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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2013 • hometownlife.com

Council seeks options for fiscal woes

By Sue Mason
 Staff Writer

When the Wayne City Council meets Tuesday evening, the goal will be to develop a consensus on how to resolve the city's looming fiscal crisis.

With voters rejecting the creation of an Act 345 police and fire pension fund and the millage to support it in the November general election, city officials now must look at what needs to be done to erase a projected \$2 million deficit in the 2014-2015 fiscal year.

The study session Tuesday will include a presentation by the city consulting firm, the Winchester Group, on options to deal with the crisis, something Councilman John Rhaesa said officials really haven't had. Winchester

helped with a similar process in Redford Township.

"We really have to sit down and talk about this," said Rhaesa. "I really think that will help us figure out the future and where we want to go. We have to look at everything. We have to look at all of the pieces and see what we have, then we have to start putting them back together and see what we can afford."

The study session will be at 7 p.m. in the council chambers of Wayne City Hall. Citizens are invited to attend and offer up their ideas on what needs to be done.

"It's going to be an open discussion for the council and public to express their ideas," said Mayor Al Haidous. "We need to brainstorm to see where

we go after the failure of the 345 plan. I'd like to hear every opinion."

Gathering ideas

Haidous has repeatedly told residents that the city's financial woes are not because of something officials did wrong, but the severe drop in the city's property values. Tax revenue has dropped from a high of \$22 million in 2008-2009 to the current \$16.9 million. With another 5 percent decline in values expected next year, tax revenue will continue to fall.

"We need a solution," said Haidous. "We can't role the clock back to better times. We need to look to the future. We can't sit and feel sorry for ourselves."

Haidous pointed out that the city has

a strong infrastructure and excellent services and that officials must work to protect those services. But to do that, support from all sides is needed. Every problem has a solution; Wayne needs to find the solution that can be handled by everybody, he said.

"We need to work with one thing in mind, a solution to save the community," he said. "If this is going to work, it has to work for everybody or it won't work at all."

Rhaesa said that all areas of the city budget need to be looked at and in the process, "we may see where we can cut spending and where we should spend money."

"We're still going to have to make

See FISCAL WOES, Page A2



Scott Cramer directs members of the John Glenn High School choir in singing "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer."

Lights, sirens and SANTA CLAUS

Westland welcomes
 North Pole's
 best-known resident

By Sue Mason
 Staff Writer

It may have been a historic moment Wednesday evening, when Santa and Mrs. Claus flipped the lever to turn on the holiday lights at Westland City Hall.

With the city in the process of retrofitting the former Circuit City building as a new city hall, the decades-long ceremony may come to an end at the Ford Road civic center complex.

"This may be the last time we do this here," said Mayor William Wild, who, with city, school, county and state officials, welcomed Santa to town. "This may be a historic moment."

Parents, grandparents and chil-



Mayor William Wild leads the crowd in a countdown as Santa and Mrs. Claus prepare to switch on the holiday lights.

dren filled the front lawn of city hall to listen to the music of the Salvation Army band and hear Councilwoman Meriem Kadi read Clement Moore's *A Visit from St. Nicholas*.

Pitch pipe in hand, Robert Cassidy got the crowd on the right note to join him in singing *O Holy Night*,

while the John Glenn High School choir, under the direction of Scott Cramer, performed *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer* before getting the crowd to join in singing *Santa Claus Is Coming to Town*, the cue for Santa to make his appearance aboard a Wayne-Westland fire truck that came to city hall with lights and sirens and a police escort.

A VIP visit

"When you talk about VIP, it doesn't get any better than this," said Wild, who presented the Clauses with a key to the city.

The holiday season's First Couple joked about the length of time they've been married. Santa told the crowd it was 1,583 years, only to be corrected by Mrs. Claus.

"Oh no, Santa, it's been 1,585 years," she said, which had Santa noting that they've been "happily married 1,583 years."

Santa also produced a bit of Dasher's harness decorated with

See SANTA, Page A2

Demolition makes way for new drugstore

By LeAnne Rogers
 Staff Writer

The northwest corner of Middlebelt and Warren Road will soon have a new look, following Westland City Council approval for a new CVS Pharmacy.

The project will require demolition of an auto repair business at the intersection, along with a nearby restaurant that once housed a Wheat and Rye, more recently a sports bar.

A rezoning of the auto repair property from CB-4 vehicle service to CB-3 general commercial was approved by the council, along with a special land use to allow a drive-through window and a site plan.

"This is a very exciting redevelopment of the site. They are integrating the new CVS with the existing curb cuts and parking," Westland Planning and Build-

See DEMOLITION, Page A2

Visit with Santa, Mrs. Claus benefits veterans retreat

By Sue Mason
 Staff Writer

Santa and Mrs. Claus will be taking a break from the hustle and bustle of Christmas to make a very special appearance Saturday in Westland.

The North Pole's First Couple will be at Mr. Mike's Grill to help with a fundraiser for Blum's Landing, a northern Michigan bed and breakfast specifically for veterans of the War on Terror and service personnel.

The Clauses will be at the restaurant from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5-8 p.m. to pose for free pictures with their fans, both young and old. Donations will be accepted and Mr. Mike's also will be donating 20 percent of sales for those who mention Blum's Landing.

Bernard and Mary Ann Brewer of Westland are donating their time by portraying Santa and Mrs. Claus to help raise funds and awareness about Blum's Landing. Located just east of Rogers City, the bed and breakfast was built by former Canton residents Terry and Janet

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RETREAT

Continued from Page A1

Blumberg as a tribute to their son Trevor, who was killed in 2003 during his third tour of duty in Iraq. "Before leaving on his third tour, Trevor told his parents that 'If anything happens to me, take care of my dog and take care of my guys,'" Brewer said. "Scrappy is doing well and as far as his 'guys,' well, that's the reason behind the bed and breakfast. Jan and Terry thought and prayed and realized it was the best way to keep his wishes."

Soldiers welcomed

Blum's Landing provides up to a week stay for returning veterans and their families at no charge. It is open to all vets who have served since the War on Terror began. Details and directions can be found online at www.blumslanding.org.

The Brewers came up

with the idea for the benefit and pitched it to Mike and Julie Savich, the owners of the restaurant, and their son Steve. The Saviches have known the couple for several years and "with this, everyone agreed it was a great idea," Brewer said.

The couple has been playing Santa and Mrs. Claus for three or four years. They played the part at Memorial, Lathers and Henry Ruff schools in Garden City. A school district employee, it was Mary Ann Brewer's connection with Janet Blumberg when she was principal at Henry Ruff that led to the couple lending their support for Blum's Landing.

"When Jan was principal at Henry Ruff, they became very good friends," Brewer said.

