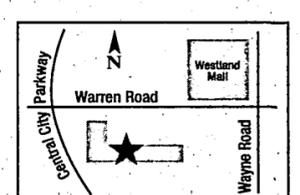
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St. Michael's staffers drive truckload of donations to hurricane victims



Peggy Wyns-Madison, principal at Public School No. 15 in Red Hook in Brooklyn, N.Y., and Jenna Utter, third-grade teacher at P.S. 15, accept donations from St. Michael's staffers Laura Rea and Christen Tice. Utter, Rea and Tice are all sisters.



In two days' time, St. Michael students and their families collected enough donations for hurricane victims to fill a large truck.

By Karen Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Two staff members at St. Michael's School in Livonia drove a truck full of food and other basic necessities last week to Hurricane Sandy victims in New York. The donations went to families of Public School No. 15 in Red Hook in Brooklyn, N.Y., where their sister, Jenna Utter, teaches third grade. Laura Rea, an after-school care provider at St. Michael's, and Christen Tice, who teaches fourth

grade at St. Michael's, made the trip Nov. 8-10 in a truck donated by Bob Sellers Pontiac GMC in Farmington Hills. "Parents from Jenna's school asked for help," Rea said. "A lot of the families at Jenna's school live in the projects. The amount of aid getting to them isn't enough. They don't have enough food and basic necessities. Rather than go through some of the larger traditional organizations, Christen and I decided we could drive there directly."

Red Hook is among the parts of Brooklyn hit hardest by the hurricane Oct. 29, Rea said. "It is right on the waterfront, and the school was under 25 feet of flood water," she said. Tice said the residents of Red Hook, home to the largest housing project in the United States, already live with very little and many of them lost what little they had. Cleanup efforts are still in the beginning stage, she said. "The lights did not have any power, and we saw

many downed trees. We did see work crews cleaning up the mess, but lots of people were outside walking around," she said. "The thing that stood out for me was the fact that I still saw noticeable damage even though the storm happened two weeks ago. In addition, we passed by several gas stations, most of which were closed. The gas stations that were open had long lines of people waiting for gas with gas cans." Tice said her sister's class has been going to

another school in the Red Hook neighborhood since Nov. 1 and sharing classrooms with those teachers and students. On the first day "back" at school, her sister had two students. On Friday, the day her sisters arrived with the truck full of donations, she had 15 of her 17 students back in class. The two absent students were staying with family. Utter's home did not have any damage since she lives more inland than her school neighborhood. The food and necessities were donated mostly

by St. Michael's families. "As soon as my sister Jenna told me about the damage at her school, I knew the St. Michael's community would be able to help," Tice said. "It humbled me that in only two days our families donated so much." Donations included blankets, hats, gloves and mittens, non-perishable food, hand sanitizer, cleaning products, diapers, toiletries, socks, snacks and gallon-size Ziploc bags. Help came from beyond St. Michael's as well. "Co-workers of parents gave monetary donations," Tice said. "I personally had a student who put out letters in her neighborhood and her dad brought the items collected with him to conferences." Tice said the experience showed her students at St. Michael's how blessed they are and how gratifying it can be to help others. She said Bob Sellers provided the truck with only a day's notice. "It shows me there are still giving people out there," she said.

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Youngsters learn hockey basics in free event

By Matt Jachman
Observer Staff Writer

A traveling hockey clinic visited Plymouth on a recent Saturday to offer young players some pointers and a little free ice time.

The play-hockey-for-free event drew about four dozen 4- to 9-year-olds — both boys and girls — to the arena at the Plymouth Community Cultural Center, where they were instructed by USA Hockey-certified coach Ron Hayes and members of the junior varsity hockey team at Salem High School.

Steve Anderson, the city's recreation director, said the response was among the biggest of any community in the area.

"When we offer something like this where it's completely free, they come out and just try it," said Hayes. "If we can get over 40 kids it's a success."

Hayes has been taking the free hockey lessons around the state on weekends for a couple of years. He's recently been in Chelsea, Alpena, Grand Rapids and Garden City.

The hour-long lesson in Plymouth offered one-on-one instruction for those who weren't comfortable on the ice, with the Salem players putting the novice skaters through their paces. "The main thing is just to get them moving," Hayes said.

Kids who had obviously been on the ice before, he said, were shown cross-ice skat-



Eric Lock (Canton) keeps a close eye on 5 year old Leah Alarie, who is on skates for the first time.

ing drills, taught how to hold, pass, shoot and carry the hockey puck, and then got to scrimmage for about 20 minutes.

Equipment was available for use by the skaters, and each participant got to take home a free jersey.

Hayes said he was appreciative of the help from the Salem players.

"These kids do a wonderful job at that," he said. "They're at that age where they want to help the younger child."

Hayes is a former president of the Plymouth-Canton Hockey

Association, and has run the association's youth instructional program for 38 years. The course for beginning players meets at the cultural center on Saturday afternoons from September through March.

"Everything is positive," Hayes said. "There is no negative to the programs at all."

Most players in the program, which is called the Mighty Mini Mites instructional program, are ages 4 to 8 or 9, but some have been as young as 3, if they're from a hockey family, or as old as 10, Hayes said.



PHOTOS BY TOM BEAUDOIN

Coach Ron Hayes (above) instructs the kids on the finer points of hockey. Plymouth resident Conlan Voss, 4, (top) takes a break on the team bench during the free hockey fun at the Plymouth Cultural Center.



Plymouth resident Adam Vincense brings his son, Adam, onto the ice for the Learn to Play instruction.

"Gretzky didn't start skating until he was older, so we don't want to turn anybody away," he

said, referring to retired National Hockey League great Wayne Gretzky. Enrollment for Mighty



Five-year-old J.T. White of Grosse Pointe keeps his eye on the puck as he goes through drills.

Mini Mites fell sharply during the recent recession, Hayes said, but is starting to climb back up.

More information about the Mighty Mini Mites instructional program and registration forms are available at the Plymouth-Canton Hockey Association's website, www.pchockey.net.

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All things equal, invest in commission-free funds

By Rick Bloom
Guest Columnist

Q: Dear Rick: I was at one of your recent library talks and I realized how much money I've spent on commissions over the years. I was upset so I called my financial adviser or, as you refer to him, my financial salesperson. When I asked him about the commissions I have paid over the years, at first he wasn't very happy with the question. He did respond, however, by saying that since I'm a long-term investor, there is very little difference between commission and commission-free funds. I don't believe him and I'm probably going to move my money. How would you respond to his answer that for long-term investors there is very little difference between commission and commission-free funds?

A: You should not believe your financial salesperson when he tells you that there is no difference between loaded funds (commission) and no-load (non-commission) funds. There is a difference. In fact, for the long-term investor, the numbers as to how much commission ends up costing are startling.

It is important to understand how commission works. Commissions in the mutual fund industry can run as much as 8.5 percent. What that means is that if you invest \$10,000, \$850 comes right off the top to pay the commission. Only \$9,150 (\$10,000 minus \$850) is put into the investment. Therefore, if an investment earned 10 percent, then the person who had paid the commission would receive about \$915.

The person who invested commission-free



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

would receive \$1,000. The difference over one year may not look like a lot, but when you start compounding the difference and multiplying it by the number of years you're in the investment, it is significant. Therefore, when he told you that there's very little difference for a long-term investor, he was not telling you the truth. Either way, you should look at making a change.

As long as I have been involved in the financial world, I have always recommended no-load funds. It is because they outperform the commission funds. Every independent survey shows that the average no-load fund outperforms the average commissioned fund. The bottom line is that people should invest in commission-free mutual funds because they end up putting more money in your pocket and that is where it belongs.

I recognize there are some very good financial advisers that work on commissions. They will tell you that they work for their client's best interest and commissions are how they get compensated. As a professional, obviously, I have no problem with a professional being compensated for services.

However, my problem is that when it comes to mutual funds and investments, commissions

and sales incentives are generally hidden from the investor. The average investor that invests in a commission-based investment has no idea what they're paying in commissions or if there were any sale incentives involved. When fees and other types of compensation are not disclosed, there is a reason for that and that is they don't want you to know the high costs you are paying.

In general, I believe investors should stay away from commission-based products. Not because all commission-based products underperform, because that is not the case. There are some commission-based mutual funds that have solid performance. However, they are few and far between.

The reality is that commission-based products create a conflict of interest. There is a reason why so many companies offer sales incentives. They want the financial salesperson to focus on the sale.

Investing is too important to have conflicts of interest. When there are commissions involved, you never know if they recommend a product because it's good for you or good for them. I say take commissions out of the mix and you'll have a better chance to be a successful investor. Good luck!

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. His website is www.bloomassetmanagement.com. If you would like Rick to respond to your questions, please email him at rick@bloomassetmanagement.com.

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Never again

Holocaust Memorial Center to dedicate new gallery

By Jill Halpin
Correspondent

Farmington Hills is home to a piece of history representing one of the darkest periods in humanity: the Holocaust.

An authentic World War II-era boxcar that was used to transport millions of European Jews and other victims to concentration camps and their deaths during the Holocaust will be the centerpiece of a new gallery at the Holocaust Memorial Center Zekelman Family Campus.

The new gallery was dedicated on Tuesday, Nov. 20.

The gallery was made possible by a donation from Bloomfield Hills residents Henrietta and Alvin Weisberg, and stands in memory of Henrietta's family murdered in the Holocaust: her parents, Sara and Israel Gastfrjnd, and brothers, Rubin and Hershel Gastfrjnd.

'Nothing could be worse'

Now 83, Henrietta Weisberg was just a child when the horrors of the Holocaust touched her family and she is hopeful the exhibit will serve as a powerful reminder of the tragedy.

She said she still has memories of being inside a boxcar as a child. Forced to endure crowded, deplorable conditions, many others perished in the boxcars before they reached their destinations. "Nothing could have been worse," than being



Alvin and Henrietta Weisberg

in one of those boxcars, Weisberg said. "While they have done movies and written books, you cannot truly understand unless you were there. I want the world to know what happened during the Holocaust so that such inhumanity will never

happen again."

The Holocaust Memorial Center acquired the boxcar in September 2011 with the cooperation of the German National Railroad and the Technical (Railroad) Museum in Berlin.

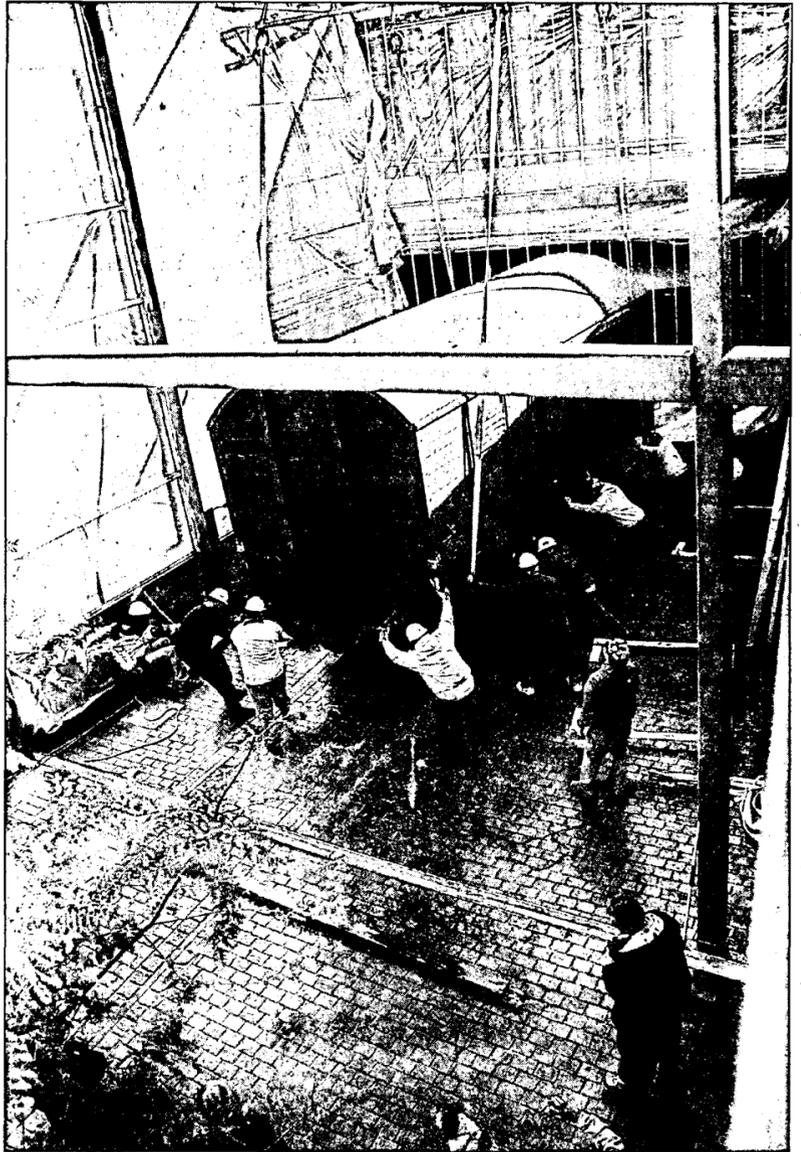
It is believed to be one of the last of such boxcars in existence and the only one exported to the United States from Germany. "We are very grate-

ful to the Weisberg's for this generous donation," said Stephen M. Goldman, executive director of the Holocaust Memorial Center.

Opened in 1984, the Holocaust Memorial Center is the state's only Holocaust museum and is visited by more than 85,000 people annually.

Founded by local Holocaust survivors with community support, the center's mission is to teach about the senseless murder of millions, and why everyone must respect and stand up for the rights of others if the world is to prevent future discrimination, hate crime and genocide, Goldman said.

He added that the center's exhibits create a call



Workers at the Holocaust Memorial Center unload an authentic World War II-era boxcar, the centerpiece of a new exhibit gallery at the museum.

to action, teaching visitors through the examples of those who risked their lives to save others, and asking its guests to react to contemporary challenges such as racism, intolerance, bullying and prejudice.

A reminder

"This gallery allows us to display an object of great significance that will not only educate our visitors, but stand as a reminder" of the Holo-

caust, Goldman said. Goldman believes that the new gallery will provide important and realistic learning opportunities for visitors to the museum.

"Objects of an era, especially objects that carry an emotional content, are important in getting a message across: that it can never happen again," he said.

The new gallery will also play a role in conveying another important lesson

and message of faith, he said, adding that the message is especially important for young people.

"The other message is that if people suffered as these people did, and overcame the adversity as they did and lived to prosper, then no matter how bad your situation is; whether you are homeless, or a victim of racism or anti-Semitism, you too, can overcome," he said.

"There is hope. There is always hope," he added.

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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.

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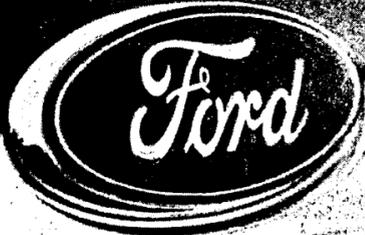
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Attorneys Bieske and Alfonsi offer free phone or office consultation. If they represent you, there will be no fee charged until after the case is won. The fee is a percentage of retroactive benefits.

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Family tradition in law continues with election of Kevin Cox

By Ken Abramczyk
Staff Writer

Kevin Cox remembers sitting down at dinners at 5:30 p.m. every night with his parents John and Rita Cox and brothers Sean and Mike at their home in Redford.

Dad played "devil's advocate" during discussions about that day's events and what was happening in the outside world, Kevin said.

"Dad was big on history and current events and very interested in politics, and he would lead us into dinner table discussions," Kevin said. "We were all curious about the world around us. The politics and law melded together."

That curiosity and eventual pursuit of a law career has evolved into Kevin Cox's successful election onto the Wayne County Third Circuit Court bench, as he finished third Nov. 6. Kevin is the third Cox brother to win elective office, and the second to win a judge's seat.

Kevin, 53, is the older brother of Mike Cox, former state attorney general, and younger brother of Sean Cox, a federal judge in southeast Michigan.

Mike Cox, 50, won election to two terms as attorney general in 2002 and 2006 and placed third in the Republican gubernatorial primary in 2010.

Today Mike runs his own law firm in Livonia. Mike is married to Laura Cox, who is a Wayne County commissioner representing Livonia.

U.S. District Judge Sean Cox, 55, who is seated in the court's Eastern District of Michigan, also served as a circuit judge

in Wayne County, winning elections to circuit court in 1996, 1998 and 2004. He was appointed to U.S. District Court in 2006.

Kevin and Mike reside in Livonia; Sean lives in Canton. Their parents live in Livonia.

Their parents told the boys about their maternal grandfather, Anthony McQuane, a member of the Irish Republican Brotherhood. McQuane was jailed in 1916 and a second time in 1919 as Irish nationalists fought for independence. Stories about their grandfather from their parents and the importance of freedom, individual rights and political activism weren't lost on the grandsons.

Mike said his father, a Korean war veteran, did not go to college, but was well-read and constantly kept up with current events. "He'd read a lot of books and newspapers and he'd love to argue," Mike said. "Politics and law always came up."

Sean said his father often spoke about the Korean War. "He challenged us," Sean said. "He knew European history and the history of Ireland."

Mike said that upbringing also led him to his career goal. He always wanted to be a prosecutor. Mike was the deputy chief of the homicide unit in the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office.

Sean echoed that the talks and their own family history influenced their future careers in public service, but added: "I don't know how all three of us ended up in law."

"All of us have a desire to make society better," Sean said. "Public service



The patriarch, John Cox, with sons Mike, Kevin and Sean Cox.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

is a good way to do it."

Winning a court seat

Kevin attributes his election win earlier this month to the work he put into his campaign over the past six months, meeting with various organizations to get his name out, he said.

Cox holds a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Michigan and a juris doctor from Wayne State University Law School. He is married to Elizabeth Cox. The couple has four children: Kiefer, 23; Kasey, 20; Jack, 17; and Brian, 14. Kevin is active in the St. Edith Parent Association, St. Edith CYO Athletics Board of Directors, Catho-

lic Central Dad's Club and fundraisers for the Salvation Army, Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries and the Capuchin Soup Kitchen.

As an assistant attorney general in the labor division of the office of Attorney General Bill Schuette since 2010, Cox represented the state of Michigan in state courts and administrative hearings.

"I've been an active trial lawyer for almost 28 years," Kevin said. He points to his experience in hundreds of courtrooms to prepare him for the seat.

Kevin has tried more than 30 complex civil jury trials for clients and tried cases to verdict in eight Michigan counties. Prior to practicing as an assis-



Kevin, Sean and Mike Cox.

stant attorney general, Kevin was in private practice for 25 years. His practice was composed of injury litigation throughout the state.

Kevin owned and managed a law firm of 12 attorneys and more than 20 employees for several years. Although 75 percent of his cases were in Wayne County, he has litigated cases in more than 40 counties in Michigan resulting in several successful jury verdicts and hundreds of settlements.

Will tradition continue?

Kevin sees the same interest in politics and law with at least two of his children. Kiefer is a first-year student at Wayne State Law School. Kasey is a senior at the University of Michigan studying international relations.

Kevin also appreciated his wife Elizabeth's support during the campaign. "She had to do double duty as a parent," he said. "She went above and beyond in taking care of everything

to keep the household running as humanly possible."

Kevin said he will work hard to bring himself up to speed, whether he is a judge in the family division or the criminal division of the court. "There will be subtleties," he said. "There will be procedural things that will be new to me. I will work as hard as I can to be very good as a criminal judge or a family judge."

His brothers in the legal field are proud of him.

"He worked really hard and ran an excellent campaign," Sean said. "He campaigned very efficiently, sending smart, targeted mailings."

Mike said voters chose a judge who is "highly skilled" with 27 years experience.

"I know he'll do a great job," Mike said. "I'm very proud that the voters selected someone who is highly qualified and brings his skills and experience to the bench."

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ARTHRITIS OF THE HANDS

The most common arthritis is osteoarthritis of the hands. The hand joints are enlarged, but unlike rheumatoid arthritis of the hands, the knuckles are not swollen. The enlargement comes from the irregular rim of calcium that forms around the edges of the finger joints.

A hand with changes of osteoarthritis can function well as to grasping, doing fine work such as typing, buttoning shirts or working with the hands in daily work. The medical profession looks on osteoarthritis of the hands as a benign condition, and labels it as non-inflammatory, requiring little medical attention. If discomfort or aching occurs, the physician's recommendation is to take acetaminophen or heat in the form of paraffin wax baths.

In life, osteoarthritis of the hands does not behave in such a mild manner. Attacks of pain in one or more knuckles can begin spontaneously and linger. Physicians cannot fully explain why these flares occur, but irritation to surrounding tissues by the buildup of calcium around the joint likely plays a role.

