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Power outage interrupts murder trial

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

The massive power outage in downtown Detroit on Tuesday morning interrupted the first day of testimony in the trial of two men charged with murdering two Westland teens in 2012.

About 10:30 a.m., the lights flickered in the courtroom. Shortly afterward the power went out, leaving jurors, the defendants, attorneys and others in the courtroom sitting in

the dark. Wayne County Sheriff's deputies began evacuating the building, having the jurors exit first in a group.

Detroiters Felando Hunter, 24, and Fredrick Young, 25, are both are charged with first-degree murder, first-degree felony murder, torture, armed robbery, unlawful imprisonment and felony firearm in the deaths of Jacob Kudla, 18, and Jourdan Bobbish, 17. Young also is charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm.

The teens' bodies were found in a field at Lyford and French Road on Detroit's east side. The autopsy report stated Kudla was shot twice — in the back and head — while Bobbish was shot once in the head. Earlier testimony was that the teens were killed and robbed after going to a home on Algona in Detroit to purchase drugs.

The first witness was Virgie Kudla, Jacob's mother, who testified that her son and Bobbish had been at her Westland

home on July 22, 2012, until about 10 p.m.

"I told the boys to quiet down. I had to take my mother to the doctor in the morning. She had just been diagnosed with cancer. The boys left," Kudla said. "Jake said, 'Bye mom. See you in a little while.'"

At 7 a.m. the next day, Kudla said she realized her son and Bobbish hadn't come home overnight — something he never had done before without calling her.

"I didn't want to overreact. I

didn't call the police. I finished with my mom at the doctor about 4 p.m. I tried his (Jacob's) cell all day," she said. "I checked to see if he had been at the house and he hadn't. I went to the Bobbish house. They knew Jourdan was with Jake."

After driving around the neighborhood looking for the teens, Kudla said she filed missing persons report with Westland Police. Through Westland Police, she said she

See **OUTAGE**, Page A2



All of Perrinville School, except for the historic one-room schoolhouse on the south end of the building built by Henry Ford in 1937, was torn down in 2011.

FILE PHOTO

Greenmead to acquire one-room schoolhouse built by Henry Ford

By Karen Smith
Staff Writer

Greenmead Historical Park in Livonia is acquiring another old building, a brick one-room schoolhouse built in 1937 by Henry Ford.

Perrinville School, on Ann Arbor Trail at Farmington Road in Westland, will be sold for a \$1 by Livonia Public Schools to the city of Livonia, according to a cooperative agreement being

hammered out by the two entities.

The school will be moved to Greenmead, at Eight Mile and Newburgh roads in Livonia, where it will be used for school programs and meetings, said Sue Daniel, chair of the Livonia Historical Commission and a member of the Livonia Historic Preservation Commission.

"This was one of the last schools that Henry Ford built; it was part of his village school system," Daniel said

about the historical significance of the building. "He had a number of one-room schools that were associated with his small plants."

Perrinville School educated the children of his workers at Nankin Mills, where he operated a small factory, Daniel said.

The schoolhouse, formerly named Nankin Mills, was state-of-the-art at

See **SCHOOL**, Page A2

Stuff A Bus benefits No Child Without a Christmas campaign

School buses will be making a special stop Saturday, Dec. 6, at the Westland Kmart store. But they won't be picking up students.

Instead, members of the Wayne-Westland Community Schools Transportation Department will be filling the buses with toys, clothing and nonperishable food for the Wayne and Westland Goodfellows's annual No Child Without a Christmas campaign.

This is the sixth year the department has held its Stuff a Bus event in the Kmart parking lot at Wayne Road and Cherry Hill in Westland and the third year that the Goodfellows will benefit from the collection.

"This is our eighth annual Stuff the Bus," said Sherice Rourke, the district's transportation director. "We filled three buses last year and had a ton of stuff."

The 78-passenger buses will be in the Kmart parking lot from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Transportation employees will be there throughout the day to load buses, and a variety of costume characters will be on hand, including Santa and Mrs. Claus.

People can drop off unwrapped new toys, new and gently used cold weather clothing like hats, gloves, clothes and boots, personal items, school supplies — anything to assist the Westland and Wayne Goodfellows in providing a happy holiday season for those in need, Rourke said.

Transportation employees held their first Stuff a Bus in 2009 and were able to fill one bus. The next year they did two and the effort has been growing ever since. Each bus has 26 seats, and Roark is confident that all 78 seats on the three buses, if not more, will be filled this year. People will be standing by to bring a fourth bus, if needed, she said.

"We used to collect the stuff and give it to one of the schools, this way we can help the whole community," Rourke said. "We would like to thank everyone for success in past years and hope to see everyone again this year."

By Sue Mason

Observer & Eccentric wants to see your lights

The *Observer & Eccentric* is on the search for cool Christmas light displays to photograph and share with our readers.

If you or your neighbor has an attractive display, please let us know so we can feature it in our area Light Tour.

A tour map will show residents where they can check out holiday light displays. The map will be published in the paper and at Hometownlife.com in mid-December.

Being on the tour requires nothing other than the homeowner's permission. There is

no charge, no gimmick.

The *O&E* simply wants to share a bit of Christmas joy with the rest of the community. And we just might write a feature story about your display if you invite us over to take a look.

To nominate someone or yourself, please email the homeowner's name, phone number and address to managing editor Larry Ruehlen at lruehlen@hometownlife.com.

The names and telephone numbers are needed for contact only; they will not be published.



HAL GOULD | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Hidden Creek subdivision in South Lyon is an optical feast during the holidays. Dennis Nagy, standing with son Ben in their decorated front yard, helps organize the 160-plus neighbors to do the same thing



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OUTAGE

Continued from Page A1

learned the license plate on her son's Chevrolet Cavalier had been run by Detroit Police at an address in Detroit.

Locating the address through Google, Kudla said she called her brother who came with his wife to meet her at the address. Kudla was accompanied by Jordan's father Michael Bobbish.

"It looked there was some kind of solution on the car. It looked like dried dish soap," she said. "We were there about five hours watching the police arrest people. We stayed until the police towed the car."

Under defense questioning, Kudla said that she had told her son she didn't want him interacting with one of her brothers, Richard Baxter, whom she suspected was selling drugs. Jacob Kudla and Bobbish

disappeared after leaving Baxter's home on the east side of Detroit.

"I didn't know Jake was visiting him or going to get drugs," she said. Due a fourth reconstructive surgery on his knee, Kudla said her son was prescribed painkillers and also had a medical marijuana card but didn't think he was addicted to the pills.

In his opening statement, Young's defense attorney Jeffrey Edison had urged jurors to keep an open mind regarding testimony.

"You will be rather troubled about the truthfulness of what they (prosecution witnesses) say," Edison said.

The court remained closed Tuesday with testimony to resume Wednesday. Westland Lt. Matthew Price had just started testifying when the power went out.

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Ward voting in Wayne: making it work

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

Wayne voters approved ward voting for council members and term limits in November, now the task is figuring out how to implement those charter amendments.

After some discussion, the council voted to move ahead with City Clerk Matthew Miller's proposal to hire a consultant with GIS Capability to help draw up the seven voting precincts and establish six wards for city council elections.

Under the city charter, the city has eight voting precincts but that would be reduced to seven. The charter amendment establishes six wards for electing council members.

The council candidates would be required to live within the district and only residents in that district would elect their district council members. The mayor, who serves a two-year term, would be the only local position

"I would like to hear the drafters' intent. There is the letter of the law, and then there is the spirit of the law."

PAUL BOHN, city attorney

elected citywide. Currently, council members are elected citywide.

Districts 1, 2 and 3 will be effective in the primary and general elections in 2015, and districts 4, 5 and 6 will be effective in the 2017 elections.

Candidates for such districts will be required to have their principal residences in their districts at the time of their election or appointment and throughout their tenure.

"I am working on a proposal so that we can comply with state election law," Miller said. State law requires that each new voting precinct have not more than 3,000 voters, be contiguous and as close to permanent

boundaries as possible.

The problem is moving a precinct line can have a big impact on the number of voters within a precinct, Miller said, which isn't necessarily clear from the number of residences.

"We need to identify where the voters live and how the population is distributed across the city," Miller said. "We will merge census data and qualified voter files."

There was some discussion on whether additional charter amendments would be needed to facilitate implementation of ward voting and term limits.

"I don't think there is any way to implement the charter amendments without further charter amendments," said resident Ron Roberts, who initiated the ward voting and term limit amendments.

More charter amendments aren't needed, said Councilman Albert Damatio but there are issues that need to be clarified, such as what happens if

no one files to run for council in a particular district.

City Attorney Paul Bohn was directed to have an attorney meet with a committee, including council members and charter amendment backers.

"I would like to hear the (charter amendment) drafters' intent. There is the letter of the law, and then there is the spirit of the law," Bohn said. "Before I craft a resolution, I'd be willing to have an attorney sit at the committee meeting. It shouldn't take long. We will have a better understanding, if more charter amendments are needed."

Miller had done an excellent job laying out the issues that need to be resolved surrounding the charter amendments, said Bohn, who was to have a recommendation at the Dec. 2 council meeting.

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Help Westland Goodfellows pack food and toys Saturday

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

Anyone interested in getting into the holiday spirit is invited to stop by the Westland Friendship Center to help pack up food and toys for local needy families.

The Westland Goodfellows, run by a handful of volunteers, could use some extra hands as they make sure about 340 families, including 1,000 kids, have a Merry Christmas.

"Anyone who would like to come for packing and sorting is welcome to come. It's kind of a drop-in," said Westland Goodfellow Barbara Hatfield, adding the work will be done from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The Goodfellows will be taking over the Friendship Center to sort donated non-perishable foods for distribution along with donated toys and toothpaste and toothbrushes for the kids.

"We will give out hats and gloves, too. Those are traditions with the Goodfellows," Hatfield said. "We also have baby blankets and baby supplies for those with babies."

The following day, families receiving assistance from the Westland Goodfellows will pick up their baskets. In addition, the families also receive a certificate from Heartland Market for holiday dinner items and a certificate from Target or Meijer for toys or cloth-

ing for the children.

Food donated at collection points around Westland will also benefit three local food banks. The Goodfellows also support the Wayne-Westland Schools Family Resource Center with donations.

"We really appreciate the support and donated items," said Hatfield, who mentioned items knitted and crocheted by volunteers.

Also on Saturday, a major fundraiser for the Westland Goodfellows — the annual Bill Johnson Bowling and Raffle event — is being held at Wayne Bowl, 36900 Michigan Ave., Wayne, hosted by UAW Local 900. The event starts at 6 p.m. Call 734-721-2530 for informa-

tion.

A major fundraiser for the Wayne Goodfellows is happening Friday, Dec. 5, at the Wayne Community Center. It's the 28th annual Goodfellows Christmas Dinner.

Tickets are \$25 per person, including dinner catered by Chef Tony Paquette of the William D. Ford Career Technical Center. There will be silent auctions and music by DJ Dock. The event is set for 5:30 p.m. to midnight.

For tickets, visit the Wayne City Clerk's Office, Henry's Service Center or contact members of the Goodfellows.

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SCHOOL

Continued from Page A1

the time of its construction, with indirect lighting that reflected off the ceiling, she said: "It was the latest up-to-date school; it was a school he built from scratch."

The school had plastered walls, pine floors and movable desks and benches, according to a history of Livonia Public Schools written by Martha A. Trafford in cooperation with Daniel.

"The kids in these schools (built by Ford) generally did a lot of hands-on work, learning by doing," Daniel said.

Greenmead already has an older school, a wooden clapboard schoolhouse, Newburg School, which was built

in 1861 and moved from Ann Arbor Road, west of Newburgh, in 1987, she said.

The move won't likely take place until 2016 as the project is still "a work in progress," with many details that still need to be worked out, including whether the city or Greemead will pay for moving the building, Livonia Mayor Jack Kirksey said.

The agreement, which the school board reviewed Monday night at a committee of the whole meeting, states the school district will not pay for the moving costs.

"We feel lucky it's going to be salvaged," LPS Superintendent Randy Liepa said.

History of school

Ford sold the school in 1946 for \$1 to the Nankin Mills school district. It was added on to several times and was re-named Perrinville in 1959. Livonia Public Schools acquired the building in 1969, when the district's boundary lines were redrawn by the state to include the northern portion of the Nankin Mills district. Perrinville remained an elementary school until

1982.

After that, it housed several Livonia school district departments until 1998, when it was upgraded and rededicated as an early childhood center. It has been vacant since 2008.

The district tore down the additions to the building in 2011, preserving the historic one-room schoolhouse portion.

Liepa said he doesn't know how many more seasons the one-room schoolhouse can take at its current location, where water accumulates in the basement. "They're going to have to put money in it." He said the district will need to fill in the hole created by the basement.

Daniel said Greenmead will be holding fundraisers and applying for grants to preserve the school and add restrooms and space for archives.

The schoolhouse will be the first building to be moved to Greenmead in about two decades, Daniel said. "I think it's an exciting addition," she said.

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Livonia Civic Chorus presents 'Extraordinary Merry Christmas'

The Livonia Civic Chorus will sing both secular and sacred music of the holidays during its "Extraordinary Merry Christmas" concert being presented at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, in the Clarenceville High School Schmidt Auditorium, 20155 Middlebelt, Livonia.

As the first concert in their celebratory 50th anniversary season, the 63 members of the Chorus from Livonia and surrounding communities, under the direction of Donna Gleason and accompanied by Rimma Stolbov, will present secular music during the first half of the program. The Chorus will open the program with *Extraordinary Merry Christmas*. This will be followed by *White Christmas*; *Believe*; *Yes, Virginia There is a Santa Claus*; *Jingle Bells Rock* and others. There are two numbers from the animated movie *Frozen: Let It Go* and *Do You Want to Build a Snowman*. There will be a special chorus ensemble singing *Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas*.

The second half of the LCC concert is devoted to sacred music. It begins with *We Are Lights* and continues with *Rejoice with Exceeding Great Joy, Shepherd's Joy*, and others including *Manger*



The 60-plus member Livonia Civic Chorus will sing both secular and sacred holiday music during its "Extraordinary Merry Christmas" concert at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, at Clarenceville High School, 20155 Middlebelt, Livonia.

Lullabye composed by Chorus charter member Hank Kanar. The famous *Hallelujah Chorus* will end this half of the program.

"This afternoon of music is a great family experience to begin the many celebrations of the holiday season," Chorus Music Director Donna Gleason said.

Tickets are available from Chorus members, at the Livonia Recreation Center (9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday), or at the door on the per-

formance day. Pre-sale ticket prices are \$12 for adults, and \$10 for seniors and students. At the door, ticket prices are \$15 for everyone. Questions can be answered by calling 734-542-9071 or sending an email to info@livoniacivicchorus.org.

The Chorus website is livoniacivicchorus.org. The Livonia Civic Chorus, celebrating its 50th season, is sponsored in part by the Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation, Melissa

Pilzner of Raymond James, St. Mary Mercy Hospital, and Alpha USA. During this holiday season, the Chorus will also perform at Greenfield Village, Greenmead Historical Village, Knights of Columbus, and the City of Livonia Tree Lighting. Those interested in joining the Chorus may consult the website (livoniacivicchorus.org) or call 734-542-9071 for membership information for the spring session, which begins in early January 2015.

Funeral home holds annual Service of Remembrance

The R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Homes and Cremation Services of Livonia and Garden City will hold their 24th annual Service of Remembrance Dec. 6-7 for families who have lost a loved one during this last year and in years past.

At the service, family members may place an angel with their loved one's name on a tree where it will remain until after Jan. 1, 2015. A Children's Table is available for kids to design their own angel ornament to help them express their feelings. Tips

on getting through the holidays after a loss will be given and a carol will be sung before all the names are read. Cookies and beverages will be served.

The service at the R.G. & G.R. Harris Livonia Chapel, 15451 Farmington Road, just north

of Five Mile, will be held at 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6.

The service at the R.G. & G.R. Harris Garden City Chapel, 31551 Ford Road, just west of Merriman, will be held at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7.

For more information, call 734-422-6720.

State Supreme Court to hear case of former McCotter staffer

By David Veselenak
Staff Writer



McCotter Seewald

The case against one former staffer of former Congressman Thaddeus McCotter will go before the state's highest court.

The Michigan Supreme Court has decided to take a look at the case against former staffer and Livonia resident Paul Seewald after the Court of Appeals ruled this summer that the Wayne County circuit court was correct in throwing out two felony conspiracy charges in the signature-collecting debacle that resulted in McCotter, R-Livonia, being left off the ballot in 2012.

Fellow former staffer Don Yowchuang was also originally charged with a felony in the case, but had his dismissed as well.

The appeal was filed by attorney general Bill Schuette's office.

The attorney general's office appealed the circuit court ruling in 2013, asking the court to reinstate the felony charges Seewald originally faced in 2012. The two men were charged after Secretary of State officials found several of the forms used to collect signatures to place McCotter on the ballot for Congress were falsified with photocopied signatures.

The Court of Appeals ruled 2-to-1 in favor of the defense this summer, claiming Wayne County judge Margie Braxton was correct in throwing out the felonies, leaving the two to face some misdemeanor criminal counts.

The actual number of signatures collected

by McCotter's campaign was below the threshold needed for him to appear on the ballot to run to represent the 11th Congressional District, which would have included western Wayne County communities, including Livonia, Plymouth, Canton and Northville, as well as several Oakland County communities. McCotter resigned from Congress shortly after not making the ballot.

He was not charged, but did offer testimony during Seewald and Yowchuang's preliminary examination in Livonia's 16th District Court in 2012. Several other staffers also faced criminal charges as a result.

Since his resignation, the seat has changed hands frequently: David Curson, D-Belleville, won a special election to represent the district for roughly six weeks, followed by current U.S. Rep. Kerry Bentivolio, R-Milford. Bentivolio was defeated in August's Republican primary to the eventual general election winner, Dave Trott, R-Birmingham, who is expected to take office in January after defeating Canton Democrat Bobbie McKenzie.

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Judge allows some autopsy photos at Saad trial

By David Veselenak
Staff Writer

A Wayne County judge has ruled several photographs taken during the autopsy of a Westland soccer referee can be used during the trial for the man accused of killing him.

Judge Thomas Cameron ruled Monday morning that most of the photographs the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office would like to present as evidence during the planned jury trial for 36-year-old Bas-sel Saad could be admissible.

Prosecutors would like to include several photos, including ones taken that appear to show the injuries suffered by John Bieniewicz, the referee witnesses say was struck by Saad during a soccer game this past summer at Mies Park in Livonia after getting mad about a call made during the match. Saad is charged with second-degree murder and faces up to life in prison if convicted.

The photos are important because many of the injuries Bieniewicz sustained that day are not visible unless an au-



Saad

topsy was completed and dis-sections took place, rendering the display of photographs taken by the medical examiner's office as crucial pieces of evidence, said Raj Prasad, an assistant prosecutor.

"It was a comprehensive autopsy," he said. "The injuries are not apparent to the naked eye."

About 60 photos were taken during the autopsy, Prasad said, with the prosecution wanting to introduce about a dozen during the trial.

Brian Berry, one of Saad's defense attorneys, said their position is that none of the photos should be introduced, saying that much of the detail requires detailed explanation from a medical professional and could lead the jury to react emotionally at the sight of them because of their nature.

Having a medical professional instead testify to the photos' content would be more helpful to a jury, Berry said.

"My fear is the jury will be consumed by what's going on and miss the testimony itself," he said. "I think this all could be explained through oral testimony."

Cameron allowed most of the photos, but ruled three could not be used: two photos were essentially showing the same thing, he said, and the last photo, taken to show hemorrhaging that took place in Bieniewicz's brain after the incident, did not need to be included but could be described in testimony from the medical examiner.

The motion hearing Monday was a continuation of one that started on Nov. 26. In that hearing, Cameron ruled that a prior assault Saad was charged with in 2005 in Canton could not be introduced during his jury trial, and denied a motion to drop the second-degree murder charges down to manslaughter. He also ruled other photographs taken at the field showing Saad in a vehicle with his middle finger extended could be shown to the jury when it is seated.

WESTLAND COP CALLS

Larceny

A resident in the 35000 block of Booth told police Nov. 19 that someone had stolen a radio flip-up screen, vehicle registration and proof of insurance from her 1995 Ford Explorer.

She said the vehicle had been locked and she didn't know how someone got inside.

Larceny

On Nov. 18, a construction company employee told police he arrived at a vacant home in the 30000 block of Barrington to find the air conditioning unit, valued at \$1,000, had been stolen from the backyard. He said his company has been maintaining the home for the past year.

Inside, he said he found that an unknown amount of copper plumbing had been stolen also. The home was locked, so it was unclear how entry was made. The employee said he believed the thefts occurred since Sept. 28 and that another employee installed a new lock but didn't report the thefts.

Suspicious situation

Just after 10 p.m. Nov. 18, police were called to the Golden Corral Restaurant, 37101 Warren Road, after a witness reported seeing a masked man trying to enter the closed business.

The witness told police she was in her car parked in front of the business waiting for her sister when she saw a man in a ski mask trying to open the doors, which were locked.

Larceny from a vehicle

A laptop computer, duffel bag and clothing, including two shirts, a pair of dress shoes and two pairs of socks were reported stolen from a vehicle parked at Oak Lanes, 8450 N. Middlebelt, Nov. 14.