Second visit

This is the second year the Brewers have been at Mr. Mike during the holidays, posing for photos and collecting

donations for Blum's Landing. Through word of mouth, posting on Facebook and fliers, people have found out and have been coming to the restaurant.

"I had one woman ask if she could come back with two adults for photos, they were disabled and probably in their 50s," Brewer said. "They were excited. It made their day."

The couple work for donations and "of course, every little bit helps," Brewer said. All proceeds go to the Landing.

"We have a donation basket and tri-folds Jan and Terry had made up that we hand out," Brewer said. "We don't keep a tally of if they come for dinner or for the photos."

Mr. Mike's Grill is at 6047 Wayne Road, north of Ford Road, in Westland. More information about the event can be found on the Mr. Mike's Grill Facebook page.

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SANTA

Continued from Page A1

bells that jingled and was a prelude to his singing *Jingle Bells* with the help of the crowd.

"We changed the bells on the reindeer and put on brass bells," he said. "Unlike the Polar Express, we don't have silver bells at the North Pole."

Must be Santa

The festivities had 6-year-old Kobe Wallace's eyes shining with excitement. While his older sister Zoey liked the lights, he was all about seeing Santa and Mrs. Claus.

This was the second year their grandmother Bonnie Hunt of Westland brought them to the celebration.

"He still believes," she said. "He's having such a good time with Christmas



Santa and Mrs. Claus took time to meet with children at the William P. Faust Public Library following the ceremony.

this year."

Kobe hasn't had a chance to whisper in Santa's ear, but has written him a letter "and it's nice."

"I told him I want pens and pencils and a shelter set from Minecraft," he said. "My mom has already bought me a big thing for Christmas. She's already wrapped it."

After the ceremony,

Santa and Mrs. Claus headed over to the William P. Faust Public Library, where there were cookies and cocoa and stories read by local dignitaries. There also was time for the Clauses to meet with youngsters and their families.

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DEMOLITION

Continued from Page A1

ing Director Bruce Thompson said.

Utilizing existing driveways to the adjoining credit union reduces the impact of the development on traffic, Thompson said.

The store will be a \$6 million investment and create 35 jobs, Westland Mayor William Wild said.

"We did have a little back and forth on the

elevation (of the building); we appreciate your working with us," he said.

Councilman Michael Kehrer disagreed, commenting he didn't care for the look of the building.

"I would have liked to see a better enhanced elevation like the store at Cherry Hill and Newburgh," he said.

Council also approved a site plan for the addition of a 2,400-square-foot metal storage building at an existing auto reclamation yard at 300

S. Newburgh. The 1.85-acre site has an existing 2,277-square-foot building housing a business that includes automotive towing and a storage yard.

The new building would be utilized for parts removal and storage. The Zoning Board of Appeals granted a 10-foot variance for the building, allowing a 15-foot side yard setback.

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FISCAL WOES

Continued from Page A1

cuts, but we've got to figure out if our priorities are in the right place," he said. "Winchester will help the residents and the council see the options. So far we haven't been given any options. We need to settle on what is the future of Wayne. The problem is we don't have a vision of

that."

Planning sessions

Haidous agrees with Rhaesa who wants to hold two strategic planning sessions to develop a plan for long-term fiscal sustainability to ensure quality of life is enhanced rather than further reducing services, as well as developing "bold solutions" that address the gap between revenues and expenditures.

The mayor said more than one or two meetings might be needed to get everyone to agree on how to save the city.

"I'm for it, let's do it," he said. "Something always comes out out of those kinds of meetings. We need to hear the options and find out what's acceptable for everybody."

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Angela Hospice founder recognized as leader in field

Named one of the 30 most influential leaders in hospice, palliative care

Sister Mary Giovanni, R.N., founder, president and CEO of Angela Hospice in Livonia, was named one of the 30 most influential leaders in hospice and palliative medicine – the medical specialty focused on relieving suffering and improving quality of life for people with a terminal illness – by the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine.

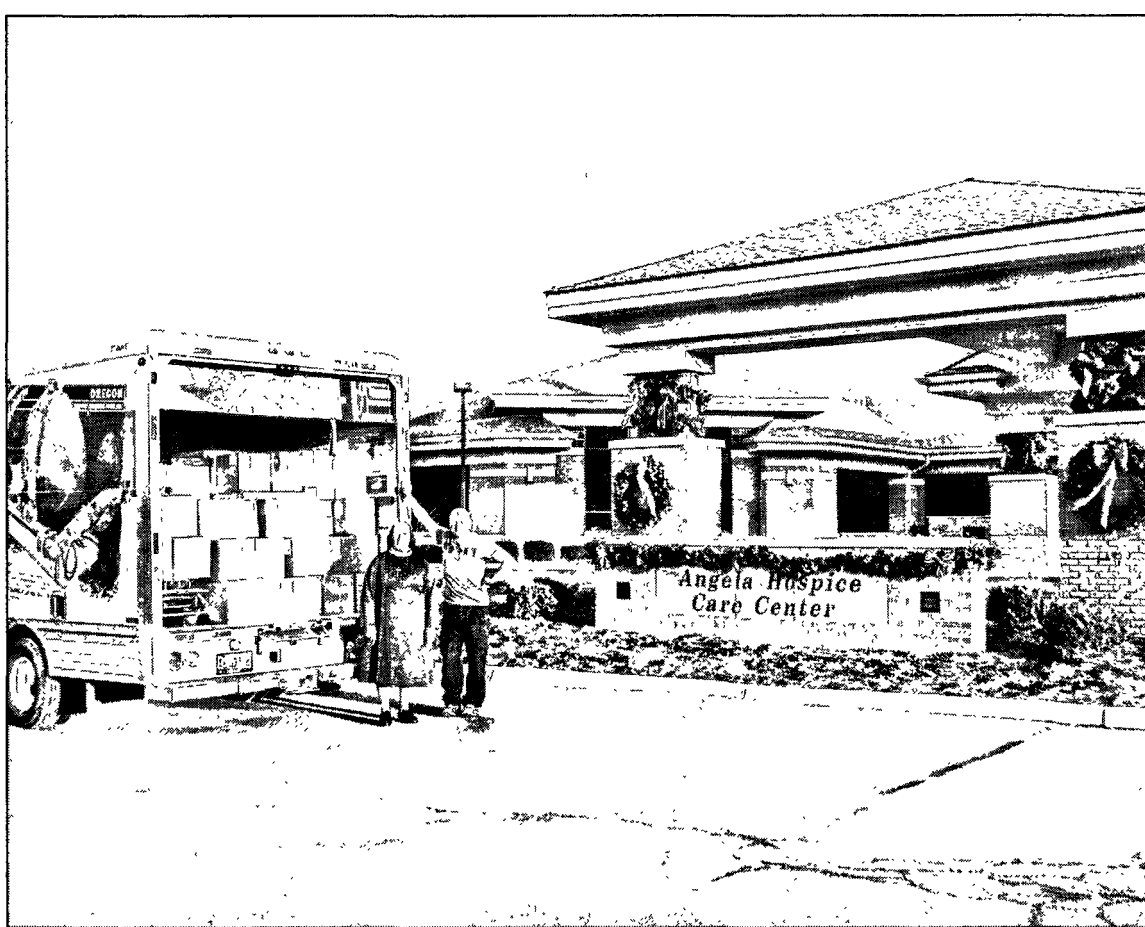
In celebration of 25 years serving the profession, the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine asked its 5,000 members to nominate who they think are the leaders – or visionaries – in the field. They then asked members to vote for the top 10 among the 111 nominated.