The problem is how to treat? The pain is unlikely to lessen using heat, acetaminophen or ibuprofen. Dosing with steroids will bring relief, but that resolution lasts only as long as a daily dose of steroids continues. Injection of cortisone may bring relief, but finger joints are small and accurate injection by the physician is a difficult achievement.

Fortunately, flares are self-limited, usually lasting three to four days, and then resolve. Furthermore, the painful episodes rarely return; it is as if the experience taught the body how to respond.



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AROUND WAYNE AND WESTLAND

Taste Fest

The Westland Chamber of Commerce and Westland Rotary Club are joining forces to host the 2012 Holiday Taste Fest 6-9 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 4, at the Hellenic Cultural Center.

There will be food from the area's finest restaurants and culinary artists along with an opportunity to bid on auction items ranging from fabulous baskets, trips and services to golf.

New this year will be live musical entertainment by Westland's own Elvis impersonator Fred Wolfe.

Ticket are \$25 per person with a cash bar. Sponsorships are available. Partial proceeds from the event will benefit Westland Rotary Charities, the Joseph Benyo Scholarship and the Westland Chamber of Commerce.

For tickets or information, call the chamber at (734) 326-7222 or visit westlandchamber.com or westlandrotary.com.

Thanksgiving Dinner

Will you be alone on Thanksgiving Day? If so, join others for dinner at St. Mel's Church, 7506 Inkster Road, Dearborn Heights. There is no charge, but reservations are required due to limited seating. Doors open at noon, and dinner is served at 1 p.m. For reservations, call the parish office at (313) 274-0684, Ext. 26.

Stuff a Bus

Join the Wayne-Westland Community Schools Transportation Department, Wayne-Westland Fire Department and Westland K-Mart on Saturday, Dec. 1, to help Stuff a School Bus or two to help those in need in the two communities.

The distinctive yellow school bus will be in the Kmart parking lot at Cherry Hill and Wayne Road in Westland 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Stop by and help us stuff the bus with new toys, new or gently used clothes, personal items, school supplies, anything to assist the Westland and Wayne Goodfellows to provide a happy holiday season for those in need.

All donations will be appreciated.

Tax appointments

The Westland Friendship Center at 1119 Newburgh Road is now taking appointments for 2012 income tax preparation for center members only. Appointments will be taken through Friday, Dec. 14. Times will be available for non-members after the first of the year.

For more information or to make an appointment, call (734) 722-7628.

Toastmasters

The Westland Easytalkers Toastmasters Club is now meeting at the Westland Friendship Center, 1119 N. Newburgh, south of Ford Road, Westland.

Toastmasters is a world leader dedicated to helping people develop their public speaking and leadership skills, in a mutually helpful and friendly atmosphere.

Westland Easytalkers meets 7-8:30 p.m. every Thursday. For information please call Luddie at (734) 414-0034 or Curt at (734) 525-8445 or go online to westland-easytalkers.toastmasters-clubs.org/.

Healing Hearts

Hope 4 Healing Hearts, a grief support group for adults who have lost a loved one to the prison system provides a safe environment allowing members to share in a non-judgmental atmosphere.

Meetings are 6:30-8:30 p.m. the second and fourth Monday of every month at the Kirk of Our Savior Presbyter-

an Church, 36660 Cherry Hill, west of Wayne Road, Westland. Donations only.

For more information, contact Bonnie at (734) 646-2237.

Free workshop

Westland residents at risk of losing their homes can attend a free Loan Modification and Short Sale Workshop held 6-7 p.m. the fourth Tuesday of the month at the Dorsey Community Center, 32715 Dorsey, east of Venoy.

Annette Compo of WJR Real Estate 411 and Linda Miller, an MSHDA-certified foreclosure counselor with National Faith Homebuyers, will be on hand to meet with residents one-on-one to do an overview of the foreclosure process and present them with various options for their situation.

The city of Westland is working with developers to assist residents that lose their home to foreclosure to try to remain in the same neighborhood.

To register for the

workshop, call (313) 378-5418 or send an e-mail to lindamiller@national-faith.org.

Higher Rock Cafe

The Wayne-Westland Salvation Army hosts Higher Rock Cafe, an evening of Christian music, fellowship, games and concessions at 7:30 p.m. the fourth Friday of the month at the corps, 2300 Venoy, south of Palmer. There's no cover charge. For more information visit Higher Rock Cafe on Facebook at www.facebook.com/WayneWestlandHRC or call (734) 722-3660.

American Legion

The American Legion, Westland Post 251, meets at 7 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month at the Harris-Kehrer VFW Post, 1055 S. Wayne Road, Westland. All veterans, male and female with an honorable discharge are welcome to join. Visit the post Web site at www.post251.org or call (734) 326-2607 for more information.

Jaycees collect holiday cards, items for the troops

Shoppers who head to Westland Shopping Center on Black Friday can do more than get some great deals on holiday gifts. They can send glad tidings to U.S. troops.

The Westland Jaycees will be conducting their annual Holiday Cards for Our Troops 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday, Nov. 23. Shoppers can stop by their table to sign cards that will be sent to military personnel or drop off signed cards that are unsealed - a requirement for all of the armed service branches.

"This will be the sixth year that the Westland Jaycees will send cards to our troops," said Debi Goetz, who is chairing the project. "Our goal this year is to send 1,500 cards."

The Jaycees also will be collecting items to send with their care package. On their list of needed items are:

- Phone cards, the number one most requested item so they can phone loved ones.

- Visa and MasterCard gift cards, the number two most requested item. It gives them maximum flexibility in spending.

- Wet Wipes, individually wrapped in foil packets (not gel bottles).

- Lip balm, floss, toothbrushes and disposable razors - men's and women's.

- Breath mints, candy and gum.

Cards and care good items also can be dropped off at Men on the Move, 39101 Webb Dr., Westland.

According to Gary Bulson of Men on the Move, the Jaycees have been able to send about four care packages the

last couple years to the troops.

"We received a thank you card back from last year's care package, it is a small gesture that means so much to our troops," he said.

For more information about Holiday Cards for Our Troops, call Goetz at (734) 626-0067.

The Westland Jaycees are a local organization dedicated to training young leaders through community service. The Westland Jaycees have been responsible for past events, such as the Patriots Day ceremony, Tribute to the Stars, and the annual Easter Egg Scramble.

For more information on the Westland Jaycees, call (734) 858-4811.



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- Spectrum Health Medical Group - Grand Haven Internal Medicine
- Spectrum Health Medical Group - Grand Haven Pediatrics
- Spectrum Health Medical Group - Grand Rapids Family Medicine
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- Spectrum Health Medical Group - Grand Rapids Internal Medicine
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PriorityHealth

CAPA Cares is caught in the act of giving

Students in the CAPA program are bringing a whole new meaning to the word "act" through an ongoing charitable project called CAPA Cares. They're not just talking about kindness, they're out there taking action, in the name of doing something good for others. CAPA Cares is an ongoing project that allows acting students in the Creative and Performing Arts program at Churchill High School to create community service projects and make a difference in the community. So far, they've helped the Humane Society, Gil-

da's Club, First Step, senior centers, soup kitchens and autistic students at Churchill. They even took to the streets to perform "random acts of kindness" around the Livonia community. "It is important, as humans, to take care of other humans and we also can't forget the animals in need," said Cory Quigley, a junior. "Our group, CAPA Cares For Critters, gathered supplies for animals that depend on donations to survive. I feel like I made a real difference!" Sophomore Kristen Falkowski said CAPA Cares helps the students

become aware of issues that are bigger than themselves. She finds it to be a rewarding experience. "Seeing how happy we made people made me feel like I was doing some good in the world," she said. The students carried the project to the stage, by creating artistic pieces based on their experiences with CAPA Cares. They performed their works in class. "We are so proud to reach out to our community. The acting students rose to the challenge and gained so much from giving. CAPA Cares is an exciting project for us and will continue to be in the years to come," said Angie Hillman, director of the CAPA program.



Students in the CAPA Cares for Critters group collected goods for animals at the Humane Society. From left are Cory Quigley, Melissa Ellis, Sarah Jakubowski, Celeste Mays, Ronda Gough, Alex Capeneka and Kyle Becker.

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CAPA students in the Random Acts of Kindness group went around town, giving inspirational cards and treats to people in the community. Pictured are (top row) Megan Troost, Carly Sweckel, Kristen Falkowski and (bottom row) Emily Stewart and Carly Angott.

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Marybeth Levine accepts a donation from Carol Emery.

Truck stuffers

Drive nets 38,000 diapers for bank

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

Canton grandmother Phyllis Bordine suffered sticker shock when she picked up a box of diapers and saw the \$24.99 price tag.

"I almost keeled over," she said.

It didn't stop Bordine and other donors from helping the Detroit Area Diaper Bank by filling up a box truck with 38,954 disposable diapers during a two-day Stuff the Truck campaign that culminated Thursday night outside the Canton Public Library.

"It's a wonderful cause," Bordine said, dropping off diapers with her 20-year-old grandson, Adam Thomas.

She spread the word to two local churches she attends to help Canton volunteer Marybeth Levine inch closer to her goal of collecting 200,000 diapers by Thanksgiving for a holiday-season dis-

tribution to social service and nonprofit agencies across southeast Michigan.

In its fourth year, the library's latest Stuff the Truck campaign shattered records and pushed Levine's fall effort to 182,440 diapers — just 17,560 diapers shy of her 200,000 goal by Thanksgiving.

"I'm hopeful we will meet it," Levine said, standing outside the box truck loaned by a Canton catering company, Fat Chef in a Little Coat.

Dropping off

Donors can find dropoff locations or donate money by going to www.detroitareadiaperbank.org.

"We can turn every dollar into 10 diapers," Levine said.

Library Director Eva Davis said donors still may drop off diapers at the library: "We'll get them to Marybeth."

Davis lauded Levine for

collecting nearly 1.5 million diapers since starting the nonprofit diaper bank in April 2009. Levine, a mother of three sons, volunteers her time to help struggling families with a need not covered by any government safety-net programs.

"For an unpaid, nonprofit executive, Marybeth has done a great job getting the word about the diaper drive out there," Davis said.

Laurie Golden, the library's marketing and communications manager, said donors started dropping off diapers a week before the Stuff the Truck campaign even started.

"People started calling a month ago to ask about the drive," she said.

All ages

Wixom-based J&B Medical Supply drove a van full of diapers to the Canton library. Livonia's senior center donated nearly 30 packages for



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton volunteer Marybeth Levine and library Director Eva Davis stand in front of a truck filling up with diapers as Lisa Kluka works inside the truck.

one of its many charitable projects.

"It's something the Livonia seniors pride themselves in doing," Jey Howie, recreation supervisor, said. "We're active in the community and the western Wayne County area."

Levine collects diapers for all ages from infants to adults who are incontinent. As she greeted diaper donors Thursday afternoon, volunteer Lisa Kluka of Canton helped load them into the truck.

"I like volunteering," she said, "and I thought this would be an exciting thing to do."

Ginny Garner, a Canton senior, stopped by Thursday afternoon to help Levine and the diaper bank, which provided a storage unit at Canton's Extra Space Storage until supplies are quickly distributed across metro Detroit.

"I think they do a good service," Garner said. "It's a great organization."

"They're great people."

As a steady stream of donors showed up at the library, Levine said she is amazed at their generosity. She said the Stuff the Truck campaign will help to get her organization through the holiday season.

"I'm blown away. This is exceeding my expectations," she said. "It's incredible."

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Sonny Eliot: Iconic weatherman dies at his Farmington Hills home

By Joanne Maliszewski
Observer Staff Writer

Back in the day, Bill Dwyer would run into famed Detroit area weatherman Sonny Eliot at the former Lindell AC, a gathering spot for Detroit police, journalists and politicians.

"The police and the news people always gathered there," recalled Dwyer, a former Detroit police executive and former Farmington Hills police chief. "Everybody loved him. He was always so congenial, friendly and always had jokes to tell."

Dwyer, an Oakland County commissioner, and other local folks remembered Detroit's own beloved weatherman Eliot, 91, who died at his Farmington Hills home Thursday. He last worked as the on-air weatherman for WWJ News Radio 950, which released news of his death early Friday.

New York-based CBS Radio, corporate parent of WWJ-Radio, was expected to issue a release on Eliot's death sometime Friday. Johnny Ginopolis

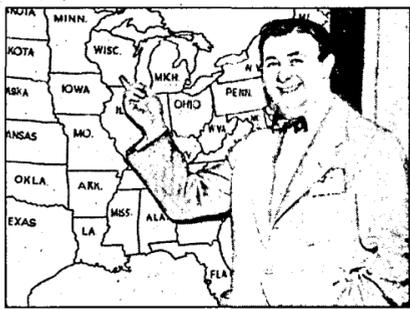
called Eliot "a special person" who frequented his restaurant on 12 Mile in Farmington Hills. He remembers Eliot also coming by in later years to pick up a carry-out meal for his wife, Annette, who was ill at the time. "He was so concerned about her."

Eliot had a number of favorite hangouts in the Hills, including Ginopolis and the Kerby Coney Island on Orchard Lake Road.

"I remember when he would come in, he would greet me in Greek," Ginopolis said. "Then he always had a joke for me. He was a very funny man."

A former Eliot colleague remembered the weathercaster's kindness after hearing the news of his death. "I grew up seeing Sonny on TV. He made me laugh," said Jon King, news editor of WHMI Radio in Livingston County.

King worked at WWJ News Radio 950 for less than two years. His desk was right next to Eliot's. "He came over and introduced himself. I remember thinking, 'how cool is this?' I was blown away."



Sonny Eliot, 91, passed away at his home in Farmington Hills Thursday.

King remembers Eliot's ability to humorously spoof politicians, local personalities and other well-known people from Detroit or those traveling to and through the city.

The Sonny Eliot personality who was seen on television and heard on the radio was not an act. "That really was Sonny. He was just as funny off the air. He was the nicest guy. He always had a

sparkle in his eye," King said.

That sparkle is what state Rep. Vicki Barnett of Farmington Hills remembers.

A couple of years ago when Barnett was seeking election and making the door-to-door rounds in Farmington Hills, she knocked on Eliot's door. "He answered the door! I introduced myself and asked him for his vote. "Of course I'm vot-

ing for you," he told me. He still had that sparkle in his eye. We were very happy to have him in Farmington Hills."

A hometown boy, Eliot (born Marvin Schlossberg) graduated from Central High School in Detroit and then went on to Wayne State University.

During World War II he served as a B-24 bomber pilot and was shot down while on a mission over Germany. He was captured as a prisoner of war and spent 18 months in a prisoner of war camp in Germany.

Eliot will be long remembered for his role in establishing the power of television in Detroit. He worked as a weathercaster and on-air personality for all network channels, as well as Channel 50.

He completed his career at WWJ-AM broadcasting twice every afternoon until about two years ago. Whether he was on television or the radio, Eliot was known for delivering portions of the weather forecast in Spanish or throwing in a joke when describing points on the map.

"I really felt honored to work with him. He would find a way to have fun with words," King said.

Funeral services for Eliot will be at the Dorfman Funeral Home in Farmington Hills today. His family has asked for a private service and shiva. A public service celebrating his life will be held at a later date, according to the funeral home.

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Habitat holds homeowner orientation sessions

By LeAnne Rogers
Observer Staff Writer

If you're looking to buy a home, Habitat for Humanity of Western Wayne County is holding homeowner orientation sessions.

The approximately one-hour sessions will be held Fridays, Nov. 30, Dec. 7 and Dec. 14, at the Resource Network Building, 9349 Telegraph, Redford, in the Redford Plaza Shopping Center.

Qualified homebuyers can get a 20-year zero interest mortgage by meeting income guidelines and providing required sweat equity hours working on their home or homes that will be provided to other program participants.

The homebuyer orientation will include a video presentation, a review of the criteria to qualify for a Habitat home, a question-and-answer period and application distribution.

"I really glad that they are holding an orientation. We still have one vacant Habitat house (available)," said Westland Community Development Director Joanne Campbell.

In Westland, Habitat has constructed or rehabilitated seven homes — all sold and occupied except one home on Middlebelt.

The orientations are open to residents of com-

munities served by the Western Wayne County Habitat for Humanity. That includes Westland, Garden City, Canton, Livonia, Plymouth, Redford, Wayne, Dearborn Heights, Romulus, Belleville, Northville, Taylor and Romulus.

Three eligibility criteria are considered for a Habitat home, including a need for adequate shelter, income and willingness to participate as a Habitat partner.

For more information on the program, visit www.habitatwwc.org.

Westland also works to rehabilitate or demolish blighted abandoned homes through the Neighborhood Stabilization Program.

"There are two homes for sale in Annapolis Park and one on Rosslyn," said Campbell.

The income levels for each program are the same, Campbell said, but Habitat is better able to deal with potential homeowners who are unable to qualify for conventional mortgages.

Earlier this month, the Westland City Council approved a \$4,000 purchase of a duplex at 32245-47 Hillsdale for demolition. The purchase of a home at 29047 Brody for \$84,900 for rehabilitation and resale was also approved.

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Father pens book on daughter's death on 9/11

By Ken Abramczyk
Staff Writer

At 8:42 a.m. Sept. 11, 2001, Bev Titus was jolted up out of bed with what her husband John described as "a burst of energy" that would soon transform to the worst nightmare a father or mother could experience.

Bev Titus got out of bed, made coffee and turned on the television to see a plane hit the South Tower of the World Trade Center, then drove to her husband John's office at Schoolcraft College. "She felt like she was being called as a witness to history," John said of her sudden jolt that morning.

Both watched the horrific events unfold on television. That morning, 19 terrorists from the Islamist militant group al-Qaeda hijacked four passenger jets. Two planes were intentionally flown into the North and South towers of the World Trade Center. The towers collapsed within two hours. A third plane was flown intentionally into the Pentagon, while a fourth crashed into a field in rural Pennsylvania after passengers attempted to take control of the jet.

Nearly 3,000 people died that day, victims of the worst terrorist attack in American history.

John and Bev Titus learned later that their daughter Alicia, 27, a flight attendant, was on United Airlines Flight 175, which crashed into the south tower.

John Titus returned Monday to Schoolcraft to discuss with students his profound loss and overwhelming grief. Titus, who retired in 2009 as a mental health counselor and faculty member at

Schoolcraft, wrote a book about his loss and journey of grief titled *Losing Alicia: A Father's Journey After 9/11*, published last year. Titus wrote about his struggle over the murder of his daughter, and his agonizing grief after one of the most horrific tragedies in American history.

Titus described his emotions and the withdrawal he felt the day before the appearance and the tears he shed that morning, remembering he was returning to the origin and beginning of his journey of grief.

"It's great to be back here, but it's hard," Titus said.

A wave of panic, sadness

On Sept. 11, 2001, denial "protected" the couple at first, Titus said, but the phone kept ringing that day at their home. When United Airlines called to inform them that Alicia was on the plane, "we felt a wave of panic and sadness. When the panic hit, it was like a tsunami. Our cries of anguish threatened to take our breaths away.

"Life, as we knew it, would never be the same."

Phone calls came from family and friends offering support and from the media asking for interviews. The rest of the day was a blur. "We were in the midst of chaos," Titus said.

He prayed for strength; he received understanding and love from family and friends.

The following days were struggles for the Titus family. "It was difficult to go to the stores, to hear the conversations of trivial things, conversations about 9/11, and



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
John L. Titus talks about grief and the loss of his daughter, Alicia, in the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

people who would argue about it, or even watching people laughing and enjoying life," he said.

"We wanted to run away from it all, but we had to learn to cope, for our family, our children and our grandchildren."

The couple has another daughter and two sons.

Eleven years have passed, but it seems like a "lifetime ago," Titus said. He remembers Alicia and her beautiful face, and he lifts a photo to show the audience a smiling young beautiful woman. "I reminisce of the wonderful memories we shared, the warmth of her hugs; it only seems like yesterday," he said.

The Titus family now lives in Ohio. Urbana University has dedicated a park to Alicia's memory using steel from the World Trade Center for a memorial for her and the 3,000 others who died that day.

Someone asked him at the park dedication about when he got over the loss of his daughter.

"You don't get over the loss of a child; you just learn to live with it," Titus said, remembering his response.

Sorrow, then a realization of blessings

Titus told the audience that "grief is a journey that has no endpoint." He often wondered whether he would experience joy again, as depression haunted him and Bev. "Grief strips you down to your very soul. Your ego is shattered." Stress and strain were constant.

"Grief requires an unwavering courage to face each day," he said.

Then Titus spoke of his blessings, his supporters. "I feel very blessed to have so many loving people in my life. I thank God for all the love and understanding, and much of it came from here," Titus said of Schoolcraft's faculty and staff.

Titus slowly began to realize that he could use that same love and compassion to help others and he began to feel a greater compassion for people suffering throughout the world. Since Alicia's death, Titus has become a strong advocate for peace and social justice, writing articles, doing documentaries and giving talks all over the United States, Canada and Italy on these

and related issues.