The owner, a Livonia man, told police the vehicle had been unlocked, and he didn't notice the theft until later, so the report wasn't filed until Nov. 16.

Fraud

A Westland woman told police Nov. 20 that she had been defrauded by a man responding to her Craigslist ad seeking employment as a nanny. The woman said a man sent her a text message and asked her to respond by email. The man told her he was moving with his family to the Westland area and offered to hire her, the woman told police.

The man offered to prepay a week's wages, she said, sending her an employee check for \$1,970. She said the man told her that check included \$1,670 he needed for an airline tickets and asked her to send that amount to a travel agent but wouldn't provide an address.

When she became leery of the proposal, she said the man assured her the check was legitimate and she cashed it at her credit union on Nov. 10. On Nov. 20, she said she was told by the credit union that the check was fraudulent and she was going to be sued for \$870 that was missing — she still had \$1,100 of the money.

The officer tried the telephone number provided by the suspect but found it was a Google program, not an actual phone number. He said he believed the woman was used as the medium to cash a fraudulent check.

By LeAnne Rogers

GARDEN CITY COP CALLS

Stolen vehicle

An employee at Good Burger, 849 N. Inkster Road, reported that a car that was dropped off for his use wasn't there at 8 p.m. Dec. 1 when he went out to look for it.

The 18-year-old Dearborn man said that the 2013 Chevy Camaro was registered to his stepmother's business in Madison Heights. He described the car as having red flames on the side and 21-inch wheels.

The vehicle couldn't be located near the nearby pharmacy where it had been left and parked, he said.

Theft

A 27-year-old Deering Street resident asked police to investigate suspicious incidents because he believes that a relative who lives with him was stealing from him.

He suspected that she was going through his property while he was gone. So, he sent up a laptop recorder, which allegedly showed the woman going through his pockets.

When police questioned the woman, she said that they had the wrong suspect. She reportedly said that she was looking for property taken that belonged to her.

Stolen purse

A 74-year-old Livonia woman reported to Garden City Police on Nov. 28 that someone stole her Coach wallet, valued at \$70, while she was shopping at the Aldi store located at 30006 Ford.

She said that she knows that she had her wallet with her while she was shopping but when she went to the cashier to pay for her merchandise, her wallet was not in her purse.

The manager checked the store video but didn't see anything out of the ordinary.

By Sue Buck

WAYNE COP CALLS

Larceny

A patron at the Avenue Bar and Grille, 3632 Elizabeth, told police Nov. 28 that a wallet had been stolen. No other information was provided.

Hit and run

On Nov. 28, resident in the 31000 block of Filmore told police someone had backed into his truck.

By LeAnne Rogers

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Deanna Lee of Redford and Kelsi Fay of Livonia are appearing in Inspire Theatre's weekend production of "A Reel Christmas."

Theater presents Hollywood-inspired 'Reel Christmas' this weekend

"What is the real meaning of Christmas?" asked Charlie Brown. What happens when The Grinch steals Christmas? Is Christmas when you get a Red Ryder BB gun? Or is it being left Home Alone with a White Christmas. Would that be A Wonderful Life?

All these Christmas questions and more will be answered in Inspire Theatre's presentation of *A Reel Christmas* on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, Dec. 5-7.

A Christmas variety show directed by IT artistic director Len Fisher, *Reel Christmas* is the latest installment for the community theater.

Fisher's brainchild, *A Reel Christmas* will include scenes taken from classic Christmas movies, redone in Inspire Theatre fashion. It will also include snowmen, walking lamps, dogs that dance, solos and group numbers of great seasonal tunes as well as audience sing-a-longs. And audience giveaways are always part of the of-



INSPIRE THEATRE
Joe Nowaske rehearses a scene from "A Reel Christmas."

fering as is a lot warm wonderful holiday feelings.

Inspire Theatre, which relocated in May to Westland's Warehouse District, has jumped back into doing theater with both feet. Since moving to its Executive Drive location, IT has presented *Alice in Wonderland*, *Steel Magnolias*, *Bliethe Spirit*, an original murder/mystery/comedy, *No Stone Unturned* and now its Christmas show, *A Reel Christmas*.

Formerly in a church on Warren Road, the new

location seems to be working out nicely. And the community has taken notice.

Mayor William Wild and "Spotlight on Westland" came calling to have a look around and interview Fisher. The show can be seen on WLN. Fisher also spoke recently at the Rotary, which in turn has caused the Rotary to request a special performance of *A Reel Christmas*. Hosted by Lou Toarmina, the Tuesday, Dec. 9, show will be a family-style dinner theater.

Sunday's show will feature local recording artist, Kylee Fisher. Fisher has recorded several CDs and has appeared in some of the better bistros and venues in the Detroit and Ann Arbor area. Recently Fisher was featured as part of the Chatham Concert series in Chatham, Ontario. She has also opened for major artists, most recently at the Ark in Ann Arbor.

Those looking for a fun, family safe time this holiday season, need look

no further than Inspire Theatre. Fisher promises that *A Reel Christmas* is kid friendly. And following that production, IT plays host to the Spotlight on Youth program and their production of *Rock and Roll Santa* Dec. 11-14.

The following weekend is the Inspire School of Theatre Arts presentation of three plays for one price: *Merry Christmas Charlie Brown*, *The Gift of the Magi* and an original mystery/comedy, *The Death of Rudolph*.

Tickets and more information can be found at inspiretheatre.com or by calling 734-751-7057. The show times for *A Reel Christmas* are 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 3 p.m. and Sunday. The theater is located at 5767 Executive Drive between Newburg and Hix in Westland.

Make-and-take craft workshop scheduled for Saturday

By Sue Buck
Staff Writer

Three groups have organized a special "Make and Take It" craft workshop at the Maplewood Community Center in Garden City.

The Michigan State University Extension, Wayne County 4-H and Garden City Department of Community Resources are holding a special craft workshop from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6.

The first-time workshop can provide leisurely fun and a way for people to make inexpensive holiday gift items. Participants ages 5 to adult have the opportunity to develop hands-on techniques while completing projects of their choice.

They can learn to arm knit as they complete a scarf; increase painting skills using various mediums (wood, glass, and/or textiles), make jewelry, key chains, etc.

They can also treat that special someone to a homemade spa package.

"Twenty different projects will be offered on Saturday," Maplewood Building Manager Martha Griggs said. "This is a great activity for all ages. Our partnership with 4H allows us to bring a diverse program like this to the community as a whole."

Any or all of the projects will make great low-cost Christmas gifts, she added.

Some projects are offered only once during the day. Refer to Facebook, MSUE 4th

Wayne County or the Garden City website for the Maplewood Community Center Page for more information.

A list of session times and costs also is available at the Maplewood Community Center located on Maplewood, west of Merriman.

No experience is necessary to sign up to make hand knit scarves, beading, a rice heat pack, lip gloss, bath salts, hand scrub, foot soak, painted ornaments and painted wood ornaments, texting gloves, glass painting, decorated coasters, wooden jewelry box, painted children's hat or a pendant necklace.

"This is a great way youth and adults can be involved in the Wayne County 4-H Program," said Glenda Weiss, Wayne County 4-H program coordinator. "Participants will learn skills they may use at home with their own projects or pass on to other youth or adults."

Participation fees are charged depending on the project. Most projects range from \$1 to \$5.

Pre-register at the Maplewood Community Center by Friday, Dec. 5. Participants may register the day of the event, but all sessions may not be available.

For more information contact Glenda Weiss at 734-729-3632, ext. 101, or by email at weissg@anr.msu.edu. Participants can also call 734-793-1850.

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Welcome Dr. Irby-Johnson

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Dr. Irby-Johnson received her medical degree from Wayne State University School of Medicine and is board certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine.

stmarymercy.org/smmmg



TOM BEAUDOIN

The parade floats were a big hit.



TOM BEAUDOIN

The Franklin High School Marching Band was one of four bands that took part in this year's Santaland Parade.



TOM BEAUDOIN

The U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps, James M. Hannan Division, march in this year's Santaland Parade held in Garden City.

Garden City welcomes Santa to town



TOM BEAUDOIN

The Project Graduation 2015 float won first place.



TOM BEAUDOIN

The always popular Redford Township Unicycle Club entertains.



TOM BEAUDOIN

The Garden City Moose Lodge #538 displayed a moose float.



TOM BEAUDOIN

The Garden City High School Cougars football team is out in full force.



TOM BEAUDOIN

St. Raphael Catholic School took second place in the float competition at the Santaland Parade on Saturday.

Rosa Parks and the Montgomery Bus Boycott

This week in 1955, Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat to a white passenger on a segregated bus in Montgomery, Ala. Parks's arrest for failing to obey a bus driver's seat assignments ignited a 381-day boycott by the black community in Montgomery that eventually led to the desegregation of public transportation in the South. The Montgomery Bus Boycott is considered a seminal event in the U.S. civil rights movement.



At the time of her arrest, Rosa Parks was a 42-year-old seamstress and the secretary for the Montgomery chapter of the NAACP. Parks had studied non-violent civil disobedience, but her refusal to give up her seat that day was unplanned. In her autobiography, *My Story*, Parks later wrote: "People always say that I didn't give up my seat because I was tired, but that isn't true. I was not tired physically, or no more tired than I usually was at the end of a working day. I was not old, although some people have an image of me as being old then. I was 42. No, the only tired I was, was tired of giving in."

Over the course of the Montgomery Bus Boycott, some 40,000 black commuters found alternatives to public transportation. Some people rode in carpools, while others traveled in black-operated cabs that

charged the same fare as the bus, 10 cents. Many walked, some as many as 20 miles per day. An organization, called the Montgomery Improvement Association, was formed to lead the boycott and headed by a young preacher new to Montgomery, Martin Luther King Jr.

The library carries a variety of materials related to Rosa Parks and the Montgomery Bus Boycott. For adults, check out *She Would Not Be Moved: How We Tell the Story of Rosa Parks and the Montgomery Bus Boycott* by Herbert Kohl, *The Thunder of Angels: the Montgomery Bus Boycott and the People Who Broke the Back of Jim Crow* by Donnie Williams, or the PBS series *Eyes on the Prize* on DVD. For kids, check out *A Dream of Freedom: The Civil Rights Movement from 1954 to 1968* by Diane McWhorter or *Boycott Blues: How Rosa Parks Inspired a Nation* by Andrea Davis Pinkney.

If you'd like to learn more about the history of the civil rights movement in the United States, visit the library website at www.westlandlibrary.org, give us a call at 734-326-6123, or stop by the Reference Desk.

The William P. Faust Public Library of Westland is open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. on Sundays.

Highlighted Events

Magic: the Gathering, 4-6 p.m. Dec. 4, Grades 7-12 — We'll have a round-robin tournament (with booster packs for prizes) as well as free play. Bring a standard deck to play in the tournament.

Preschool Holiday Crafts, 10 a.m. Dec. 5, ages 3½ to 5 years — Join us for a special drop-in craft for preschoolers anytime between 10-11 a.m.

Friday Night Movie, 7 p.m. Dec. 5 — Join us for a Friday evening institution of watching a recently released DVD each week, with an emphasis on award winners and nominees and book-to-movie releases. Tonight's movie, *The Hundred-Foot Journey*. Rated PG. Snacks and refreshments are provided on a donation basis. Each week also features a trivia contest with small prizes handed out after the movie.

Rhythm & Rock Time, 10 a.m. Dec. 6, 1-5 years, with caregiver — Your little one's natural rhythm will shine in this interactive music program. Siblings are welcome. No registration needed.

Health Care Information Session and Q&A, 11 a.m. to noon Dec. 6 — Need health care? Not sure what you qualify for? Want to learn more about health coverage from the Health Insurance Marketplace or the Healthy Michigan Plan? Our experts can help. Join us for an Information and Q&A Session presented by a certified health care navigator,

followed by drop-in health coverage enrollment assistance. Enroll by Dec. 15 for coverage beginning January 1, 2015.

Health Care Enrollment Assistance, noon to 4 p.m. Dec. 6 and 4-8 p.m. Dec. 9 — Our health care application assistants will be available to help you apply for health coverage online. Drop-in to get help enrolling in health care for you and your family.

Annual Holiday Concert, 2-3 p.m. Dec. 7 — Celebrated jazz guitarist, Jake Reichbart, will perform holiday classics and originals. Join us for a friendly, jazzy, and fun concert to start off our Holiday Concert programming.

Parents in Action Workshop: Word Play, 9:30-11:30 a.m. Dec. 8 — Parents, here's your chance to learn something new while your child has a fun playtime.

Parents in Action Workshop: Parent Support, 10 a.m. Dec. 10 — Includes using your newly learned skills. This program is presented by Starfish Family Services. Take-home activities provided as an additional resource. This month's topic is: Word Play: Rhymes and Other Pre-Reading Activities. For more information, call the Youth Department at 734-326-6123, ext. 2831.

Friends of the Library Meeting, 2 p.m. Dec. 9 — The Friends of the Library is an independent group of local residents and library users that helps support and promote the Library and its

mission. They plan book sales and other fundraising activities for the library. They meet the second Tuesday of each month.

Tween Writing Workshop, 7 p.m. Dec. 9, Grades 5-8 — Do you like to write? Come to our Tween Writing Workshop. Each month, we'll explore different genres, play writing games, and, of course, write. This month, we'll look at a well-known poem and explore ways of creating a new poem, using the same rhyme pattern.

Child Development Workshop - Kitchen Art Fun, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Dec. 10 — Starfish Family Services' Early Learning Communities presents a monthly Child Development Workshop at the Westland Library. This month's topic is: Kitchen Art Fun (#25) Attend five workshops and your child is eligible to receive free books from the Imagination Library. Free Child Care provided for children of participants. Register by going to www.westlandlibrary.org/kids/events or go to www.greatstartconnect.org. Walk-ins accepted, if space allows.

Academic Enrichment, 3:30-5 p.m. Dec. 10, Grades 5 and up — Bring your assignments for free homework help and study help. Geared toward grades 5 and up. No advanced registration needed, however, parents must sign a waiver upon arrival in order for child or teen to participate.

Storytime at Biggy Coffee, 10-10:30 a.m. Dec. 11, 2-5 years — Join us

for a monthly storytime at Biggy Coffee. A librarian from the Public Library of Westland will present stories, songs and rhymes for you and your child. Biggy Coffee is at 36640 Ford Road in Westland. Caregivers will receive \$1 off any grand/super beverage and kids' beverages are available at everyday value pricing.

Super Science, 5 p.m. Dec. 11, 7-12-year-olds — Do you love science? If you are between the ages of 7 and 12, join us as we do some exciting, hands-on science experiments. Wear old clothes, as science can get messy.

Make Your Own Ornaments, 6-8 p.m. Dec. 11 — Adults and teens (grades 7 and up) are invited to come personalize their own ornaments. You'll use glitter, paint, ribbon, and/or old book pages to create your own unique ornaments. No registration is required and all materials will be provided.

Open Mic, 7-8:30 p.m. Dec. 11 — Let your muse run wild coffee shop-style with singer-songwriter, John Latini, as your emcee. Writers, poets, singers/rappers, bands, performers of all sorts are welcome. No sign up needed.

Information Central was compiled by Katie Dover-Taylor. The William P. Faust Public Library is at 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland. For more information, call 734-326-6123 or go online to westlandlibrary.org.

Donations sought for apartment fire victims

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

Donations continue to be accepted for Woodcrest Villa Apartments residents who were displaced by a massive Thanksgiving week fire.

Clothing and non-perishable food donations can be sent to the Wayne-Westland Fire Administration, 37201 Marquette, Westland, MI 48185. Monetary donations are also being accepted and checks can be made out to Westland Firefighters Public Awareness Committee.

Wayne-Westland Firefighters responded to a fire at Woodcrest Villa Apartments in Westland on Nov. 24 that ultimately affected 17 families and destroyed 20 units at the complex.

Due to extreme winds that day, the fire was difficult to contain and the responders from Wayne-Westland, Garden City, Livonia, and Inkster battled the flames for nearly 10 hours, said Wayne-Westland Fire Chief Michael Reddy.

The apartment management company and the fire department worked together to provide placements in other apartments for the affected families and individuals, he said. In addition, the Red Cross and Salvation Army provided basic essentials to the victims.

"Our thoughts and prayers go out to those affected by this tragic fire, and we are so thankful that no lives were lost," Mayor William Wild said. "I want to thank our brave firefighters from Westland and other communities who responded and fought the flames for nearly 10 hours."

Wild added that he has also been encouraged by the response from the



BOB MASON

Donations are being collected for 17 families displaced by a Nov. 24 fire that destroyed 20 units at Woodcrest Villa Apartments in Westland.

"This is an unfortunate tragedy, especially as we head into the holiday season,"

WILLIAM WILD,
Westland mayor

community at-large.

"This is an unfortunate tragedy, especially as we head into the holiday season, but I am proud of the compassion our residents have shown to those affected, and I thank everyone who has donated and supported the

displaced families," he said.

Henry Ford Opti-mEyes, 35184 Central City Parkway, in Westland, is accepting donations of new or gently used clothing for all ages and non-perishable food for the fire victims through Friday, Dec. 5.

Immediately after the fire, Reddy said the two-story building was too damaged by the fire to be rebuilt and would have to be demolished. He estimated the building loss at \$2.5 million. No one was injured during the fire.

Rogers@hometownlife.com
734-883-9039
Twitter: @LRogersObserver



SUBMITTED

Cantate, a 14-voice ensemble, will be performing in Livonia and Bloomfield Hills next month.

'Light of the World' concert celebrates songs from around the globe

Two choral celebrations of the season will be presented in December by Cantate, a 14-voice ensemble. The concerts, entitled "Light of the World," featuring seasonal songs from around the globe, will be

presented on Sunday, Dec. 7, at 3:30 p.m. at St. Genevieve and St. Maurice Catholic Church, 29015 Jamison St. in Livonia, and on Sunday, Dec. 14, at 3 p.m. at Pilgrim Congregational Church, 3061 N. Adams

Road in Bloomfield Hills. No tickets will be needed as a free will offering will be collected at the door. For further information regarding the group, including auditions, contact 248-349-8175.

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Schoolcraft College



Inside One Stop Collision's 6,500-square-foot building is plenty of space to work on vehicles of all makes and models.

SUBMITTED

One Stop Collision takes pain out of repairs

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

Adam Farha likes to tell his customers that he doesn't work for the insurance companies, he works for them.

It's a philosophy he has followed for 15 years as the owner of One Stop Collision on Middlebelt in Garden City.

"We do take all insurances, but we're not a direct representative or a select service for insurance companies," Farha said. "We try to serve the community; we want to be a part of the community."

While One Stop is called a repair shop, it has a lot of services packed into its 6,500-square-foot building. It offers paint and body work and framework, in addition to towing and free estimates.

It also helps with deductibles up to \$1,000, depending on the how much damage there is and how much work needs to be done.

In the aftermath of the floods in August, many shops wouldn't take care of the damaged cars. One customer brought in a car that his insurance was hands off because it couldn't ensure his safety.

One Stop did a 31-point safety inspection and then told him what needed to be done.

ONE STOP COLLISION

Owner: Adam Farha of Ann Arbor.
Location: 130 Middlebelt, Garden City.
Employees: Five.
Services: Paint, body work and framework, free towing and free estimates. All insurances accepted.
Contact: 734-42-0113, www.onestopcollision.com.

"We want to let people know not to let your insurance direct you to a select service provider," Farha said.

"Most insurance companies don't take care of the customer, a lot of people are really intimidated by them," manager Erin Leen said. "We deal with the insurance company, we set up the rentals."

"No one has the time to deal with an accident. We work with Enterprise and offer a discount, we also offer loaners," she said.

Farha strives to keep his shop equipped with the latest technology that's needed to repair today's complex vehicles. He keeps his employees up to date through ongoing training, and is dedicated to im-



Manager Erin Leen (left) handles the office for Adam Farha, owner of the One Stop Collision Shop in Garden City.

SUE MASON

proving the collision repair industry.

According to a One Stop brochure, the shop, as a member of the business community, adheres to a code of ethics and its pledge is to honesty, integrity, safety and craftsmanship. "For us, satisfying the customer is the most important goal we have."

"Eighty percent of our business is referrals," Farha said. "A lot of our business comes from word of mouth. We have a five-star rating in Wayne County through Google. We love doing this; it's our business."

"Let us take the pain out of your accident," added Leen. "One call does it all."

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Twitter: @SusanMarieMason

Do the math on overdraft protection fees

According to a Consumer Financial Protection Bureau report (the government entity established to protect consumers after the financial crisis), 17,000 percent is the average interest rate that U.S. consumers are paying for overdraft protection.

Overdraft protection was a mainstay with banks when the great majority of consumers used checking accounts. If you over-drew the balance on your checking account, overdraft protection would cover the check. It was a way to avoid the embarrassment of bouncing a check.

You can think of overdraft protection as a line of credit that would automatically kick in if needed. In today's world, checks are becoming a thing of the past. Today, as opposed to writing checks, more people are using debit cards. Therefore, overdraft protection provides that line of credit on your debit card.