Giovanni is one of 30 nurses, physicians and authors recognized by peers for the important role they played in advancing the medical specialty of hospice and palliative medicine.

Inspired by the work of Dame Cicely Saunders in 1974, Giovanni spent 11 years researching pain control, alternative comfort measures and the daily needs of dying patients and their families, before founding Angela Hospice in 1985. In 1994, she opened the Angela Hospice Care Center, the first free-standing facility of its kind in Michigan. She now oversees more than 240 employees and 400 volunteers.

Further, she has expanded her focus internationally with medical support for the Haitian survivors of the 2010 catastrophic earthquake, leading efforts for the Blessed Angela Mobile Clinic and its staff, as well as the development of a volunteer facility in Jacmel, Haiti.

Hospice and palliative medicine focuses on improving quality of life and relieving



Sister Mary Giovanni with her brother John Monge, who drove a U-Haul truck from Illinois filled with supplies to go to Haiti for Giovanni's work there.

"This program recognizes key individuals who have been critical in building and shaping our field over the past 25 years."

STEVE R. SMITH
AAHPM executive director and CEO

pain and other symptoms in seriously ill patients. Palliative care can and should be provided to patients who continue to receive treatments to try to cure their disease, regardless of their prognosis.

Hospice is a specific type of palliative care for patients whose life expectancy is likely to be six months or less. Hos-

pice and palliative care also helps patients and families understand their treatment options and make decisions about their care, while providing information on spiritual and psychosocial resources, support for family and caregivers and grief counseling.

"This program recognizes key individuals who have been critical in building and shaping our field over the past 25 years," said Steve R. Smith, AAHPM executive director and CEO. "These individuals represent thousands of other health care professionals in this country that provide quality medical care and support for those living with serious illness – each and every day."

The visionaries – 14 women and 16 men – are physicians, nurses and hospice pioneers

such as British physician, nurse and social worker Cicely Saunders, credited with starting the modern hospice movement, and Elisabeth Kübler Ross, author of numerous books including the groundbreaking *On Death and Dying*.

Giovanni cites Saunders and Ross as greatly influencing the beginning of her hospice career, and now she is named among them as a visionary. Five elected officials also were nominated, including former President Ronald Reagan, who was named a visionary for signing into law the Medicare hospice benefit in 1982.

More information on the visionaries project, including the list of 30 visionaries is on the academy's website www.aahpm.org.

I-96 fatal accident case sent to prosecutor

By David Veselenak
Staff Writer

The driver in the fatal accident that took place on I-96 during last month's storms could be charged.

Sgt. Joe Boitos of the Livonia Police Department said last week the department sent the case to the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office for possible charges. He was unsure when or if the prosecutor's office would file any charges in the case.

The accident took place during the early morning hours of Nov. 18 on eastbound I-96 near Middlebelt. The victims, a 22-year-old Wayne resident, Daniel Davis, and a 22-year-old Westland resident had stopped their Chevrolet Cavalier on the side of the freeway. Both men got out of the vehicle on the shoulder.

After they got out of their vehicle, a Buick Century driven by a 23-year-old Redford man veered off the road, striking the two individuals, police have said. Davis was declared dead at the scene and the Westland man was taken to a nearby hospital for treatment.

Boitos said he was unsure of the condition of the Westland man last week. The Redford man stayed at the scene and was identified by police.

Police have said alcohol and drugs do not appear to be a factor in the incident. It was unclear if the weather that night, which included high winds throughout the area that caused thousands of power outages, played a factor.

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Educators at forum: Common core flawed

By David Veselenak
Staff Writer

For math teacher Stephanie Keiles, teaching transformations in a geometry class is important, but was typically done near the end of the school year.

With the implementation of Common Core, everything in the course now stems from transformations, which includes flips, turns and slides.

Keiles said this mandate is one example showing that the Common Core approach to education is flawed.

"Everything in geometry now transcends from transformations," she said. "My history analogy is, imagine you're teaching a course in American history in the 20th century. And you're going to start with the Korean War. And then everything you teach has to be related back to the Korean War."

"I'm being kind of forced to teach this different way."

Keiles, an eighth-grade teacher at East Middle School in the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, was one of two presenters Thursday night at the Livonia Civic Center Library during a League of Women Voters of Northwest Wayne County forum on the Common Core standards in schools.

The Common Core State Standards Initiative is an educational plan that sets nationwide standards for students in English and math. The plan was initially adopted by the state Board of Education in 2010, but recent legislation in Lansing would call for the full implementation in



Christopher Rugh, Plymouth-Canton Schools' social studies and language arts curriculum coordinator, and Stephanie Keiles, Plymouth-Canton middle school math teacher, spoke about the Common Core curriculum Thursday night.

Michigan. Currently, the department's budget forbids the spending of funds implementing the Common Core standards.

The Senate approved the initiative in late October and the House of Representatives approved another version in September. Both chambers must approve identical language before the standards can be ushered in.

Christopher Rugh, the social studies and language arts coordinator for Plymouth-Canton schools, said some aspects of the Common Core are solid building blocks on the English side of learning for students that school districts can build on and improve.

"In the sixth grade, we want kids to cite textual evidence ... to support an analysis," he said. "You can see how it builds slowly as the kids get older. It wasn't like that before. They really offer us a really good base model to operate from."

Keiles said many educators are skeptical of the Common Core curriculum, especially as the main developers of the plan did not originate in the education field.

Groups such as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation gave millions to help design the plan.

While the plan may tout getting kids ready for college all on the same page, Keiles said implementing the plan in every state could vary. For instance, a children moving mid-year may not ever receive instruction on a certain section depending on when the schools teach that subject, which can vary.