Titus said true peace is found in peace with God and not in a cease-fire in a war or a strong defense in preparation of war. "Waging war seems so outdated, so primitive, so desperate," Titus said.

He also quoted Martin Luther King Jr. War doesn't diminish violence, it creates it, King once said. "Darkness cannot drive out hate, only love can do that," Titus said, quoting King.

Shortly after 9/11, Titus said he was asked by a local television reporter about what he thought of the war in Iraq. "If it means more innocent people like Alicia will die, then I am opposed," he said. That comment was edited out of the broadcasted story, Titus said.

Titus said Bush's invasion of Iraq and overthrow of Saddam Hussein only added to the grief and complicated it for the 9/11 families. Titus said there were "blatant failings by the government and by intelligence agencies," which he said occurred during and prior to the Bush administration. There were also "hidden agendas" to fight a war in the Middle East, Titus said.

Titus believes that the 9/11 Commission was stacked with members who would stop short of criticizing the Bush administration.

While Titus questions the U.S. government, he adds that he is able to enjoy life.

He said he likes to think that he is wiser, and that he is listening to a different rhythm of life. "I am deeply grateful for each day," he said. "I can feel goodness in my heart and in my soul."

Titus said that God has helped him deal with the

pain and loss through seeds of hope: "God is within each of us. God is there within."

He read from Alicia and what she had written about happiness, and how a young girl's hope for a knight in shining armor evolved to a king and his kingdom, to a kingdom only, with a realization that she only needed "an infinite amount of love to give and receive freely" and a purpose, goal or a destination.

She also wrote about sorrow and happiness. "Those who have known the greatest happiness have opened themselves to the most gut-wrenching sorrow. It's a gamble, you have to play to win. Or maybe those who have endured suffering have a greater respect for joy, can appreciate it wherever they find it, the smell of a rose, the sight of a baby, an old couple holding hands.

"And those who've lived their lives in a heart-numbing cocoon of sanity, safety and contentment don't have the capacity for pure joy. Or, maybe this is what I tell myself in order to pick myself up, dust off, and hop on again."

Titus concluded with the Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi, which he and his wife found on Alicia's bedstand when they went to her apartment in San Francisco after her death.

Part of the prayer reads: "Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy."

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Hungry diners fill career center for holiday benefit

By Sue Mason
Observer Staff Writer

It was a pleasant surprise for chef Tony Paquette at the William D. Ford Career Technical Center: a line of people waiting to partake of his fifth annual Thanksgiving buffet.

"This was the biggest crowd we've ever had, we were jammin,'" said Paquette, the head of the culinary arts program at the William D. Ford Career Technical Center. "We barely have anything left."

Paquette had planned on feeding between 160 and 180 people for the annual event which raises money for the Wayne-Westland Family Resource Center, but when the luncheon was done, the crowd numbered 235. Every table was filled in the center's Cafe Marquette and few seats were empty in tables set up in the atrium.

In fact, at 11 a.m. there was a line of people waiting for the doors to open.

Luncheon goers made a minimum donation of \$10 for the meal that included turkey with all the trimmings, desserts and beverages. The money raised will be used to provide vouchers for precooked Thanksgiving meals for people who turn to the Resource Center for assistance. What money is left is used for requests at Christmas time, according to FRC program supervisor Amanda Faughnan.

"I'm in my fourth year with the resource center and I have not had to turn anyone away," said



As the buffet wound down Chef Tony Paquette got a chance to relax and chat with Jessica Bartol of Commerce.

Faughnan. "I'm thankful for the community and for the community coming together and for having such a successful turnout."

"The needs are greater now, I like this because it serves our Westland residents," said 18th District Judge Sandra Cicirelli, who was among city officials who attended. "I usually come and make a donation because I think it's important to help Westland families, and I see that happening with this."

Tablemate Paul Motz, director of Westland Youth Assistance, praise Faughnan for the terrific job she does working with displaced students in the community.

"When they become homeless, she sees that they get what's required, Youth Assistance is very appreciative of the Family Resource Center," he said.

This is the fifth year, Paquette has put on the benefit. It started "as a whim." His students had been making pumpkin pies for food baskets and Paquette decided to go one step further. He and his students had prepared a Thanksgiving

feast, and Paquette invited his friends to come for lunch and help provide meals for needy families.

"Now I see the end results now it's to the point where we have a good client base," he said. "As I walked down the line of people, I saw a lot of friends. It was good to see them. I'm really pleased how this turned out. If \$35 feeds a family of six, think of how many people will we be able to feed today."

Faughnan told guests that help can come in all shapes and sizes like the four used Matchbox cars that a youngster gave her. The donation came in just before a family in need of shelter after losing everything in a house fire.

"He was so proud to donate those cars," she said. "I saw the family and I saw those cars, so I asked the mother if her son could have them. Those cars made that woman and her little boy's day."

"It's not a question of how much you give, it doesn't matter," she added.

Support for what she does comes not only from the community, but from her family. Faughnan's father Chuck was among guests.

"I think this is terrific," he said. "The kids here do a nice job, chef Tony does an excellent job working with them. For us to be able to come and eat and then Amanda be able to help as many as she does is good."

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PHOTOS BY STEPHEN CANTRELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Teaching Assistant Tonya Shea, Johnny Psenecker of Westland and Jimmy Nguyen serve lunch to guests at the Thanksgiving buffet.



Barb Hatfield, Phyllis Taylor and her husband Tom, all of Westland, fill their plates with turkey and all the trimmings.

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Four's a crowd: Glenn backcourt loaded

Bankston twins provide scoring

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

Eric Kovatch will definitely get to play puppet master with this year's Westland John Glenn girls basketball team.

That's because the second-year coach will have the challenging job of pulling right strings with the arrival of two talented transfers from Detroit Mumford, 5-foot-7 twins Raven and Raine Bankston, along with three starters from last year's 20-3 squad that captured the KLAA Association title before losing in overtime in the Class A district final to Inkster.

"We're definitely going to be guard-heavy," Kovatch said. "We've got Kierra (Jordan) playing the post and we're just going to see how it goes. They're all pretty unselfish ballplayers, so I think there will be enough balls to go around."

The Bankston twins combined to average 42 points per game last season.



Four John Glenn players signed letters-of-intent Wednesday including (from left) Kierra Jordan (Marygrove), twins Raine and Raven Bankston (Delaware State), and ShaKeya Graves (DePaul).

And in one infamous Detroit Public School League playoff semifinal against Detroit Pershing, the two combined for all but two points in an 80-77 loss as Raven scored 47 and Raine added 28.

The twins, who also signed Wednesday with

NCAA Division I school Delaware State, will be joined by 5-9 left-handed sharpshooter ShaKeya Graves, a senior and DePaul University signee who averaged 12 points per game last season, along with 5-4 junior point guard Kaira

Barnes, a two-year starter, and Jordan, a 5-8 forward who signed with Marygrove College.

"They fit in real good," Kovatch said of the twins. "They're real nice kids. They're unselfish. They work hard and they just want to play and have

fun.

"Raine is more of a point guard or two guard, while Raven is more of a three or a four at this level, more of a forward. But both can play all four spots at this level.

Please see HOOPS, B5

Naubert's 31 not enough

A career-best 31 points by Bobby Naubert went in vain Wednesday night as the Madonna University men's basketball team suffered its first setback of the season, 100-81, against host Goshen (Ind.) College at Gunden Gymnasium.

The 5-foot-10 point guard from Livonia Stevenson bettered his previous career high by one point by hitting 9-of-18 shots from the floor and 13-of-14 free throws. He also added six assists and three steals.

Junior guard Travis Schuba added 19 points and six rebounds, but the Crusaders (3-1) shot only 38 percent from the floor (26-of-67), including just 5-of-21 from 3-point range.

Junior forward Fred Williams chipped in with nine points.

Goshen (5-0) connected at a 51-percent rate (38-for-70) and made 10 3-pointers.

The Maples, who led 42-35 at halftime, got 23 points apiece from Jerron Jamerson and Stefon Luckey.

Kyle Davis and Matthew Martin contributed 16 apiece, while Matt Glick added 14.

MU returned to action late Saturday afternoon at home in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference opener against Indiana Tech.

Trenton icers slip by Churchill, 5-4

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

With a new coach on board for Livonia Churchill hockey there's going to be a honeymoon period.

And you can take that both literally, as well as figuratively.

Jason Reynolds, who was married over the weekend, missed Wednesday's opener to be with his new bride as the Chargers lost to perennial state power Trenton, 5-4, at Edgar Arena.

Ironically, former Trenton goaltender and ex-Churchill and Northville varsity coach Jeff Hatley, now back as an assistant with the Chargers, was making the line changes for the season opener.

"It was our first game,

we did some things well and some other things that we need to improve upon," said Hatley, who preceded Pete Mazzoni's 11 years as Churchill's coach.

Churchill led 1-0 after one period as Nick Misiak scored the first of his two goals on the night from Matt Sinclair and Luke Otto.

Trenton, however, got rolling with three goals to Churchill's two in the second period to knot the game at 3-3.

For Churchill, Sinclair scored from Nick McGee and Brian Sexton added another goal from Blake Burnette.

In the final period, Trenton scored twice to take a 5-3 lead before Churchill cut the deficit to one with

Please see CHARGERS, B6



Churchill's Dylan Smith (10) tries to slip through Trenton's Brandon Hoffman (21) and Andrew Lindsay (16) in Wednesday's prep hockey opener at Livonia's Edgar Arena.

C'ville winter team night

Livonia Clarenceville's Meet the Team Night will be at 6 p.m. Monday, Nov. 19, at the high school cafeteria beginning with a general meeting.

Parents of student-athletes will then have the opportunity to interact with coaches and discuss the following topics: athletic and academic eligibility, sportsmanship, season schedule, team rules and consequences, team policies and banquet information.

A representative from Burke's Sporting Goods, selling shoes and other apparel for winter sports, will also be there.

For more information, call (248) 919-0217 or email athletic director Kevin Murphy at kmurphy@clarenceville.k12.mi.us.

Pats fall in season debut

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

Livonia Franklin's 2012-13 boys hockey season opener Friday night at Edgar Arena was met with mixed reviews.

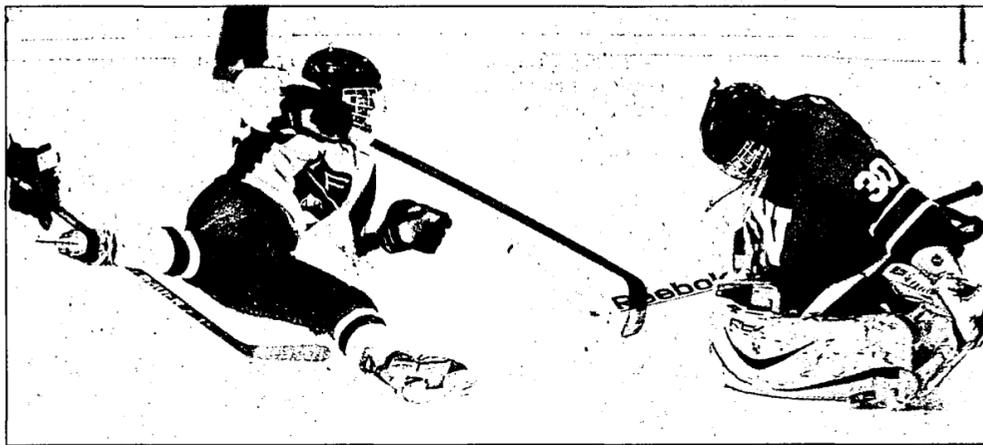
The Patriots, with Dennis Gagnon making his coaching debut, stayed close throughout before giving up a pair of third-period goals in a 5-3 setback against Walled Lake Western.

"I was proud of the way our guys competed," Gagnon said. "We still have a lot of work to do. We saw some good things and not so good things. No excuses, we'll go back to the drawing board come Monday and we will learn from this. And we will improve."

It was 2-2 after one period.

Franklin (0-1) got the first two goals with Elijah Grimm scoring from Alex Stavar and Andrew Golem getting a power play goal from Mike Diaz and C.J. Cromie.

Western (1-0) countered with goals from Chris Donaldson and Matt Zimolzak.



Franklin's C.J. Cromie (13) gets the shot off, but Walled Lake Western goaltender Wes Raske (30) makes the left pad save in Friday's season opener at Edgar Arena.

In the second period, Western's Trevor Couch scored on a power play, but the Patriots' answered on Cromie's goal from Daniel Pedersen and Diaz with 4:10 left.

Austin Morgan then scored what proved to be the game-win-

ner with 12:25 remaining and Donaldson notched his second of the night late in the period on an empty-netter.

"We were short-handed quite a bit unfortunately," Gagnon said. "We had some penalties and we

lost our composure a little bit. That's one of the things we need to work on."

Franklin sophomore Matt Monendo stood out stopping 31-

Please see HOCKEY, B3

Baranovska All-Academic

Madonna University senior middle hitter Nastija Baranovska (Riga, Latvia) has been named to the Capital One Academic All-District first team as selected by the members of the College Sports Information Directors of America.

A first-time honoree by CoSIDA and Capital One, Baranovska now moves on to the national ballot and is eligible to earn Capital One Academic All-America honors this year.

A two-time All-Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference first-team selection, Baranovska is an English major with a 3.91 grade point average.

She is a two-time Academic All-WHAC selection and earned NAIA Scholar-Athlete honors last season.

On the dotted line: Glenn guard Daniels Oakland U.-bound

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

When Nick Daniels signed his NCAA basketball letter-of-intent Wednesday with Oakland University, the Westland John Glenn senior guard couldn't be more grateful.

The 6-1, 160-pound Daniels, who averaged 17 points, seven assists and four rebounds last year for the 17-5 Rockets, made sure his teammates, high school coaches, AAU coach, school counselor, his mother and younger brother were all part of the photo opportunity.

Daniels, a three-point threat who is 300 points shy of Glenn's all-time scoring record, joins a heralded OU recruiting



John Glenn senior guard Nick Daniels (bottom right) signed an NCAA Division 1 basketball letter-of-intent Wednesday with Oakland University.

BRAD EMONS | PHOTO

class which also includes Kahlil Felder, 5-9 point-guard Detroit Pershing, and Jalen Hayes, 6-7 forward who is coming off back-to-back Class B state titles at Lansing Sexton.

Ironically, all three are left-handers.

"(All three) are tremendous fits of how they get up-and-down the floor," OU coach Greg Kampe told the OUGrizzlies website. "Nick Daniels is a guy who has all moves. He'll slither, he's very deceptive, a guy who can yo-yo."

"He's help turned John Glenn basketball around." Daniels spent some time last summer playing at OU and found a home right away after entertaining interest from several Mid-American Conference schools.

"I went to summer league and open gym," he said. "They told me they were going to offer me the next day. I like how their program goes. They

like shooters. They like guards that can attack, dish and that are quick. I feel I fit there with them. I just thought it was a good spot for me."

There was a signature moment during the summer that Kampe became convinced Daniels was his man.

"Nick was playing in pick-up game with professional basketball players," the OU coach told the website. "He came down the court at game point, he looked at Brandon Knight (of the Detroit Pistons), faked the pass to him, and fired a shot that went right in the basket. What kind of 17-year-old kid is going to look off Brandon Knight and fire it right in the basket at game point to win? You got a kid like that and the legend starts to grow. I heard that story quite a bit."

Daniels played AAU for the Michigan Warriors, while Felder played for the rival Reach Legends.

"I just love his game, he's a lefty just like me," Daniels said of Felder. "He can play, dish and shoot. Jalen Hayes, a big 6-7 kid, who can play, too. He's a lefty, too."

Daniels also liked the fact that OU plays a demanding conference schedule.

"Coach (Greg) Kampe told me next year verbal commits from North Carolina, Florida State, and maybe Alabama for my freshman year," he said. "The backcourt that we have coming for 2013 - can't wait to get there."

Meanwhile, Daniels has been diligent during the offseason in upgrading his all-around game heading into his senior year.

"I've tried to get stronger, try to work on my floaters and my opposite hand more," he said. "I've been working on my soft touch and my stamina. I've been running a lot."

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Area's top runners earn All-Observer accolades

FIRST TEAM

Steve McEvilly, Salem: The fourth-year varsity runner had much to do with what coach Steve Aspinall called "one of our most successful seasons in a decade" with a number of top-10 finishes.

At the Wayne County meet, he earned first-team honors with a fourth-place showing of 16:18.68. He then placed sixth at the conference meet (16:31.91) and fifth at the Division 1 regional at Willow Metropark with a time of 16:24.42.

At the D1 finals at Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn, his mark of 16:05.9 earned him a tie for 53rd place. That time also was his personal best and ninth fastest in Salem history.

"Steve has been a leader, both officially and unofficially for our team since his freshman year," Aspinall said. "He is one of the most dedicated and consistent runners I have ever coached and coaching him has been a true pleasure."

The coach added McEvilly's "work ethic, leadership and dedication" will follow him to wherever he opts to run after graduation. Central Michigan, DePaul and Miami (Ohio) are among college choices he is considering.

Keenan Jones, Franklin: The sophomore saved his best for last by finishing 74th in the D1 finals with a time of 16:17.0.

Jones earned an individual qualifying spot by taking 10th at the regional (16:26). He also placed third in the Livonia City meet (17:27) at Cass Benton and placed 12th in the Kensington Conference meet (16:44).

"Keenan had a tremendous season capped off with an excellent performance at the state meet," Franklin coach Walt Reasor said. "Keenan was a leader who possesses a great work ethic for the team to follow. I look forward to his improvement and accomplishments in his junior season."

J'haira Johnson, Garden City: A junior, Johnson was the first Cougar since 1988 to earn a berth to the state meet as he blazed his way to an outstanding season. In addition to winning nearly every invitational he entered, Johnson placed second in the Western Wayne Athletic Conference meet and set an outstanding example for his teammates with a remarkable work ethic.

"J'haira deserved everything he got this season," said Garden City coach Mark Cramton. "He's one of the hardest-working athletes I've been around, and when he's not running, he's cheering on his teammates."

Zane Berlanga, Plymouth: The junior put together a consistently solid season, featuring a personal best of 16:22.5 at the D1 finals and second-place finish at the KLAAs Kensington Conference meet (16:24.45).

Other notable performances included placing 10th at the Wayne County meet (16:34.42) and 12th (16:29.87) at the D1 regional (both at Willow Metropark) and coming in tied for 85th with Salem's Chaz Jeffress at the D1 finals at MIS.

"His second place at the conference meet showed that he is one of the top runners in the area," coach Jon Mikosz said. "Zane has so much talent and hasn't come close to reaching his full potential yet."

"I am looking forward to his senior year and seeing how much farther he moves up on the record board."

Berlanga won't have far to go, as he currently is the sixth-fastest runner in Plymouth school history.

Brandon Dalton, Plymouth: Dalton capped off an outstanding four-year career with his personal best of 16:23 at the D1 state finals at MIS, which earned him 89th place overall.

The seventh-fastest runner in team history, he also finished eighth at the Wayne County meet (16:31.46), 19th at the conference meet (16:55.79) and 15th at regional (16:30.85).

"His hard work paid off as he made it to his second state meet where he ran a PR of 16:23," Mikosz said. "Brandon is not only a great runner but a great guy outside of running."

"He is the type of runner you want as a coach because he never wants to disappoint you so he gives his all in every race. He will be hard to replace next season."

Chaz Jeffress, Salem: Thanks to the big-time success enjoyed his freshman year, it looks pretty certain that Jeffress will pick up Salem's baton from soon-to-graduate McEvilly.

One of the top freshman runners in Michigan, he improved times from the 18s to 17s to 16s

2012 ALL-OBSERVER

BOYS CROSS COUNTRY FIRST TEAM

Steve McEvilly, Sr., Salem
Keenan Jones, Soph., Liv. Franklin
J'haira Johnson, Jr., Garden City
Zane Berlanga, Jr., Plymouth
Brandon Dalton, Sr., Plymouth
Chaz Jeffress, Fr., Salem
Ross Cecil, Soph., Liv. Franklin
Stephen Fenech, Jr., Liv. Stevenson
Drew Lindman, Sr., Farmington
Ben Yates, Sr., Liv. Churchill
Jacob Colley, Sr., Liv. Stevenson

SECOND TEAM

George Bowles, Jr., Liv. Churchill
Michael Karizat, Sr., Salem
Dan Malcolm, Sr., Wayne Memorial
Max Bradley, Jr., N. Farmington
Liam Cardenas, Jr., Plymouth
Riley Duxtader, Sr., Salem
Billy Toth, Soph., Canton
Evan Dunklee, Jr., Canton
Devin Gibson, Soph., Wayne Memorial
Jonny Dalton, Soph., Plymouth
Max Rogowski, Jr., Plymouth

COACH OF YEAR

Steve Aspinall, Salem

Churchill: Jon Alessandrini, Matt Cohan;

Franklin: Tony Floyd; **Stevenson:** Peter Walkuski, Michael Sopko, Luke Green, Tyler Reamer; **John Glenn:** Micah Orr, Ed Maya, Jess Osoria; **Wayne:** Michael Gibson, Zack Williams, Tim Flores; **Lutheran Westland:** Eric Smith, Daniel Bunge, Hunter Roedel;

Canton: Tom Walkinshaw, Evan Childs, Andrew Stephens, Josh Joy; **Plymouth:** Matthew Pahl, Nick Williamson; **Salem:** Evan Bruyere, Donovan Drouillard, Jeremy Drouillard; **Plymouth Christian:** Jimmy Parks, Trevor Baloga, Ethan Levack, Jacob Bailey, Ian Rose; **Farmington:** Paolo Guarano, Mitchell Modzel, Brian Hanley;

Harrison: James Weekley, Joe Blair, Marcus Reed; **North Farmington:** Jacob Lockledge.

along the way and made it all the way to the D1 finals.