In the past, the cost of overdraft protection was nominal. That is no longer the case. According to the Consumer Financial Bureau report, banks are now collecting over \$30 billion a year in annual debit card overdrafts. The average overdraft is about \$24 and the average fee that the banks are charging is \$34. In addition, the typical overdraft is paid off in three days. If you do the math, that short-term loan is costing about 17,000 percent interest.

Like everything else today, there are vast differences as to how banks and other financial institutions assess fees. The bottom line is that overdraft fees have become a significant cost to consumers and may be something to take into consideration when reassessing your banking relationship.

It used to be that consumers chose a bank based upon convenience. The bank was located near work or home. Banking was viewed as a convenience issue. Fast forward today with ATM and online banking, convenience is no longer the No. 1 issue. The services that the banks provide along with fees and costs, must be important factors in choosing a financial institution. Particularly, for those who have used your overdraft protection, fees that the banks charge are important.

I recognize it is difficult to change financial institutions. However, if I was paying 17,000 percent interest, it would be a motivating factor to begin the process of finding a better banking relationship.

When looking for a new financial institution, don't forget a credit union, which is typically more consumer-friendly and has more reasonable fees.

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



Rick Bloom

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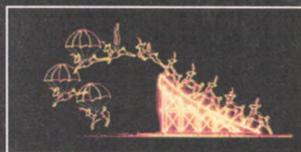
Dec. 2, 9 and 16

Bring a new, unwrapped toy in lieu of the \$5 vehicle fee. Toys will be donated to the Wayne County Family Center.

● Santa's Workshop

Now through Dec. 23 take photos with Santa and don't forget to bring your letters!

For more information, please visit www.waynecounty.com



BUSINESS NEWSMAKERS

Board appointments

The Westland City Council has approved the mayoral appointment of the Rev. Rob Kerr to the Downtown Development Authority and Tom Nix to the Board of Review and Steve Larimore to the Tax Increment Finance Authority/Economic Development Corporation.

Rev. Kerr is currently a pastor at St. John's Episcopal Church in Westland and a licensed psychologist. He was appointed to fill an unexpired term on the DDA. The DDA implements an improvement and business development plan in a commercial district along Ford Road and Wayne Road south of Ford and they help firms by providing design assistance for redevelopment of commercial properties.

Nix is currently rounding out his first three-year term on the Board of Review and was reappointed for another three-year term. Nix is a local business owner who has called Westland home since 1978.

The Board of Review reviews the annual assessment roll and hears appeals of real and personal property assessments.

Larimore is a long-time Westland resident and has served on the TIFA/EDC Board since 2004. TIFA/EDC promotes economic and business development through programs and public improvement projects that create economic opportunity, provide entrepreneurial support, and preserve property values.

"Mr. Nix and Mr. Larimore have been dedicated volunteers and public servants for our community on their two Boards," said Mayor or William Wild. "I am excited for each of them



Kerr

Nix

to continue making a difference through their work, and I look forward to the great work Father Rob Kerr will do on the Downtown Development Authority."

Project improves safety and efficiency

Vehicles operating on the airfield at Detroit Metropolitan Airport will soon be sending a signal showing their exact location to both Air Traffic Control and the airport's Operational Control Center.

"Safety is the number one priority at our airports," Airport Authority CEO Thomas Naughton said. "Allowing ATC and OCC to monitor certain vehicles on the AOA not only improves safety by improving situational awareness, but enhances efficiency when responding to possible incidents as well."

The Airport Authority has selected Exelis, a global leader in providing critical network solutions, to install Vehicle Movement Area Transponders in Airport Rescue and Fire Fighting, Airport Maintenance, and Airfield Operations vehicles operating in the Aircraft Operating Area.

Symphony® Mobile-Vue™ will provide ATC the ability to view vehicles equipped with VMAT instantly with the vehicle identification being displayed on a common screen shared with the OCC. Currently, vehicles check in via radio with Air Traffic Control for identification, and are not visible in the OCC.

Logos for sponsors: DTE Energy, Zeal, Consumers Energy, Entertainment of America, FOX 2, MCMBA, AITC, McDonald's, and Observer & Eccentric.

Governor: Now is time to fix roads, bridges

Southeast Michigan community leaders have told Gov. Rick Snyder that further delays in enacting a long-term solution to Michigan's deteriorating roads and bridges needlessly risk lives, slam families and businesses with additional costs, and stifle job growth.

The comments were part of a roundtable discussion with Snyder in Southfield on Monday.

The governor has offered a comprehensive plan that will raise the necessary \$1.2 billion annually for local and state infrastructure repairs. About 60 percent of the revenue will go to counties, cities and villages for their roads and bridges.

He reviewed the initiative with roundtable participants at Lawrence Technological University after inspecting aging, deteriorating infrastructure along M-10/Lodge Freeway between McNichols and Meyers roads.

"The message from every corner of our state



Gov. Rick Snyder offers a comprehensive plan to fix Michigan's roads during a roundtable discuss in Southfield on Monday.

is clear," Snyder said. "It's time to fix the roads. Michiganders are tired of dodging potholes, whether it's on the highway or in their neighborhoods. They're fed up with getting socked with auto repair bills because Lansing has ignored the problem for too long."

Snyder told local officials that "there's nothing Michigan can't do" and that the state's "economic turnaround is a model for the nation."

"But, to achieve our full potential, we need a modern infrastructure that keeps families safe and invites investment

from job creators," he said. "Let's stop making excuses and dragging our feet. We have a plan that's ready to go. I am asking House members to join the Senate in approving our plan. Let's finish the job."

Crumbling roads and bridges have a signifi-

cant impact on the state. An estimated 100 lives can be saved each year, if Michigan improves its infrastructure, according to a 2012 analysis by The Road Information Program (TRIP). In addition, one in nine bridges across Michigan is rated as "structurally deficient," which means their conditions show deterioration.

Family budgets take a big hit as well, with poor roads causing an average of \$539 in additional annual vehicle operating costs due to repairs, tire wear and increased fuel consumption, TRIP reports.

In addition to saving lives and reducing auto repair bills, investing in the state's roads and bridges will contribute to the creation of about 12,000 direct and indirect jobs.

Michigan hasn't updated its overall investment in roads since the gas tax — which currently is the primary source of revenue — was adjusted in 1997.

Basic elements of the governor's plan that recently were approved by the state Senate include:

- » Eliminating the current 19 cents-per-gallon gasoline tax and 15 cents-per-gallon diesel fuel tax at the pump, and instead charge a tax on gasoline wholesalers.

- » Increasing the wholesale tax by 2 percent each year for three years, occurring every Jan. 1.

- » Doubling the fines for violations of truck weight limits and dedicating half of that revenue to the State Trunk Line Fund.

The plan will result in county road commissions, cities and villages seeing an average funding increase of 73 percent by 2018.

"There's a time for discussion and a time for action," Snyder said. "After nearly 20 years of discussion in Lansing, taxpayers deserve action. There's no getting around it. The bill will only get bigger the longer we wait."

Motor City Youth Theatre presents 'A Christmas Carol'



Ebenezer Scrooge is visited by the ghost of Christmas Present in the Motor City Youth Theatre's production of "A Christmas Carol."

Get into the Christmas spirit starting this weekend as the Motor City Youth Theatre presents *A Christmas Carol*.

Ebenezer Scrooge, Bob Cratchett, Jacob Marley and the rest of the characters from the Dickens classic will be performed by youth actors in grades 2-11.

Showtimes are at 7 p.m. Dec. 5, Dec. 6, Dec. 12 and Dec. 13 and 2 p.m. Dec. 7 and Dec. 14. Advance tickets are \$10 for adults and \$8 for seniors and students. Limited cabaret seating for select shows is \$15. Visit eventbrite.com to buy advance tickets.

All seats are \$2 more at the door.

The theater is at 27555 Grantland, north of Plymouth Road and west of Inkster Road in Livonia.

All patrons are asked to bring a can of food to the shows. All goods will be donated to the Redford Interfaith Relief food pantry for many families in need.

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OUR VIEWS

Holiday giving: Know charity before making donation

You may have missed Giving Tuesday, what with all the hoopla surrounding the four biggest days of the holiday shopping season — pre-Black Friday, Black Friday, Small Business Saturday and Cyber Monday.

Giving Tuesday was founded in 2012 as a way to channel to promote and celebrate the great American tradition of giving. For many of us, giving to charities like Wayne, Westland and Garden City Goodfellows, the Salvation Army and Toys for Tots is as much a part of the holidays as the shopping and celebrations with family and friends.

For many charities, the donations they receive now will support their efforts throughout the year. Locally, hundreds of families and children will have a bright and beautiful Christmas thanks to the generosity of strangers.

And the solicitations will go well beyond local groups. Mixed in with the sizable increase of mail and email requests for charitable donations, telephones will be ringing with this or that organization looking for assistance. Some will come from well-known organizations, but there will be those from less recognizable groups.

Charitable giving done before Jan. 1 means that the monetary gifts will be deductible on the 2014 tax return, but before you give take the time to find out where your money is going. Don't let glossy campaign literature sway you to opening your checkbook or use your credit card. Our recommendation is to focus on charities you know and trust.

The Better Business Bureau recommends that if you are unfamiliar with an organization that is soliciting donations, don't give without getting details about the charity first. Don't be fooled by low overhead claims. Get the charity's information. Ask for the charity's name, address, and written information on the charity's programs and finances.

Know how much of your purchase goes to the charity. If something is being sold to benefit a charity, be wary of statements such as "all proceeds go to charity." Look for a disclosure that states exactly how much will go to the charity's programs.

A case in point is the Kids Wish Network which has the dubious honor of being the worst charity in the nation in a 2013 review of charities with wasteful spending practices done by the Tampa Bay Times, CNN and the Center for Investigative Reporting. Based on "cash paid to solicitors in the last decade," the report found that of the \$127.8 million raised for Kids Wish Network, \$109.8 million went to the solicitors.

Give by check or credit card. When you give by check or credit card, you have proof of your donation when it's time to do your taxes. Never be pressured into giving cash and never give via wire transfer.

Just say no. If you get a call from an unfamiliar organization asking for a contribution over the telephone by credit card, just say no and hang up. The caller could be calling you from anywhere in the world. The longer they keep you on the telephone, the more likely they will be to pressure you into giving. Once they have your credit card number, they could max out your credit limit within minutes.

If you get an email from an unfamiliar organization asking for a contribution, do not click on links or download attachments. You could download viruses to your computer. Scammers send out millions of fake "phishing" emails every day to steal personal information.

Tuesday may have been Giving Tuesday, but it's never too late to give. Charity begins at home, but make sure your money will be wisely spent.



For many of us, giving to charities like The Salvation Army is as much a part of the holidays as the shopping and celebrations with family and friends.

OBSERVER

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GUEST COLUMN



The sleep-out event was co-chaired by Sue Snyder, Michigan's first lady, and Jacqueline Wilson, first lady of Wayne State University.

It's an empty feeling to be homeless

Children forced to sleep outside? That's cold. Today is Thanksgiving, yet across Michigan, far too many people are curled up inside cardboard boxes, worldly possessions on their backs, as they attempt survival on the night's mean streets.

Last week, I experienced — for just one night — the agony, the agony of being homeless. It was cold that night — 7 degrees. I did it as part of Covenant House Michigan's (www.covenanthousemi.org) mission to raise awareness and funds to help youth homelessness.

Covenant House, a faith-based nonprofit organization that provides hope to homeless, runaway and at-risk youth ages 13-22, offers more than shelter. With its educational and vocational programs — it offers hope and pathways to success.

The "sleep-out" event was co-chaired by Sue Snyder, Michigan's first lady, and Jacqueline Wilson, first lady of Wayne State University.

Since its inception in 1997, Covenant House has served more than 54,000 youth, helping re-direct them onto a path toward meaningful and successful adulthood.

Many friends and neighbors helped me raise more than \$13,000 as a portion of the \$250,000 raised to help people who are homeless.

Lessons learned

Memories of my being out for that one night: aches and pains and a bad cold. The human body is not meant to sleep on cold cement. It was difficult to be productive the following day without a hot shower and a comfortable night's sleep. Yet this was an experiment — a single



Tom Watkins

night in a controlled, safe environment.

I can't even begin to imagine the fear, loneliness, isolation and trepidation if this was your reality night after night, struggling to survive day after day.

It was an uncomfortable night, even though we were prepared with insulated boots, long underwear, gloves, winter hats and a coat that turned into a sleeping bag — produced by a formerly homeless woman. (www.empowermentplan.org).

Hard to imagine youth on our streets, lucky to have a flimsy jacket, a pair of Nikes and a baseball cap as their survival gear.

The physical discomfort also came with mental discomfort. Before we hit the street for the night, we shared dinner and a candlelight vigil with homeless youth who are nurtured, educated and sheltered by Covenant House. We heard stories of hurt, pain, substance abuse, violence, neglect and abuse speckled with hope, courage, perseverance, friendship and love. We learned there are multiple paths into and out of homelessness to hope and success.

Today there are more than 86,000 people who are homeless in Michigan. The reasons are myriad and include:

- » lack of affordable housing
- » inability to make a living wage
- » mental health issues
- » domestic abuse
- » prevalence of drugs, violence and gangs

» an average income of a homeless Michigan family just \$730 per month (www.thecampaigntoendhomelessness.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=PyAi7MFQN7o%3D&tabid=80&mid=429)

More than 600,000 people are homeless in the U.S. on any given night. Most (65 percent) were living in emergency shelters or transitional housing programs and 35 percent were living in non-sheltered locations.

Nearly one-quarter of all homeless people are children under the age of 18, one in 10 are ages 18-24 and two-thirds (67 percent) are 25 years or older, according to www.hudexchange.info.

Give thanks

The need is great. There was no better reason to give thanks the next morning than waking up in my box — cold, disoriented but knowing my ordeal was over.

Today is Thanksgiving. A time to give thanks. I awoke after one night in a cardboard box, humbled and full of gratitude for all I have. To those to whom much is given, much is expected.

So hug your family, give thanks and give back. Your generous donation of time or money will help provide shelter, food, clothing and educational and vocational programs to persons who are homeless. Our children are a smaller part of our population, but 100 percent of our collective futures.

Tom Watkins, a Northville resident, is a former state superintendent of schools and state mental health director. He is the president and CEO of the Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority (www.dwmha.com).

LETTERS

Wish the best for each other

It's that time of year, for most of us it is the favorite time of all. Well, I have had a lot of thoughts lately that make me nervous. It is our world and the people in it. We are so many different types, and we all seem to think that others should do or be like each other. Why? That question only you can answer.

What I have come up with is this: I myself do not have to change, but if the changes make me a better person and the world around me better, then I do need to change.

I believe it starts with understanding that we are all different, and wish for the best for each other. This makes nothing impossible, if we work together to make the best of everything. We have to trust that something new may make the other happy, that forgiving others without asking why is good. This brings compassion, love and change.

We can't always think it's about us.

Growing up, I heard many people say it's for the future, it's for the children, it's for others. Now I hear people say what am I going to get, how will I benefit or what about me. As one friend has called it, it's the Me Box complex.

I am not saying we lower our standards, but maybe help others to see through different eyes. I know I have seen many different lives and try to respect other people and their ways without losing sight of who I am and where I have come from.

I am not always right and I have a lot to learn, like asking for help, saying no and all the above. I will try to make the change by doing what I have said. We can't always believe what we hear, but the facts are what we have to go by.

So, please, from here on, stop and say hello to a stranger, hold a door open, tell someone what a great job they are doing or did, help someone up or with packages. Pass on a good deed to someone else and the person who has helped you. Pay it back to others twice for what you receive and it does not have to be the same way you get it. Most of all don't think about the outcome, just let it happen. Listen to someone else without telling them what to do or how to do it. Take a chance and be different.

Life is too short and we can only do the small things as one person, but together we can do so much more. We are good, but we can always be better.

Sharon A. Strebbling
Westland

Four-legged help

If you're an animal lover please read on: Homeward Bound Rescue League is an animal foster organization based in Canton. Many pups come from filthy puppy mills, some are taken in after they have been abused or neglected, and sometimes the previous owner simply had to give up their pet.

The good folks at Canton's Pet Supplies Plus allow Carrie Marsh, the director of HBRL, to use their store on select weekends so that the public can come in and see all of the adorable creatures who need homes. HBRL has a collection box right inside of Pet Supplies Plus's front door and would greatly appreciate bags of food, used or outgrown collars, leashes, etc.

Unfortunately, Carrie's van was broken into recently and all of the supplies that she carts around in her van to support these animals were stolen.

HBRL could really use an infusion of money to replace what was stolen. If you're thinking about getting a dog or cat, please consider checking out its website: www.hbrlmi.org. If you'd like to help, its address is HBRL, P.O. Box 87591, Canton, MI 48187.

Karl and Mary Halewicz
Canton

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

The Community Calendar runs in the *Observer* as space permits. Nonprofit groups and community organizations are welcome to submit news of upcoming events. Include a daytime telephone number and contact person. Email address: ksmith@hometownlife.com.

LIVONIA CHRISTMAS WALK

Time/date: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6.

Details: Start the holiday season with a walk through five distinctive Livonia homes featuring a variety of decorating styles during Livonia's 26th annual Christmas Walk. Tickets are \$9 in advance, \$10 day of event. All proceeds benefit Greenmead Historical Park. Tickets are available at Greenmead, Livonia City Hall, and all Livonia public libraries.

Contact: 248-477-7375.

LIVONIA SYMPHONY CONCERT

Time/date: 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6.

Location: Clarenceville High School, 20155 Middlebelt Road, Livonia.

Details: The Livonia Symphony Orchestra will present "Holiday Merriment," its annual Christmas concert of secular and sacred music. Featured will be Angie Hahn's Academy of Dance performing excerpts from the Nutcracker Ballet. Santa will attend to meet with the young and young at heart. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$10 for students age 6 and up. Group rates are available for groups of 10 at \$15 per person. Tickets are available at the door and at the Civic Center Library. For group tickets, call 313-538-2536.

Contact: www.livoniasymphony.org.

LIVONIA YOUTH CHOIR CONCERT

Time/date: 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6.

Location: St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, 27475 Five Mile Road, Livonia.

Details: The Livonia Youth Choir will perform its winter concert, *A Winter's Night of Song*. Tickets are \$3 each. Bake sale after the concert. Winter auditions will take place 5:30-6:30 p.m. Jan. 5 and Jan. 12. For more information, visit www.livoniayouthchoir.org.

GABRIELLE'S ANGELS BENEFIT

Time/date: noon to 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6.

Location: Dorsey Community Center, 32715 Dorsey St., Wayne.

Details: Fundraiser to benefit children aging out of the foster care system, low-income single parents and homeless prevention. White elephant auction, raffle drawings for gift certificates donated by local businesses, fun and games for the family.

Contact: 734-895-1830.

HOLIDAY CONCERT

Time/date: 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7.

Location: St. Paul's Church, 27475 Five Mile, Livonia.

Details: The Redford Civic Symphony Orchestra will perform a holiday concert. There will also be a bake sale and afterglow. Admission is free.

Contact: mike@entropystereo.com.

CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD HOLIDAY MUSICAL

Time/day: 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7.

Location: Churchill High School, 8900 Newburgh Road, Livonia.

Details: Presented by Metro Dance and Music Co., the Christmas Around the World Holiday Musical tells the story of Santa's elves working as "newsies" traveling the globe collecting stories of the different traditions and holiday customs while the North Pole readies for Santa's arrival. Tickets are \$12 each or \$40 for a family of four. Come early to enjoy live music, Christmas caroling, and our "around the world" bake sale. All audience members are also welcome on stage following the show to take pictures and get autographs from cast members, including Santa.

Contact: http://metrodancecompany.com.

LIVONIA DEMOCRATIC CLUB HOLIDAY PARTY

Time/date: 6-9 p.m. Monday, Dec. 8.

Location: Livonia Quality Inn, 30375 Plymouth, Livonia.

Details: A dinner of baked chicken, city chicken and sausage and sauerkraut will be served at 6:30 p.m. for a donation of \$10 per person. Kids under 12 are free. Bring a non-perishable food item to donate. Event includes raffle and 50-50 drawings. All are invited.

ANNUAL WCGH REUNION

Time/date: 5:30-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 9.

Location: Hibachi Grill Supreme Buffet, 6539 N. Wayne Road, Westland.

Details: The 30th annual

Wayne County General Hospital employees holiday reunion will be held in the party room of the Hibachi Grill Supreme. There is a large choice of food selections and a senior discount. All retirees and former employees are invited to attend. No reservations are needed. You can pay at the door.

Contact: 734-331-9291.

3D PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB MEETING

Time/date: 6:30-9:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 10.

Location: Civic Park Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia.

Details: The December meeting will feature the club's annual Holiday Pot-Luck dinner, and include a short live musical performance. There will also be

a variety of photographic and 3D items available for purchase. A 3D image competition will conclude the evening's events. The meetings are free to attend, and visitors are always welcome.

Contact: www.Detroit3D.org or call Dennis at 248-398-3591.

ST. GENEVIEVE SCHOOL FUNDRAISERS

Time/date: 4-9 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 10.

Location: Noodles & Co., 17931 Haggerty Road, Northville and Barnes & Noble, at 17111 Haggerty Road, Northville.