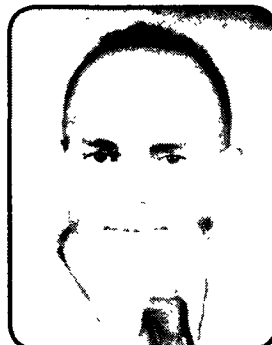
"It sounds terrific to say a kid can move from Arkansas to Maine and not miss a beat," she said. "In reality, they're implemented very differently."

Rugh said while the Common Core could have some benefits, it would be difficult for students starting out behind their classmates.

"Typically in kindergarten, the kids in kindergarten, some can read already, some can't. Some don't even know their real name," he said. "You spend a lot of time in the first few months with a kindergartner trying to straighten that up. And so the Common Core state standards don't offer a lot of room for doing that."

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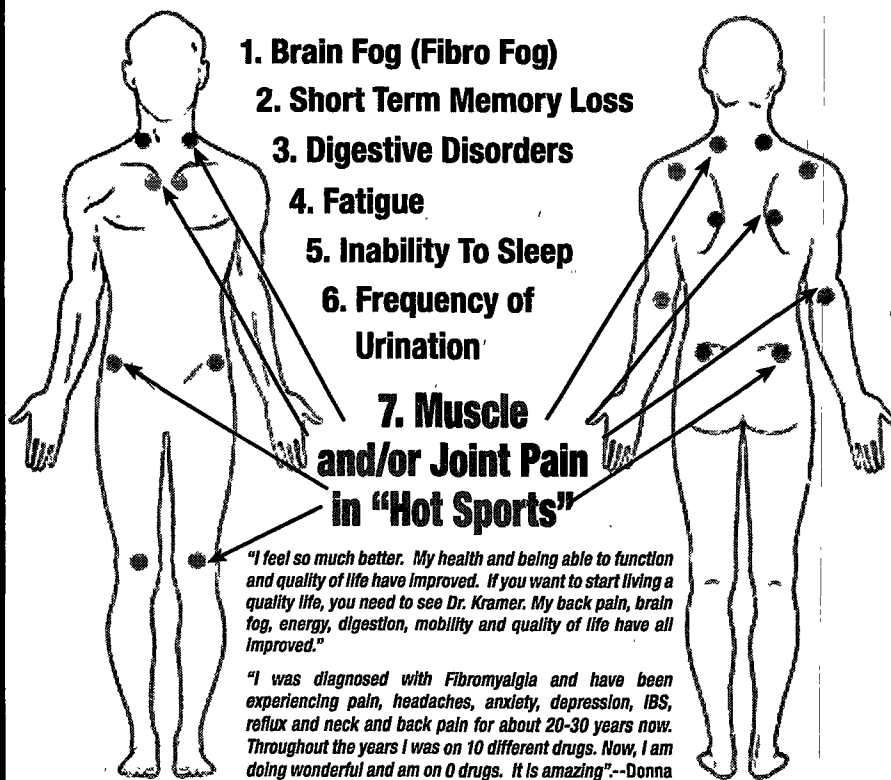
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EMU student wins moot court contest

By David Veselenak
Staff Writer

Nino Monea was not expecting huge success when he and his teammate signed up to compete in the regional American Collegiate Moot Court Association competition earlier this year.

The Livonia native and senior at Eastern Michigan University began practicing for the competition, which is a law-based challenge that pushes students to make legal arguments before a panel of judges similar to what attorneys do before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Monea and his teammate, Saline native Steven Moore, won the competition held last month at Saginaw Valley State University, beating out 26 teams from the Midwest, including SVSU, Youngstown State and Wooster College.

"We practiced hard, but we were going into it thinking it was going to

be a trial by fire," he said. "It was incredible and a huge surprise."

The 2010 Livonia Franklin High School graduate will now travel Jan. 17-18 to Arizona State University to compete against dozens of other undergraduate students across the country in the national competition. Monea, who plans on going to law school next year but is unsure where, said he did not have a huge interest in law while at Franklin High School, but it grew after going to EMU.

He joined organizations such as the mock trial club and enjoys the critical thinking skills that come with the challenge of crafting a convincing argument.

Monea and his teammate were given two cases and several hundred pages of Supreme Court opinions related to those topics that they had to use and create an argument.

"Between the two of



Nino Monea of Livonia (right), along with his teammate, Steven Cole of Saline, received top honors at a regional moot court competition last month in Saginaw. They will compete at the national level next month at Arizona State University.

us, there were probably over 400 pages of case law that both of us needed to read," he said. "The hardest part perhaps is synthesizing all those pages of reading into a 10-minute argument."

Monea's coach, C. Robert Dobronski, said while this was the first time the students have participated in moot court, Monea and Moore adapted quickly and performed well.

"Appellate advocacy or moot court is com-

pletely different than trial practice or mock trial, so there was a bit of a learning curve," Dobronski said. "The students all did a remarkable job picking up on the legal issues and the methodology I instructed them on."

After exams are over next week, Monea said he plans on using some of the break before school starts again in January to brush up on the assigned cases being used in the national competition, which includes search and seizure procedures and the president indefinitely detaining residents suspected of terrorism.

"A lot of it is running through practice rounds," he said. "Just like an athlete, you have to keep your brain in constant performance or else it will get rusty really fast."

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The 46-member Livonia Civic Chorus will sing secular songs followed by sacred music during its "Wonderful Christmastime" concert Dec. 15.

Civic Chorus presents annual Christmas concert

The Livonia Civic Chorus will sing both secular and sacred music of the holidays during its "Wonderful Christmastime" concert at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 15, in the Clarenceville High School Schmidt Auditorium, 20155 Middlebelt, Livonia.

The 46 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 *It's Christmas... Again*. This will be followed by *An Irving Berlin Christmas, Gettin' in the Mood for Christmas, Candy Cane Lane, Wonderful Christmastime, Grinch!*, *There's a Place Called Home and Christmas Day*. Two chorus ensembles will sing *Mozart's Fa La La* and *I'll be Home for Christmas*.

The second half of the concert is devoted to sacred music. It begins with *Sanctus* and continues with *Light the Candles, One Bright Star, Come on Down to Bethlehem, And the Angels Sing, Away in the Manger, Mary, Did You Know and I Know Now*. According to Gleason, "This afternoon of music is a great family experience to begin the many celebrations of the holiday season."

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 performance day. Pre-sale tickets are \$12 for adults and \$10 for seniors and students. At the door ticket prices are \$15 for everyone. For more information, call 734-542-9071 or email info@livoniacivicchorus.org. The chorus website is www.livoniacivicchorus.org.

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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 10, 2013 at 8:00 PM for the election of directors and such other business as may properly come before said meeting.