Jeffress was instrumental to Salem's second-place finish at the D1 regional at Willow Metropark with a time of 16:19.63 (fourth place). His mile PR of 4:58 enabled him to lead the race through the one-mile marker.

He then finished in a tie for 85th at the D1 finals with a mark of 16:22.5. The latter was the fourth best by a ninth grader.

Other highlights included finishing 19th at the Wayne County meet with a time of 16:43.71 (third-team all-county) and placing ninth at the conference meet (16:37.99).

"Chaz is a rare talent who has the ability to be one of the top runners in the area for the next three years and we have set lofty goals for the future," Aspinall said.

Ross Cecil, Franklin: The sophomore earned an eighth-place finish at the regional (16:26) to earn an individual qualifying spot in the state finals.

Cecil took 159th overall in Division 1 meet (16:51.7) and added a fifth in the Kensington Conference meet (16:30), as well as a 14th in the Ypsilanti Coaching Legends meet where he turned in a personal best 16:18.

"Ross had a breakout season and became one of the top runners in our conference as a sophomore," Reasor said. "One of his most impressive performances was in the regional meet where he took eighth. Ross has unlimited potential and I look forward to his continued improvement next season."

Stephen Fenech, Stevenson: The junior helped the Spartans earn their first team berth in the Division 1 state finals in 10 years.

Fenech finished took 109th overall at MIS (16:30.6) after placing 13th at the regional (16:33.18).

He also placed sixth at Wayne County with a personal best of 16:25.4 and added an eighth in the Kensington Conference.

"Stephen was our number one man in most of our meets," Stevenson coach Chris Inch said. "He battled a groin injury the last quarter of the season. I am confident he will work hard this winter in preparation for a strong track season."

Drew Lindman, Farmington: The senior



Steve McEvilly
Salem



Keenan Jones
Franklin



J'haira Johnson
Garden City



Zane Berlanga
Plymouth



Brandon Dalton
Plymouth



Chaz Jeffress
Salem



Ross Cecil
Franklin



Stephen Fenech
Stevenson



Drew Lindman
Farmington



Ben Yates
Churchill



Jacob Colley
Stevenson



Steve Aspinall
Salem coach

that title with a 2012 time of 16:43 at Oakland Community College.

He was 20th in the Oakland County meet (16:46) at Kensington Metropark and 14th in the regional (16:41) at Hess Hathaway Park in Waterford. Both times are team records for those courses.

"Drew's competitive desire and dedication to off-season training have helped him steadily improve over his exceptional career," coach Charlie Stambouljian said. "In two of his four years, we were OAA White Division champions as a team, and the other two we were runners-up. Obviously, we couldn't have accomplished any of that without him."

"Drew will truly be missed on our team. He is not afraid to work hard and has a successful future in front of him. He is looking forward to the track season as well as continuing to run in college."

Ben Yates, Churchill: The senior was a state qualifier finishing 185th after finishing ninth and posting a personal best time of ninth at the regional.

"Ben had a very good senior season to end his four-year cross country career at Churchill," coach John McGreevy said. "Ben improved significantly from one season to the next and culminated his season by running in the state finals. He worked very hard in his off seasons to accomplish this."

Yates also placed seventh at the KLAAs Invitational (16:54.3); ninth at Wayne County (16:34); 11th at Monroe Jefferson (17:16); 13th at the Kensington Conference (16:44.9); and 22nd at the MSU Spartan Invitational Green (16:56).

"Ben is a tremendous leader and role model who is loved by his teammates," McGreevy said. "He was a captain his junior and senior years. He is also an honor student, Eagle Scout, a talented musician and is very active in his church community. It has been a pleasure and an honor to have coached him these past three seasons."

Jacob Colley, Stevenson: The junior was the Livonia City champion and took 13th overall in the regional with a season-best 16:30.17.

Colley was 122nd overall in the state finals (16:36.6) and added an 11th-place finish at the Kensington Conference meet.

"Jake's leadership was the key to our team's success," Inch said. "He ran especially tough in the championship phase of the season. Without Jake our team doesn't make it to 'states.' I will miss his leadership."

COACH OF THE YEAR

Steve Aspinall, Salem: Although the second-year head coach of the Rocks earned the Observer Coach of the Year award, if it were up to him he would have done the honor for every runner on his squad.

Early on, victories were posted at the DeLaSalle and Traverse City invitationals. The Rocks went on to finish second both in the competitive KLAAs Central Division standings and conference championship meet.

Perhaps the highlight was Salem's runner-up finish at the D1 regional meet at Willow Metropark. Another noteworthy showing took place at the D1 finals as the Rocks placed 18th.

Moreover, Aspinall said every varsity runner ran a personal best either at the conference, regional or state championships.

In addition to the excellence displayed throughout the season, the team earned academic all-state honors with 35 of 49 members earning a grade-point average of 3.0 or better.

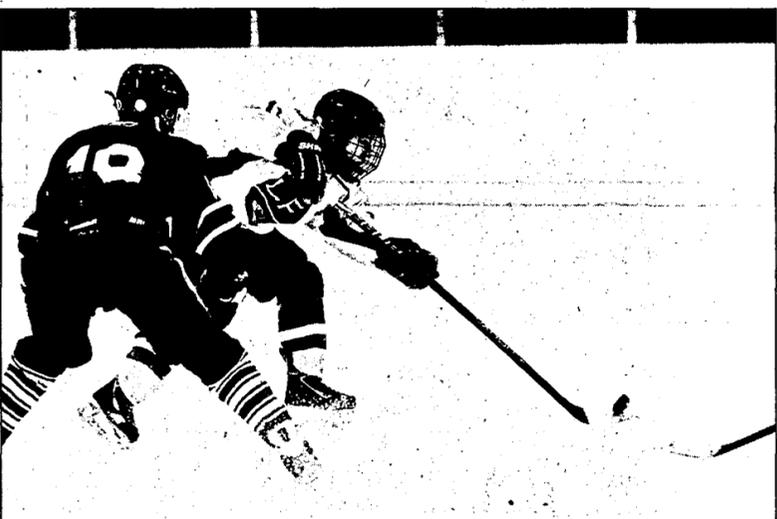
"We had a very successful year as a team and it was a direct result of the work that was put forth during the summer," Aspinall said. "We had around 25 guys there nearly every day for summer conditioning runs, led by the senior class."

"The 15 seniors will be dearly missed in the future, but we are confident some of the younger guys will step up to fill their shoes."

Aspinall added that the program keeps on growing and gaining competitive steam. He mentioned there were only 20 members on the 2009 team when McEvilly and others were freshmen.

"This year, we had 13 guys break 18:00, the most in school history," he continued. "We return eight of those guys next year."

Aspinall also will guide many of the runners in the spring during his first season as head coach of Salem's boys track and field team. Last season, the Rocks won the regional title. "It will be exciting to see if our success this fall can carry over to the track this spring," he said.



BILL BRESLER, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Franklin's Elijah Grimm (11) gets off a shot ahead of Walled Lake Western's Austin Morgan (18) during Friday's season opener at Edgar Arena.

HOCKEY

Continued from page B1

of-35 shots, while Western's Wes Raske made 24 saves.

"Matt played very well," Gagnon said. "I was pleased with him and his goaltending."

STEVENSON 5, NORTH-HARRISON 3: A quick first-period start catapulted Livonia Stevenson (1-0) to a victory Friday over North Farmington-Harrison (0-1) in the Metro Invitational at Novi Ice Arena.

The Spartans led 3-0 after 17 minutes on goals by Blake Battjes (from Alex Hunt and Jake Kierdorf); Travis Harvey (from Dominic Lutz and

Devin Kelly); and Lutz on a power play from Devin Kelly.

The Flyers cut the deficit to 3-2 on second-period goals by Kyle Witherspoon (from Austin Bottrell and Frank Zak) and Eamon Devlin (from Sean Devlin and Zak).

But Stevenson's Tyler Irvine answered with a short-handed goal with 2:55 left in the second to go back up by a pair of goals, 4-2.

Ryan Frazer then put it away with only 2:55 left in the third on assists from Ray Chartier and Tim Kelly.

Stevenson goaltender Connor Humitz stopped 17-of-19 shots, while the Flyers' Jacob Ponder made 30 saves.

"It was a good win to get for the season opener and it was good to see what we have to work on," Stevenson coach David Mitchell said.

Falcons flying high



LJAL FALCONS VARSITY 2012

On Nov. 3, the Livonia Junior Athletic League Falcons captured their fourth Western Lakes Junior Football League varsity title in five years with a 26-0 win over the Novi Bobcats at Eastern Michigan University's Rynearson Stadium. Members of the Falcons, who capped a 10-0 season, include: Collin Bowersox, J.R. Probst, Ben Cadoret, Terrell Cunningham, Devin Dunn, Andy Faith, George Ferguson, Taylor Garpow, Zachary Gase, Eric Grisa, Matt Harding, Aaron Hipshier, Ryan Kobel, Joseph Kubeshesky, Jack Lucas, Nick Madgwick, Nathan Micallef, Jack Mims, Dominic Petro, Benjamin Piccard, Nick Poulos, Alex Reeves, Scott Rushlow, Jonathan Schlack, Benjamin Sill, John Suiter, Chris Tanderlys, Nick Turner, Christian Vance, Collin Warra and Jamin Weber. The coach staff includes Fred Miller, Tom Gorski, Conny Micallef, Mike Wheeler and J.T. Regen.

GIRLS BASKETBALL CAPSULE OUTLOOK

LIVONIA CHURCHILL
Head coach: Matt McCowan, second year.
League affiliation: KLAAs Kensington (South Division).
Last year's overall record: 6-15.
Notable losses to graduation: Erin Menard (third-team All-Area); Cecile Hansen.
Leading returnees: Sydney Anderson, 5-8 Sr. G; Julia Szuba, 5-4 Sr. G (captain); Michelle Azar, 5-6 Sr. G.
Promising newcomers: Hannah Pummill, 5-11 Soph. F; Natalie Spala, 5-7 Soph. G.
McCowan's 2012-13 outlook: "The girls have put a lot of work into getting better over the summer and fall. Our best quality this season is the leadership our seniors bring on-and-off the court. They push the team each day and bring high energy to make practices fun and productive. The girls are hungry to compete and are willing to put in the time and work. We are not the biggest team in our division, but we are fast, tough, and play with heart."

LIVONIA FRANKLIN
Head coach: Jim Millican, first year.
League affiliation: KLAAs Kensington (South Division).
Last year's overall record: 1-20.
Notable losses to graduation: Alexis Smith, Jackie Shields.
Leading returnees: Katelynn Devers, 5-6 Sr. G (8 ppg); Natalie Modes, 5-5 Sr. G; Caitlin Millican, 5-3 Sr. G; Julie Magdowski, 5-8 Jr. G; Natalie Desautel, 5-6 Sr. G; Morgan Larkins, 5-9 Soph. F.
Promising newcomers: Amanda Sanders, 5-7 Jr. G; Jessica McNally, 5-10, Soph. F; Erin McNally, 5-10 Soph. C; Colleen Mandrinski, 5-3 Jr. G; Becky Giacobbi, 5-4 Soph. G; Stephanie Evans, 5-8 Jr. F; Sarah Cramton, 5-9 Soph. F.
Millican's 2012-13 outlook: "This will be a restart year for us. We have a good foundation to build on with our returning players. With seven new players we will need time to get to know each other. The underclassmen are working hard and we all will be working towards improving from last year."

LIVONIA STEVENSON
Head coach: Jen Knoph, fourth year.
League affiliation: KLAAs Kensington (Central Division).
Last year's overall record: 17-6.
Notable losses to graduation: Molly Knoph (second-team All-Area); Jorden York.
Leading returnees: Charlesann Roy, 6-0 Jr. F (third-team All-Area; 10.6 ppg; 5.2 rbs); Mara Murray, 5-10 Sr. F; Rachel Wilkinson, 5-9 Jr. G; Katelyn Foster, 5-10 Jr. G.
Promising newcomers: Uzoma Nawankwo, 6-2 Sr. F; Emily Mulcahy, 5-4 Jr. G.
Knoph's 2012-13 outlook: "We have the potential to be a very competitive team this year. Of course, have a lot of work to do to make that a reality. I'm very proud of the preseason work many of our athletes have put into getting themselves ready for this winter. Many of them have set high individual and team goals."

They all seem to understand roles that need to be filled in order to have a successful season."
WESTLAND GLENN
Head coach: Eric Kovatch, second year.
League affiliation: KLAAs Kensington (South Division).
Last year's overall record: 20-3.
Titles won last year: South Division, Kensington Conference and Association champions.
Notable losses to graduation: Joslyn Massey (first-team All-Area); Erica Covile (first-team All-Area); Abbey Wright.
Leading returnees: ShaKeya Graves, 5-8 Sr. G (second-team All-Area; 12 ppg); Kierra Jordan, 5-8 Sr. F (6 ppg, 8 rpg); Kaira Barnes, 5-4 Jr. PG; Micah Mecks, 5-7 Soph. G.
Promising newcomers: Raine Bankston, 5-7 Sr. G (transfer from Detroit Mumford); Raven Bankston, 5-7 Sr. G (transfer from Mumford); Diamond Jordan, 6-4 Soph. C; Kayla Horn, 5-6 Soph. G (transfer from Wayne Memorial); Lexus LeGardy, 5-10 Sr. F.

Kovatch's 2012-13 outlook: "We will be a guard heavy team. Our girls worked very hard during the summer and fall. The players and coaches are looking forward to a fun and exciting season. We don't have two 6-footers this year that are Division I ballplayers. It's definitely a different team than last year and we're excited."
WAYNE MEMORIAL
Head coach: Joyce Massey, first year.
League affiliation: KLAAs Kensington (South Division).
Last year's overall record: 6-15.
Notable losses to graduation: Holland Boertje, Tiara Childers, Jaylin Hammac.
Leading returnees: Ashley Bland, 5-8 Jr. G (second-team All-Area; 15.9 ppg); Quay Nichols, 5-10 Soph. F; Sarah Lovelady, 6-1 Jr. C; Bailey Hart, 5-11 Sr. F; Julia Johnson, 5-6 Sr. G.
Promising newcomers: Honia Williams, 5-6 Jr. G; Cherie Anderson, 5-8 Sr. F; Cierra Weaver, 5-8 Jr. F; Angella Baker, 5-7 Sr. G; Ashlé Erquhart, 5-5 Sr. G; Amija Freeman, 5-5 Sr. G; Cache Crowe, 5-3 Sr. G.
Massey's 2012-13 outlook: "Ashley Bland is our go-to right now. One thing I can say about the players is that they are sponges. You give them information, you work on things and they soak it up, so they get better every day. We're always progressing. We're short, but we're feisty. I'm not worried about rebounding, but at the first practice I saw we didn't have much height. We're going to be a defensive-oriented team looking to get steals and fast-break out of steals or rebounds. In the halfcourt we're going to be a motion-oriented team. What I'm bashing into their heads right

now is think the game of basketball. I like to have a smart team other than anything else where they can make adjustments without calling a timeout. Being in shape is extremely important. It's going to be interesting to say the least. I think a lot of people are underestimating us."

LIVONIA LADYWOOD
Head coach: Anthony Coratti, third year.
League affiliation: Catholic League (Central Division).



Andie Anastos Ladywood

Last year's overall record: 13-10.
Titles won last year: Class A district champs.
Notable losses to graduation: Briana Combs, Morgan Chops, Haley Walter.
Leading returnees: Andie Anastos, 5-9 Jr. PG (first-team All-Area; 12.5 ppg; 6.6 rpg, 4.5 assists); Kiley Gorski, 5-10 Sr. F (fourth-team All-Area; 11.3 ppg; 6.1 rpg); Sara Even, 5-8 Sr. G; Shelby Walsh, 5-7 Sr. G; Andria Giel, 5-7 Sr. G; Sara Wojnarowski, 5-8 Sr. G; Courtney Mercier, 5-3 Sr. G.
Promising newcomers: Haley Lawrence, 5-6 Jr. G; Rachel Donabedian, 5-7 Jr. F; Amber Riethmiller, 5-8 Soph. G; Molly McClorey, 6-0 Soph. F; Jessica Rosineau, 6-1 Soph. F (transfer from Northville); Cheryl Setlock, 5-6 Fr. G.
Coratti's 2012-13 outlook: "I am a firm believer in the saying, 'You're only as good as your seniors.' We have been blessed to have these seven kids in the program for four years, because not only do they all work extremely hard and are very competitive, but they are just great people who I want to see succeed. Having gotten to coach these kids over the last several years and watch them develop, I am extremely excited for this season to begin because I know we will compete and put forth great effort, which is really all you can ask for as a coach."

LIVONIA CLARENCEVILLE
Head coach: Brady Gustafson, second year.
League affiliation: Independent.
Last year's overall record: 6-15.
Notable losses to graduation: Lauren Katz.
Leading returnees: Ayanna Buckley, 6-0 Jr. F (fourth-team All-Area; 12.8 ppg); Ashley Murphy, 5-10 Sr. C; Mikala Kieling, 5-7 Jr. G; Jodi Ankiel, 5-6 Sr. G.
Promising newcomers: Erica Katz, 5-10 Jr. F; Christina Gould, 5-4 Sr. G; Kelsey Griffin, 5-4 Jr. G.

Gustafson's 2012-13 outlook: "We're returning four starters and are looking at one of our best squads in years. Buckley, who led the team in scoring, and Murphy, who led the team in blocks, rebounds and assists, look to lead the way again. Erica Katz will look to fill

the role left by her sister Lauren playing both inside and out. Returning guards Ankiel, who led the team in steals; Kieling who led the team in 'threes'; and Gould provide a solid back court rotation with good outside shooting skills. In addition to our returning starters, Kelsey Griffin, Tayla Heller, Summer Reddick, and Lindsey Fosth will provide depth and challenge for starting spots."

LUTHERAN WESTLAND
Head coach: Sandi Wade, third year.
League affiliation: Michigan Independent Athletic Conference (Red Division).
Last year's overall record: 15-9.
Titles won last year: Class D district champions.

Notable losses to graduation: Amanda Terranella (third-team All-Area); Taylor Wiemer, Erica Killian, Hannah Conley.
Leading returnees: Aldreanna Fikes, 5-9 Sr. F (fourth-team All-Area; 8.3 ppg, 10.2 rpg); Shannon Abbott, 5-3 Sr. PG; Alissa Flurry, 6-0 Sr. C; Chandler Davenport, 5-7 Sr. G; Marcella Flury, 6-0 Sr. F; Julia Yancy, 5-4 Jr. G.
Promising newcomers: Leah Refenes, 5-9 Jr. F; Madison Conley, 5-3 Jr. G; Angela Morrison, 5-7 Sr. G; Bethany Hoehn, 5-9 Fr. G.
Wade's 2012-13 outlook: "Coming off the school's first-ever regional final appearance, we have every high expectations for the program. We have a good mix of young and veteran players this season, which will allow us to be very competitive in our conference and throughout our season. We are going to be looking for some players to step up and fill the scoring void from losing Amanda Terranella to graduation. There are players that are capable of filling this void, and as they emerge, we will become better as a team. I am looking forward to another exciting year of Warrior basketball."

WESTLAND HURON VALLEY LUTHERAN

Head coach: Kris Ruth, 12th year.
League affiliation: Michigan Independent Athletic Conference (Red Division).
Last year's overall record: 3-16.
Notable losses to graduation: Paige Schmidt, Gabriel LeClerc.

Leading returnees: Megan Prieskorn, 5-8 Sr. F; Ana Gutierrez, 5-3 Sr. G; Dayna Schroeder, 5-9 Jr. F; Ashley Hower, 5-10 Jr. F; Sarah Setian, 5-6 Jr. G; Julie St. John, 5-7 Soph. F.
Promising newcomers: Brooke Kuehn, 5-5 Jr. G; Emma Bogenschutz, 5-9 Jr. F.
Ruth's 2012-13 outlook: "We return a quite a bit of playing experience from last year and have our sights set on improving our record from last year. We really want to pride ourselves in playing aggressive defense this year and use that to fuel our offense. I have seen some improvement in our perimeter shooting so far, so hopefully we can use that to our advantage this year. We don't have a very big bench this year, so we all have to be ready to play."