Details: Families can eat at Noodles and Company from 4-9 p.m. with 25 percent of the sales going to St. Genevieve School in Livonia. Barnes and Noble will give the school a portion of its sales from 5-8 p.m. that night as

well. Former Congressman David Bonior will sign his book *Eastside Kid* at Barnes and Noble at 7 p.m. Barnes and Noble will also accept online sales for five days. Just mention St. Genevieve School during check out at both locations so the school gets the proceeds.

Contact: Dawn Peruski at dawnperuski@hotmail.com.

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA AUDITIONS

Time/date: 6:15-8:15 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11.

Location: Redford Community Center, 12121 Hemingway, Redford.

Details: The Redford Civic Symphony Orchestra is hosting auditions for interested musicians. Be prepared to play a

scale, musical selection of your choice and sight read a short piece.

TOASTMASTERS OPEN HOUSE

Time/date: 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11.

Location: EMU Building, 38777 W. Six Mile, 4th floor, Livonia.

Details: The public is invited to Westside Professionals Toastmasters Club's meeting and open house to see how the club can help improve its members' communication and leadership skills. Refreshments served. There is no charge to attend.

Contact: Ida, 313-835-6063; westsideprofessionals.org.

Wish you were here



The Kinney family of Livonia — from left, Mary, Mike, Madalynn, and Gwen — spent Thanksgiving with the *Observer* cruising the Caribbean. Their stop in Cozumel, Mexico, is pictured.

The Kinney Family of Livonia — from left, Mary, Mike, Madalynn, and Gwen — spent Thanksgiving with the *Observer* cruising the Caribbean. A stop in Cozumel, Mexico is pictured.

CITY OF WESTLAND

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed proposals will be received by the City of Westland Purchasing Division, 36300 Warren Road, Westland, MI 48185, on **December 9th, 2014 at 10:00 a.m.** (no exceptions will be made for late filings) for the following:

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Complete specifications and pertinent information may be obtained from the Purchasing Office or at www.CityofWestland.com. The City of Westland reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Devin J. Adams
City Controller

Publish: December 4th, 2014

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PREP
GYMNASTICS

Blue vaults over Plymouth

Rhoad, Weak lead the way to victory in season opener

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Weak was strong Monday night for the Livonia Blue gymnastics team, which "Rhoad" a stellar night from its to top two all-arounders to a 139.275-137.575 victory over visiting Plymouth.

Blue's Bri Rhoad won the beam (9.25) and took second in the floor exercise (9.175) as her team compiled its highest opening-night score in the past four years. Jess Weak also excelled for the winners as she took first in floor (9.20) while tying teammate Emily Chatterjee in the uneven bars competition.

"It was nice to get a win in our opening meet against a team that's in our division and our region," said Blue head coach Lisa Broomfield. "The girls were very cohesive tonight, cheering a lot for one another. We have a lot of new girls - eight, six of whom are freshmen - so it was nice to see the cohesiveness."

Plymouth's Kayla Janeveski got the Wildcats off to a solid start by placing first in the vault event with a score of 8.90, which barely edged Rhoad's 8.80 effort. Molly McSween earned third-place points for the Wildcats with a score of 8.65 while Blue's Katie Grover and Caitie McDougall tied for fourth with marks of 8.55.

Blue took control of the meet during the bars competition as it outscored Plymouth 34.20-33.30, and never trailed thereafter. McSween won the bars with an 8.85, but Weak and Chatterjee's 8.80 and a solid 8.6 effort by Rhoad provided the depth that proved to be the difference.

Rhoad (9.25) and Chatterjee's (9.05) one-two finish on the beam helped the hosts extend their lead to 104.30-103.20 with one event left.

Weak and Rhoad went 1-2 in the floor to seal the deal for Blue. Rebecca Simu was Plymouth's top floor performer as she earned a score of 8.875.

ewright@hometownlife.com

"It was nice to get a win in our opening meet against a team that's in our division and our region."

LISA BROOMFIELD,
Blue head coach

HIGH SCHOOL HOOPS TIPS OFF



Livonia Stevenson senior guard Arryn Dochenetz pushes the ball up court against Harrison's Amber Stephens.

TOM BEAUDOIN

BALL HAWKS

Harrison's quickness too much for Spartans

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

The Livonia Stevenson girls basketball team's season-opening game against visiting Farmington Hills Harrison Tuesday night at times resembled an ill-fated dance step.

"It seemed like every time we'd take one step forward, we'd take two steps back," said Stevenson head coach Tim Newman, who watched his young and inexperienced crew drop a 47-28 decision to the speedy and precise Hawks. "Our inexperience really showed tonight. We didn't handle their pressure well."

"I knew coming in that it was going to be a tough opener because they're so quick. We were close to doing some good things a number of times but then we'd have a break down. We'll keep working and get better."

Kristen Nelson led Harrison with 20 points while Amber Stephens chipped in with 14 despite missing 10 free throws.

"Nelson is a load to try and stop," said Newman. "We knew without even scouting them that Nelson and Stephens were the two we'd need to contain, but they had an answer for everything we tried. When we went to a zone, they shot us out of it."

The lone offensive bright spot for Stevenson was senior guard Arryn Dochenetz, who tallied a team-high 11 points.

The Spartans were consistent as they

scored seven points in each of the four quarters. However, Harrison countered with stanzas of 15, 14, 7 and 11 to pull away.

Both teams struggled mightily from the free-throw line. The Spartans canned just 6 of 14 freebies while the Hawks found net on just 16 of 31 attempts.

"It's good, in a way, to open against a very good team because you find out in a hurry what you need to work on," Newman said. "The good news is we have a week to work on things before our next game."

The Spartans will host Livonia Franklin on Dec. 9 in the first game of a girls/boys basketball double-header. The girls game is scheduled to tip off at 5:30 p.m.

GC tumbles

Victimized by 30 offensive rebounds yanked down by host Taylor Kennedy, Garden City dropped a 51-41 decision to the Eagles in the season-opener for both teams Tuesday night.

"When you give up as many put-backs as we did tonight, you're lucky to only lose by 10," lamented GC head coach Michele Tyree. "They did have some tall girls, but instead of boxing them out, we tried to out-jump them. You're not going to get any calls when you do that."

The Cougars played toe-to-toe with the Eagles in every quarter but the second when they

See HOOPS, Page B3

Churchill duo's mission: Perfecting their 'J's

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

How many high-arc, long-range swishes can one standard nylon basketball net endure before fraying, tearing and ultimately dropping - exhausted - to the hardwood below?

Livonia Churchill junior sharpshooters Jon Hovermale and Joan Andoni could probably tell you in the wake of their almost-daily marathon jumpshooting sessions this past summer.

"We met up here [in the Churchill gym] almost every day in the summer and took anywhere from 500 to 1,000 shots every day," said Hovermale.

"Every day you miss is a day you can't get back, so we didn't miss too many days," added Andoni.

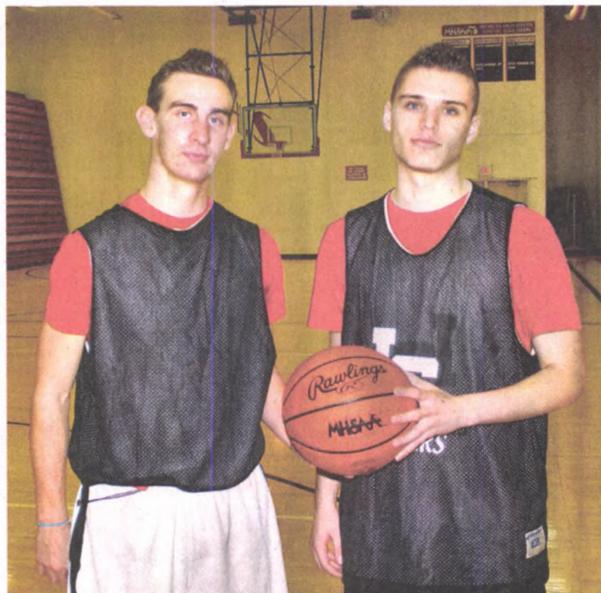
The pair of wing players' sweat equity - Andoni and Hovermale flank point guard Dayton Davis in the Chargers' three-guard offense - paid off handsomely last season as their long-range shooting prowess proved to be a zone-busting weapon.

Both fans of NBA long-distance sharpshooter Stephen Curry, Andoni and Hovermale understand how vital proper form is when launching their three-point fireworks.

"You have to have good footwork and you have to use your legs, otherwise you're not going to be a good shooter," Hovermale emphasized. "If you just use your upper-body, it's not going to work."

"I like watching Curry shoot," Andoni added, "because his shot

See BOMBERS, Page B3



Junior guards Jon Hovermale (left) and Joan Andoni give Livonia Churchill a dynamic outside-shooting tandem this season.

ED WRIGHT

Unique basketball games

The Livonia Franklin and Livonia Stevenson boys and girls basketball programs will take part in what promises to be an entertaining hoops double-header on Tuesday, Dec. 9, at Stevenson.

The two schools' girls teams will square off at 5:30 p.m. before the boys hit the hardwood in the second game of the two-game set that is expected to start at approximately 7 p.m.

Spectators will be required to pay just one admission fee for the two games.

Aces

There were three aces registered recently at Redford Township's Glenhurst Golf Course.

On Nov. 11, James Parker of Southfield drained his tee shot on the 158-yard 15th hole while using a 6 iron. The 64-year-old carded an 18-hole score of 81. It was his first ace in 25 years of playing golf.

Also on Nov. 11, Don Artur Johnson aced Glenhurst's 180-yard No. 2 hole with a 3 iron. The 49-year-old finished the 18-hole round with a score of 79. It was his first career ace.

On Oct. 15, Farmington Hills resident Ryan Corey recorded his first career hole-in-one on the 116-yard 13th hole while using a 50-degree GAP wedge. The 33-year-old, who has been playing golf since the age of 10, fired a nine-hole round of 37. It was his first career ace.

Whalers Teddy Bear Toss

When the Plymouth Whalers host the London Knights this Saturday at 7:05 p.m. at Compuware Arena, there will be more than hockey players and referees on the ice surface.

Saturday is the Whalers 15th Annual Teddy Bear Toss, sponsored by corporate friend Orin Jewelers of Garden City and Northville, the Official Jeweler of the Plymouth Whalers.

The first time the Whalers score on Saturday, fans are encouraged to throw new and gently used stuffed toys on the ice. The Whalers - with the help on Orin Jewelers and other friends - will find homes for the stuffed toys.

Fans have the option of purchasing stuffed toys on Saturday at Compuware Arena for a donation of \$5.

Reporting results

Local high school athletic coaches are encouraged to report results of their team's contests to Observer sports editor Ed Wright, who can be reached at 734-578-2767 or ewright@hometownlife.com. The deadline for Sunday editions is Friday at 10 p.m. The deadline for Thursday editions is Tuesday at 10 p.m.

THE SWISH SISTERS

Pummill siblings give Churchill hoops team solid inside-outside threat

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

There have been times in the past when Livonia Churchill junior guard Molly Pummill has delivered high-risk passes to her low-post sister Hannah that have made Chargers head coach Matt McCowan cringe ... but just for a second.

"About half the passes I throw to Hannah nobody else would catch, and coach will yell a little bit," Molly Pummill said, smiling. "There's just something between us - probably because we're sisters - that makes me know she's going to catch it; I trust her. And when she does catch it and she scores, I look at coach and smile.

"But when she doesn't catch it, I give her 'The Look.'"

When Churchill tips off its 2014-15 season Dec. 9 at Dearborn, the Pummill sisters will make up 40 percent of the Chargers' starting line-up.

Hannah, a 6-foot center, will give the Chargers an imposing low-post presence along with sophomore Annie Yost, who is also 6-feet tall.

Molly Pummill, a junior, will serve as a do-everything guard, who prefers to distribute the ball than shoot it, and defend more than score.

On-and-off basketball teammates since their elementary school days at St. Damian's, the full-time sisters have developed an on-court relation-

ship that all the drills in the world can't teach.

"Molly and I have this mental thing, I guess you could say, that most teammates don't have," Hannah shared. "She'll know I can get a pass, or we know where each other are going to be on the court, things like that. Like most sisters, we butt heads sometimes and we'll get under each others' skin, but most of the time it works well."

Being named captain for the second season in a row - along with Molly and Natalie Spala - was an honor for Hannah.

"It means a lot to me to know I can help lead the other girls on the team and be a positive example for them," she said. "Molly is probably a little more vocal than me, but I'll speak up too."

The elder Pummill said she likes what she's seen from the Chargers

during their pre-season workouts.

"I think we have a lot of potential to be very good," she said. "Last year we were very young, but this year we have a better mix age-wise, so it should be an interesting season."

Molly Pummill said playing with her sister has its ups and downs, but the ups far out-weigh the downs.

"We have our good days and our bad days - most good, though" she said, smiling. "The good part is that she understands when I'm frustrated and she'll do whatever she can to get me unfrustrated."

"The bad part, I guess, is that when we fight, we have to go spend the next three hours at basketball practice together. But, actually, basketball can make things better."

Basketball is the only



Livonia Churchill sisters Molly (left) and Hannah Pummill are key players and captains for the Chargers this season.

sport the Pummills play together at Churchill. In the spring, Hannah is a thrower for the track-

and-field team while Molly plays soccer.

ewright@hometownlife.com

JV Orioles reel off perfect season



The Livonia Orioles junior-varsity football team recently capped an 11-0 season by winning the Western Lakes Junior Football League Super Bowl. Based on points scored (378) and allowed (98), the Orioles led the WLJFL in offense and defense. Pictured are (front row from left) Connor Cohan, Chris Brown, Gavin Brooks, Dylan Makila, (second row from left) Conner Bell, Joe Lavigne, Mark Eizak, Christian Stewart, Michael Atrius, (third row from left) Josh George, Kameron Balhorn, Ryan Hutchinson, Ryan Lay, Eddie Shepler, Kyle Chute, (fourth row from left) Taber Reschke, Ethan Vanlandingham, Bailey Brooks, Caden Fournier, Connor Hatfield, Aidan Haupt, Joe Wodarski, (fifth row from left) Caleb Tiernan, Lawrence Hattar, Ethan Michalski, Caden Woodall, Dylan Stadler, Khamari Bradham and Gavan O'Neill.

Churchill primed for big year

Chargers poised to make run at KLAAs South Division title

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

With all five starters back from last season's moderately-successful squad, Livonia Churchill's girls basketball team is ready to make a run at a KLAAs South Division championship.

"By far, this is the best we've been since I've been here," revealed fourth-year head coach Matt McCowan. "We have a lot of experienced players back and we have good chemistry; the girls feed off one another. We're in a tough division, but hopefully we have enough to compete for a title."

The Chargers' leading scorer from last season is back - and she will be for a couple more seasons, too - as 6-foot-1 center Anne Yost is just a sophomore.

"Anne is a well-rounded player who helps us at both ends of the court," said McCowan. "She's coming off of volleyball [Yost was an effective middle-hitter for the Chargers' other net team], so she's just getting back in the swing of things basketball-wise, but I can already tell she's better at finishing around the basket. She's the most consistent player a coach could ask for."

The Chargers are



Churchill's Alivia Kondrath drives to the basket during Monday's warm-up session prior to the Chargers' scrimmage against Monroe Catholic Central.

well-stocked in the leadership department thanks to the strong presence - both on and off the court - that tri-captains Hannah Pummill, Natalie Spala and Molly Pummill bring to the mix.

Both Hannah Pummill - the older sister by one year of Molly - and Spala are three-year varsity players and seniors who will bring solid skills and instincts to the hardwood this winter.

"Being third-year varsity players, they bring a lot of leadership to our team," said McCowan. "Hannah is good around the basket and Natalie is a good shooter who brings a lot of energy."

Molly Pummill is a 5-8 junior swing player who is savvy on offense and tenacious on defense.

"Molly can get to the basket and she's probably our best defender," McCowan offered. "She's a very vocal leader, too."

The bulk of the Chargers' ball-distribution responsibilities will rest on the capable shoulders of senior 5-3 point guard Alivia Kondrath.

"She's very good at setting up our offense and making it run efficiently," said McCowan.

Leading the Chargers' strong wave of reserve players are 5-10 senior forward Jaelah Rivers and 5-2 junior guard Erin Carpenter.

"Both Jaelah and Erin can come off the bench and give us energy," said McCowan. "We're a lot deeper than we've been in the past."

Sophomore Kennedy Carrier, a 5-9 post player, will allow Yost and Holly Pummill to get much-deserved breathers down low.

"Kennedy really stepped up during the off-season and worked hard on her game," McCowan praised.

Emma Rimatzki, a 5-3 junior guard, will help the Chargers with her speed and defensive ability.

Aayilah Chisolm, a 5-10 senior forward, gives McCowan another tall defender to relieve his bigs.

McCowan said he is also looking for important contributions from sophomore guard Samantha Zonca and 5-4 senior guard Riley Fowler.

"I like the way Sam takes the ball aggressively to the basket," he said. "And Riley is very consistent; she doesn't make a lot of mistakes."



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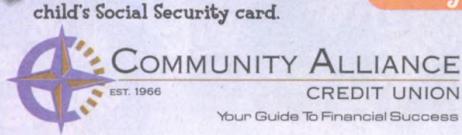
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NOTICE OF MEETING

The annual meeting of the stockholders of the Wayne Masonic Temple Association, a Michigan non-profit corporation, shall be held at the office of the corporation at 37137 Palmer Rd., Westland, Michigan on the Tuesday December 9, 2014 at 8:00 PM for the election of directors and such other business as may properly come before said meeting.

Publish: December 4 and 7, 2014 LO-000022311 3x1

CITY OF WAYNE PUBLIC NOTICE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the City Engineer for the City of Wayne has determined that the building/structure located at 4616 Hayes, in the City of Wayne is a dangerous building in accordance with City Ordinance 1472, Sections 1 through 3. In order to protect the public health, safety and welfare, the owner/interested persons, Vincent J. Petitpre, Peter A. Petitpre and County of Wayne Treasurer Raymond J. Wojtowicz must complete the alterations, repair or rehabilitation, or in the alternative, the demolition and removal of the building, structure or portion thereof within 90 days or by the public hearing, whichever comes first. If the alterations, repairs or rehabilitation, or possibly the demolition and removal of the building, structure or portion thereof, are not completed prior to the public hearing set for January 21, 2015 at 2:30 p.m. at City of Wayne, Police Department, located at 33701 E. Michigan, Wayne County, Michigan 48184, the owner/interested persons are required to appear before the hearing officer and show cause why and order should not be issued to demolish or make the building/structure safe and further the that cost thereof shall become a lien against the property unless such alterations, repair or rehabilitation, or demolition and removal is made within the time period specified.

This notice must be published in a local newspaper for three consecutive weeks.

Matthew K. Miller
City Clerk

Publish: December 4, 11, 18, 2014 LO-000022958 3x3

CITY OF WAYNE PUBLIC NOTICE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the City Engineer for the City of Wayne has determined that the building/structure located at 3241 Third, in the City of Wayne is a dangerous building in accordance with City Ordinance 1472, Sections 1 through 3. In order to protect the public health safety and welfare, the owner/interested persons, Jamie Conn, Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., successor to Resmae Mortgage Corporation and County of Wayne Treasurer Raymond J. Wojtowicz must complete the alterations, repair or rehabilitation, or in the alternative, the demolition and removal of the building, structure or portion thereof within 90 days or by the public hearing, whichever occurs first. If the alterations, repair or rehabilitation, or possibly the demolition and removal of the building, structure or portion thereof, are not completed prior to the public hearing set for January 21, 2015 at 3:00 p.m. at City of Wayne, Police Department, located at 33701 E. Michigan, Wayne County, Michigan 48184, the owner/interested persons are required to appear before the hearing officer and show cause why an order should not be issued to demolish or make the building/structure safe and further that cost thereof shall become a lien against the property unless such alterations, repair or rehabilitation, or demolition and removal is made within the time period specified.

This notice must be published in a local newspaper for three consecutive weeks.

Matthew K. Miller
City Clerk

Publish: December 4, 11, 18, 2014 LO-000022957 3x3

Stevenson's 'D' leads the way at Cranbrook tourney

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Livonia Stevenson's hockey team was up to the challenge at this past weekend's ultra-competitive tournament hosted by Bloomfield Hills Cransbrook-Kingswood.

On Friday afternoon at Cranbrook's Wallace Arena, the Spartans skated stride for stride with the host Cranes before dropping a thrilling 2-1 triple-overtime decision.

Despite playing on tired legs from the previous day's three-overtime marathon, Stevenson rebounded on Saturday with an impressive 2-0 victory over Brighton, which fell to Rochester Unified, 5-2, in Friday's other semifinal contest.

RU ultimately won the tournament by outscoring Cranbrook, 6-4, in Saturday's final.

Friday's Stevenson-Cranbrook game was a classic. The curtain came down on the first



Livonia Stevenson's Sam Judd (19) races a pair of Livonia Churchill players to the puck during a game last week.

ED WRIGHT

period with the teams deadlocked at 1-1. The Cranes' Riley Matthews broke the scoring ice with a goal from Alec Regula 6:54 in. Vince Glenn countered for Stevenson with a net-finder from Alex Hunt approximately four minutes later.

Both teams' stellar defenses then took over until Cranbrook's Mason Schultz scored in the third extra session.