Publish Dates: December 5 and 13, 2013. LO-0000168793 2x1.3

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CITY OF WESTLAND INVITATION TO BID

Sealed proposals will be received by the City of Westland Purchasing Division, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, MI 48185, on **December 20th, 2013 at 10:00 a.m.** (no exceptions will be made for late filings) for the following:

OFFICIAL CITY NEWSPAPER

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 8th, 2013

Radcliff Center serves chili to help stock food pantry

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

It was all about chili Tuesday at Schoolcraft College's Radcliff Center as staff and students staged a Chili Bowl fundraiser for the center's food pantry.

Faculty members Colleen Pilgrim, Karen Schaumann, Deborah Burke, Elizabeth Grace, Alex Thompson and Helen Ditonras set aside the books to make six pots of chili, ranging from pork and turkey to beef and vegan, which were sold at lunchtime for \$1 a bowl.

"We've had staff, faculty and students coming in," said Ditonras. "Our goal is to raise as much as possible for the food pantry."

The Radcliff event coincided with the annual Empty Bowl Project held in the VisTaTech Center on Schoolcraft's main campus in Livonia. Both events benefited their respective food pantries, set up to meet the needs of students who are attending the college.

On the main campus, ceramic bowls and other ceramic pieces created and donated by the students enrolled in ceramics classes at the college were sold. The purchase price — \$10-\$35 — included a bowl of soup, a piece of bread and a glass of water provided by the college's Culinary Arts and Food Services departments.

Student need

The food pantry was set up by April Hawksford and Chris Ciabattone after a survey was done through the Service Learning Program and it was found that there was a need among students on both campuses, according to Ditonras.

While Empty Bowls is an annual event in Livonia, this was the first time something like it was done at the Radcliff



Marcia Hess, faculty facilitator for the Learning Assistance Center at the Schoolcraft College Radcliff Center, gets a bowl of chili at a benefit for the center's food pantry. PHOTOS BY KATHY HANSEN

Center in Garden City. A steady stream of people stopped by to buy the chili.

Schoolcraft employees Mary Stefanofski and Jim Mansfield opted for Ditonras's pork chili, which had a secret ingredient of bacon.

"I like anything that you don't mess around with the recipe, and this is pretty good,"

said Mansfield. "Bacon belongs in chili. Beef belongs in chili, not turkey."

Stefanofski made her choice based on the recommendation of her co-workers who had already finished their bowls of the pork chili.

"They told me it was really good," said Stefanofski. "It is yummy, everything is bal-



First-year EMT students Josh Sharpe (from left), Avery Harris and Alyssa Zantello stop by during their break from class to buy a bowl of chili.



Schoolcraft College sophomore Maria Cielito Robles, an honors program student assistant at the Radcliff Center food pantry, serves a bowl of chili to former Phi Theta Kappa chairperson Mary Stefanofski.

anced and it's not too spicy."

With Mansfield out of earshot, Ditonras said her recipe was adopted from one that was on the All Recipes website.

"I change up recipes all the time," she said.

Apparently, her changes were for the good. The first crockpot to be emptied was hers.

"We've been fortunate so far, we've emptied one pot," Ditonras said. "We're just grateful for what people are doing. Food Service gave us the plates and spoons and my colleagues donated their time."

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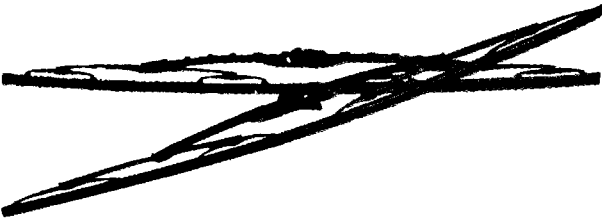
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LPS Foundation awards grants to 12 teachers

Twelve Livonia Public Schools teachers were awarded grants worth more than \$25,000 by the LPS Education Foundation during public ceremonies held this fall. The winning projects represent innovative teaching strategies designed to benefit students from preschool through high school.

The Education Foundation built its annual grant program to show its expanded commitment to the LPS community. The goal is to do something immediate to help teachers and students. The Foundation changed its name, which adds "Education" to its title as an outward sign of its strong pledge to supporting quality education provided by Livonia Public Schools.

Lorna Durand, Grant Review Committee chairperson, and committee member Steve Sciatto, were joined by LPS Superintendent Randy Liepa at several sites, to present the winning teachers in their classrooms with oversized checks ranging from several hundred dollars to more than \$4,000.



Churchill High School's Elizabeth Herring is pictured with CHS Principal Joe Anderson, Superintendent Randy Liepa and the Foundation's Lorna Durand.

Students and staff happily joined in on the excitement.

Thirty-six proposals were submitted, representing approximately \$100,000 in requests, according to Durand.

"Each proposal had its merits and the committee greatly appreciated the time teachers committed as they created their proposals," Durand said.

Each project submitted had to meet rigorous criteria out-

lined in a three-page application, including an explanation of how the project supports the district's curriculum; how many students would benefit from the project; re-usability of the project and research that supports the proposal.

The applications were filtered through a decision matrix based on the district's core values and shared vision and they were reviewed by the

nine committee members, all former teachers or administrators in the school district.

"The job of reviewing the proposals was challenging, yet very interesting," said Mary Foster, one of the committee members. "It was probably the most rewarding assignment I've ever worked on."

The scope of the winning projects varied greatly. Some of the winners included support for The Leader in Me program, which strives for higher academic achievement at the elementary level; a unique World Music Drumming program to help K-4 students spontaneously create music; pocket projectors for preschool teachers to use as they share information during circle time; technology to host Skype sessions between middle school music classes from across the country; Real Care Babies used in child development and parenting classes at the high school level; and digital storytelling using mini iPads, among others.

This year marks the first year of a new annual grant

program designed by the Foundation to provide financial support to LPS instructors for innovative programs and services, according to President Diane Policelli.

That program offers a Section 529 college savings account for each new kindergarten student enrolled in the Livonia Public Schools. The Competitive Edge plan establishes an educational trust account for participating students and a donation from the Foundation is deposited in their accounts. More than 1,000 students presently have this unique savings account.

"We are very thankful for the many individuals and institutions that have contributed to the Foundation over the past years. Their contributions have allowed us to begin this new classroom enhancement grant program and to provide ongoing support for the Competitive Edge program so it can continue to thrive," Policelli said.

To date, the Foundation has assets in excess of \$500,000 and growing.

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Knezek amendments protect alternative schools

State Rep. David Knezek, D-Dearborn Heights, has won numerous amendments to House Bill 5112, designed to protect alternative education schools in the state of Michigan.

As the representative for Garden City, home to the Burger Center for Students with Autism and Cambridge High School, Knezek sought to ensure that these schools were able to continue serving at-risk students without punitive punishments being leveled against them.