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HOOPS

Continued from page B1

"Raine's ball-handling is very good, it's probably the best aspect of her game. She's got a very nice shot. Raven just takes it to the hole — very, very strong — similar to Erica Covile last year."

Rebounding could be an issue for the Rockets, who lost their two best players up front in 6-footers Joslyn Massey (Purdue) and Covile (Temple).

"I think we're going to be OK," Kovatch said. "All of our girls are athletic. We have two 5-foot-8 to 5-foot-10 girls. We've got a sophomore 6-4 (Diamond Jordan) that is really coming around. Obviously we're going to be up and down the court. If there's one area that we do need to focus on is rebounding and boxing out."

Graves entertained offers from Marquette, St. John's and Eastern Michigan before settling on DePaul, a nationally-ranked program from the Big East.

"They're always good," Graves said of the Blue Demons. "They have the same style of play as me. They move fast and they're always ranked in the top 25 every year, and academically, too. I'll be a guard, probably playing the two or the three (position)."

Graves said the transition with the new players is going well.

"We actually kind of bonded," she said. "Everybody knows their roles. It should be good. I knew them before they even came here. It was easy. I played against them on different AAU teams. They bring good stuff. It makes the game easier to have players that can play with you."

Jordan, who averaged six points and eight rebounds, could be the biggest beneficiary.

"It's good, I'm actually looking forward to playing with them this year because they're both really good players," Jordan said of the Bankston twins. "It gives us more options on the court. We should be pretty well off with them this year."

"I'll actually be on the wing more and it will give me more of an opportunity to explore my talents."

When Mumford became part of the Education Achievement Authority, a new statewide system of schools apart from the DPS, the Bankston twins decided to look elsewhere.

"We did it so they could go to a better school," said Elsie Cooper, the twins' mother. "It was so different coming from there and moving out here. The school (Glenn) is so different, but it's better for me and for them out here. They know some of the girls. They like it. They love

it over here."

The new environment has been made easier by basketball.

"It's kind of hard, but I've adjusted to it," Raine Bankston said. "It's the schoolwork. I've adjusted to the basketball team better."

Raine believes she can adapt to a number of basketball roles, if needed.

"Either point guard, shooting guard, just a scorer, passer and defender," she said. "Everybody's good, all the guards. The whole team is good."

Added Raven: "It's a good choice because I knew half the girls on the John Glenn team."

"But it's been kind of hard because when we went to Mumford, we had to wear uniforms and buy whole new wardrobe because this high school doesn't have uniforms. It's just different — the work, the teachers and the whole environment, but I've adjusted to it well."

The Bankston twins, who also considered Oakland University and Grand Valley State, said they will miss the PSL.

"It was fun, it was intense," Raven said. "The crowds are live and energetic."

So how will it all fit together this season for the Rockets?

"If a guard rebounds, we can just start the fast break no matter who



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Stevenson spiker commits to Miami

Tomasic to join 2014 class

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

Even though it's a year away, help is on the way for the Miami of Ohio women's volleyball program.

Livonia Stevenson's stand-out 6-foot junior outside hitter and setter Katie Tomasic made a verbal commitment to the Red Hawks this week.

Tomasic, who helped Stevenson to a Class A district title this year and a regional crown in 2011, also considered Toledo and Bowling Green.

"When I made the visit I really loved the coaches and the campus," Tomasic said. "I chose Miami because it was the best fit for me. I just had the right feeling when I went to the campus. The coaches are so amazing and the whole team had a family atmosphere that I loved."

Miami is struggling this season with a 9-20 overall record, including 4-12 in the Mid-American Conference.

The Red Hawks signed three players to NCAA letters-of-intent for the 2013 season this week, while Tomasic will enter the

Oxford campus in 2014.

A first-team All-Observer pick and third-team All-State selection as a sophomore, Tomasic elevated her play in her just completed junior season by playing two different positions, including setter where she had 214 assist-to-kills.

She also had a team-best 510 kills and added 67 blocks to go along with 143 digs and 21 aces.

"I'm hoping that I can go in and be a part of this program and taking it to new heights," said Tomasic, who plays AAU in the offseason for the Ann Arbor-based A2 Volleyball Club. "It has a strong base. I just want to be able to go in and add to that."

Not only will Miami of Ohio be getting a solid player, they will also be getting an outstanding student as Tomasic carries a 4.4 grade-point average while taking advanced placement courses.

"I like the math and sciences, maybe something in kinesiology," Tomasic said of her potential college major.

bemons@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-6851



Stevenson's All-State volleyball player Katie Tomasic, a junior, will join Miami of Ohio's 2014 recruiting class.

CHARGERS

Continued from page B1

only 1:15 remaining as Misiak scored from Sexton after the Chargers pulled freshman goaltender Alec Calvarusso (23 saves).

But Churchill was unable to score the equalizer against netminder Nick Ramirez (24 saves) as the Trojans held on for the victory.

"We came from behind twice, which is a good sign for us," veteran Trenton coach Mike Turner said. "It's a new team trying to create its own identity. It's good that they played hard until the end."

"They (Churchill) were fast. I think they wore down a little bit toward the end, but they have good team speed and created a lot of opportunities early."

Quinn Preston led the Trojans with a pair of goals, while Phil Pugliese, Brad Teska and Andrew Sawyer added one each.

"Trenton is a solid team," Hatley said. "They're a typical Trenton team. We had some chances. We struggled in our own end at times, but we'll keep working at it. It's a long season. A lot can happen between now and the end of the year."

Reynolds, the ex-Plymouth assistant and former Livonia Stevenson High player, is scheduled to make his official coaching debut against his alma mater.

"We got Stevenson on Wednesday (Nov. 21), so that's a big game," Hatley said.

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SPORTS ROUNDUP

WYAA volleyball

Registration for Westland Youth Athletic Association volleyball is underway and will last through mid-November for the following age groups: 9-10 (freshman), 11-13 (JV) and 14-17 (varsity).

Cost is \$130 (includes volleyball jersey with neon colors, shorts and knee pads).

Practices begin in mid-November and matches start in early December.

You can register online at

wyaa.org. For more information, call Keith Demolay at (734) 722-1251 (leave a message).

Livonia wrestling

The Livonia Wrestling Club, a unified wrestling club serving Livonia and surrounding communities for grades K-8, will be from 6-7:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, Nov. 27 through March 28, at the Franklin High School wrestling room.

All coaches and volunteers

will be under direct supervision of the Franklin coaching staff.

Registration can be done at the first practice or throughout the season. The cost is \$100 (includes T-shirt and registration into My-Way).

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

MU softball camp

Madonna University will hold a series of winter softball

camps (ages 7-18) including:

Hitting - 9-11:30 a.m. (Session I) and noon to 2:30 p.m. (Session II), both on Saturday, Dec. 22 at the MU Activities Center. (The cost is \$30.)

Fundamentals (Camp I) - 8:30-11:30 a.m. Saturdays, Jan. 5, 12, 19 and 26;

Fundamentals (Camp II) - noon-2:30 p.m., Sundays, Feb. 3, 10, 17 and 24. (Cost for each is \$125 by Dec. 1; or \$150).

For more information, visit www.MadonnaCrusaders.com.

THE WEEK AHEAD

PREP HOCKEY

Wednesday, Nov. 21
Churchill vs. Stevenson
Franklin vs. Wat. Kettering
at Edgar Arena, 6 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 23
(Cranbrook Invitational)
Stevenson vs. G.P. South, 5 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 24
Cranbrook Invitational,
noon or 2:30 p.m.

MEN'S COLLEGE HOOPS

Tuesday, Nov. 20
Marygrove at MU, 7 p.m.
S'craft at Edison, 7:30 p.m.

WOMEN'S COLLEGE HOOPS

Tuesday, Nov. 20
Marygrove at MU, 5 p.m.
S'craft at Edison, 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 24
MU at Rochester Coll., 1 p.m.

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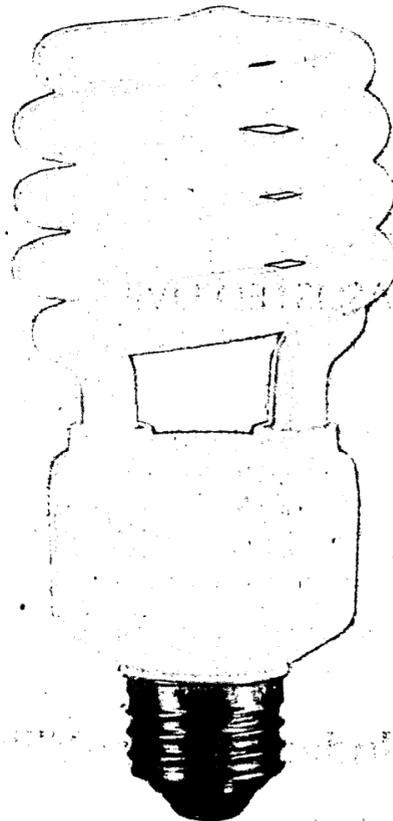
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Research on placebos could improve treatment testing

Are you resilient? A straightforward individual? Will you help others without expecting anything in return?

Those personality traits might do more than help you win a popularity contest. According to new University of Michigan-led neuroscience research, those qualities also might make you more likely to get pain relief from a placebo.

Researchers showed that it's not just your mind telling you the fake drug is working or not. Your brain's own natural painkiller chemicals may actually respond to the pain differently depending on your personality.

If you're more of an angry, hostile type, they find, a placebo won't do much for you.

For the first time, the new findings link specific, established personality traits with an individual's susceptibility to the placebo effect from a sham medicine for pain. The researchers showed a significant link between certain personality traits and how much relief people said they felt

when given the placebo, as well as the level of a specific chemical that their brains released.

The work was done by a team of U-M Medical School researchers and their colleagues at the University of North Carolina and University of Maryland.

The results build on nearly a decade's worth of work on the placebo effect by the team led by Dr. Jon-Kar Zubieta, M.D., Ph.D., the Phil Jenkins Professor of Depression in the U-M Department of Psychiatry, a professor in the Department of Radiology and a member of the Molecular and Behavioral Neuroscience Institute.

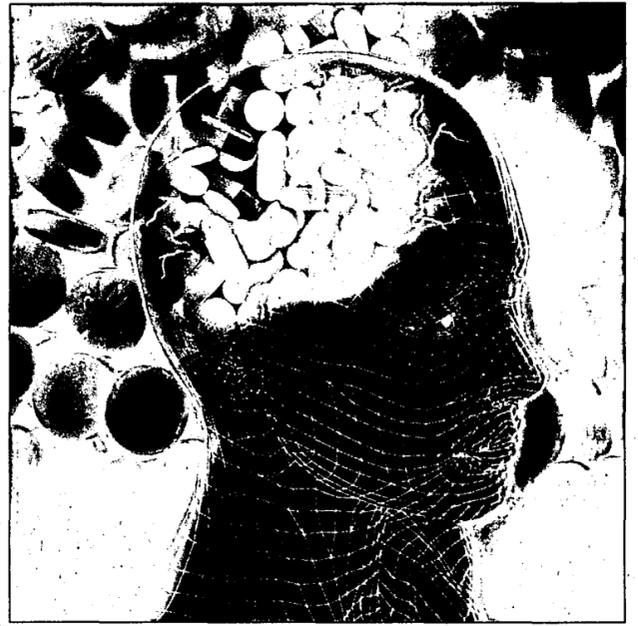
The findings show that about one-quarter of placebo response was explained by the personality traits of resiliency, straightforwardness, altruism or anger/hostility, as measured on standardized tests. Other personality traits didn't appear to be linked to placebo response. The new results come from a few dozen healthy volunteers, so the experiment must be repeated in

larger, more diverse groups to be confirmed.

If confirmed, the findings could help researchers who study new drugs and other treatments. Placebo responses can make it unclear if the treatment really works. In the future, researchers may be able to adjust their results to account for the individual placebo responses of volunteers in their clinical trials.

Zubieta noted that the new findings came from a study involving pain, but that it may also apply to how personality influences a person's response to other stress-inducing circumstances.

"We started this study not just looking at measures that might seem more obviously related to placebo responses, such as maybe impulsivity, or reward-seeking, but explored potential associations broadly without a particular hypothesis," he stated. "We ended up finding that they greatest influence came from a series of factors related to individual resiliency, the capacity to



withstand and overcome stressors and difficult situations. People with those factors had the greatest ability to take environmental information — the placebo — and convert it to a change in biology."

He and his team hope to continue the research in individuals with depression, and to continue to explore how genetics as well as personality influence placebo

response. He said that the findings may even have implications for the doctor-patient relationship. Patients who have certain personality traits and placebo-response tendencies also may be more likely to partner with their doctors on their care, and discuss concerns they have about their response to treatment.

Wellness class benefits diabetics

Jewish Family Service is offering a new free program called Wellness Empowers, to help adults with Type II diabetes live a healthier and happier life. The one-year program is designed for individuals who are low-income and could benefit from life coaching, as well as cooking, nutrition, stress reduction and exercise classes. The program concludes with a 5k family walk.

The organization seeks 100 individuals with Type II diabetes who fit the eligibility criteria to participate in the year-long program.

Adults with Type II diabetes who are interested in Wellness Empowers may call Linda Klein at (248) 592-2318 or e-mail to lklein@jfsdetroit.org.

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

November

ALZHEIMER'S AND ZUMBA

In observance of National Alzheimer's Month, Lenore Wengert will sponsor a ZUMBA event, 7 p.m., Friday, Nov. 30, at World of Pole, 32669 Warren Road, Suite 6, Garden City, to benefit the Alzheimer's Association. The cost is \$10 in advance, or \$15 at the door. For more information contact Wengert at (734) 765-5448 or Patty at the World of Pole at (734) 306-0909.

LUPUS SUPPORT

The Lupus Alliance of Michigan will hold a support group

meeting 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 28, at Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile, Livonia. Meetings are free and designed to assist people with lupus and their family and friends to get connected with one another, and to get a better understanding of this disease and how to fight it. For more information visit www.milupus.org, or call (800) 705-6677.

December

THYROID CANCER

Thyroid Cancer Support meets monthly and is free for all thyroid cancer patients and survivors as well as their family

and friends. Its next meeting is 7-8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 5 at 1641 Charlevoix Drive, Troy. For more information, contact Gwynne at (248) 515-0348. Or visit Thyca.org

Ongoing

AQUATIC CLASSES

The YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit and the Arthritis Foundation have partnered to offer aquatic classes designed to ease the pain of arthritis. Classes are held 11 a.m.-noon Tuesday and Thursday at the Farmington branch; 1-1:45 p.m. Monday and Wednesday at the Livonia branch; and 2-3 p.m.

Wednesday and Friday, at the Birmingham branch. All classes are offered to members and nonmembers of every age and participants do not need to know how to swim to participate. To join or for more information, interested individuals can contact their local YMCA branch or visit www.ymcadetroit.org.

ARTHRITIS SUPPORT

2-3:30 p.m. the third Thursday of the month at the Krieger Center, DMC Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, 1 William Carls Drive, Commerce. Enter the building via the South Garden entrance. Registration not required.

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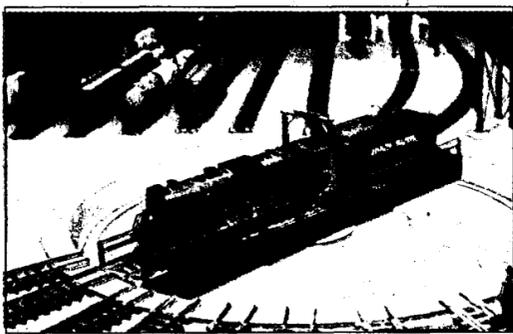
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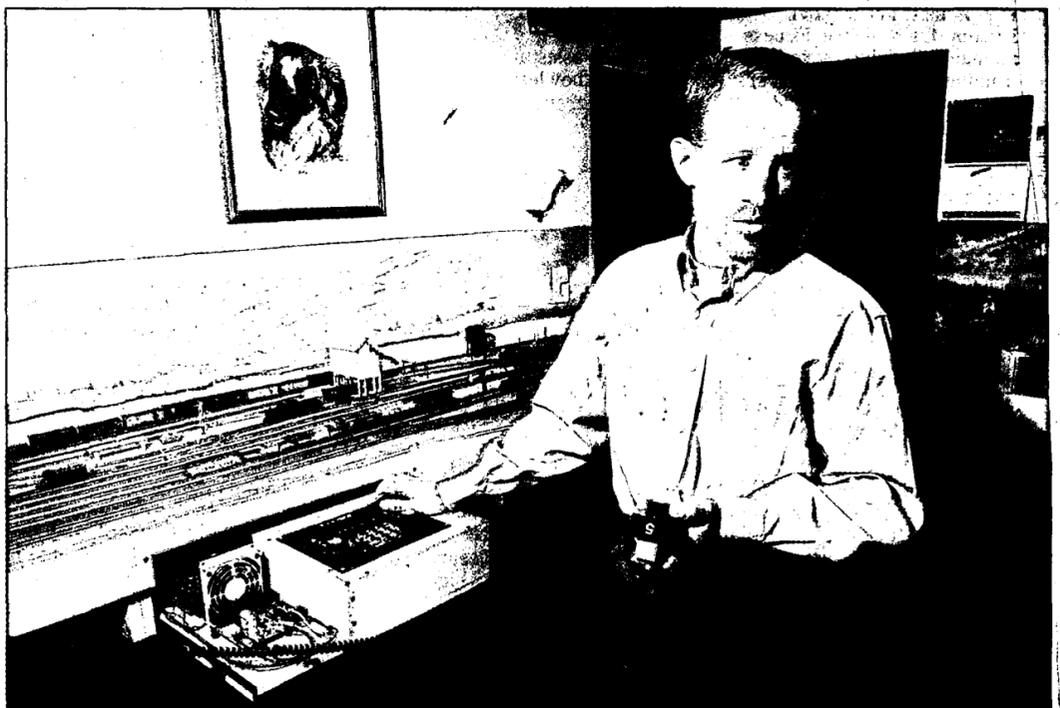
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A steam engine sits on a turntable in the rail yard.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Model railroad enthusiasts show their trains and tracks at Livonia show

By Sharon Dargay
 O&E Staff Writer

A steam engine sounded an audible "ch-ch-ch-ch-ch" and an occasional "who-who" as it clattered along the tracks in Ed Beamish's Livonia basement last week. Its headlight shone as the locomotive chugged out of Howell, skirted a Lilliputian-sized forest at Annpere, passed a lumberyard at Genoa Township, rounded the corner at Delray and cruised along Detroit's skyline, before stopping to let

another train move onto a siding. "It's my only engine that has sound on it," Beamish said, prodding the model train back into motion. "It's not common in this scale. They are just starting to come out with it." As a kid, Beamish woke up every Christmas morning to find his father's Lionel O scale train moving beneath decorated boughs in the family's Wixom home. He and his brother collected their own slightly smaller HO scale engines, cars

and tracks for their own layout, set on a 4-foot-by-8-foot plywood board. Today, at 42, Beamish still plays with trains, although his involvement is more sophisticated and the layout for his small N scale trains — which are powered by a digital controller — is more elaborate. It runs on two levels along the perimeter of an activity room in his basement and replicates portions of southeastern Michigan through painted scenery and model-sized buildings.

MODEL RAILROAD SHOW AND WORKSHOP

What: Model railroad displays by District 6 members of the North Central Region of the National Model Railroad Association
When: 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 25
Where: Civic Park Senior Center, located at 15218 Farmington Road, at Five Mile, in Livonia
Details: Demonstrations on power systems, scenery, structure building, kit building, backdrops, wiring, track laying tips, basic building techniques, video shows and operating model railroad layouts. Refreshments will be available. Attendees can participate in a raffle for many prizes of model railroad items, an open model railroad model contest and a "Build and Take" Clinic (\$3-\$5 fee) with help from master modelers
Admission: \$4 per person; children under 12 are admitted without charge
Contact: Mark Ellis: (734) 421-2673 or emark@sbcglobal.net

Upcoming show By day, Beamish, who is married and the father of two children, is a computer technician working on contract to Henry Ford Hospital. During

Please see ABOARD, B9

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Train-a-thon helps local nonprofit

CoreFit Fitness owner and personal trainer, Rod Dowdell will lead an endurance and fundraising event to benefit Wayne County Family Center, beginning at 6 a.m. Dec. 9, at his studio in Novi.

Extreme Train-A-Thon Fitness Challenge will include seven days of training, with the last 48 hours nonstop. Dowdell will train 90-100 clients continuously and without rest during the final two days of the fundraiser.