Stevenson goal-tender Andrew Rozenbaum was sensational, stopping 48 shots - 17 in the first period, when the Spartans were outshot 18-5.

"What a hockey game this was," said Stevenson head coach David Mitchell. "The place was packed, the hockey was outstanding; this is what high school hockey in Michigan can be about. What an outstanding experience for our guys to get a chance to play a top team like Cranbrook and then to take it to three overtimes. I am very, very proud of our players."

"This was truly one of those games that it was tough to lose for sure, but you can walk away knowing that the guys gave it their all. Something we can build off of for the rest of the season, without a doubt."

The star of Saturday's 2-0 victory over powerful Brighton was Stevenson junior goalie Cullen Bryant who pitched a shut-out by stopping all 26 shots the Bulldogs ripped at him.

The Spartans led 1-0 after two periods thanks to Mick Sinclair's goal from Alex De-

Florio and Ben Kowalske.

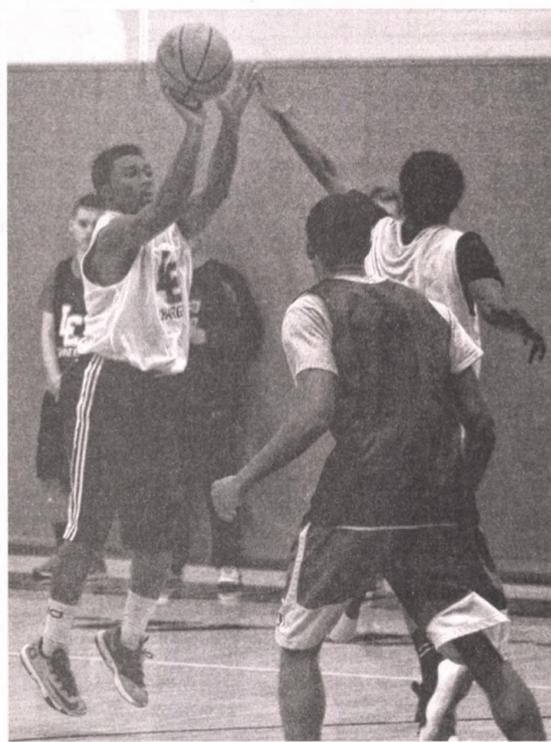
DeFlorio provided an insurance marker with 8:23 left in the game when he scored off helpers from Sinclair and Kowalske.

Brighton goalie Jimmy Millitacs played well in a losing cause as he turned away 22 Stevenson shots.

"This was a real solid win and a real solid effort by our guys," Mitchell said. "After playing a triple-overtime the day before, you could see that we were a bit sluggish at times, but it was not because of a lack of effort. The will was there all game long."

"When we did break down, Cullen Barber was there to bail us out. All in all, I could not be prouder of our play this weekend, and am thoroughly pleased with the effort we are getting from all of our guys. It was really a great experience for our program."

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Livonia Churchill senior guard Shakur Lockett fires up a contested jump shot during Monday afternoon's practice.

ED WRIGHT

THE REAL DEAL

Chargers stocked with experienced group of leaders, play-makers

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

A surplus of seniors and a shortage of, well, nothing significant could add up to a profitable season in the "wins" ledger for the Livonia Churchill boys basketball team.

The Chargers' 13-player roster is front-loaded with eight seniors - and several of its underclassmen are equipped with the kind of electric skill sets that can inflict some damage on opponents' winning percentages.

"The senior leadership on this team is outstanding," said Churchill head coach Jim Solak, whose team finished 11-10 overall last season and second only to Westland John Glenn in the KLAA South Division standings. "We haven't had a group of seniors this big in a long time. Already this season, they've provided us with a great attitude and work ethic."

Churchill's primary on-court strengths are twofold, Solak said.

"We should be able to score some points and our depth is solid," he said. "We have some size concerns, but hopefully we can figure out how to overcome that as the season goes on."

The Chargers' potent offense will be engineered by 6-foot-1 senior point guard Jalen Davis, who returns as the team's starting point guard.

Davis will be flanked in the Chargers' three-guard offense by pure-shooting 6-2 junior wings Jon Hovermale and Joan Andoni, both of whom have the ability to fill the state sheet with 20-plus points on any given night.

Andoni set a Churchill single-game scoring record last year as a sophomore when he exploded for 39 in one of the Chargers' 11 victories.

Another key player in the Chargers' scheme is 6-3 senior Brian Alsobrooks, who

can bang down low or hurt foes with his perimeter game. Alsobrooks is headed to Eastern Michigan University next year to play football.

Senior forward Brett Bonarek (6-2) is battling for a starting spot, Solak said, after closing the 2013-14 season with a surge.

Five other seniors who will play important roles in the team's fortunes are Nate Guzowski, who starred as a goal-keeper for the Chargers' soccer team in the fall; Jarrett Pletcher, a 6-6 space-eater who Solak said works as hard as anybody; 6-6 post player Matt Skibinski, who returns to the hardwood for the first time since his freshman year at Churchill; 5-10 senior guard Shakur Lockett; and 6-1 guard Jarod Davis.

"Matt and Jarrett are making each other better by battling each other every day in practice," Solak said. "Both Shakur and Jarod were new to our program last season as juniors and have steadily improved."

"Nate is a great kid who provides us with hustle and a lot of leadership."

Dayton Davis, a 5-9 junior guard, is the fastest player on the Chargers' roster, Solak noted.

"Dayton had a great summer for us and I'm looking for that to carry over to the upcoming season," he added. Juniors Robert Steward (5-10) and Griffin Riley (6-2) join the Churchill varsity unit after solid season on the program's JV team last year.

Solak said the KLAA South race should be compelling given the number of unknown variables that exist.

"It will be interesting to see what Wayne Memorial and John Glenn bring," he said. "It's a battle every year in this division."

The Chargers open their season on Tuesday, Dec. 9, at home against Dearborn. The opening tip is set for 7 p.m.

ewright@hometownlife.com

Despite setback in opener, Blazers remain optimistic

By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

Although Livonia Ladywood lost its girls basketball season opener Tuesday at Grosse Pointe North, second-year coach Amber Culloty sees better days ahead on the horizon for the Blazers.

Erin Ambruster scored a game-high 24 points to lead the Norsemen to a 57-37 victory.

Erika Selakowski led the Blazers with 12 points, and Maggie Shirk chipped in 10.

After trailing 30-15, Ladywood outscored North 15-10 in the third period to cut the deficit to 10. But the Norsemen, who made 14 of 17 free throws

on the night put it away by outscoring the Blazers 17-7 in the final quarter. Ladywood struggled at the foul line going 9-of-17.

"I thought we played them tough," Culloty said. "We had a very strong third quarter. We came out pushing, but we just didn't have that last leg in the third quarter."

Wins were hard to come by for the Blazers in 2013-14. After reaching the Class B quarterfinals the previous year, they slipped to 2-18.

Culloty wants a more up-tempo style of play this season.

"I like that we're starting off with more of a fast pace," she said. "We're looking to do a

lot more running this year. Defensively, we need to pressure the ball a lot more than we did, and I think this gives a great opportunity to do that."

Opposing teams can expect Ladywood to do a lot of full-court pressing.

"As long as they can keep up, we'll be doing a lot of subbing early on just to keep legs fresh," Culloty said. "That's what we're going to try this year."

Selakowski and Shirk, both returnees, were in the starting lineup Tuesday with sophomore guard Ally Audia, senior forward Morgan Larkin and senior guard Amber Riethmiller.

HOOPS

Continued from Page B1

were outscored 11-5. Kennedy led 16-14 after one stanza and 27-19 at the break.

Hannah Vera-Burgos led the Cougars with 11 points to go along with seven rebounds. Kelli McDaniel added 10 points while Abby Joseph added eight points and a team-high 12 rebounds.

Lindsey Michalak contributed six points and eight boards.

Asia Page was a force for the winners as she racked up a game-high 24 points.

"She drove and attacked the basket," Tyree said of Page. "To her credit, she's a good post player, but we didn't help ourselves by not boxing out like we needed to."

HVL falls to Roeper

Bloomfield Hills Roeper used a 20-5 third-quarter surge to upend visiting Huron Valley Lutheran, 44-31, Tuesday night in the season-opener for both teams.

The Hawks trailed 14-5 after one quarter, but stormed back to close their deficit to 19-18 at the half.

"We came out slow in the first quarter; we didn't seem real confident in our offense," said HVL head coach Kris Ruth. "We played better defense in the second quarter, but got worn down in the second half. We have lots of things to work on in practice."

Sam Golchuk led the Hawks with 16 points and three steals. Julie St. John also played well, notching seven points and nine rebounds.

Annapolis upends LW

Dearborn Heights Annapolis bolted to a 12-6 first-quarter lead and never trailed during Tuesday night's 40-32



Livonia Stevenson's Amanda Schultz takes the ball hard to the basket during Tuesday night's game against Harrison.

TOM BEAUDOIN

victory over visiting Lutheran Westland.

"We did some good things and some not so good things," noted Warriors head coach Sandi Wade. "I'm looking forward to the season, working with all my girls and improving throughout the season. It's good to have the first game under our belts and now we

can move forward in the season."

Bethany Hoehne led the Warriors with 11 points thanks to a 3-for-4 shooting night from beyond the three-point arc. Rachel Reddeman added eight points for LW.

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BOMBERS

Continued from Page B1

is all one motion and he flicks his wrist on his follow-through."

While their shooting skills often generate the headlines, it's a less-heralded facet of their game that the pair are most proud of.

"We both know that defense comes first on this team," Hovermale said. "We both take it very seriously. The first 20 minutes of our practice today [Monday] was all defensive drills. It's not the most fun part of the game, but it's the most

important part of it."

The two well-rounded players rode different paths to excellence. Hovermale's dad is a long-time assistant coach for the Chargers, so his young son - who now stands 6-foot-2, the same as Andoni - would tag along to practices, even when the only shots he could drain came on a Little Tikes hoop.

"I started playing as soon as I could hold a ball," Hovermale said, smiling. "I'd come to practices with my dad and shoot around. I've always enjoyed it."

Until his family moved to metropolitan Detroit when he was 8, Andoni learned to love hoops in soccer-hungry Albania.

"Everybody plays soccer over there," he said. "But one day my brother [Gary] came home from a soccer game all dirty and my mom didn't want him to get dirty any more, so he picked up a basketball and started playing. I kind of followed him. You can't get dirty playing basketball."

To break the monotony of shooting jumpers this summer, the two would square off in some entertaining one-on-one games.

"It would go back and forth as to who would win," Andoni said. "We would both play hard because we were trying to make the other one better."

New coach leads Redford Union into 2014-15 season

Purdy to lead team short on height, loaded with hustle

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Redford Union's girls basketball team looks to overcome deficits in size and experience with a full helping of tenacity and hustle.

The Panthers will do so under the guidance of new head coach Scott Purdy, who takes over the reins of the program from Diane Zirroll, who resigned following RU's seven-win 2013-14 campaign.

Purdy is no stranger at RU, where he is the head coach of the girls varsity soccer team and former head coach of the boys junior-varsity hoops squad.

"I'm very excited about my new position as the girls varsity basketball coach," said Purdy. "There will be a big transition period at first — both for me and the girls — just because the girls game is so different than the boys game, but I love the way this team works and how they ask a lot of questions."

"Our motto this season is, 'Hard work beats talent when talent doesn't work hard.' We have a very difficult schedule, at least early



Sophomore Shae Smith (left) and Renee Reed will serve as co-captains of the Redford Union basketball team — just like they did for the Panthers' volleyball team.

on, as we play Southfield, Hartland and Berkeley. But the bottom line is we want to improve every game, regardless of what the final score is."

The Panthers will be led this winter by co-captains Shae Smith, a 5-5 sophomore point guard, and Renee Reed,

a 5-11 senior post player. Both Smith and Reed captained the Panthers' varsity volleyball team in the fall, so they're accustomed to the responsibilities that accompany leadership.

"Shae is one of our younger players, but the older girls respect her because she works so

hard," said Purdy. "She's one of the only girls who plays AAU ball in the off-season, and it shows."

"Renee is very strong around the basket and she has good hands, which is why she's such a good rebounder. Her goal is to average a double-double this season, and I think she is very

"Our motto this season is, 'Hard work beats talent when talent doesn't work hard.'"

SCOTT PURDY,
Redford Union girls basketball coach

capable of that." Joining Smith in the back-court will be 5-foot senior guard Cashmiere Jones, whose speed will make it tough for opposing guards to keep up with her.

"Cash is so fast and she plays solid defense, too, which is the most important thing," said Purdy. "Like Shae and Renee, she has a solid work ethic, too."

Junior Cliffangela Stafford, who is entering just her second season of organized basketball, should start the season at one of the forward spots. Stafford (5-7) epitomizes the team's tenacious approach to the game.

"Cliffangela is a workhorse on the defensive end of the court," Purdy raved. "She's a solid defender who moves her feet well and anticipates the passing lanes. Offensively, she's really working hard on improving her shot."

Junior Kiyonna Hardin (5-6) will most likely man the "3" position in the Panthers' offense.

"Kiyonna's nickname is 'Tank' because she

goes after everything full speed," said Purdy. "She's capable of getting a rebound and going coast-to-coast with it. She's very aggressive in the paint."

Providing valuable depth for RU will be senior Alonna Ray-Davis, who is a transfer student from Ypsilanti. Standing 5-3, Ray-Davis will serve as a back-up shooting guard.

Junior Kiara Rasheed (5-1) will also play mainly the two-guard position, but is versatile enough to play the point and some small forward.

"Kiara is scrappy and she has a lot of heart," Purdy noted.

Sophomore Destini Sylvester is another blue-collar-type player whose primary position will be small forward.

Two other key components to the Panthers' fortunes will be junior Desinty Cantrell (5-3), who is, in Purdy's estimation, "One of our purest outside shooters," and sophomore swing player Angelica Williams (5-4).

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Viterbo University knocks off Madonna spikers in NAIA tourney

By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

It was a tough go Tuesday for the Madonna University women's volleyball team in the opening round of the NAIA National Tournament.

Alicia Olson's 18 kills

proved to be too much as ninth-seed Viterbo University (Wis.) downed the Crusaders in three sets, 25-18, 25-14, 25-22, in pool play at the Tyson Events Center in Sioux City, Iowa.

Olson had plenty of support from teammates Natalie Geidel (nine

kills), Brianna Brinkman (37 assists) and Jennifer Krentz (13 digs) as the Hawks improved to 36-7 overall.

"She's up for (NAIA) Player of the Year, an All-American kid," MU coach Jerry Abraham said of Olson. "She was a little too hard for us to

handle. There were some good rallies, but we didn't score enough in a row."

Madonna, the No. 16 seed, hit at only a .144 percentage and slipped to 37-8. Viterbo hit at a .283 clip.

"We just didn't play a perfect game, and we kind of needed to do that," Abraham said. "We played well but not as well as needed."

"I don't think we attacked enough. When we did, we scored. But we gave them a lot of free balls in transition, too, to their attack, and that's

what got us."

6-3 sophomore Katie Breault paced the Crusaders' with 11 kills.

Casey Gates

and Kayla

Vogel added nine apiece.

Junior setter Spencer Stokes had 37 assists; Roxy Duzey and Amanda Obrycki paced the defense with 16 and 10 digs, respectively.

"If we had played our game like we have played at times this year, we could have won this match," Abraham said.



Breault

"But we didn't play as well as we needed today. We didn't have hitting errors or a lot of silly mistakes, but they kept the pressure on us to beat us."

MU was scheduled to face No. 4-seeded Biola (Calif.), which defeated College of Coastal Georgia in its first-round match, in the second round of pool play Wednesday.

The Crusaders likely will need to win their next two matches, including a Thursday encounter with Coastal Georgia (35-2) to make it out of Pool D into the elimination round.

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Whalers stung early and late by Sarnia

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Perhaps it was fitting that the Plymouth Whalers weren't rewarded late for what head coach Don Elland described as a poor effort much of the way Saturday night against Sarnia.

The Sting survived a late push by the Whalers to win the Ontario Hockey League matchup 4-2, disappointing an announced crowd of 1,718 on Military Appreciation Night at Compuware Arena.

Sarnia's Daniel Nikandrov opened the scoring just 59 seconds into the West Division game to set the sorry tone.

"Right from the opening faceoff we weren't ready to compete, we weren't ready to play," Elland said. "They were. Good job for them. But we have to be better, we have to get them better prepared."

"Right now, we're not a very good hockey team."

Eventually, the Whalers started to skate and create some chances — which were few and far between over the first half of the game — and did draw even at 2-2 in the third on a goal by forward Matt Mistele (his team-leading 18th).

But then came a give-away deep in the Plymouth zone with about six minutes remaining.

That resulted in an unassisted goal by Nikita Korostelev to break the tie. For good measure,

the Sting added an empty netter by Brandon Lindberg with 5.2 seconds to go.

But with about 45 seconds remaining and the faceoff in the Sarnia end, Whalers forward Sonny Milano got past a defenseman and found himself all alone in front of Sting goalie Justin Fazio.

Saving the lead

Milano backhanded a dangerous shot from just above the blue paint that Fazio somehow fought off — keeping the Sting in the lead.

"We got to be in a better situation than to rely on that in the last 30 seconds," Elland said.

After being outskated and outworked most of the first two periods, Plymouth (10-14-1-1) trailed 2-0 in the opening stanza and only registered five shots midway through the matchup.

Sarnia's second goal, also by Korostelev, was scored on an unassisted shorthanded breakthrough at 14:37 of the first.

Korostelev shot up the middle of the ice and beat Whalers netminder Alex Nedeljkovic (27 saves) with a shot between the pads.

The sparse crowd finally had something to cheer about midway through the second when Plymouth forward Will Bitten cut the deficit to 2-1. It was his sixth goal of the season.

And then, in the final 90 seconds of the frame with Plymouth on the

power play, the Whalers blitzed Fazio (29 saves) with six in-close shots to close the period with some momentum.

Fazio blocked a shot from the right circle by Mathew Campagna and then slid his pad over to stymie two cracks at rebounds by Cullen Mercer, who was stationed near the right post.

The Whalers kept cranking up the heat in the third period, outshooting Sarnia (12-11-1-1) by a 17-7 count.

Midway through the stanza, with a Sarnia penalty expiring, Mistele picked off an errant pass and whipped a high shot from the right circle that beat Fazio.

Unfortunately, Plymouth could not break the tie the rest of the way.

That honor went to Korostelev, who forced a Whalers' turnover and jammed a shot in from the doorstep.

Elland said the inspired power plays late in the second and during the third were too little, too late.

"When you're not moving your feet and you're not competing, you're not going to draw penalties," Elland noted. "Once we started doing that, we started earning some power-play time. That helps."

Plymouth will look to have better starts Friday at Mississauga (7:30 p.m.) and Saturday at Compuware against London (7 p.m.).

Holidays call for fire safety in decor, cooking

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) released its Home Christmas Tree and Holiday Light Fires Report in late 2013 which offers statistics on fire hazards that typically accompany the winter holiday season. NFPA offers safety advice and informational resources at www.nfpa.org/holiday that can be used to minimize fire risks this season.

In 2007-11, U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated annual average of 230 home structure fires that began with Christmas trees. Although these fires are not common, when they do occur, they are likely to be serious. On average, one of every 40 reported home structure Christmas tree fires resulted in a death compared to an average of one death per 142 total reported home structure fires.

One-third of Christmas tree structure fires involved electrical failures or malfunctions. Nearly 20 percent of these structure fires occurred because some type of heat source was too close to the tree.

NFPA offers the following safety tips:

- » If you have an artificial tree, be sure it is labeled, certified, or identified by the manufacturer as fire retardant.
- » If using a real tree, select one with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.
- » Before placing the tree in the stand, cut 1-2 inches from the base of the trunk.
- » Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights.
- » Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit.
- » Add water to the tree stand. Be



sure to add water daily.

Lighting the tree:
» Use lights that have the label of an independent testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.

» Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Connect no more than three strands of mini string sets and a maximum of 50 bulbs for screw-in bulbs. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of LED strands to connect.

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day are the second and third leading days for cooking fires, respectively. Most cooking fires occur when cooking is left unattended.

With unattended cooking as the leading cause of U.S. home fires and home fire injuries, fire officials say to stay in the kitchen while you're frying, grilling or broiling food. Most cooking fires involve the stovetop, so keep anything that can catch fire away from it, and turn off the stove when you leave the kitchen, even if it's for a short period of time. If

you're simmering, boiling, baking or roasting food, check it regularly and use a timer to remind you that you're cooking. Your Fire Department also suggests creating a "kid-free zone" of at least three feet around the stove and areas where hot food and drinks are prepared or carried.

Candles are widely used in homes throughout the holidays, and December is the peak month for home candle fires. The NFPA's statistics show that two of every five home decoration fires are started by candles.

Fire officials urge residents to consider using flameless candles, which look and smell like real candles. However, if you do use traditional candles, keep them at least 12 inches away from anything that can burn, and remember to blow them out when you leave the room or go to bed. Use candle holders that are sturdy, won't tip over and are placed on uncluttered surfaces. Avoid using candles in the bedroom where one-third of U.S. candle fires begin or other areas where people may fall asleep. Lastly, never leave a child alone in a room with a burning candle.