"These schools provide a much-needed service to the members of our community. They're on the front lines of education, fighting every day to ensure that all students have a path to a bright future," said Knezek, noting that the Burger

Center serves more than 300 autistic children from across Wayne County.

House Bill 5112 is designed to fulfill the waiver obligation to the federal No Child Left Behind law. A requirement of obtaining the waiver for states is to devise a system of school accountability. This legislation would replace the much-debated "color-coding" system developed by the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) with an "A-F Grading System" for school buildings and districts.

Labeling schools

Earlier drafts of House Bill 5112 would have forced MDE to label alternative schools as "failing" based on their performance on a set of state-approved metrics.

"It was clear to me heading into committee that morning that this legislation was going to pass. I took it upon myself to make sure that the incredible work being accomplished by those educators and students at both Burger and Cambridge would not be punished," Knezek said.

House vote

The legislation was sponsored by House Education Committee Chairwoman Rep. Lisa Posthumus Lyons, R-Alto, and was reported out of the committee with recommendation that it be passed by the full House.

It is expected that a vote will be taken on the House floor in the coming days before legislators return to their districts for the end of the year.

Future entrepreneurs



Lisa Dufresne (second from left) of Westland, managing partner of Del Taco in Dearborn Heights, recently donated \$1,000 to the Dearborn Area Chamber of Commerce's Young Entrepreneurs Academy. On hand to receive the donation was chamber president Jackie Lovejoy (third from left), Wendy Fichter (fifth from left), director of the chamber's Small Business Development, and 26 students and faculty members. Dufresne gave a 15-minute presentation and answered questions about Del Taco before taking the group on a tour. DAVID L. MALHALAB | MNS PHOTO/M NEWS SERVICE

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AROUND WAYNE AND WESTLAND

Motivational speaker

The Westland Easy-talkers Club 6694 Toastmasters will present an Evening with master motivator and real estate expert Brent Belesky 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 12, at Warriors Comics & Games, 35613 W. Michigan Ave., two blocks west of the State Wayne Theater.

The public is invited to this free event.

WCGH reunion

The 29th Annual Wayne County General Hospital reunion for former employees and retirees will be held in the party room at the Hibachi Grill Supreme Buffet at 6539 N. Wayne Road, Westland, 5-8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 10.

The cost of the buffet is \$10.59, with a senior discount available.

Wrestling Alumni Night

John Glenn High School Wrestling Program will hold its second annual Alumni Night Wednesday, Dec. 11, at John Glenn High School, 36105 Marquette, Westland. Alumni will be recognized between matches.

Contact Coach Polk at rocketwrestling@gmail.com or Judy at 734-634-4595 to let us know you will be in attendance or for more information.

Cookie Walk

Stock up on holiday cookies and pastries at the St. Helen's Philotochos Cookie Walk and Greek Pastry Sale 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 14, at Sts. Constantine and Helen Church's Hellenic Cultural Center, 6375 Joy, Westland.

There will be a huge assortment of cookies on sale for \$8 per pound.

Trivia Night

Ss. Simon and Jude

Parish will hold a Trivia Night Saturday, Jan. 11, at the church 32500 Palmer, east of Venoy, Westland.

Doors open at 6 p.m., Trivia will begin promptly at 7 p.m. The cost is \$20 per team of up to four persons and includes 10 rounds of questions, popcorn and one pepperoni pizza for each team. Beverages will be available for purchase throughout the night. There also will be a 50/50 raffle and other items for purchase.

Space is limited to the first 25 teams. No registrations will be taken at the door. To register, visit www.stssimonandjude.com/trivianight. Contact stssimonandjude@gmail.com or call Kathy Hansen at 734-716-4436 for more information.

All proceeds to the Ss. Simon and Jude Building Debt Reduction Program.

No Coffee Hours

Wayne County Commissioner Richard LeBlanc and State Rep. David Knezek, D-Dearborn Heights, will not hold their normally scheduled Coffee Hour event in December. Coffee Hours will resume again in January.

State Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, also will not host his monthly coffee hours in of December. Coffee hours will resume in January.

Constituents who would like to address an issue with the senator may contact him by mail at P.O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48909, by phone at 866-262-7306, or email at SenatorAnderson@senate.michigan.gov.

Christmas Party

The Wayne Golden Hour Club and Senior Services Office will co-host its annual Christmas Party on Thursday, Dec. 19. There will be a punch reception at 11:30am,

with lunch served at noon. There also will be entertainment, raffle, "steal a gift" and club's famous rendition of the 12 Days of Christmas.

Tickets are \$10 and are available at the Senior Services Office located in the Wayne Community Center at Howe and Annapolis in Wayne.

American Legion

The American Legion, Westland Post 251, meets at 7 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month at the Harris-Kehrer VFW Post, 1055 S. Wayne Road, Westland. All veterans, male and female with an honorable discharge are welcome to join. Visit the post Web site at www.post251.org or call 734-326-2607 or 734-455-3415 for more information. Or visit our web site at www.post251

Casino Trip

Join the Wayne Rotary in a night of fun Jan. 11 with its Firekeepers Casino Trip. The cost is \$35 and includes \$20 in slot play and \$5 food.

The bus departs the Banquet Center at 35000 Sims Ave., at 3 p.m. and returns at 10 p.m. For more information or reservations call Trish Hampton at 734-890-6934.


Toastmasters

The Wayne-Westland Toastmasters Club is now meeting at Warrior 3 Comics and Games, 35613 W. Michigan Ave., one block east of Elizabeth, in Wayne.

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

Wayne-Westland Toastmasters meets 7-8:30 p.m. every Thursday. For information, call Luddie at 734-414-0034 or Curt at 734-525-8445 or go online to westlandeasytalkers.toastmastersclubs.org/.

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A special bond

Tragedy, turmoil brought mentor together with local boy through Big Brothers Big Sisters

By Kurt Kuban
Staff Writer

Jeff Brandt, 53, admits he was a broken man. Disheartened, disillusioned and searching for answers. All that and more after he found out in 1996 that his wife was having an affair with her therapist. Her betrayal tore their family apart and started a harrowing chapter of Brandt's life. But it was also the catalyst for him to write new chapters – a book, in fact – and put him on a path of helping others who might be looking for support or a helping hand.

As chance would have it, that path led Brandt directly to a troubled fifth-grade boy by the name of Jay Snyder. Brandt began as a mentor for Jay, who had a mother and siblings, but no real father in his life – at least not one who was a very good role model. Brandt ultimately filled that space in Jay's life, offering him guidance and whatever assistance the boy needed.

With Brandt's help, Jay transformed from that boy who didn't quite fit in at his elementary school to an outgoing achiever who would go on to graduate from Northville High School, where he was a self-described "band geek" and member of the school's all-state jazz ensemble.