All proceeds from the sessions will buy gifts and fulfill the wish list for homeless children at the Wayne County Family Center. Dowdell plans to hand deliver gifts to as many children as he can on Christmas day.

The Wayne County Family Center program matches needy families with "services, providing transitional shelter for homeless families." It welcomes two-parent families, single mothers or fathers with children and pregnant women. It also offers assistance to help clients after they leave the shelter.

Dowdell grew up in an environment with no positive associations at the holidays. He received no gifts as a child.

"This personal pain and disconnection with the holidays is something that I do not want any child to have to experience and so I'm on a mission to change the lives of as many children and families as I can with the talents and skills I have

developed as a personal trainer," he said, in a press release. "If pushing myself physically and mentally to the extreme to train 90 to 100 clients for seven days, the last 48 hours of their non-stop, can make a difference in people's lives for the holidays, I'm going make it happen. It's nothing compared to what many people at the Wayne County Family Center are going through."

Individuals can participate in his Extreme Train-A-Thon Fitness Challenge to benefit Wayne County Family Center by signing up for an hour-long training session from Dec. 9-16. Cost is \$60. Call (248) 943-7179, or e-mail to trainerrod@corefitness.com. CoreFit Fitness is located at 22807 Heslip Drive.

Plymouth arts council offers drum classes

The Plymouth Community Arts Council (PCAC) is registering students for its January 2013 drum lessons.

Pat Paul Sorise will teach two sections of four-week drum classes at the PCAC's Artsco-House, located next door to the Council, 774 Sheldon, Plymouth.

Intro to Rhythm & Drumming is aimed at ages 5-7 and will run 4:30-5 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 9, 16, 23 and 30, 2013. Cost is \$50 for

members and \$60 for non-members. Classes will introduce students to holding drum sticks, drum rudiments, how to count and play quarter and eighth notes and will introduce the drum set.

Drum Set 100, for ages 13-adult, will run 5:15-6 p.m., also on Wednesdays in January 2013. Cost is \$64 for members and \$74 for non-members. Classes will include information about drums and cymbals, show how to hold the sticks, teach

wrist and hand techniques and basic foot patterns, as well as counting, measures, time signatures and different tempos. Students will play the full drum set.

Sorise studied at East Detroit Conservatory under Ray Parker. He continued to drum through junior and high school and then attended Eastern Michigan University and played with various bands. Sorise has taught classes at Apollo Music in

Ann Arbor, Drum Shop in Dearborn and East Detroit Conservatory. For more than 30 years, he has taught privately for students in Lenawee and Washtenaw counties, as well as in Ohio. He also plays in the band All Directions, which performs at concerts, clubs and private parties.

For more information or to register for the drum classes, call the PCAC at (734) 416-4278; www.plymoutharts.com.

Healthful holiday fare



Kelli Marquette (left) of Northville and Amber Bayer of Livonia served "Mindy's Marvelous (a lacto-ovo vegetarian recipe) Meatballs," vegan roasted garlic mashed potatoes, green beans and double-layer vegan pumpkin cheesecake at Better Living Seminar's recent annual Vegetarian Holiday Tasting Extravaganza in Plymouth. Better Living also will sponsor A Christmas Potluck on Saturday, Dec. 8, at 15585 Haggerty Road, Northville Township. For information, call (734) 420-3131 or (734) 420-4044.

ABOARD

Continued from page B8

his spare time he works on his train layout, sometimes enlisting the help of other model enthusiasts. He's also a member of the District 6 chapter of the North Central Region of the National Model Railroad Association (NMRA). He'll be on hand when the District, which covers Wayne County, presents its fall show, Sunday, Nov. 25, at the Civic Park Senior Center in Livonia.

Beamish said the event is designed for demonstrations only — it's not a swap meet — and aims to muster interest in model railroading.

"We'll have people who are displaying all the different scales. That roundhouse has been built strictly at the shows," he said, referring to a portion of his own layout. "I bring that every year to the show and build a little more on. It's strictly scratch built, so I'm showing people, if they come several years, how I'm building it."

Visitors will see everything from kit construction to wiring to power systems and more.

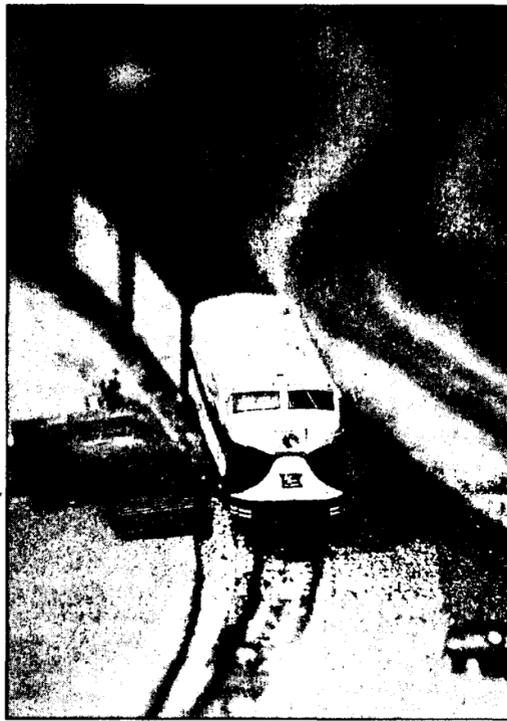
"It's to show people this is the hobby, this is what it's all about. It's more than just collecting stuff. You can actually make stuff and turn it into art, history."

Recalling his childhood

Beamish has researched the Pere Marquette Railroad in addition to modeling it, along with the Pennsylvania, Wabash and Ann Arbor systems. He focused on the Pere Marquette because its tracks went through Wixom — and interchanged there, with the Grand Trunk line — when he was a boy. However, by that time in its history, the Pere Marquette already had become a part of the Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad, which is now CXS Railroad.

"Some people don't do as much research and some people do way more. There is a gentleman in our division who took 10 years to figure out all his research. Finally, his wife said either you build it or you don't," Beamish said, adding, "He built it."

Because the Pere Marquette is less popular than some other railroads



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A diesel engine sits on a rail spur.

among modelers, pieces sometimes are more difficult to find. Beamish often acquires engines that bear the names of other systems and then repaints them. He aims for historical accuracy in the scenery and buildings

that help reproduce history in small scale in his basement.

"I like history. And it's fun. Sitting down and putting stuff together, painting, it takes your mind out of the every day. You break free from everything and just relax."

Although some modelers simply enjoy creating layouts and then tearing them down just to rebuild again, Beamish has been working on his display since 2004.

"Now I'm building it to look good," he said, adding that "Operating it is going to be part of the fun."

For more information about model railroading, visit the National Model Railroad Association website at www.nmra.org.



A steam engine pulls a train on the main line, next to the yard.

Milestones



Charles and Sharon Falk of Redford

50th wedding anniversary

Charles and Sharon (Husted) Falk of Redford marked their 50th wedding anniversary Nov. 17. The couple married in 1962 at Guardian Angels Church, in Manistee.

They have four children: Tim and Shari (Hoard) Falk of Mesa, Ariz., Tammy (Falk) and Darin Engle of Livonia, Michelle Falk of Redford, and Michael and Beth (Hagen) Falk of Northville. They also have 8 grandchildren.

Charles is a retired machinist who formerly worked at Michigan Tool, XLO and Gehring.

Sharon, also retired, formerly worked at Van Brocklin's, Dahl's, and Kmart.

They now enjoy travel and spending time in



Sharon and Charles Falk on their wedding day in 1962.

northern Michigan. They celebrated their milestone anniversary with family in Greettown in Detroit.



Leonard and Carol Michaels

Siblings celebrate anniversaries

Brother and sister, Leonard Michaels and Nancy Novak, their spouses and family members, recently celebrated their wedding anniversaries together at a dinner.

William and Nancy Novak of Livonia marked their 30th wedding anniversary Oct. 23. They were married in 1982.

Leonard and Carol Michaels of West Bloomfield marked their 50th wedding anniversary on



Nov. 3. They were married in 1962 and have two children, Robert and Kelly. They also have two grandchildren, Michael, 12, and Sara, 11. They have plans for a cruise

GARDEN & NATURE

Send garden and nature information and photos to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com.

Plymouth Nursery

• Santa will be on hand 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Nov. 23-25 and weekends through Dec. 9 at Plymouth Nursery, 9900 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth. Customers can pose for a free photo with Santa, visit a petting farm, campfire and enjoy refreshments. A percentage of proceeds from the sale of fresh-cut trees and wreaths will benefit the Make A Wish Foundation.

• Girls Night Out will run 6-8 p.m. Nov. 30. The first 50 women will receive a free goody bag. The event will include ven-

dors, door prizes, sales and fun. Call (734) 453-5500 for more information.

English Gardens

The store is accepting donations to provide fresh-cut Christmas trees to US troops and military families. For each \$30 donation, English Gardens will give one tree to a military base in the US or overseas.

• A fundraiser for THAW, the Heat & Warmth Fund, will run 5-8:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 29 at the Royal Oak store and will include demonstrations in LED holiday lighting, decorating tips, visits with Santa, family and pet photos with Santa, live music, pizza, hot chocolate and cookies. Tickets are

\$15 per family (maximum six individuals) in advance and \$20 at the door. Each family will receive a \$10 English Gardens coupon. All ticket sale proceeds will benefit THAW. Get tickets in advance at www.englishgardens.com.

• Make a Christmas floral arrangement at a "Make It and Take It Workshop" at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 13 at stores in Dearborn Heights, Royal Oak and West Bloomfield.

Area stores are at 155 N. Maple, Ann Arbor, (734) 332-7900; 22650 Ford Road in Dearborn Heights, (313) 278-4433; 4901 Coolidge Highway, Royal Oak, (248) 280-9500; and 6370 Orchard Lake Road, in West Bloomfield; (248) 851-7506.

REUNIONS

FARMINGTON HARRISON

CLASS OF 1982

7 p.m.-1 a.m., Saturday, Nov. 24, at Uptown Grille, in Commerce Township; www.hhs1982alumni.info

LIVONIA BENTLEY ALL CLASSES

Class of 1972 will celebrate its 40th reunion, Friday, Nov. 23 at the Marriott Hotel - Laurel Park, in Livonia and invites all Bentley alumni to the party. Steve King and the Dittilies

will entertain. For information about the event and to register, e-mail the reunion committee at Bentley72@QPA.US.COM

LIVONIA CHURCHILL

CLASS OF 1982

30-year reunion 7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 24, in Livonia. For information or to register contact Sharon at (734) 261-3264 or e-mail rsculbert@sbcglobal.net.

Milestones

Chau-Brown

Melinda Chau and Bernard Patrick Brown announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be is the daughter of Han and Sy Chau of Dearborn Heights. Melinda graduated from Michigan State University in 2007 with a B.A. degree in advertising. She is employed by Universal McCann.

Her fiancé, son of Patrick and Jane Brown of Farmington, earned his B.S. degree in mechanical engineering from Michigan State University in 2005. He currently is working on his MBA from Michigan State University and will graduate in April of 2013. He is



employed by Toyota. A June 2013 wedding is planned at St. Kenneth's church in Plymouth Township.



Clark-Musleh

Shelley Elizabeth Clark and Nathan Eyad Musleh are happy to announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Jim and Dawn Clark of Plymouth, graduated in 2011 from Eastern Michigan University and now works for Blue Horseshoe Network as the office manager.

Her fiancé, son of Mike and Catherine Musleh of Canton, graduated from Kettering University in 2011 and now works as an engineer at Ford Motor Company.

After dating for nine years, Nathan proposed in Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth, where the couple first met.

They bought their first home together in Plymouth and look forward to sharing their lives as newlyweds after their September 2013 nuptials at Tollgate Farm in Novi.

RELIGION CALENDAR

Send items for the religion calendar to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com.

November

BOOK SIGNING

Time/Date: Noon-3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 24

Location: A. Mateja Church Supply, 30762 Ford Road, Garden City

Details: Pro-life activist Monica Migliorino Miller will sign her book, "Abandoned." The book is a first-hand account of the pro-life movement and includes stories of victory and defeat in sidewalk counseling, a look at the inner-workings of abortion facilities, and more. The book will be available for \$22, a discounted price

Contact: (734) 513-2950

BREAKFAST

Time/Date: 8:30-11:30 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 18

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

Details: All-you-can-eat pancake, French toast, scrambled eggs, applesauce, ham, sausage, coffee, tea and milk. Adults pay \$3; children, 2-10, pay \$1.50. Sponsored by St. Theodore Men's Club

Contact: (734) 425-4421

CLOTHING BANK

Time/Date: 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 24

Location: Canton Christian Fellowship Clothing Bank, 41920 Joy, between Lilley and Haggerty, Canton

Details: Free clothing and shoes to anyone in need

Contact: (734) 927-6686 or (734) 404-2480

CONCERT:

Time/Date: 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 25

Location: Zion Lutheran Church, located at Woodward Ave., and Albany, south of Nine Mile, in Ferndale

Details: Twelfth Night

Singers, an a capella choral group, will present its Christmas concert. The singers, under the direction of Mimi Gass, will perform secular and sacred works, including several celebrating the joy and cheer of the Christmas season. A free-will offering will be taken. The group, now numbering 39 voices, was founded in 1980. Members perform in Renaissance costume at churches, for service agencies and institutions

Contact: (248) 544-4631

THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 21

Location: Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, located at 12 Mile and Farmington Road in Farmington Hills

Details: The church invites the community to attend this Thanksgiving Day eve service

Contact: (248) 553-3380

THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 21

Location: Lola Park Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford

Details: The Rev. Gregory Gibbons will preach on the theme "Pray, Praise and Give Thanks"

Contact: (313) 532-8655 or (734) 968-3523

December

CONCERT

Time/Date: 4 p.m. Dec. 9

Location: St. Aidan, 17500 Farmington Road, north of Six Mile, Livonia

Details: 31st annual concert featuring the St. Aidan Adult and Children's Choirs, and the St. Aidan Contemporary Ensemble. Minimum donation is \$5, along with two non-perishable food items. All proceeds will go toward food baskets for the needy

Contact: (734) 425-5950

Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

How to reach us: 1-800-579-7355 • fax 313-496-4968 • oeobits@hometownlife.com

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

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BALDWIN, MICHAEL JAMES

Age 50, went to be with the Lord on Sunday November 4, 2012 after a two year battle with Melanoma. Michael is survived by his life partner Danton Adair; his parents Claire and Linda Baldwin, siblings, Carl and Carol (Baldwin) Pistolesi, John and Trisha Baldwin, David and Jacqueline Baldwin, along with nieces and nephews and many loved family members. Visitation at:

St. Patrick's Catholic Church 411 Rickett Rd., Brighton, MI on November 26, 10 a.m. Mass at 10:30 a.m. Donations to Shelter To Home www.shelbertohome.com would be appreciated.



EMERSON, JANET M.

Age 68, November 1, 2012 of Bloomfield Hills, MI. Janet was the loving wife of Arthur for 48 years; the beloved mother of Todd (Rosemary) and Lisa Emerson; and dear grandmother of Caitlin and Andrew Emerson. Sister of Joanne (Kevin) Zaner. Daughter of the late William and Olga Prew and sister of the late William Prew, Jr. A Memorial Service will be held at Kirk in the Hills, Bloomfield Hills on November 30, 2012, at 11am. In Lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorials may be made to either the

Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation International (jdrf.org) or the National Kidney Foundation. Please share memories at: www.cremationmichigan.com



KEARNEY, FAYE (MORGAN-TISON)

Age 82, went home to be with the Lord on November 14, 2012. Beloved wife of the late Thomas Kearney. Former wife of the late John Tison. Loving mother of Deborah Rodriguez, Craig Tison, Pamela "Summer" (Cas) Ploski and Scott Tison. Dear grandmother of Raquel, Rudy John, Ramiro, Ruth (David), Philip, Stephen (Ashley), Lydia (Kevin), Mark (Courtney), Deborah, Adam and Benjamin. Great grandmother of Lana, Shaileen, Houston and Penelope. Sister of Eugenia "DeeDee" (John) Holmes, Gary (Beverly) Morgan, Alice (Bob) Pratt, Carol (John) Bul, and the late Constance (Jack) Schneider and Dennis (Gloria) Morgan. Visitation at the R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home, 15451 Farmington Rd., Livonia, Sunday from 2 - 9 pm and at Alpha Baptist Church, 28051 W. Chicago, Livonia, Monday from 10 am until Funeral Service at 11 am. Share your thoughts and memories at: www.rggharris.com.



ROBERTS, MARY (nee. Maynard)

November 14, 2012. Longtime resident of Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills. Loving wife of the late William E. Caring mother of Bill Jr. (Ann), Mindy, John (Julie), Heidi Brandewie (Doug). Cherished grandmother of Jenny Cailteux (Andy), Bill III (Julie), Andrew and Matt Brandewie, Jack and Michael. Devoted great grandmother of Tyler and Brady Cailteux and Will Roberts. Services will be held privately. In lieu of flowers family suggests memorial tributes to The Epworth Church Association, Youth Activities, 1161 N. Lakeshore Dr., Ludington, MI 49431. A.J. Desmond & Sons 248-549-0500.

View obituary and share memories at DesmondFuneralHome.com A.J. DESMOND & SONS

TINNEY, PATRICIA (SLOAN)

Age 66, died in Texas October 28th. Pat was the loving mother of Mario Tinney and Janelle Grimes and grandma to Savannah, Colby, Delaney, and Bianca. Pat's faith, creative talents and outgoing personality were vividly expressed in all she did. She enjoyed chocolate, cooking, and entertaining. Her attitude towards life... Eat dessert first. Pat graduated from Redford Union High School in 1964, where she was active in theater and music. She received her Bachelor's Degree from the University of Detroit. Pat was a writer, motivational speaker, and media specialist. She served as Redford's deputy treasurer, then video producer for Redford Union schools. She later worked at the L.A. Times and Unity Village Church. Pat retired as Associate Editor of the Daily Word Magazine. She was preceded in death by parents Wallace Sloan and Florence Sloan Burke, brother Warren Sloan. Pat, the eternal optimist, fought bravely and tirelessly against complex medical problems. Memorial service: Dec 1st, Unity Village, Missouri. Her family suggests donations to saintlukesgiving.org or the pet rescue furrykidsrefuge.org

LAWTON, SPENCER, MARGARET E.

Saline, MI (Formerly of West Bloomfield, MI). Age 94, passed away on Tuesday, November 5, 2012 at the Saline Evangelical Home. She was born April 6, 1918 in Windsor, Ontario Canada, the daughter of George and Ethel (Richardson) Lawton. She married Carleton B. Spencer and he preceded her in death in 1987. Margaret was a Teacher at Kingswood School for 30 years. Survivors include her daughter, Alayne Spencer Evans (Mark Evans), her son Jay Lawton Spencer and two grandchildren Aryn Evans Sothbarr and Ian Evans. Graveside services were held on Thursday, November 15, 2012 at 2:00 P.M. at Pine Lake Cemetery, W. Bloomfield, MI. Memorial contributions may be made to Kingswood-Cranbrook Schools in her name. Arrangements entrusted to the Robison - Bahnmiller Funeral Home, Saline. To leave a memory, for more information or for directions please visit: www.rbfhsaline.com.



FISHER, MARGARET O.

November 5, 2012, Age 81 of Plymouth. Cherished wife of Eugene A. "Gene" Fisher. Loving mother of David (Jeanne) Fisher of Brownstown, Michigan and the late Stephen J. Fisher. Proud grandmother of Charles D. (Melanie) Fisher of Pasadena, California, Richard P. (Audrey) Fisher of Boulder, Colorado and Margaret G. Fisher of Ann Arbor, Michigan. Great-grandmother of Penelope "Penny" and Jack Fisher both of Pasadena, California. Dear sister of O. James (Ann) Owen of South Carolina. Mrs. Fisher attended the University of Illinois. Margaret was a long-time member of P.E.O. Chapter A.U., she was also involved with the Friends of the Plymouth District Library, Plymouth Community Arts Council, and the Perdido Bay United Methodist Church of Pensacola, Florida. She was a former member of the Nomads Travel Club, with whom she and her husband traveled the world. Memorial Service will be held Sat 11 AM at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 46401 W. Ann Arbor Rd., (btwn Sheldon & Beck) Plymouth with a gathering from 10-11 AM. Memorial contributions may be made to Angela Hospice. To share a memory, please visit vermeulenfuneralhome.com

GRUBBS, PAMELA JUNE

Age 57, of Westland, November 11, 2012. Beloved mother of Rhonda Nestor, Randy (Toby) Grubbs, Tiffany (Jason) Hamlett, Jeremiah Brooks and Christiane Brooks. Loving grandmother of Brittney, Dominick, Dominique, Tabitha, Dakota, Joseph, Brennan, Jarrett, Trent, Jason and Keagan. Dearest sister of Emily Brock. She was preceded in death by her parents, William and Ruth Berkey and her sister, Vicky Berkey. Funeral service is Sunday, 1PM, at Michigan Memorial Funeral Home, (next to Michigan Memorial Park) 30895 Huron River Dr., Huron Twp., 734-783-2646. Visitation was Friday, 6-8PM and Saturday, 12-8PM. www.michiganmemorialfuneralhome.com

WASSELL, WILLARD "BUD"

Age 79, November 9, 2012. Beloved husband of Ann for 54 years. Loving father of Thomas (Cindy) Wassell and Tracy (Jim) Favaro. Dear grandfather of Roy and Daniel, Josh, Coley and Bethany. Bud was a retired supervisor at Rouge Steel and enjoyed spending time with family and watching sports. Visitation at Mt. Hope Congregational Church, 30330 Schoolcraft Rd., Livonia, Saturday from 10 a.m. until time of Memorial Service at 11:30 a.m. Memorials contributions may be directed to Residential Hospice. Please share a memory at www.rggharris.com.