NFPA is a worldwide leader in fire, electrical, building, and life safety. The mission of the international nonprofit organization founded in 1896 is to reduce the worldwide burden of fire and other hazards on the quality of life by providing and advocating consensus codes and standards, research, training, and education. NFPA develops more than 300 codes and standards to minimize the possibility and effects of fire and other hazards. All NFPA codes and standards can be viewed at no cost at www.nfpa.org/freeaccess.

Heed law, business interests in cell tower placement

Q: We have a cell company coming to us regarding putting up a cell transmitter tower on our condominium. What do you think we need to know before giving the go ahead for a cell phone tower to be installed on common elements?

A: 1. Make sure that you have an attorney for the association knowledgeable about this issue assisting you in any contract. Make sure you are comfortable with the length of time that the contract covers.

2. Include a provision that requires the cell provider to indemnify the association in the event the tower or property is damaged by storm, earthquake, etc.

3. Use only a reputable installer that indemnifies your association if you have any control over the installation, which you should.

4. Work with the roof company to make sure that your roof warranty isn't invalidated by the installation of the tower and equipment.

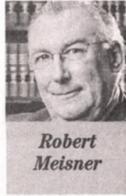
5. Include language in the contract that gives you at least a six month notice of termination from the cell provider should it decide to cancel the contract.

6. Make sure the contract has some manner to dissolve disputes and address concerns during the life of the contract and a remedy right giving you attorney's fees incurred in the event of a breach.

Q: I have heard you in a lecture refer to the checks and balances between the association board, the attorney and the management company. Can you further explain what you mean by that?

A: What I mean simply is that the Board of Directors has a responsibility to run the affairs of the association and incident to that, monitor the affairs of all of its vendors and professionals, including the management company and the attorney. If the management company is figuratively in bed with the attorney because of economic considerations as a result of referrals, that checks and balances system may be in jeopardy. The attorney should be monitoring the affairs of the management company and the Board of Directors, and must otherwise comment on any irregularities that he or she observes. The management company should be monitoring the Board of Directors and the attorney to ensure that the attorney is performing his or her functions properly so as to make the operation of the association run effectively.

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and the author of "Condo Living 2: An Authoritative Guide to Buying, Selling and Operating a Condominium." "Condo Living 2" is available in both print and e-book editions. The e-book is available for download through iTunes, Amazon.com and barnesandnoble.com. He is also the author of "Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track," second edition. Call 248-644-4433 or visit bmeisner@meisner-law.com. This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.



HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-OAKLAND COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of July 21-25, 2014, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

BEVERLY HILLS

16160 Beechwood Ave \$255,000
30601 Embassy St \$390,000
18521 Hillcrest St \$370,000

BIRMINGHAM

338 Baldwin Rd \$1,050,000
784 Bird Ave \$649,000
1451 Cedar Dr \$365,000
1288 Chesterfield Ave \$735,000
1274 E Lincoln St \$495,000
2859 E Maple Rd # 3 \$52,000
1859 Henrietta St \$275,000
675 Larchlea Dr \$610,000
1475 Maryland Blvd \$266,000
335 N Eton St # 27 \$89,000
543 N Old Woodward Ave \$250,000
855 Pilgrim Ave \$1,150,000
1272 Villa Rd \$252,000
2261 W Maple Rd \$266,000
1470 Washington Blvd \$295,000
866 Westchester Way \$720,000
639 Westwood Dr \$935,000

BLOOMFIELD HILLS

4315 Sawgrass Dr \$245,000
2827 Heathfield Rd \$370,000
3645 Lahser Rd \$2,330,000
326 Lakewood Dr \$1,181,000
255 Lone Pine Ct \$1,150,000
2133 Park Ridge Dr \$258,000

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP

2927 Aspen Ln \$275,000
7201 Bingham Dr \$526,000
2358 Brenthaven Dr \$399,000
624 Deauville Ln \$484,000

COMMERCER TOWNSHIP

3290 Devon Brook Dr \$250,000
742 E Fox Hills Dr \$73,000
1353 Forbes Dr \$387,000
1807 Indian Trail Rd \$385,000
1975 Klingensmith Rd \$90,000
1936 Klingensmith Rd \$113,000
909 Rock Spring Rd \$385,000
801 W Long Lake Rd # F4 \$108,000
4032 W Orchard Hill Dr \$355,000

FARMINGTON

8788 Alsop Ave \$355,000
1838 Cheshire Ln \$421,000
3236 Edgemere St \$107,000
5065 Greenview Dr \$270,000
3007 Ivy Hill Dr \$359,000
145 Liza Ln \$302,000
3385 Tiquewood \$266,000
33904 Glenview Dr \$147,000
21392 Magnolia Ct \$215,000
23819 Wilmarth Ave \$280,000

FARMINGTON HILLS

21792 Aspen Ct \$376,000
32901 Biddestone Ln \$205,000
37527 Burton Ct \$260,000
38518 Darbyshire \$130,000
25142 Farmington Rd \$235,000
28615 Grayfield Dr \$201,000
29960 Green Acres \$265,000
22441 Haynes Ave \$25,000
22451 Haynes Ave \$10,000
33611 Heirloom Cir \$447,000
28629 Kendallwood Dr \$225,000
35360 Lone Pine Ln \$213,000
23424 Middlebelt Rd \$59,000
21899 Ontaga St \$132,000
24180 Scott Dr \$220,000
28475 Shadylane Dr \$140,000
29342 Shenandoah Dr \$270,000
30999 Sudbury St \$275,000

HIGHLAND

29473 Sugar Spring Rd \$180,000
24012 Susan Dr \$227,000
28442 Thorny Brae Rd \$188,000
28829 W King William Dr \$307,000
32311 W Wayburn St \$208,000
21121 Whitlock St \$183,000
29905 Forest Dr \$810,000

LATHRUP VILLAGE

26560 Meadowood Ct N \$189,000
711 Atlantic St \$243,000
424 Hickory St \$465,000
781 Milford Glen Ct \$303,000
1305 Oak Hollow Dr \$550,000
784 Ridgeside Dr \$186,000
1684 S Hickory Ridge Rd \$127,000

MILFORD

21096 Boulder Cir \$195,000
44339 Chedworth Dr \$300,000
314 Debra Ln \$218,000
42153 Gladwin St \$130,000
21147 Lujon Dr \$375,000

NOVI

45499 Addington Ln \$460,000
43169 Ashbury Dr \$450,000
49963 Blackberry Trl \$320,000
39456 Country Ln \$138,000
24585 Edgewood Dr \$290,000
44722 Gwinnett Loop \$145,000
27859 Hopkins Dr \$170,000
28064 Hopkins Dr \$171,000
41783 Independence Dr \$175,000
51188 Luke Ln \$267,000
23608 N Rockledge \$76,000
2450 Novi Rd \$120,000

NORTHVILLE

22264 Pondview \$119,000
25562 Portico Ln \$170,000
45735 Sheffield Dr \$400,000
24691 Simmons Dr \$240,000
27516 Sloan St \$364,000
27315 Victoria Rd \$324,000
27332 Victoria Rd \$306,000
247 Wainwright St \$155,000

WHITE LAKE

58643 Bridge House Ct \$82,000
345 Cambridge Ave \$156,000
23158 Cheyenne Dr \$419,000
1168 Equestrian Dr \$350,000
61131 Ladbroke Dr \$378,000
423 Lyon Ct \$150,000
25778 McCrory Ln \$285,000
21551 Nathan Ct \$365,000
1131 Paddock Ct \$251,000
362 Princeton Dr \$193,000
24291 Ravine Dr \$2,000
24798 Ravine Dr \$2,000
23899 Stoneleigh Dr \$456,000
441 Whipple St \$165,000

SOUTH LYON

29490 Bermuda Ln \$170,000
29672 Brentwood St \$120,000
19350 Eldridge Ln \$85,000
20280 Lacrosse Ave \$150,000
17582 Melrose St \$118,000
25209 Prairie Dr \$122,000
19646 Raleigh Cir N \$58,000
25552 Saint James \$127,000
29465 Sharon Ln \$140,000

WESTLAND

10719 Jacob Ct \$563,000
8656 Newport Dr \$331,000
9390 Steephollow Dr \$187,000
9210 Twin Lakes Dr \$498,000
8335 Woods Edge \$333,000

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-WAYNE COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Aug. 11-15, 2014, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

CANTON

2536 Brookhaven Rd \$195,000
456 Buckingham Rd \$168,000
7031 Copper Creek Cir \$153,000
4136 Coronet Ave \$215,000
41992 Coventry Way \$196,000
1583 E Lakeview Ln \$165,000
39646 Edmondton Dr \$117,000
43075 Fernwood St \$204,000
4224 Forest Bridge Dr \$224,000
4368 Forest Bridge Dr \$194,000
43414 Fredericksburg St \$150,000
47890 Gladstone Rd \$465,000
51185 Glen Hollow Ave \$50,000
41642 Haggerty Woods Ct \$166,000

LIVONIA

11320 Berwick St \$181,000
15208 Blue Skies St \$167,000
9949 Cardwell St \$135,000
11723 Cavell St \$75,000
31716 Curtis Rd \$198,000
39193 Dover St \$168,000
10051 E Clements Cir \$118,000
33395 Fargo St \$45,000
15162 Golfview Dr \$194,000
9105 Harrison St \$90,000
14348 Henry Ruff St \$160,000
17423 Hizmet St \$120,000
15078 Houghton St \$135,000
14733 Inkster Rd \$125,000
36470 Joy Rd \$107,000
11180 Karen St \$128,000
35598 Leon St \$190,000
15495 Mayfield St \$82,000
8921 Melvin St \$140,000
16777 Riverside St \$140,000
38107 Ross St \$155,000
35041 Roycroft St \$282,000
11025 Sunset St \$105,000
13994 Susanna Ct \$163,000
18374 University Park Dr \$100,000
15014 Westbrook Ct \$235,000
16452 Westbrook St \$270,000
16643 Whitby St \$210,000
34412 Wood St \$234,000
14772 Yale St \$165,000

NORTHVILLE

47149 Seven Mile Rd \$398,000
42010 Baintree Cir \$263,000
50920 Belmont Park Ct \$542,000
44519 Birchwood Ct \$400,000
18260 Blue Heron Pointe Dr \$460,000
20018 Bryn Mawr Ct \$119,000
17302 Cameron Dr \$435,000

PLYMOUTH

16764 Dover Dr \$148,000
39852 Glenview Ct \$307,000
502 Grace St \$239,000
16798 Lochmoor Cir W \$300,000
44030 Medinah Ct \$625,000
15927 Morningside \$150,000
19629 Neptune Ct \$135,000
626 North Ctr \$238,000
42251 Nottingwood Ct \$300,000
16128 Oakwood Ct \$445,000
49784 Parkside Dr \$464,000
303 Saint Lawrence Blvd \$310,000
19233 Surrey Ln \$106,000
777 Thayer Blvd \$918,000
20172 W Whipple Dr \$385,000
16972 Warwick Ct \$354,000

ROCKLEDGE

42543 Applecreek Dr \$154,000
46332 Barrington Rd \$331,000
50475 Beechwood Ct \$194,000
9406 Caprice Ct \$207,000
8860 Colony Farm Dr \$375,000
11820 Deer Creek Cir \$400,000
770 Deer St \$125,000
9032 Hackberry Ave \$195,000
505 Hartsough St \$425,000
424 N Harvey St \$500,000
777 N Harvey St \$233,000
40459 Newport Dr \$75,000
13956 Oakland Ct \$470,000
1338 Penniman Ave \$575,000
1380 Penniman Ave \$350,000
142 Pinewood Cir \$93,000
42491 Plymouth Hollow Dr \$69,000

ROCKLEDGE

49479 Pointe Xing \$160,000
190 Riveroaks Dr \$117,000
101 S Union St \$160,000
14230 Shadywood Dr \$195,000
11311 Appleton \$57,000
20508 Delaware Ave \$115,000
25500 Donald \$109,000
14426 Fenton \$92,000
16817 Five Points St \$52,000
9312 Garfield \$93,000
19512 Garfield \$49,000
15412 Gaylord \$76,000
18655 Gaylord \$57,000

WESTLAND

13027 Laverne \$82,000
12780 Mercedes \$94,000
8841 San Jose \$70,000
9052 Seminole \$98,000
16960 Woodworth \$65,000

WESTLAND

3769 Winifred St \$35,000
8570 Alper St \$119,000
33706 Avondale St \$115,000
1301 Barchester St \$135,000
32740 Birchwood St \$100,000
6530 Central City Pkwy \$115,000
37001 Condor Ct \$105,000
8239 Creekside Dr \$256,000
36650 Deerhurst S \$116,000
39253 Dillingham St \$123,000
34934 Donnelly St \$70,000
1850 Dunn Ct \$123,000
33426 Farmington Ct \$85,000
6218 Ferraina Dr \$150,000
38099 Greenwood St \$45,000
34833 Hivley St \$70,000
33604 Krauter St \$67,000
28374 Mackenzie Dr \$132,000
31260 Mackenzie Dr \$105,000
29114 Manchester St \$38,000
376 Marigold Cir \$100,000
8164 Melvin Ave \$85,000
5630 N Linville St \$50,000
5971 N Linville St \$30,000
6220 N Newburgh Rd \$110,000
7715 N Venoy Dr \$137,000
30666 Palmer Rd \$75,000
33139 Parkwood St \$109,000
35422 Pheasant Ln \$87,000
6766 Quail Run Cir \$83,000
412 Ravencrest Ln \$115,000
34203 Rosslyn St \$110,000
365 S Byfield St \$100,000
159 S Carlson St \$105,000
538 S Hubbard St \$107,000
34345 Shawnee St \$114,000
227 Summerfield Dr \$120,000
36069 Traditions Dr \$156,000
2430 W Miller Cir \$123,000
31246 Windsor St \$93,000
1382 Woodbourne St \$94,000

REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

Short sales

If you owe more than what your house is worth, you may be interested in a free informational seminar on short sale procedures.

Bonnie David, broker/owner of Quantum Real Estate, is the presenter. It will be 6-7 p.m. each Thursday at 129 N. Lafayette, downtown South Lyon.

Please call the office at 248-782-7130 or email june.quantum@gmail.com for your reservation or additional information.

THE OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MORTGAGE MONITOR

	NMLS#		30 Yr.	Pts.	15 Yr.	Pts.
1SPMortgage	138501	(313) 215-1766	3.75	0	2.875	0
1st Choice Mortgage Lending	138560	(734) 459-0782	3.75	0	2.875	0
AFI Financial	2431	(810) 588-4424	3.75	0	2.875	0
Ameripus Mortgage Corp.	127931	(248) 740-2323	3.75	0	2.875	0
Dearborn Federal Savings Bank	399721	(313) 565-3100	4.125	0	3.25	0
Fifth Third Bank	403245	(800) 792-8830	4	0	3.125	0
Gold Star Mortgage	3446	(888) 293-3477	3.75	0	2.875	0
Gold Star Mortgage	3446	(888) 293-3477	3.625	0.75	2.75	0.875
Group One Mortgage	107716	(248) 282-1602	4.125	0	3.375	0
Zeal Credit Union	408356	(734) 466-6113	4.125	0.25	3.25	0

Above Information available as of 11/26/14 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.

All Lenders are Equal Opportunity Lenders. Lenders to participate call (734) 922-3032

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1963-1972 Any Condition Courteous, Fast, Professional Buyer in the Corvette Business for 26 years Licensed and Bonded Vince Conn Corvette vinceconn Corvette.com 1-800-850-3656 (MICH)

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DRIVER TRAINEES NEEDED! Become a driver for Stevens Transport! NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED! New driver earn \$800+ per week! PAID CDL TRAINING! Stevens covers all costs! 1-888-528-8864 drive4stevens.com (MICH)

\$3000 SIGN ON BONUS, \$65K-\$75K ANNUALLY! Dedicated Customer Freight, Excellent Benefits and We Get You Home Every Week! Call Today 888-409-6033, Apply Online www.Drive.Jacobson.com (MICH)

ATTN: TRUCK DRIVER RECRUITERS. We can help you place your ad in print & online for as low as

FLATBED DRIVERS, EXPERIENCED DRIVERS needed immediately for regional flatbed operation. Call 888-888-7996 Today. (MICH)

INSTRUCTION, SCHOOLS

MEDICAL BILLING TRAINEES NEEDED! Become a Medical Office Assistant! NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED! Online training can get you job-ready! HS Diploma/GED & PC/Internet needed! 1-877-253-6495 (MICH)

AIRLINE CAREERS begin here- Become an Aviation Maintenance Tech. FAA approved training. Financial aid if qualified- Housing assistance. Job placement assistance. CALL Aviation Institute of Maintenance 1-877-891-2261 (MICH)

MISCELLANEOUS

CANADA DRUG CENTER is your choice for safe and affordable medications. Our licensed Canadian mail order pharmacy will provide you with savings of up to 75 percent on all your medication needs. Call today

1-800-259-4150 for \$10.00 off your first prescription and free shipping. (MICH)

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Advertise your product or recruit an applicant in this paper plus 65 other papers in Eastern Michigan for only \$250/week! Call 800-227-7636 www.cnaads.com (MICH)

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800-579-7355
www.hometownlife.com
eads@hometownlife.com

DEADLINES:
Fri. at 4 pm for Sunday
Tue. at 3 pm for Tuesday

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615 W. Lafayette Blvd., Detroit, MI 48226
866-887-2737
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HOMES

apartments.com HomeFinder.com

Homes

WESTLAND Holiday Park Townhouse Co-op for Sale. 2 br/1.5 bath, hardwood floors, nice quiet neighborhood. \$29,000. Call 772-221-1964

Lease - Option To Buy

HAMBURG TWP. Lake front, all sports. 4 BR. 2.5 BA. 2.5 car att. gar., \$1,800/mo. + sec. 810.599.9581 after 5 p.m.

Cemetery Lots

CANTON- KNOLLWOOD MEMORIAL 2 Cemetery plots w/ vaults. \$4,000 or best offer. 734-721-7299

Oakland Hills Memorial Cemetery Nov. 11, 72 Burial sites for Sale. \$1900 each- Buy One Get One Free. Must pay title transfer Approx. \$100. Call Tom at 248-674-1245

Need to Rent That House or Apartment?

Place an ad with Observer & Eccentric Media, and have it rented in no time!

800-579-7355

RENTALS

apartments.com HomeFinder.com

Apartments For Rent

GARDEN CITY: Beautifully remodeled 2 bdrm. Heat & water incl., credit friendly. (248) 474-3005

NOVI 2 Bd/2 Ba Luxury suite avail. Jan. 1st. Crown molding, vaulted ceilings, granite counters, clubhouse w/ lots of extras \$1,645. First month rent free & no sec. deposit. Call 734-255-3191

Condos & Townhouses

Farmington Hills -very nice 2 br, 1 ba, w/br/dryer in unit, private balcony, woods & river view. \$665/mo. 248-418-1729

Homes For Rent

GARDEN CITY: 28417 Barton Newly Decorated 2br home, bsmt & gar. No pets \$800 + sec. immediate occupancy & credit check 248.910.3695

WAYNE: 2 br duplex, full bsmt, nice area! \$675/mo. 734.945.6714

JOBS

careerbuilder.com

Help Wanted - General

Inspecc
Inspecc, Inc. a Carlton, MI company, has immediate openings for the following positions -

Inside Sales Representative-Part Time
Microsoft office skills and high volume phone traffic skills required, previous sales exp. with measurement equipment a plus.
Field Service Technician-Full Time
Must possess the physical, mental, mechanical and electrical skills required to install and service a variety of coordinate measuring machines, travel required.
CMM Programmer-Full Time
Min. 2yrs. PC-DMIS or LK-DMIS programming experience, travel up to 50%, Faro arm experience a plus.
Receptionist - Part Time
Multi-line phone system and Microsoft Office skills required, previous exp a plus.