Today, Snyder is a member of the U.S. Army and hopes to someday become a therapist, so he can help other people in need. And he credits Brandt's guidance for that transformation.

Their bond, as unlikely as it may seem, has made them both richer people. They have helped each other navigate through the waters of depression and uncertainty.

Shattered life

To fully understand the special bond that developed between Snyder and Brandt, you first need to know how Brandt's own life went astray and ultimately found a greater purpose.

Before the fateful night when Brandt's life "came crashing down," he was deeply in love



Jay Snyder, 21, and Jeff Brandt, 53, helped each other fight through some troubled times. Brandt's book, "Beware of the Therapist!", details their relationship. KURT KUBAN

with his wife Gini. After a courtship, they married and made their home in Northville. But not all was bliss. She had three daughters and two of them had some serious issues that included truancy, drug abuse and teen pregnancy. The list goes on.

And to make matters worse, after being married for about a year, some of Gini's own demons from her past began to catch up to her again. She grew up in a home with an alcoholic father and a highly-critical mother; her sister was killed by a drunken driver; and she married an abusive husband when she was just 18. Brandt said this brought on thoughts of suicide for his wife, even failed attempts.

They knew they needed to get her help and she began to

see a local therapist. But instead of providing the help Brandt was hoping for, the therapist became romantically involved with Gini.

Earlier this year, Brandt published a book about this painful chapter in his life titled *Beware of the Therapist!*

"Gini didn't succeed in taking her own life, but she did die in another way," he writes in the book. "At the lowest point in her life, when she was as emotionally, physically and mentally vulnerable as a human being can be, she was abused by her therapist. Over a six-month period, he regularly drank and slept with her, methodically dismantled her trust in me and muscled his way into my family by alienating me from my stepdaughters."

Divorce soon followed. His family had been torn away from him. Devastated and alone, Brandt decided he needed to pick himself up and start over. But he also decided he wanted to help others.

"The hardest thing in my life was being separated from my family," Brandt said. "I had to pick up the pieces of my life. I wanted to make a bigger contribution to society."

Destined to meet

Brandt first approached and signed with Big Brothers Big Sisters, then was led to Northville Youth Assistance, where he volunteered to be a mentor for troubled children. That's when he was introduced to Snyder, who at the time was in fifth grade and having trouble at school. His parents had gone through a divorce and he was having trouble adjusting, more so than his two older brothers.

Snyder's teacher at the time recommended he seek help through Northville Youth Assistance (www.ci.northville.mi.us/Services/YouthAssistance/YouthAssistanceOverview.asp), a local organization that provides social services like counseling and mentoring to troubled youth and their families. Destiny stepped in as Brandt and Snyder were paired up for a three-month mentorship.

At first the two went to public places and just hung out. Brandt said he got "a lot of one-word answers" from the boy. But trust began to grow as they would go to the Tuscan Café to play Scrabble or participate in events like Relay for Life.

"I didn't know what to expect," Snyder says. "All I knew was that Jeff treated me better than my own father."

Jackie Snyder, Jay's mother, began to notice a big difference in her son. Looking back, she says it was the best thing that ever happened to Jay.

"He didn't have a decent male role model in his life and needed some help just to work

through things," she said. "Jeff came into his life and suddenly he had an example of what a man is supposed to look like and be like."

Role model

The family moved to Northville in 2003 and Brandt's relationship with both the family and especially Jay only grew stronger. He is no longer a mentor to Jay, but almost a member of the family. In fact, that's what Jackie Snyder calls him. Whether it was taking Jay to band practice, helping him with homework or talking about girl troubles, Brandt was always there for him. And when he decided to join the Army after graduating from Northville High in 2010, Brandt was there to offer encouragement. Snyder enlisted in 2011 and joined a year later.

"I think we do so good together is because Jeff is such a good listener. I feel like I can go to him for anything," Snyder said. "I really needed a person like that in my life. It's his character that I admire."

Today, Snyder, 21, is a private stationed at Fort Bragg, where he works as a parachute rigger in the 82nd Airborne Division. A couple of months ago, Brandt actually drove Snyder down to the base in North Carolina and dropped him off. Seeing his one-time protege in a military uniform brings great pride to Brandt because he knows he made a difference. He also realizes how Snyder was able to help him through some pain of his own.

"For me to have made such a good impact on his life is all I could ever have asked for," Brandt said. "Getting outside myself again has been very fulfilling."

Brandt's book, *Beware of the Therapist!*, is available in paperback and Kindle versions at www.amazon.com. For more information, contact Brandt at jbrandt1023@gmail.com.

kkuban@hometownlife.com

Unmarried couples need take care of estate planning, too

By Rick Bloom
Guest Columnist

Q: Dear Rick: I'm in my late 50s and legally single. I have a significant other. We are not married and we live together. We have no



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

intention of getting married, but we plan to be with each other for the rest of our lives. After reading one of

your past articles, we have done medical and durable powers of attorney to protect each other and we've named each other in our wills. My questions to you:

1) We own our home (it is paid for) as tenants in common. Is there something better?

2) When I retire, I will have a pension. My

employer thinks that my significant other is my wife, so I have a joint survivor pension. After my death, if the company finds out that she is not my legal wife, could it refuse to pay her?

A: Congratulations for being proactive and doing some estate planning that takes into consideration your significant other. In too many relationships where there are significant others, people fail to do the proper estate planning and it causes problems when there is a crisis.

With regard to your home, you currently own it as tenants in common. What that means is that upon either one of your deaths, the deceased person's share would go to the named beneficiary of the home in the will. Since you're leaving everything to each other, your share of ownership would go to your significant other.

However, the problem is that in order to have the house go to her, it

would have to be a probate. Unfortunately, probate can sometimes be time-consuming and expensive.

My philosophy is the more you keep judges, courts and lawyers out of family affairs, the better it is. I recommend that you change how you own the property from tenants in common to joint tenants with full rights of survivorship.

When you own property as joint tenants with full rights of survivorship, the other one automatically owns the property. Probate is not involved. I recommend you have a quit-claim deed drafted. Then upon either one of your deaths, there will be no probate and no hassle.

On your pension issue, there is no doubt that if something happened to you, since your significant other is not your legal spouse, she would not be entitled to any of the benefits. In addition, if she received benefits and then the company found out that you were

not legally married, it would have a course of action against her for reimbursement of the amounts paid.

In addition, it is possible that the company could even file charges in that she obtained money under false pretenses.

You may say it's worth the gamble, however, what you need to consider is what happens to your significant other if

she does not receive the pension. Will she have enough resources on her own or will she run into financial difficulties?

Some people are asking what is the likelihood of being caught. To me, that is not the issue. The issue is the rules and it seems to me in the situation at hand, the rules are clear. Even though you may treat each other as husband and wife and

others may perceive you as such, under the law you are not married and your significant other is not entitled to your pension benefits.