BONNICI CHARLES

Born February 1st, 1954 - passed away November 9th, 2012. Charlie succumbed to renal cancer at 58 years young in Las Vegas, Nevada. He was raised by his parents Charlie and Tessie Bonnici in Livonia, Michigan with his six brothers and sisters. Charlie married Jeri Bennett in 1977 and went on to have four children. Throughout his life in Michigan, Charlie enjoyed such things as horse racing, bowling, car-racing in the NHRA, and coaching little league football. Charlie and his family relocated to Las Vegas, Nevada in 1996, where he came to work with his brother Tony and extended family at Lotus Broadcasting as an advertising executive. He loved Snowballs, Orange Crush, and not eating vegetables! Charlie was survived by his wife, Jeri, daughters, Christine, Stephanie (Corey) and Jackie, son, Jared, grandson, Griffin and the brightest light in his life, his granddaughter Haven. Charlie was also survived by his mother, Theresa, brothers, Bill, Tony (Linda) and Eric, sisters Jane (Walt), Dee and Margie. Charlie will be missed by all whose lives he touched. There will be a celebration of life service held on Friday November 23, 6pm at Burton Manor in Livonia. If you wish to attend please contact the family at bonnici0212@gmail.com.



CHURCHILL, MARILYN

November 15, 2012, age 86. Beloved wife of the late Winston for 64 years. Dear mother of Melody Lepley, Perry Churchill, and Winston Churchill II (Gloria). Past President and Secretary of several philanthropic clubs including the Federation of Women's Clubs of Metropolitan Detroit, and Girl Scouts of Southeastern Michigan. Marilyn also served as Deacon and Elder of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church. Sister of Wanda Meredith and the late DeForrest Gilbert. Visitation MANN'S-FERGUSON FUNERAL HOME 17000 Middlebelt Road (South of Six Mile Road) on Sunday, 12 Noon to 7:00 pm. In State on Monday, 10:30 a.m. until time of Services, 11 a.m. at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church 27475 Five Mile Road (one block West of Inkster Road), in Livonia. Share a memory www.mannsfuneralhome.com

DEO, THELLEN

Born June, 1, 1923. 89 years old, passed away at Garden City Hospital on October 26, 2012. Preceded in death by husband, Edwin Deo, a builder in the City of Wayne. Cremation by Uht's Funeral Home, Wayne, Michigan. No services were held.

ROSS, LOIS MAXINE

Jan. 26, 1915 ~ Nov. 11, 2012 Of Redford and Northville. Husband, J. Ronald Ross. Services by Walker Funeral Home, IN.



MESLER, MICHAEL ROY

November 14, 2012 Age 60 of Wayne. Loving husband of Julie. Beloved father of Krystal Mesler, Leah (John) Houghton, Trisha Mesler, Jason Patterson, Cyndi (Steve) White, Steven (Jamie) Jones and James Jones. Proud "Papa/Papa Mike" of eleven. Dear brother of Terry (Celia), Richard (Michelle), Sheree (John), Scott (Ann) and Jodie (Chris). Also survived by many nieces and nephews. Funeral Sunday 1:00 PM at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 980 North Newburgh Road (between Ford Road and Cherry Hill) Westland. Visitation Saturday 2-9 PM. Memorials may be made to Henry Ford Hospice. To share a memory, please visit vermeulenfuneralhome.com

PORTER, OLIVE V.

Age 87, of Farmington Hills, MI, passed Nov. 14, 2012. Thayer-rock Funeral Home, Farmington.

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Ruth Plew
10/27/1911 ~ 11/6/2012

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 Saturday, November 24, 6-7pm
 Live Acapella Holiday Music!
 Bring a toy for Toys for Tots and receive a \$5 restaurant gift card*! **while supplies last*



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734.284.8083
- WATERFORD DIGITAL CINEMA 16**
7501 Highland Road | Waterford, MI 48327
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THE BLACK FRIDAY

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 19TH!

2013 FOCUS SE FWD
MSRP: \$20,090³

MPG²:

CITY
28
HIGHWAY
38



\$149 PER MONTH LEASE
For 24 months for current A/Z plan lessees! \$1,189 Cash Due at Signing
Security deposit waived. Taxes, title and license fees extra.

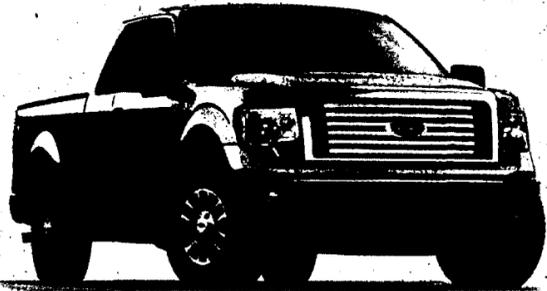
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0% FINANCING FOR 60 MONTHS

OR

\$2,895 IN TOTAL CASH ALLOWANCE⁶

2012 F-150 SUPERCAB XLT 4X4
MSRP: \$39,185³



\$199 PER MONTH LEASE
For 24 months for current A/Z plan lessees! \$2,436 Cash Due at Signing
Security deposit waived. Taxes, title and license fees extra.

OR

0% FINANCING FOR 60 MONTHS

PLUS \$2,000 TOWARD YOUR TRADE-IN⁵

2013 TAURUS SEL FWD
MSRP: \$30,395³



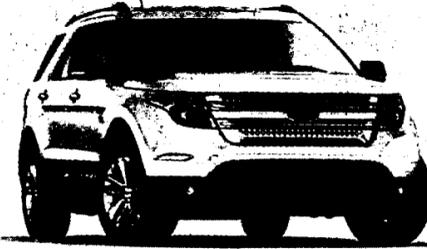
\$219 PER MONTH LEASE
For 24 months for current A/Z plan lessees! \$2,253 Cash Due at Signing
Security Deposit Waived. Taxes, title and license fees extra.

MPG²:

CITY
19
HIGHWAY
29

- 3.5L Ti-VCT V-6 Engine
- MyKey™ • Perimeter Anti-theft Alarm
- AdvanceTrac® with Roll Stability Control™
- Sync with Traffic, Directions and Information
- Dual-Zone Electronic Automatic Temperature Control

2013 EXPLORER XLT FWD
MSRP: \$36,140³



\$239 PER MONTH LEASE
For 24 months for current A/Z plan customers! \$1,402 Cash Due at Signing
Security Deposit Waived. Taxes, title and license fees extra.

MPG²:

CITY
17
HIGHWAY
24

- 3.5L Ti-VCT V-6 Engine
- Sync with My Ford Touch
- Reverse Sensing System
- Rear View Camera • Trailer Sway Control
- AdvanceTrac® with Roll Stability Control™

2013 FUSION SE FWD
MSRP: \$24,495³



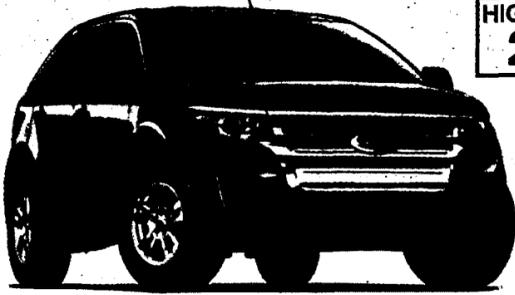
\$219 PER MONTH LEASE
For 24 months for current A/Z plan lessees! \$1,716 Cash Due at Signing
Security Deposit Waived. Taxes, title and license fees extra.

MPG²:

CITY
22
HIGHWAY
34

- 2.5L Duratec I-4 Engine
- SYNC® With MyFord® Voice-Activated Communications and Entertainment System
- SIRIUS XM Satellite Radio
- AdvanceTrac® with Roll Stability Control™

2013 EDGE SE FWD
MSRP: \$29,600³



\$199 PER MONTH LEASE
For 24 months for current A/Z plan lessees! \$2,032 Cash Due at Signing
Security Deposit Waived. Taxes, title and license fees extra.

MPG²:

CITY
19
HIGHWAY
27

- 3.5 Ti-VCT V6 Engine
- 6-Speed Automatic Transmission
- AdvanceTrac® with Roll Stability Control™
- AM/FM Stereo/Single CD-Player with MP3 Capability • Personal Safety System
- 18" Painted Aluminum Wheels

2013 ESCAPE SE FWD
MSRP: \$26,335³



\$199 PER MONTH LEASE
For 24 months for current A/Z plan customers! \$1,540 Cash Due at Signing
Security Deposit Waived. Taxes, title and license fees extra.

MPG²:

CITY
23
HIGHWAY
33

- 1.6L EcoBoost I-4 Engine
- 6-speed SelectShift Automatic® Transmission
- AdvanceTrac® with Roll Stability Control™
- SiriusXM Satellite Radio with 6-Month Prepaid Subscription • SYNC® Voice-Activated Communications and Entertainment system

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Ten things to do after the interview How to keep the momentum going

Beth Braccio Hering,
Special to CareerBuilder

The interview may be over, but your chance to make an impression is not. Here are ten strategies to continue boosting your employment candidacy.

1. Show that you're still interested.

Leave no doubt in the interviewer's mind about where you stand. Ask for the job at meeting's end with a phrase such as, "I would really like to contribute to this company and am hoping you select me." Also, don't leave the room without a clear idea of what will happen next in the hiring process. Will select applicants be invited back to meet other people? By what date do they hope to fill the position? Such questions demonstrate enthusiasm for the job, and knowing the hirer's time frame will help keep you from panicking if a week has passed without a phone call.

2. Set the stage for further contact.

Nobody wants to be a pest, but could your silence as days pass be misinterpreted as indifference? Avoid the guesswork by finding out before heading home what the employer prefers in terms of checking in. Lizandra Vega, author of "The Image of Success: Make a Great Impression and Land the Job You Want," suggests asking the recruiter about her preferred method of follow-up communication and whether it would be okay to touch base again.

3. Be punctual.

If you tell the interviewer you'll send a list of references tomorrow morning, make sure you do it. Keeping your word and answering requests in a timely manner speaks volumes about the type of employee you might turn out to be.

4. Know when to sit tight.

If an interviewer requests that you follow up by phone in a week, respect her wishes. Calling the next day can be construed as pushy and desperate.

5. Send a prompt thank-you note.

A positive, non-intrusive way to stay on an employer's mind is to send a thank-you note. Vega recommends emailing one within 24 hours of the interview, then following up with a handwritten note that arrives in one to three business days.

6. Send each interviewer a personalized, powerful follow-up letter.

This piece of communication is another chance for you to shine, so don't waste space with generalities. Ford R. Myers, a career coach and author of "Get the Job You Want, Even When No One's Hiring," recommends including specific references to each person you met and tying your accomplishments directly to the company's stated challenges. You also can use the letter to introduce achievements that didn't get discussed and to elaborate on interview answers that you felt lacked punch.



7. Address one of the company's needs.

Another effective way to follow up is to act more like a consultant than an applicant. "During the interview, you learn a lot about a company's weaknesses and/or areas where the company wants to expand," states Linda Matias, president of CareerStrides.com and author of "201 Knockout Answers to Tough Interview Questions." "Consider creating a proposal on how you would address one of those areas. Doing so will demonstrate that you have the knowledge and also the enthusiasm to make a significant contribution."

8. Keep thinking and learning about the

company.

Be prepared for additional interviews or follow-up phone calls by continuing to research the organization and the field. Gain new information about a topic brought up in conversation. Think of additional questions you'd like answered. These actions show the hirer that you didn't stop caring about the company after the interview was over.

9. Leverage outside resources.

Networking never stops. "If you have contacts and connections with anyone who might influence the hiring decision, or who actually knows the interviewer, ask her to put a good word in for you," Myers says.

10. Accept rejection with grace.

Finally, keep emotions in check and don't burn bridges if someone else gets hired. One never knows what the future might hold. The accepted candidate may not work out, or a different position may open up. "If you are rejected, the first thing you should do (ironically) is send a thank-you note," Myers says. "This will help distinguish you from other rejected candidates and put you in a positive light."

Beth Braccio Hering researches and writes about job search strategy, career management, hiring trends and workplace issues for CareerBuilder. Follow @CareerBuilder on Twitter.

AT2264814

Help Wanted - General

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
For large townhouse community in Northville. 2 yrs. prior admin experience needed, preferably in the multi-family industry. Proficiency in MS Office, Internet apps, and communication skills a must.
Fax resume & wage requirements: (248) 349-0394

AUTO PORTER

Gordon Chevrolet
Used Car Dept.
Full-time, benefits.
Come in to fill out application at: 31850 Ford Rd. Garden City.

AUTO SERVICE ADVISOR

Mercedes Benz of Novi has an excellent opportunity waiting for you. Must have dealership experience and Reynolds a plus. Individual must have good people skills.
Fax resume to: Tony Stipcak (248) 426-8886 or email: tony@novibenz.com

CLEANERS, Full-Time
For area homes. \$10/hr. start. No nights/wkends. Car req. Plymouth. 734-812-5683

COMPUTER ADMINISTRATOR I

POLICE DISPATCHER-PUBLIC SAFETY
POLICE OFFICER
PROGRAM SUPERVISOR
WATER METER REPAIRER II
City of Livonia
For complete information visit our website at: www.ci.livonia.mi.us or apply in person at Livonia City Hall, 3rd floor, 33000 Civic Center Dr. Livonia, MI 48154
E.O.E. M/F/H

Cut-H-Care is looking for snow removal workers this season.

- CDL Drivers
- Loader Operators
- Plow Truck Drivers

Call 248-668-0070

Glass Installer-Commercial Exp.'d only. Crystal Glass. W/om. Email resume: jsolomon@crystalglassinc.net
Fax: 248-685-9448 or Call: 248-685-9220

RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

Help Wanted - General

DIRECT CARE: Make a difference! Support people with disabilities living their life the way they want to! Assist with personal care, meals, taking care of their homes, getting places etc. Many locations, many shifts! If you are at least 18 years old, have a valid Michigan's Driver's License & are CLS, Inc. trained, call our Job Line 734-728-4201, #W

DIRECT CARE WORKER
PT positions avail. Positive attitudes a must. Must have clean driving record. Starting \$7.61/hr. (734) 394-5620

DRIVER/DELIVERY

Valley City Linen
13165 Cloverdale St. Oak Park
Needs route rep to service existing accounts Mon-Fri. throughout the greater Detroit area. Applicant should have a good driving record, customer service and/or sales experience and the ability to perform repetitive heavy lifting. Chauffeur license required. Good pay with full benefits.
Please fax: 616-459-3669 or email resume: rickheld@comcast.net PDF format preferred. Interviews soon, don't delay.

CLASS A CDL

BLACK HORSE CARRIERS has openings in the Plymouth area. Dedicated route. Home daily, 5 day work week. We also have spotter positions available. Average \$900 plus a week. Driver unload. These full time positions come with full benefits, 401K and paid vacation. If you have 3 yrs. Exp. and a Class A CDL with a clean MVR.
Call 630-299-9956 or email to: paul.korbal@blackhorsecarriers.com
E.O.E. Drug Testing is a condition of employment.

DRIVERS - SEMI-TRUCK

Needed daily, local job. Great pay. Call Willes Enterprises: 734-572-9600

ELECTRICIAN LICENSED JOURNEYMAN

Motivated with good organizational skills. Capable of working independently or supervising several employees. Commercial & some industrial experience a must. Benefits & 401K match. Farmington Hills.
Call: 248-625-4448
Fax resume to: amicallef@ecklerelectric.com

NEW CAREER? Quality-inspectors/automotive, paid on the job training \$9.25/hr. Call between 9am-3pm. Mon-Fri. 810-229-6053

Help Wanted - General

neapco
Listed as #16 on Inc. Magazine's list of the 200 fastest growing U.S. companies. Is currently recruiting for the following full-time positions:
• Sr. Treasury Analyst
• Sr. Financial Reporting Analyst
• Accountant (Payroll & Employee Benefits)
• IT Systems Manager
• Staff Accountant
• Product Development Engineer
• Program Manager
Find complete job descriptions under our Belleville, Michigan location at: http://www.neapco.com/careers/ntr_landing.php or email resume to: pcaylor@neapco.com
Equal Opportunity Employer

MATERIAL PLANNER/SCHEDULING

Neapco Drivelines, LLC Van Buren Twp., MI. Bachelor's Degree required. Supply Chain, Finance, or Bus Admin. Min 2 yrs exp in material control, scheduling, inventory, and capacity planning. Email resume: pcaylor@neapco.com

Medical Coordinator

For DD residents Available for call 24/7. Responsible for all medical appts. and medications. Exp. required. MGRD Training.
Fax resume to: 248-478-9620 or email: ccarney@clchomes.org

PARTS PREPARATION SHOP PERSONNEL

Plymouth Location
High-performance engine manufacturer has openings for shop based parts preparation operatives. Duties include bench work preparing and assembling new engine components, machined casting prep for paint and assembly, machined parts de burr, parts grouping by measurement etc.
Candidates should possess good hand skills with a strong mechanical aptitude and knowledge of engine components.
Full time position with benefits in a great work environment. Uniforms and all tools provided. Suitable for entry level or individuals wishing to supplement retirement income.
Send resume to hr@ilmor.com

SNOW REMOVAL SUB-CONTRACTORS

Must have own truck and plow. Please call: (734) 718-9778

Help Wanted - General

Production SERTA MATTRESS Multiple Openings Available
Due to facility expansion and increased business, we have numerous DAY & NIGHT positions in Assembly, Production & Sewing Depts. All hands on manual labor position heavy lifting. Very fast paced environment in order to keep up with production quota. MUST have manufacturing experience \$8.50ph on days & \$9.00ph on nights and eligible for piece work pay once qualified. Long hours (8-10 per day) MUST BE ABLE TO WORK IN A FAST PACE ATMOSPHERE, slackers need not apply!! Applications bwn 10:00am-3:00pm M-F 38025 Jaykay Dr, Romulus Off Cogswell btwn VanBom and Ecorse No Phone Calls Please

PROPERTY MANAGER

For small mngmt co. Exp. in cond/homowner assoc. mngmt. Part-time, some evenings. Resume to: P.O. Box 2378, Garden City, 48136

Help Wanted - General

Sales Position: Real Estate Sales
Licensing Classes Now Forming

A 24 month Paid Internship that may lead to a Six Figure Income.
• Be your Own Boss
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• Never-Ever be laid off again
• Own Your Practice
• You Determine Your Income
• 100% Commission Income
• Bonus Programs
• Health/Life/Disability Insurance
• Retirement and Savings
• Full-Time Support Staff

CALL PAT RYAN
(734) 591-9200
Pat Ryan
RealEstateOne.com

SEASONAL TAX HELP
Accountant experienced in general ledger review. January through April 15th, flexible hrs. Email: info@imrcpas.com, Fax: 734-266-8129

Help Wanted - General

SENIOR ENGINE ASSEMBLER
Plymouth Location

High performance engine manufacturer has an opening for a senior engine assembler, assembling engines where the chosen candidate will ultimately lead a 3 person team. This is a hands on job.

Duties include preparation of engine components and assembly of same to complete engine builds. Must be fully conversant with current engine assembly and measurement practices, have leadership qualities with excellent attention to detail along with PC skills for data entry.

This is a fulltime competitive hourly paid position with good benefits in a great work environment. Uniforms and all tools provided.
Send resume to hr@ilmor.com

RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

Help Wanted - General

SNOWPLOW DRIVER
Westland co, min 3 yrs. exp, clean driving record, chauffeur's license. Also need SNOW SHOVEL LABBERS 734-991-8994

Vehicle Coster/Title Clerk

Lg. Western Wayne County domestic dealer is seeking an Experienced Vehicle Coster/Title Clerk.
If you do not have Costing/Title Clerk experience, PLEASE do not apply.
Duties would include but not limited to:
• Calculate gross profit on all sold new and used vehicle deals.
• Calculate sales commissions on all deals.
• Apply for all factory incentives.
• Reconcile all incentive schedules. Cross train and assist with other positions within the office.