See full descriptions on Careerbuilder.com or at inspecc-inc.com/company/jobs. Send resumes to resumes@inspecc-inc.com

INVENTORY COUNTERS
Immediate opportunities for RGIS Inventory Takers. Requires strong attention to detail, 18 yrs old and out of HS, able to work variable hrs. nights/weekends/days, reliable communication/transportation. Skill with ten-key by touch is a plus but not required. \$9 hr. paid training.

www.rgis.com
Ref INW0115 EOE

Manufacturing
FAST PACED metal stamping facility in Canton is seeking candidates for the following positions:

- Tool & Die Maker/Repair
- Die Setter
- Machine Repair
- Weld Tech
- Machine/Weld Operator
- Truck Driver
- Shipping and Receiving
- Purchasing
- Quality Manager
- Quality Tech
- Cost Estimator
- Design Engineer
- New Model Engineer
- Project Engineer
- Robotic/Weld Engineer

Competitive wages and benefits. High School diploma or equivalent required. Higher education and/or exp a plus. Call: (734) 738-0254 or email resume to rcjuran@adveng.net

MECHANIC LARGE EQUIPMENT
RAM
Exp'd. MECHANIC for Livonia warehouse. Email resume: mkspar@ramservices.com or fax: 734-793-1934

Help Wanted - Dental

CHAIR SIDE DENTAL ASSISTANT w/EXPERIENCE
Part time hours with full time benefits. Bring in your resume and fill out an application Thurs., Dec. 11th, 10am-noon, Tues., Dec. 16th 2-4pm & Thurs., Dec. 18th, 10am-noon 41895 Eleven Mile Rd. Suite 101, Novi 48375

O&E Media Classifieds
Just a quick call away...
800-579-7355

Help Wanted - General

Dental Assistant
For periodontal/implant practice. Must have surgical experience and be certified in radiology. Full time (Tues-Sat) w/benefits. Farmington Hills area. Contact Karen at: 248-851-1034

Help Wanted - Medical

MEDICAL ASSISTANT
Full Time
Experienced for busy internal medicine practice. Livonia area.
Fax resume to: 313-295-1529

Food - Beverage

Restaurant Manager
Beans & Cornbread, a busy award winning restaurant in Southfield. Experience in a fast charged environment helpful. Competitive salary.
Send resume to: Reference Box 6000 oreesume@hometownlife.com

Help Wanted - Domestic

DIRECT CARE WORKER MORG TRAINED
Needed for young man in Farmington Hills. 10 hrs/wk. \$12.85/hr. 734-637-8143

Position Wanted

RELIABLE HAPPY HELPER - CNA
Certified or house cleaning. I will help you clean, organize, etc. 734-772-4043

Elderly Care & Assistance

Retired RN Looking for part time work Flexible hrs. caring for loved ones. 313-538.3387

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Help Wanted - Dental

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Sat - Dec 6th - 7pm
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Cash/MC/Visa
Bank Debit Cards
No Checks
Doors Open 6pm
Joe Carl, Profession Auction Service
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www.jcauctionservices.com

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• Extra \$5 add a photo

*4 line minimum (\$2.00 for each additional line).

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Snowmobiles

Skidoo 2001 MXZ 700 & 3 place snowmobile trailer; alum drive on/drive off. \$2700 obo. 734-890-2053

Auto Auctions

CHANDLER CAR CARRIERS
936 W. Ann Arbor Plymouth, MI Auction Mon. 12/08 at 9am 08' Kia-KN0MB233X86266678 97 Plymouth 1P3E542Y1V0300463 Bidding start at towing and storage charges.

Trucks for Sale

FORD F-150 XLT 2012 Extended cab, 4x4, ABS, tow hooks, only 29K! \$28,988 NORTH BROS. 855-667-9860

FORD RANGER 2008 Sport Ext. Cab, RWD, 66K. Certified. \$15,876. NORTH BROS. 855-667-96 80

GMC SIERRA 2010 Crew Cab, short box, 4x4, SLE, ABS, traction control. \$22,995. BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

4 Wheel Drive

SIERRA 1500 2011 Ext. Cab, 4WD, SL 58k, 1 owner \$23,495 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

Sports Utility

BUICK ENCLAVE 2009 CXL, FWD, ABS, leather/ heated seats. \$19,995 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

BUICK ENCLAVE 2012 FWD, leather, heated seats, Black Metallic. \$21,995 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

CHEVY EQUINOX 2011 FWD, 4 dr, 2 LT, heated leather seats, ABS, power sunroof, too much to list! \$16,995 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

FORD '07-ESCAPE LTD, 4x4, 6CYL, TOWNER, GOLD BEIGE LTHR., SNRF., LOAD-ED 104K.MI. 248-420-7500

FORD EDGE 2011 SE, FWD, 28K, rear spoiler. \$19,988 NORTH BROS. 855-667-9860

FORD ESCAPE 2014 4x4, SE, moonroof, only 2700 miles. Ford Certified! 1.9% NORTH BROS. 855-667-9860

GMC '04 - YUKON EXT DENALI AWD BLK/TAN LTHR 123K.MI., ALL PWR., HTD SEATS, 248-884-7200

GMC 2008 ENVOY SLT Summit white ext, blk lthr int, 4 whl dr, heated seats, 70k mi, new tires, sunroof, pwr seats, running boards, trailering equip, keyless, XM satellite. Onstar. \$12,900. 248-924-6476

Sports Utility
GMC ACADIA 2010 FWD SLT1, Lthr, Bose stereo system, loaded! \$18,995 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

GMC TERRAIN 2010 FWD, 4 dr., SLE-1, back up camera, privacy glass. \$14,995 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

GMC TERRAIN 2011 FWD, 4 dr., SLE-1, 42K, 1 owner, extra clean! \$17,995 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

GMC YUKON 2011 4WD, 4 Dr., 1500 SLT, Leather, Pwr. Sunroof, 3rd Row Seat. \$29,995 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

JEEP LIBERTY 2012 4x4, 4WD, 4dr Spt, 1 owner, 40,000 miles \$17,995 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

Sports & Imported
CHEVY AVALANCHE 2011 4WD, LTZ, leather, back-up camera, remote ignition. \$29,995 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

SCION TC 2009 2 dr. hatchback, power sunroof, 1 owner. \$14,995. BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

SUBARU LEGACY 2011 2.5i, Prem, AWP, power moon, AWD. \$15,988. NORTH BROS. 855-667-9860

Buick

ALLURE CXL 2006 Auto, Leather, Certified \$11,988 NORTH BROS. 855-667-9860

Buick 03 LaSalle Limited Loaded. Low miles, good cond \$2,700. 586.337.0292 or 734.523.8284

BUICK LACROSSE 2008 36,000 Miles, White Opal, 1 Owner, Fully Loaded. \$12,995 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

BUICK LUCERNE 2011 CXL Premium 4 dr sedan, Fully loaded, A real beauty! Only 50,000 miles. \$17,995 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

LACROSSE 2012 FWD, Touring, Silver, 1 owner, certified, 29,000 miles. \$21,995 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

LaSalle 1994- 4 dr blue, v6, 142k, auto trans Runs & Looks good \$1500 obo. 248-961-4444

LUCERNE CXL 2010 43K, leather, heated seats, AWD, traction control. \$15,995. BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

REGAL CXL 2011 CXL R1 Russelsheim, 48K, 3rd row seat, 1 owner. \$12,995 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

Cadillac

CTS 2011 Sedan, 3.0L V6, AWD, 22K Black Raven. \$22,995 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

CHEVY MALIBU 1LT 2011 36,000 Miles, Imperial Blue, Auto, Just Int! \$13,495. BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

CRUZE 2011 LTZ! Leather, full power. Spotless! \$16,988 NORTH BROS. 855-667-9860

CRUZE 2012 Sedan LS, only 11K 1 year FREE maintenance (limited time offer). \$13,995 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

IMPALA LT 2011 30K, 1 owner, leather, heated seats, power sunroof. \$15,995. BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

MALIBU 2014 1LT, 1K miles, 1 owner. Just like new, except the price! \$22,995 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

Chevrolet
MALIBU LT 2012 W/2LT, FWD, 33K, loaded! Black metallic. \$16,988 NORTH BROS. 855-667-9860

Chrysler-Plymouth

Chrysler 2005 T&C VAN 56k miles \$10,000 3.8V6, Auto, white exterior, grey leather interior. Trip Computer w/ Compass, photo chromatic rear view mirror, heater front bucket seats, Cruise control, PS PB, PL, PW, Power Mirrors, Power Doors, Tinted windows, AM-FM-CD-TAPE-DVD w/ rear seat video screen, controls on steering wheel, Power adjustable pedals, Stow & Go seats, third seat, Power front seats, front and rear air conditioners w/ integral ducting, roof rack, towing package, class 2 hitch receiver, self leveling suspension, front and rear, air deflectors, ceramic brake pads, 1 owner, interior and exterior in like new condition, 4 Firestone Snow tires mounted on vehicle. Remote Entry and Factory theft Deterrents. Livonia area. Call 734-255-3666 for viewing information.

SEBRING TOURING 2008 FWD, air, cruise, heated mirrors. \$6345 NORTH BROS. 855-667-9860

TOWN & COUNTRY 2010 4 dr. wagon Touring, 4 wheel ABS, Solar glass, 1 year FREE maintenance (limited time offer). \$13,995 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

Ford

FIESTA SE 2012 FWD, 29K, One Owner, Ford Certified. \$14,988 NORTH BROS. 855-667-9860

FIVE HUNDRED 2005 SEL, FWD, Red Fire Metallic, Ford Certified \$11,988 NORTH BROS. 855-667-98 80

FLEX 2013 LIMITED Ford Certified! 1.9%. \$29,888 NORTH BROS. 855-667-9860

FOCUS 2012 SEL FWD, Lot of options, 20,000 miles \$16,988 NORTH BROS. 855-667-9860

FOCUS SEL 2012 White Metallic, 1 owner, 5 dr hatchback. \$12,595. BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

FOCUS SES 2010 FWD, ABS, 1 owner. Ford Certified. \$14,488 NORTH BROS. 855-667-9860

FORD 00' ECONOLINE Blk/gld in color, Runs good, new radiator & alternator. Michelin tires \$2000 obo Call 734-812-9996

Ford 03 Focus wagon- original owner looks good, runs good needs nothing, high miles \$2500/obo 734-261-5680

FUSION 2010 Sport pkg., AWD, moon, Fully inspected & warranted. \$14,988 NORTH BROS. 855-667-9860

MUSTANG 2008 GT Premium RWD, Torch Red Only 15K miles! \$19,998 NORTH BROS. 855-667-9860

Honda

Honda Civic 04 black four door 70,671 miles excellent condition well maintained please email for any questions grendall1965@gmail.com (248)798-2456

Jeep

Grand Cherokee 1993 Laredo 4 whl dr, Runs great! New tires! Good transport. \$1700 obo. 734-444-6840

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Jeep
GRAND CHEROKEE 2012 LTD 4x4, leather heated seats, dual moonroof. \$29,783 NORTH BROS. 855-667-9860

Lexus

LEXUS ES 350 2008 4 dr., Sedan, Leather, Heated Seats, Loaded! \$18,995. BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

Lincoln

MKZ 2011 4 dr. sedan, FWD, 58K miles. Leather, sunroof, traction control. \$17,995 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

MARINER 2008 Auto, a/c, full power, Alloys. Priced to sell! \$10,988. NORTH BROS. 855-667-9860

Nissan

NISSAN 14' VERSA SV 21k Miles, Red pearl, Pwr, op tions, Excellent condition. \$11,100 248-495-0777

Pontiac

PONTIAC G6 GT 2007 Convertible, FWD, Premium Sound System. \$13,488. NORTH BROS. 855-667-9860

PONTIAC G8 GT 2009 White, Low Miles, 1 Owner, Moon Roof, New Arrival \$20,995 BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

SATURN VUE REDLINE 2008 Deep Blue, Black Interior, 1 Owner! Only \$11,495. BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC 734-453-2500

Saturn

COROLLA XLE 2009 77,000 miles, grey Automatic \$13,988 NORTH BROS. 855-667-9860



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Thursday PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- Sugar source
- relief
- IRS employees
- Frage stick
- Parapsychology topic, briefly
- Rajah's spouse
- Straw in the wind
- Maritime
- Firebug's crime
- Break in
- Recumbent
- Sun, in Cancun
- Malamute's load
- Rainy-day cache (2 wds.)
- San — Obispo
- She, in Cherboung
- of Aquitaine
- About half of us

DOWN

- Cote murmur
- Mme. Gluck of opera
- Not e'en once
- Practically forever
- Violin-playing comedian
- Hungry — bear

Answer to Previous Puzzle

R	A	N	F	A	T	S	S	L	A	B	
E	R	A	O	M	N	I	K	I	L	O	
F	A	N	O	N	O	T	A	R	I	Z	E
S	T	O	O	D	M	T	N				
			M	A	U	L	E	N	J	O	Y
V	A	N	S	N	O	G	Y	I	P	E	
O	W	E	T	R	I	L	A	W			
L	A	B	S	O	R	B	E	L	L	S	
S	Y	R	I	A	Y	E	L	L			
		F	I	B	I	M	B	U	E		
S	O	F	T	D	R	I	N	K	O	F	A
O	P	I	E	A	C	H	E	L	L	O	S
S	E	E	D	G	E	L	S	T	S	E	

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7 Rebuffed
8 Cheat sheet
9 Boot liner
10 Miscellany
11 — vous plait
17 Clothing

19 Primeval
22 Get acclimated
23 Broker's advice
24 Eye impolitely
25 Size above med.
26 Crewmate of Uhura
27 Encumbrance
28 NASA counterpart
30 Drink with scores
31 Showed the way
32 Punk hairdos
35 Its HQ is Brussels
36 Docs
39 Thorough check
40 Bear, to Brutus
42 Deeply impressed
43 Watch the stars
44 Blarney Stone locale
45 Fishing float
46 Suffix for press
47 Aunt or bro.
48 Fair-hiring abbr.
50 Craze

Want more puzzles? Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books at QuillDriverBooks.com

SUDOKU

			9		6					
5				9		1				2
					8	3			7	
2										6
		3				8	7	2		
4										
	1	2		3						
		7			4	5		8		
		4								1

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

ADOPTION WORD SEARCH

WORDS

ADOPTION AFFIDAVIT AGENCY BIRTH MOTHER CERTIFICATION CHILD CLOSED CONFIDENTIAL CONSENT CONSERVATOR COOPERATION CUSTODY DISSOLUTION DOSSIER FAMILY FICTIVE KIN FOSTER

GUARDIAN HOMESTUDY INDEPENDENT INSURANCE LEGAL NEGLIGENCE OPEN ORPHAN PARENT PATERNITY PERMANENCY PLACEMENT PROFILE RECORDS SURRENDER WAITING

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally & diagonally throughout the puzzle.

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RELIGION CALENDAR

DECEMBER ADVENT SERVICES

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 10 and 17

Location: Lola Park Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford
Details: The meditation theme is "Waiting With The Old Testament Church"

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

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 4

Location: Garden City Presbyterian Church, 1841 Middlebelt, Garden City
Details: The service provides a "sacred space" for grieving for those who have suffered a loss, emotional trauma, who feel overworked and pressured, or who just feel sad this holiday season

Contact: 734-421-7620

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Time/Date: 9 a.m. to noon Dec. 13

Location: Good Hope Lutheran Church, 28680 Cherry Hill, Garden City
Details: Pancakes and sausage; \$6, \$4 for age 8 and under; picture with Santa, \$9

Contact: 734-427-3660

CANDLELIGHT GATHERING

Time/Date: 5:30-8:45 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6

Location: Michigan Zhong Shu Temple, 23845 Middlebelt, Farmington Hills

Details: Evening ceremony at 5:30 p.m., reception at 6 p.m., candlelight program, 7:15. Music, food and fellowship. This is a quiet, musical event with candles. Due to safety concerns, it may not be suitable for younger children. Vegetarian food without onion, garlic and chive will be served during the reception. RSVP to michigantemple@yahoo.com

Contact: 734-890-2307

CONCERT

Time/Date: 8 p.m. December 4-6

Location: Trinity in the Woods, 26880 La Muer, Farmington Hills

Details: Holiday Heartsong, a celebration concert for the holiday season, features the Trinity and Friends Choir. Tickets are \$10 and include a wine and cheese reception

Contact: 248-474-2860; trinityinthewoods.org

CONCERT

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6 and 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7

Location: Fort Street Presbyterian Church, 631 W. Fort St., Detroit

Details: The Fort Street Chorale sings Handel's *Messiah*. Tickets are \$20

Contact: 313-961-4533; fort-street.org

CONCERT

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13

Location: St Timothy Presbyterian Church, 16700 Newburgh, Livonia

Details: The concert is divided into two parts of roughly 30 minutes each. The first half consists of popular Christmas



Members of the music ministry at St. John's Episcopal Church in Plymouth will sing Sunday, Dec. 7, at the Service of Lessons and Carols for Advent.

songs performed by soloists, small groups, and handbell ringers, and the second half is the cantata, *Were You There on That Christmas Night?* sung by the combined choirs of St Timothy and Kirk of Our Savior of Westland, with special guest percussionist Peter Falk. A free-will donation will be accepted

Contact: 734 464-8844, sttimothy@sttimothyepcusa.org

CONCERT

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 17

Location: St. John's Lutheran Church, 35320 Glenwood, Westland

Details: Christian rock band Wise For Salvation will perform and accompany singing of traditional and contemporary Christmas songs

Contact: 734-721-5377

COOKIE WALK

Time/Date: 9:30 a.m. early bird sale, 10 a.m. regular sale, Dec. 13

Location: Timothy Lutheran Church, 8820 Wayne Road, Livonia

Details: Christmas cookies will cost \$7.50 per pound. Other baked goods will be priced by the item. Admission is \$2 for the early bird sale; free for regular start time

Contact: 734-751-6464

DETROIT LUTHERAN SINGERS

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7

Location: Hosanna-Tabor Lutheran Church, 9600 Levee, Redford

Details: Excerpts from Bach's *Magnificat*, along with carols and other songs; tickets are \$15 general admission, \$10 for seniors and students

Other concerts: 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, at Faith Covenant Church, 35415 W. 14 Mile, Farmington Hills

Contact: www.detroitlutheransingers.com

LESSONS AND CAROLS

Time/Date: 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7

Location: St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 Sheldon, Plymouth

Details: The service includes readings of scripture from *The Message*, a contemporary language translation of the Bible, along with songs and carols by the Youth Choir, Handbell Choir, Grace and Amazing Grace choirs and House Band, under the

direction of Julie Ford. Local percussionist, Tom Arnett, also will perform. The concert is free, but donations will be accepted for donation to Gleaners Community Food Bank of Southeastern Michigan

Contact: 734-453-0190, or visit stjohnsplymouth.org

LESSONS AND CAROLS

Time/Date: 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14

Location: St. Aidan, located on the east side of Farmington Road, between Six Mile and Seven Mile in Livonia

Details: Features the ensembles and members of St. Aidan Music Ministry. Admission is a \$5 donation or two canned food goods for Christmas food baskets for the needy

Contact: 734-425-5950

LIVE NATIVITY

Time/Date: 5:15-6:15 p.m. Dec. 10

Location: St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 20805 Middlebelt, Farmington Hills

Details: Dinner and Advent service featuring the preschool follows the live nativity

Contact: kroedel@stpauls-farmington.com

WINE & CHOCOLATE

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6

Location: Temple Beth El, 7400 Telegraph, Bloomfield Hills

Details: Wine and chocolate tastings, musical entertainment and silent auction. Tickets are \$18 per person. For reservations, make checks payable to Sisterhood of Temple Beth El, 7400 Telegraph Road, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48301.

Contact: Harriet Cooperman, at 248-321-9023 or hcooperman@sbcglobal.net.

ONGOING CLASSES/STUDY

Men's Bible study

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

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

Contact: John Shulenberg at 734-464-9491

Our Lady of Loretto

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

Location: Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford Township

Details: Scripture study

Contact: 313-534-9000

CLOTHING BANK

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. last Saturday of the month

Location: Canton Christian Fellowship, 8775 Ronda Drive, Canton

Details: No documentation needed

Contact: info@cantoncf.org

FAMILY MEAL

Time/Date: 5-6 p.m. every Thursday

Location: Salvation Army, 27500 Shiawassee, Farmington Hills

Details: Free meal

Contact: 248-477-1153, Ext. 12

MOMS

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

Time/Date: 9:30-11:30 a.m. second Tuesday, September-May

Location: 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia

Details: Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) is aimed at mothers of infants through kindergartners

Contact: Ethanie Defoe at 248-227-6617 and Jody Fleszar at 734-658-2463

Dunning Park Bible Chapel

Time/Date: 9:30-11:30 a.m. first and third Tuesdays

Location: 24800 W. Chicago Road, Redford

Details: MOPS is a place where moms can build friendships, receive mothering support, practical help and spiritual hope.

Contact: Amy at 313-937-3084 or Kristen at 734-542-0767

PET-FRIENDLY SERVICE

Time/Date: 1 p.m. Sunday

Location: Dunk N Dogs, 27911 Five Mile, Livonia

Details: All Creatures ULC sponsors the service, which is conducted in an informal setting. Pet blessings are available after the service.

Contact: 313-563-0162

PRAYER

St. Edith Church

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday

Location: 15089 Newburgh, Livonia. Enter through back.

Details: Music, singing, prayer

Contact: Grace at 734-464-1896, Shirley at 734-464-3656 or Geri at 734-464-8906

St. Michael Lutheran Church

Time/Date: 6-7 a.m. Monday-Friday

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday

Location: 7000 N. Sheldon, Canton
Details: Praying silently or aloud together; prayer requests welcomed.

Contact: 734-459-3333 for additional information

SINGLES

Detroit World Outreach

Time/Date: 4-6 p.m. Sunday

Location: 23800 W. Chicago, Redford, Room 304

Details: Divorce Overcomers group is designed for individuals going through divorce, those who are divorced or separated.

Contact: The facilitator at 313-283-8200; lef@dwo.org

First Presbyterian Church

Time/Date: 7-7:15 p.m., social time; 7:30 p.m., announcements; 7:30-8:30 p.m., program; 8:30-9 p.m. ice cream social, Thursdays.

Location: 200 E. Main St., Northville

Details: Single Place Ministry; cost is \$5

Contact: 248-349-0911 or visit www.singleplace.org

Steve's Family Restaurant

Time/Date: 9 a.m. second and fourth Thursday

Location: 15800 Middlebelt, 1/4 mile north of Five Mile, Livonia

Details: Widowed men of all ages may attend the Widowed Friends Men's breakfast. This is an informal "peer" group where men have an opportunity to meet with others.