Requirements:
• Automotive costing experience is required. Please do not apply if you do not have dealership costing experience.
• Experience with Excel spreadsheets
• Dealertrack / Arkona DMS experience a plus.
Email resume: oresume@hometownlife.com

WAREHOUSE

Part-Time
Entry level stock work. Flexible daytime hours. Will train.
Novi Ray Electric. Call: 586-843-2313

Help Wanted - Office Clerical

LEGAL SECRETARY
Part-time, needed immediately for general practice. Legal exp. preferred, Novi area.
Fax resume: (248) 344-1130

Physician's group seeking PROOFREADER

for medical/legal orthopedic reports. Background in writer's compensation or no-fault auto claims administration beneficial. Respond to: Physician's Group, PO Box 911 Novi, MI 48376-0917

Help Wanted - Medical

CHA's - PT/FT
Caretel Inns of Brighton, a skilled nursing and assisted living care facility, is looking for PT CHA's for all shifts. MUST have current MI license. Come visit our facility to fill out an application at 1014 E. Grand River Brighton, MI 48116 or email resume to hrcareteb@brighton.com

Help Wanted - Medical

DENTAL OFFICE FRONT DESK
Outstanding Opportunity to join a progressive Novi dental office. We are looking for a personable, enthusiastic, hardworking individual to become a member of our top-notch team. We are a cosmetic & restorative dental practice that is growing and needs a vibrant personality to join us. Must be open to travel for continuing education seminars. We offer medical, dental, holidays & vacation. Hrs. Mon. & Thurs. 8-6pm. Tues. & Wed. 8-7pm. Top salary paid for personality & experience. If interested please fax resume: 248-427-9007

LASER HAIR REMOVAL TECHNICIAN

Exp'd. with Lumenis LightSheer Diode. Pay commensurate with experience. Resume: a2iem@aac.com or fax (734) 956-8787

Medical Receptionist

Full-Time. Send resume to: 43422 West Oaks Drive, PMB #167, Novi, MI 48377-3300

OPHTHALMIC ASSISTANTS/TECHNICIANS

We love our patients and our patients love us. State of the art ophthalmology practice with multiple locations is looking for highly motivated ophthalmic assistants/technicians to join our growing team. Certification is not required, but is definitely a plus. Coburn-Kleinfeild offers competitive wages, benefits and a practice bonus program.
Please submit your resume with your salary history to:
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Coburn-Kleinfeild
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Or email: rdienethal@yahoo.com

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Make sure you don't miss out placing your advertising in our "well-read" Thanksgiving Issues of the Observer & Eccentric Media Newspapers.
Below are the deadlines:
For the issue of Thursday, November 22, DEADLINE: Monday, November 19th at 4pm
Sunday, November 25th issue deadlines will be the same as usual
Thank you and we hope you and your family and friends enjoy your Thanksgiving!
TO PLACE YOUR AD PLEASE CALL: 1-800-579-7355 & CHOOSE "CLASSIFIED"
OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MEDIA
A GANNETT COMPANY

Help Wanted - Sales

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC HOMETOWN LIFESTYLES
We're looking for customer-centric, energetic, aggressive account executives.
If you are someone who can follow a solutions-based strategy of sales with clients, have a proven ability to close sales, and can think big, we would like you to take your place as part of our Advertising Team with Observer & Eccentric Media.
We offer base + commission and benefits in a work environment that is stimulating and fast-paced along with opportunities for career growth with Gannett Co. Inc.
Email resumes to: gperry@hometownlife.com
Attn: Sales EEOC

Attorney & Legal Counsel

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with an O&E Recruitment Package!

For details call 1-800-579-7355

Help Wanted - General

Help Wanted - General

Help Wanted - General

Help Wanted - General

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE



We're looking for customer-centric, energetic, aggressive account executives. If you are someone who can follow a solutions-based strategy of sales with clients, have a proven ability to close sales, and can think big, we would like you to take your place as part of our Advertising team with Observer & Eccentric Media.

We have an opening for a qualified candidate in our Birmingham territory.

- College degree or equivalent work experience in field sales.
- Proven sales track record.
- Have impeccable communication skills.
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We offer base + commission and benefits in a work environment that is stimulating and fast-paced along with opportunities for career growth with Gannett Co. Inc.

Email resumes to: gperry@hometownlife.com
Attn: Sales EEOC

OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC
hometownlife.com **MEDIA**
A GANNETT COMPANY

Help Wanted - General

Help Wanted - General

Help Wanted - General

Help Wanted - General

Now is the best time
to buy a new car



Best of all, credit is available.

Look to your local dealer to find a high quality, fuel efficient vehicle. Your dealer knows your market and can help you get financing to meet your needs. If you need a car, now is the time.

Visit your local dealership or cars.com to find a car today.



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www.hometownlife.com

Help Wanted - General

Help Wanted - General

Help Wanted - General

Help Wanted - General

THE OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MORTGAGE MONITOR

		30 Yr.	Pts.	15 Yr.	Pts.	Other
1st Choice Mortgage Lending	(734) 459-0782	3.25	0	2.625	0	J/A
Accurate Mortgage Solutions	(800) 593-1912	3.25	0	2.625	0	J/A
AFI Financial	(877) 234-0600	3.125	0	2.5	0	J/A/F
Ameriplus Mortgage Corp.	(248) 740-2323	3.25	0	2.625	0	J/A
BRINKS Gold Star Mortgage	(888) 293-3477	3	0.75	2.375	0.75	J/A/V/F
Client Services by Gold Star	(800) 991-9922	3.125	0	2.5	0	J/A/V/F
Co-op Services Credit Union	(734) 466-6113	3.875	0.25	3.125	0	J
Dearborn Federal Savings Bank	(313) 565-3100	3.75	0	3.25	0	A
Fifth Third Bank	(800) 792-8830	3.5	0	2.875	0	J/A/V/F
Gold Star Mortgage	(888) 293-3477	3	0.75	2.375	0.75	J/A/V/F
Group One Mortgage	(248) 282-1602	3.75	0	3.25	0	J/A/V/F
Mortgages by Gold Star	(888) 293-3477	2.875	1.375	2.25	1.375	J/A/V/F

Above information available as of 11/9/12 and subject to change at anytime. Rates are based on a \$200,000 loan with 20% down & credit score of 740 or above. Jumbo rates, specific payment calculation & most current rates available Fridays after 2:00 P.M. at www.rmcreport.com.

Key to "Other" column - J= Jumbo, A = Arm, V = VA, F = FHA & NR = Not Reported.

All Lenders are Equal Opportunity Lenders. Lenders to participate call (734) 922-3032

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DEADLINES:
Fri. at 4 pm for Sunday
Tues. at 3 pm for Thursday

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All advertising published in this newspaper is subject to the conditions stated in the applicable rate card. (Copies are available from the advertising department: Observer & Eccentric/Hometown Weekly Newspapers, 41304 Concept Drive, Plymouth, MI 48170, 866-887-2737. We reserve the right not to accept an advertiser's order. Our sales representatives have no authority to bind this newspaper in any publication of an advertisement shall constitute final acceptance of the advertiser's order. Advertisers are responsible for reading their ads the first time they appear and reporting any errors immediately. The newspaper will not issue credit for errors in ads after the first incorrect insertion. When more than one insertion of the same advertisement is ordered, only the first insertion will be credited. Publisher's Notice: All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 which states that it is illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination". This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal housing opportunity basis. (FR Doc. 724983 3-31-72). Equal Housing Opportunity Statement: We are pledged to the letter & spirit of U.S. policy for the achievement of equal housing opportunity throughout the nation. We encourage and support an affirmative advertising & marketing program in which there are no barriers.

HOMES

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Homes

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Own this home for only \$549 per month. Includes site rent \$18,114.13, includes tax, title, 10.5% APR, 10% down, 12 yr. • Expires 11/17/12. Financing arranged through Sun Home Service, NMLS #332675, AT229278 EHO

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2 bedroom from \$675 heat included
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WESTLAND \$300 Deposit*
Spacious 1 bdrm
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*restrictions apply

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TAYLOR: 2 bedroom. Available NOW. Like new. Bad credit may be okay. (248) 224-6696

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Large 1 bdrm.
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\$300 Deposit!
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WESTLAND: 3 bdrm duplex, very clean, carpet, fenced, \$675/mo. (313) 418-9905

WESTLAND: Brick ranch, exc. area. 3 bdrm, 1.5 bath, bsmt, air, carpet/paint, no pets. \$875/mo. 734-591-9163

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Clean, quiet, peaceful home, \$110/week. (313) 281-8129

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Featuring: Fraser, Canaan, and Blue Spruce
• Cut your own & pre-cut
• Visit our 150 year old barn for gifts, wreaths, hot chocolate & more!
• Wagon Rides
• Visit with Santa from 10am-4pm Sat. & Sun. only
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Equip. must go. Hundreds of molds & misc. supplies. \$500 for the lot. 517-294-2808

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Household Goods

36" RCA High Definition TV
w/built-in DVD player, ProForm Treadmill, Microwave. \$150/best for all. 313-330-5482

FURNITURE: Dining room set, Oval with 6 padded chairs, cheap at \$125. Bdrm set, 3 pc., queen size, cheap at \$125. Call 734-722-3321

Appliances

FRIDGE - STAINLESS GE
side by side; stainless electric range - Maytag; Samsung lg micw, all beautiful cond. \$800 for set. Sharon: 248-941-0228

REFRIGERATORS \$150 & up!
Range, washer/dryer \$100 & up! 60 day warranty/delivery! Call: (734) 796-3472

Exercise Fitness Equip

SCHWINN AIRDYNE BIKE:
Reading stand, padded gel seat, wind screen, pulse meter, \$245. Call: 248-685-1601

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Waldocktreefarms.com

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COMPLETE PEARL DRUM SET. LIKE NEW. WHITE. \$1,500.00 MUST SELL!
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MICHIGAN ANTIQUE ARMS COLLECTORS
500 TABLE SHOW
Nov 24 & 25
Antique and modern firearms, knives.
BUY and SELL
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PETS

hometownlife.com

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Spayed, Front Declawed, Shots up to Date. Serious Inquiries only! Email for picture: adoptakitty07@gmail.com (248)225-2555

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Sunday PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- 1 Kind of pool
- 5 Even as we speak
- 8 Pat gently
- 11 Bailed out
- 12 Yale alumnus
- 13 Future fish
- 14 Pizza order
- 15 Not a winner (hyph.)
- 17 PC key
- 18 Bulletin
- 20 Furtive whisper
- 22 Geese formation
- 23 Europe-Asia range
- 27 Pitcher in a basin
- 29 The Donald's ex
- 30 Half-shell item
- 33 Dartboard, for one
- 34 Bombay nannies
- 35 Unfrequented
- 36 Chaucer offering

DOWN

- 1 Fish organs
- 2 Does magazine work
- 3 Toshiba competitor
- 4 Idyllic spot
- 5 Better organized
- 6 Dragon puppet
- 7 Great Lakes st.
- 8 June bug
- 9 Filmdom's — Gardner

Answer to Previous Puzzle

MAN	COB	TBSP
AXES	EGO	ARIA
WISE	LEATHERY	
STABLE	SIDES	
LOO	BAT	
DAISY	SERIALS	
UPC	PAD	FIE
BEHAVED	ESTEE	
BAR	SOP	
SOULS	CHEESY	
PINETREE	LOUD	
ISIS	TOE	LAMA
TEXT	ESP	RAY

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
11				12			13			
14				15			16			
17			18	19						
20		21		22			23	24	25	26
		27	28				29			
30	31	32				33				
34				35						
36				37			38	39	40	41
			42	43			44		45	
46	47	48					49	50		
51				52			53			
54				55			56			

- 21 Ties to a stake
- 24 Dust cloth
- 25 "Wheel of Fortune" buy (2 wds.)
- 26 Caesar's lang.
- 28 Montgomery or Craven
- 29 Fleming of 007 fame
- 30 Nutritious grain
- 31 Ms. Sumac
- 32 — ammoniac
- 33 Large volume
- 35 Frame inserts
- 37 Like a mosaic
- 39 Ignited
- 40 Demolish
- 41 Vintage vehicle
- 43 Counting-out start
- 44 Nincompoop
- 46 HBO receivers
- 47 Feel under the weather
- 48 Put into words
- 50 Prickly husk

Want more puzzles?
Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books
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SUDOKU

		8	4					6
	9	7			6	2		8
6	2				1	3		
3	7			9				5
			2	7	5	6		
	8			6				5
9			5			7		
2	5				9	1	8	4

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ROASTING WORD SEARCH

WORDS

R O I L E R T M N Y B H P H I U A B S
C Y T G S Y S E H A I H G S K W Y L B
C O T S H G K A S S O Y R N D H N P U
S F O S C E K R T U U E E T C I S Y R D
A M H K I G E A R C V O O R G V I T P
R B K H H P A S V O E N T A A P R P D
E O C O V E N T T Y S S R A P E H A L
W K A W K B A F H U D N M I T C H U C
E V R S N U E W M E I S N O R O N P H
A G R U T L U E T S R G B K I C P S N
S D E E T I G I H E S I K B H S T N A
B Y I T T L N O N D M I N F D I T S P
R A P L A T O G L I M P F G U E A R O
E O T N O B U V I N N O E C P N N S K
H F E S F H L B T N I O S R D O H W C
F R I W E B R E M E R I I W A A T L U
G N I F F U T S S R B K I T R T O A H
F G Y D I S H E S H R C S I R B U Y C
O U L T R Y V E K O H K N E F O Y R V
P R E H E A T G P V M G P O D A P T E

- BASTE
- BISCUITS
- BROILER
- BUTTER
- CARVING
- CHICKEN
- CHUCK
- CONSUME
- DINNER
- DISHES
- DRIPPINGS
- GARNISH
- GATHERING
- GRAVY
- HEARTY
- HERBS
- HOLIDAY
- HOURS
- LEFTOVERS
- LUNCH
- MOIST
- OVEN
- PAN
- PORK
- PORTION
- POT
- POTATOES
- POULTRY
- PREHEAT
- ROASTING
- SANDWICH
- SAUCES
- SHARING
- STOCK
- STUFFING
- TEMPERATURE
- TURKEY
- VEGETABLES

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally & diagonally throughout the puzzle.

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

Sudoku

2	5	6	7	9	3	8	4	1
9	1	3	5	4	8	7	6	2
7	8	4	1	6	2	9	5	3
5	6	2	8	1	3	4	7	9
8	4	9	2	7	5	6	3	1
3	7	1	6	9	4	8	2	5
6	2	5	9	8	1	3	4	7
4	9	7	3	5	6	2	1	8
1	3	8	4	2	7	5	9	6

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

Word Search

B	R	O	I	L	E	R	T	M	N	Y	B	H	P	H	I	U	A	B	S
C	Y	T	G	S	Y	S	E	H	A	I	H	G	S	K	W	Y	L	B	
C	O	T	S	H	G	K	A	S	S	O	Y	R	N	D	H	N	P	U	
S	F	O	S	C	E	K	R	T	U	U	E	E	T	C	I	S	Y	R	D
A	M	H	K	I	G	E	A	R	C	V	O	O	R	G	V	I	T	P	
R	B	K	H	H	P	A	S	V	O	E	N	T	A	A	P	R	P	D	
E	O	C	O	V	E	N	T	T	Y	S	S	R	A	P	E	H	A	L	
W	K	A	W	K	B	A	F	H	U	D	N	M	I	T	C	H	U	C	
E	V	R	S	N	U	E	W	M	E	I	S	N	O	R	O	N	P	H	
A	G	R	U	T	L	U	E	T	S	R	G	B	K	I	C	P	S	N	
S	D	E	E	T	I	G	I	H	E	S	I	K	B	H	S	T	N	A	
B	Y	I	T	T	L	N	O	N	D	M	I	N	F	D	I	T	S	P	
R	A	P	L	A	T	O	G	L	I	M	P	F	G	U	E	A	R	O	
E	O	T	N	O	B	U	V	I	N	N	O	E	C	P	N	N	S	K	
H	F	E	S	F	H	L	B	T	N	I	O	S	R	D	O	H	W	C	
F	R	I	W	E	B	R	E	M	E	R	I	I	W	A	A	T	L	U	
G	N	I	F	F	U	T	S	S	R	B	K	I	T	R	T	O	A	H	
F	G	Y	D	I	S	H	E	S	H	R	C	S	I	R	B	U	Y	C	
O	U	L	T	R	Y	V	E	K	O	H	K	N	E	F	O	Y	R	V	
P	R	E	H	E	A	T	G	P	V	M	G	P	O	D	A	P	T	E	

IT'S ALL ABOUT RESULTS

Car Report

Advertising Feature

High-End 'Holidaze' Are Here, with Great Seasonal Deals



By Dale Buss

It might seem a little strange to see Infiniti ads with snowflakes already swirling around a spiffy new JX SUV, when the only notable snow so far this season has been on top of tippy-top mountain peaks — and in parts of West Virginia and Virginia, thanks to Sandy. But you're going to be seeing that ad for a while, at least through the end of the year.

And welcome to the auto-advertising "holidaze," the annual two-month, end-of-the-year promotional bonanza in which car brands in the U.S. market use holiday-themed promotional incentives and other marketing to attempt to reach their year-end sales and profit goals, or just try to make sure they're not left out of the scum.

Or, as in the case of BMW and Mercedes-Benz, they feel compelled to use the promotions to get the better of a particular competitor. The two leading-volume German auto brands in the U.S. market once again are locked in a neck-and-neck race to secure the 2012 luxury-sales title, just as they conducted last year.

At this point, Mercedes-Benz is trying to hold off a surging BMW, whose 21-percent gain in October sales brought the brand to within 2,748 year-to-date sales of Mercedes — down from nearly double that amount, 5,221 vehicles, just a month earlier. BMW won the crown last year, taking it from a supply-constrained Lexus.

And the prize might be even more dear this year because Lexus is widely assumed to want the volume title back in 2013, when all of its output problems will

be long behind it and the Toyota-owned brand will have a slew of new and refreshed products in its stable.

The industry is abuzz with interest in accelerating efforts by BMW and Mercedes to best each other and with speculation about what forms they may take in the weeks ahead. For example, Mercedes is letting some American buyers skip more monthly payments than BMW and offering as much as \$5,000 discounts to "VIP customers."

Meanwhile, other brands are chasing their own goals for the holidaze more quietly but with determination as well. Audi, for instance, launched its annual "The Season of Audi" promotion featuring sales incentives on many 2013-model vehicles across its lineup.

It includes national TV spots and regional dealer-driven TV advertising, as well as social-media marketing, online advertising, brand web-site messaging and radio spots in certain markets, Jessica Thor, manager of retail marketing for Audi of America, told me.

"It's an incredibly crowded marketplace in terms of trying to get your message through," Thor said. "But the good news is that many consumers just expect that there's something going on [at your deal-

erships], even if you were a brand that went dark and didn't advertise."

As BMW and Mercedes-Benz battle away at volumes far above Audi in the U.S., Audi's goal for the period is to continue to show strong and steady growth.

"I see fierce competition again between those two brands in terms of who will come out on top for 2012," Thor said. "I can only imagine that both of them are really going to pull out the stops."

Thor said that the BMW-Mercedes battle, and the general promotional atmosphere in the luxury segment as all brands introduce their seasonal marketing, boosts the market for Audi and the entire premium category.

"It's natural when you see everyone on the air with a special event happening that it has a halo effect for everyone," she said.

But Thor noted that, while it has stiff internal goals for sales during "The Season of Audi," the overall objective for the brand is to "maintain our focus on sustained growth. We have our goals [for the promotion]



The 2013 Audi A6 is a crucial model for The Season of Audi.

and feel comfortable that we're going to hit them.

"But we're not going to duke it out at the end of the year and try to hit a number just for the sake of hitting a number. We want to continue to grow in a healthy way."

Audi is promoting a variety of 2013-model vehicles but not its highest-end and least available vehicles such as R8 and the "S" performance models.

And for the first time, the brand is putting a special emphasis on getting its dealers revved up for "The Season of Audi."

"Typically we've kind of kept things quiet on the showroom floor" during the promotion, Thor said. "But this year we're having a bigger presence." Audi is helping dealers, for example, host a breakfast for their employees as a kickoff for the promotion. The brand is providing point-of-sale banners and tent cards, Thor said.

"We want dealers and their personnel to get excited about The Season of Audi this year," she explained.



The Infiniti Limited Engagement promotion has become a holiday staple in the luxury segment.

OE2296851

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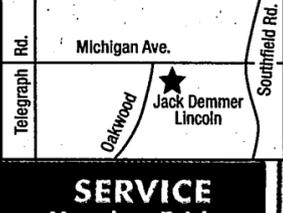
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