Contact: 313-534-0399

SONG CIRCLE

Congregation Beth Ahm

Time/Date: Noon to 12:30 p.m. every Shabbat

Location: 5075 W. Maple, West Bloomfield

Details: Sing zemirot (Shabbat songs) and celebrate Kiddush following morning services. Lyrics are provided in transliteration as well as the original Hebrew.

Contact: 248-737-1931 or email nancyellen879@att.net.

SUPPORT

Apostolic Christian Church

Time/Date: 5 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily

Location: 29667 Wentworth, Livonia

Details: Adult day care program at the church's Woodhaven Retirement Community. Funding available from TSA, AAA 1-C Older Americans Act.

Contact: 734-261-9000; www.woodhaven-retirement.com

Connection Church

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Friday

Location: 3855 Sheldon, Canton

Details: Celebrate Recovery is a Christ-centered recovery for all hurts, habits and hang-ups. Child care is available for free

Contact: Jonathan@Connectionchurch.info or 248-787-5009

Detroit World Outreach

Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesday

Location: 23800 W. Chicago, Redford; Room 202

Details: Addiction No More offers support for addictive behavior problems

Contact: 313-255-2222, Ext. 244

Farmington Hills Baptist Church

Time/Date: 7-9 p.m. second Tuesday of the month except January, July and August

Location: 28301 Middlebelt, between 12 Mile and 13 Mile in Farmington Hills

Details: Western Oakland Parkinson Support Group

Contact: 248-433-1011

Merriman Road Baptist Church

Time/Date: 1-3 p.m. second and fourth Thursday

Location: 2055 Merriman, Garden City

Details: Metro Fibromyalgia support group meets; donations

Contact: www.metrofibrogroup.com; or call Ruthann with questions at 734-981-2519

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**Deadlines: Friday, 4:00 p.m. for Sunday papers
Tuesday, 4:00 p.m. for Thursday papers
Holiday deadlines are subject to change.**

BRIGGS, SARAH
Age 45, of Westland, formerly of Belleville & Livonia, died November 29th. Daughter of Richard Jerome & Bonalyn Janet (Reiher) Hertz. Survived by daughter Alexandria Briggs, sons Jacob & Nicholas Briggs, all of Milford, mother Bonalyn Hertz of Westland, sisters Melissa Hertz & Amy (Andrew) Hertz-Baylon & brother Richard Hertz. Visitation 5-8 p.m. Friday & Funeral 11 a.m. Saturday at Brown Funeral Home, Belleville. Interment, Soop Cemetery, Van Buren Twp. davidcbrownfh.com.

BROOKER, LOIS M.
November 26, 2014 Age 68 of Romulus/Wayne. Loving daughter of the late Seward and Mildred Brooker. Dear sister of Deloris (John) Bickel. Aunt to several nieces and nephews. Dear friend to Tony Anthony and Laurie Runion. Lois graduated from Wayne Memorial in 1964. She drove for Wayne Cab, Victory Cab, and Best in Town Car Service. A memorial gathering of friends to celebrate Lois's life will be held at Uht Funeral Home, 35400 Glenwood Rd. Westland, Saturday 12-2pm. Please view memorial and send tributes at www.uhth.com

HULTON, SHIRLEY ANNE
Age 92. www.mccabefuneralhome.com.

ORTMAN, HELEN
November 22, 2014. Age 94. Beloved wife of the late Benedict. Dear mother of Sandra Clark and the late Mary Bugajski. Also leaves 12 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren. Services were held on Monday at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church. Share your memories at www.schrader-howell.com.

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For Information regarding this Directory, please call Sue Sare at 248-926-2219 or e-mail: ssare@michigan.com

Tour holiday-trimmed homes, get ideas at Livonia Christmas Walk

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Jodi Holmes hopes her Christmas decorations strike a chord with every visitor to her home this holiday season.

She expects some will recognize at least one of the 400 vintage ornaments on the tree in her "Santa room." Or they'll delight in the bird nest trimmings and white candles near her four-poster bed. They might enjoy primitive decor as much as Holmes does and admire the handmade garland of dried apples and oranges that winds around the tree in her living room.

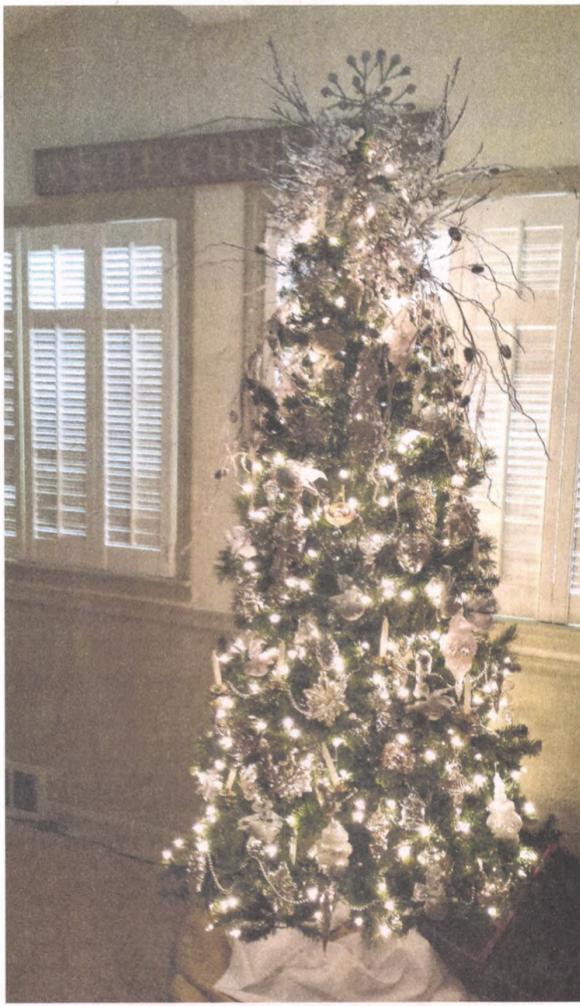
"Christmas is my special time. When I was a kid, it would be July and I'd be dragging out Christmas bulbs," said Holmes, 68, who decorated five rooms in her quad-level house for the upcoming Livonia Christmas Walk.

"They asked for people to volunteer for the Walk. It's something I wanted to do for a long time. I thought I'd like to share," she said, explaining her role in the annual fundraiser for Greenmead Historical Park. "I wanted to have (visitors) come in the house and experience the excitement like a small child on Christmas morning. I have all these vintage ornaments, I thought I could bring someone that feeling of joy."

Holmes, a member of Friends for the Development of Greenmead, will open her home, one of five private residences on the Walk, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6. Tickets are \$9 in advance and \$10 at the event. Buy advance tickets at Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile or at Greenmead, located at Newburgh and Eight Mile. The walk begins at either location.

Historical preservation

Sue Poster, Friends president, said the Walk raises \$4,000-\$8,000 annually for improvements at the historical



A tree sparkles in white and silver at Jodi Holmes' house in Livonia

village. The Simmons/Hill house at Greenmead, decorated by local Quaker chapters, will be open to the public during the event. Donated Christmas caroler figurines will help set the theme in the museum house.

"This year the Walk features five private homes that have never been on the Walk before," Poster said. "Our homes are done by the homeowners. They aren't professionally decorated. They're decorated by people who have



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Lisa Garon and her husband, Rich Belcher, turned their dining room into a wine bar. Snowmen and greenery make the room holiday-ready.

real jobs, and families. It's a lot of work for them, but everyone is happy and excited."

Decorations include a ceiling-to-floor-sized American Girl doll house in one home and Polish ornaments in another.

Wine pub

Lisa Garon's 3,000-square-foot ranch house sports "touches" of Santa Claus and snowman themes throughout.

"We decorate every room very elegantly, but just in touches ... subtle touches," Garon said. "My house is rustic, traditional and contemporary all mixed together."

She and her husband, Rich Belcher, turned their formal dining room into a wine pub by outfitting it with round, smaller tables and a television.

"It still has its formal chandelier, but now it's the most-used room in the house," Garon said.

Their year-old Cockapoo, Mason, has his own Christmas stocking with antique lettering and three beds throughout the house, one with a snowman blanket that contributes to the decorating theme.

Belcher decorated the tree his "man cave" in the basement, with sports memorabilia and ornaments collected during vacation trips.

"We have a tree in the living room, a tree in the basement, my office also has a smaller tree and then there are touches of Christmas in every room," Garon said. "I get a lot of my ideas from magazines ... I change up my decor all the time."

Garage sale finds

Holmes, who is married and a great-grandmother, made the dried fruit garland in her living room, but also enjoys "the hunt" for decorations at estate sales and garage sales. Treasured finds have included vintage twisted metal icicles, an old photo album and a book inscribed "a Christmas present to Nellie from mother," dated 1891.

"The rugged and lovingly used — I appreciate it because of the history behind it," she said.

Find out more about Greenmead Historical Park at www.facebook.com/Facebook.

Potters Market gains space, local artists at new venue

Shoppers will notice a few big changes at the 39th annual Potters Market, which opens Friday, Dec. 5, at the Southfield Pavilion, 26000 Evergreen in Southfield.

The 20,000-square-foot venue, a new location, will offer more space, wider aisles and a new layout for the show's 145 exhibiting artists and nearly 35,000 pieces of pottery. Other improvements include more parking, a refreshment cafe, vending machines and an ATM.

"We are extremely excited about the big move," said Carol Fitzpatrick, Potters Market co-manager, in a press release. "The new facility is bigger and gives us the opportunity to add even more potters to the roster and expand and improve the sales floor layout."

The move from Madison Heights to the larger Southfield venue also will enable artists to demonstrate pottery making.

Thirty-five new artists, including Barbara Gibson of Livonia and Leslie Greeneisen of Canton, will sell their works.

Gibson has taught pottery at Schoolcraft College and the University of Michigan and shows her work in 51 galleries nationwide. She has been making ceramic art for 50 years.

Greeneisen began making pottery in high school. She moved from Georgia, where she was involved in academic pottery programs, to Michigan in 2002. Greeneisen has worked at Schoolcraft College and is active in the Village Potters Guild in Plymouth.

The Potters Market is organized by the exhibiting artists. They not only organize the event, but stock shelves, handle the free coat check, ring up sales and assist customers.



SUBMITTED

This lantern by Leslie Greeneisen of Canton will be among the nearly 35,000 pieces of pottery for sale at the 39th annual Potters Market in Southfield.

"The advantage of this sale is that we constantly restock," Fitzpatrick said. "Having enough of the same item in order to restock is a requirement for the artists. We also have a wonderful customer service area."

The sale includes pots, vases, platters, tiles, mugs, garden art, bird baths, jewelry, ceramic framed mirrors, sculpture, lamps, tile-topped tables and more.

Another special highlight of this year's show is the "Pots for Charity" table in memory of Potters Market founder, Charlie Blosser, who died earlier this year. Pots from his collection of fine ceramics will be sold, with proceeds donated to the Detroit Fire Department.

The Potters Market will open for a preview sale, 6-9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 4. Admission is \$10 at the door. Regular hours are 2-9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 5, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7. Admission is free Dec. 5-7. No strollers are permitted.

For information, call 248-554-5570 or visit www.thepottersmarket.com.

GET OUT! CALENDAR

ARTS AND CRAFTS CITY GALLERY

Time/Date: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. through Jan. 9, 2015
Location: The Costick Center, 28600 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills

Details: Michigan Weavers Guild exhibit

Contact: 248-473-1859

NORTHVILLE ART HOUSE

Time/Date: 1-5 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday, through Dec. 6

Location: 215 W. Cady, Northville
Details: 2014 International Mosaic Exhibit and Auction includes 141 mosaic artworks from artists representing 13 countries.

Northville Camera Club: "The Art of Light," through Dec. 6 in the lower level gallery

Contact: 248-344-0497

VAAL HOLIDAY SHOPPE

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 5-14; opening reception, 6-8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 4

Location: Visual Arts Association of Livonia (VAAL), 37653 Five Mile, Livonia
Details: One-of-a-kind holiday gifts created by area artisans include pottery, fiber, hand blown glass, jewelry and other accessories, wood items, clothing, ornaments, framed and unframed art and more. Items in every price range.

Contact: 734-838-1204; vaalart.org

DANCE THE NUTCRACKER

Time/Date: 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7

Location: Salem High School auditorium, located in the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park, on Joy, west of North Canton Center Road, Canton

Details: Plymouth-Canton Ballet Company, with the Michigan Philharmonic; tickets are \$25 for adults, \$18 for children and \$3 for the Sugar Plum Parade held after the show

Contact: plymouthcantonballet.org

FILM FARMINGTON CIVIC THEATRE

Time/Date: 10:15 a.m., 11:15 a.m., 12:15 p.m. and 1:15 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6

Location: 33332 Grand River Ave., Farmington
Details: See *Ice Age: A Mammoth Christmas* for free with donation of a new book, toy, or canned or boxed foods for Farmington Area Goodfellows Holiday Assistance Program. A surprise winter princess movie will screen at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.



SUBMITTED

Paul Hardy and Bobbi Gladden, both of Livonia, belt out a song in "A Reel Christmas," a show with Christmas music, a sing-along and scenes from Christmas movies, Dec. 5-6 at Inspire Theatre in Westland.

Contact: farmingtonareagoodfellows.org

PENN THEATRE

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 4, 7 p.m. and 9:25 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 5-6, and 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7

Location: 760 Penniman, Plymouth
Details: *It's a Wonderful Life*, admission \$3

Contact: 734-453-0870; www.penn-theatre.com

REDFORD THEATRE

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Dec. 5 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Dec. 6

Location: 17360 Lahser, just north of Grand River Avenue in Detroit
Details: *Christmas Vacation*; \$5

Contact: 313-898-1481

HISTORY KELSEY MUSEUM

Time/Date: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday and 1-4 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, through Dec. 21

Location: 434 State St., Ann Arbor
Details: The exhibit, "Pearls of Wisdom: The Arts of Islam at the University of Michigan," consists of 82 artifacts, including ceramics, glass, metal, textiles, paintings, illuminated manuscripts and wood

Contact: 734-764-9304

PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Time/Date: 1-4 p.m. Wednesday, Friday-Sunday, through Jan. 11, 2015

Location: 155 S. Main, Plymouth
Details: 'Twas the Night Before Christmas exhibit features scenes from stories and movies, such as *Elf*, *Polar Express*

and *A Christmas Carol*. Santa visits every Sunday until Christmas and will be on hand for the annual craft bazaar and open house, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$2 for ages 6-17

Contact: 734-455-8940

HOLIDAY LIGHTS LIGHTFEST

Time/Date: Lightfest hours 6-10 p.m. Friday-Sunday, through Dec. 31, excluding Dec. 25

Location: Along four miles of Hines Drive; enter at 7651 Merriman, between Warren Road and Ann Arbor Trail, in Westland

Details: Drive by 55 holiday light displays; admission is \$5 per car.

Contact: 734-261-1990; parks.waynecounty.com

WILD LIGHTS

Time/Date: 5:30-9 p.m. Dec. 5-7, 11-14, 18-23 and 26-31

Location: The Detroit Zoo, I-696 service drive at Woodward Avenue in Royal Oak

Details: The event includes photos with Santa Paws, carousel rides, The Polar Express 4-D Experience, ice carving, arts and crafts. Admission for ages 2 and older is \$8 in advance and \$10 at the gate; parking is \$6 per car. Buy tickets online at www.detroitzoo.org/events/wild-lights, at Detroit Zoo main admissions, or Kroger stores

Contact: 248-541-5717

MUSIC BECKRIDGE CHORALE

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, and 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7

Location: Northville High School, 45700 Six Mile, Northville

Details: "Wonder of Christmas" concert; tickets \$15 and \$18

Contact: beckridgechorale.org

BLUES@THE ELKS

Time/Date: 7-10 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month

Location: Plymouth Ann Arbor Elks Lodge 325, 41700 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth

Details: Big Ray and the Motor City Kings on Dec. 9. \$5 donation

Contact: 734-453-1780

FARMINGTON COMMUNITY BAND

Time/Date: 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7

Location: Harrison High School, 29995 W. 12 Mile, Farmington Hills

Details: Season's music by the concert band and some jazz standards by the FCB Big Band

Contact: fcbmusic.org



KIDS WILL ASK FOR MORE WITH THESE EASY BEAN RECIPES



Green beans are no longer a plain side dish for dinner. Here are some fun, kid-friendly recipes to try at home to help encourage your kids to eat a healthy serving of green beans. "Try them with hummus, ranch or any of your favorite dressings," suggests Justin Timineri, executive chef and culinary ambassador, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Green beans are a flavorful way to eat healthy all year around.

- » They are a good source of dietary fiber.
- » Green beans contain vitamin C and folic acid.

» They are also an important source of potassium and many micronutrients.

» One cup of cooked, fresh green beans has only 30 calories and no fat, sodium or cholesterol.

When choosing beans, look for plump, crisp beans that are reasonably well shaped. The beans should have even color with fresh blossom ends and snap readily when broken. Many people prefer smaller beans, which are usually more tender.

You can find more delicious recipes for Florida green beans at <http://bit.ly/flsnapbeans>.

— Courtesy of Family Features

GREEN BEAN STIR-FRY

Yield: 4 servings

1 tablespoon olive oil
3 cups fresh green beans, ends trimmed
2 cups sweet bell peppers, sliced
2 cups zucchini, sliced thin
1 cup carrot, sliced thin
2 tablespoons honey
¼ cup low sodium soy sauce
1 tablespoon black and white sesame seeds

Preheat large sauté pan or wok over medium high heat. Add olive oil to preheated pan. Carefully add all vegetables to preheated pan. Cook vegetables for 4 to 7 minutes or until desired doneness. Add honey and soy sauce to pan and stir to combine. Serve stir-fry with rice and garnish with sesame seeds. Chef's tip: Add favorite vegetables in place of the ones listed in recipe. Kids can: Snap green beans and help measure honey and soy



GREEN BEAN AND POTATO SALAD WITH YOGURT DRESSING

Yield: 8 to 10 servings

½ pound fresh green beans, washed, ends trimmed and cut into thirds
2 pounds potatoes, washed, peeled and diced large
½ cup low-fat yogurt
2 lemons, juiced
1 cup fresh parsley, chopped fine
¼ cup olive oil
Sea salt to taste
Fresh ground pepper to taste

Fill large sized stock pot ¾ of the way full and lightly salt water. Bring lightly salted water to rolling boil over medium-high heat. Fill medium-sized mixing bowl halfway with ice and water. Add trimmed and cut green beans to boiling water and let cook for 2 to 3 minutes. Using hand strainer, remove green beans from boiling water and place them into ice water to stop cooking. The green beans should be crisp-tender and vibrant green. After green beans have cooled down, remove from ice water and set aside. Carefully add cut potatoes to same boiling water greens beans were cooked in. Cook potatoes in boiling water for around 15 minutes depending on size. The potatoes should be slightly firm, yet tender to the bite. Using colander placed in the sink, drain potatoes and run cold water over them to cool off and stop cooking. In large mixing bowl, combine yogurt, lemon juice, parsley and olive oil. Stir yogurt mixture to combine. Taste potato salad and adjust seasoning with salt and pepper. Keep potato salad cold in refrigerator and stir before serving. Kids can: Help combine ingredients for dressing.



GREEN BEAN POUFS

Yield: 4 servings

½ pound green beans, trimmed
1 can prepared crescent roll dough

Fill large sized stock pot ¾ of the way full and lightly salt water. Bring lightly salted water to rolling boil over medium-high heat. Fill medium-sized mixing bowl halfway with ice and water. Add trimmed and cut green beans to boiling water and let cook for 2 to 3 minutes. Using hand strainer, remove green beans from boiling water and place them into ice water to stop cooking. The green beans should be crisp-tender and vibrant green. After green beans have cooled down, remove from ice water and set aside.

Dry blanched green beans with paper towel. Open tube of prepared crescent roll dough. Cut each dough roll into strips. Wrap bunches of 3 green beans in spiral manner and place on cookie sheet. Continue process until all dough and green beans are used. Bake wrapped green beans until the dough is cooked and golden brown. Let cool and serve.

Kids can: Wrap dough around the green beans.



MINI GREEN BEAN CASSEROLE

Yield: 4 servings

1 pound green beans, ends trimmed
2 cups cheddar cheese, grated
½ cup panko bread crumbs
1 tablespoon olive oil

Fill large sized stock pot ¾ of the way full and lightly salt water. Bring lightly salted water to rolling boil over medium-high heat. Fill medium-sized mixing bowl halfway with ice and water. Add trimmed and cut green beans to boiling water and let cook for 2 to 3 minutes. Using hand strainer, remove green beans from boiling water and place them into ice water to stop cooking. The green beans should be crisp-tender and vibrant green. After green beans have cooled down, remove from ice water and set aside.

Preheat oven to 370°F. Divide blanched green beans evenly into four mini casserole dishes. Add an even amount of cheese on top of green beans. In small bowl, combine panko bread crumbs and olive oil. Mix ingredients to combine. Sprinkle bread crumb mixture on top of green beans and cheese. Place mini green bean casseroles in oven and bake until bubbly and golden brown. Let cool before serving.

Kids can: Add shredded cheese to the top of green beans.