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

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL INVITATION

Livonia Public Schools, located in Livonia, Michigan is accepting sealed request for proposal for Real Property, three units in Churchill Manor Site Condominium, City of Livonia, and County of Wayne, Michigan.

Request for proposal packages are available at the Livonia Public Schools Purchasing Bid website: <http://www.livoniapublicschools.org>. The School District is seeking proposals to purchase the Property that must be submitted to Lisa Abbey, Director of Business Services of Livonia Public Schools, 15125 Farmington Road, Livonia, Michigan 48152, on or before 3:00 P.M. EST/STD on December 19, 2013. No phone, fax or electronic transmission proposals will be accepted. If mailed no responsibility is assumed for postal delays, notwithstanding the foregoing, the school district reserves the right to accept or reject any and all proposals in whole or part. The school district also reserves the right to waive any irregularities contained in any proposal or requirements of this request for proposals.

All proposals must be accompanied by a sworn and notarized statement certifying that the Offeror (including its officers, directors and employees) is not an Iran Linked Business within the meaning of the Iran Economic Sanctions Act, Act 517 of 2012. No proposal shall be accepted that does not include this sworn and notarized disclosure statement.

All questions regarding this bid may be directed to Lisa Abbey, Director of Business Services of Livonia Public Schools, (734) 744-2584.

Publish December 8, 2013

LO-0000170358 3/03

SOCIAL SECURITY

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

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



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

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

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

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

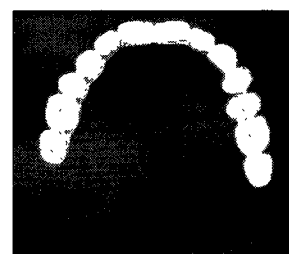
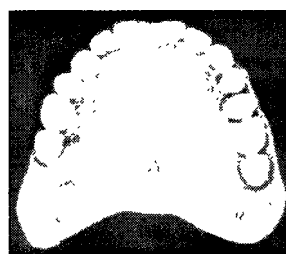
Attorneys Bleske and Alfonsi offer free phone or office consultation. If they represent you, there will be no fee charged until after the case is won. The fee is a percentage of retroactive benefits.

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

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Hickory BBQ tops at Holiday Taste Fest

Even raises money for Rotary charities

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

Food, fashion and Frank Sinatra were on the minds of some 400 people who filled the Hellenic Cultural Center Tuesday evening for the Holiday Taste Fest, put on by the Westland Chamber of Commerce and Westland Rotary Club.

The 15th annual event helped raise money for the Westland Rotary Charities, Joseph F. Benyo Scholarship Fund and the Westland Chamber of Commerce while letting guests sample foods and beverages from a variety of Westland businesses.

"We raised around \$16,000 and that's money that will go back into the community through the chamber's Joseph F. Benyo Scholarship Fund and Rotary scholarships and help various Rotary charities," said chamber president Brookellen Swope.

Thirteen Westland businesses provide food for tasting and vied for awards for best presentation and best food. Hickory BBQ walked away with the top honor of best food, while Knox Catering received the award for best presentation.

"Hickory BBQ's presentation was very nice," said Swope. "It was like a Kwanza display, but it was so nice that you forgot there was food on the table."

The bidding was fast and furious in the live and silent auctions. In the live auction the items included flowers for a year from My Lady Florist, massages for a year from Michigan Chiropractic Specialists and a golf threesome at Oakland Hills.

Available to the highest bidder in the silent auction were a Pure Michigan basket, teeth



Five-year old Natalie Kavanaugh of Westland enjoys one of many desserts at the Westland Taste Fest.

whitening from Community Dental Associates and a University of Michigan tailgate basket.

New to this year's event was an ugly sweater contest in which guests who dared to wear a Christmas sweater could enter contest to win \$100 VISA gift card, courtesy of Co-op Services Credit Union.

The honor of wearing the ugliest sweat went to Matt Baker whose vest was festooned with candy canes.

"We had about 20 entries, but there were several people wearing Christmas sweaters who should have entered," said Swope who wore one herself. "I got rid of all of mine, so I had to buy one. Everyone was telling me it was so cute."

Also a hit with guests was Frank Sinatra impersonator Bart Ventura. While Ventura has performed at such places as the Roostertail and Detroit Yacht Club, Swope wants to add the 2014 Holiday Taste Fest to his calendar.

"He was phenomenal, everyone loved him," she said. "He was a great addition to the taste fest and I hope to have him back next year."

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Designer Vilinda Everett and Cassandra Knox of Knox Restaurant & Catering stand at their table that won best decorated at the Westland Taste Fest. PHOTOS BY TOM BEAUDOIN



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Mary Sheko of Canton) and sister Pam Toarmina of Westland bid on several items in the silent auction.



Diane Pennington is all smiles as she gets ready to try Max & Erma's chicken and rice and salad at this year's Taste Fest.

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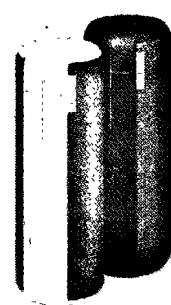
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MHDPF

Madonna video program helps boost area nonprofit images

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

When Jill Engel was looking for something to help her spread the message of what her Canton Partnership for the Arts is trying to accomplish in Canton's Cherry Hill Village, she found a willing partner in the Broadcast and Cinema Arts Service Learning Program at Madonna University in Livonia.

Four teams of college students from Madonna worked with representatives of nonprofit organizations like the Canton Partnership for the Arts, to conceive short videos to serve as public service announcements as part of the program's service learning curriculum.

"The idea is to give students the opportunity to utilize their skills for something really meaningful," said Olga Martinez, the director of Madonna's office of service-learning. "In our own mission of service, it's a way to encourage our students to understand they can share and live our Franciscan values."

The idea is simple: help nonprofits spread the word. The program takes in letters of nomination and students vote on the finalists (this year, there were four). Those four finalists were thrown into a hat and students representing each video team drew one, without knowing which they were getting.

The names were revealed together and each team had its project. Service organizations chosen by the group this year included:

» The Canton Partnership for the Arts & Humanities, which promotes the arts by supporting arts groups, theater



Students Ken Hobbs of Detroit (from left) and Jordan Ozimek and Kyle Bogenschutz of Livonia with Canton Partnership for the Arts & Humanities executive director Jill Engel.

groups, etc.

» Adult Well-Being Services of Detroit. It's a group that promotes health, well-being and independence of adults through advocacy, services, family and community support.

» Starfish Family Services of Wayne County, whose mission is to build stronger relationships among parents and their children, focusing on early childhood development and parenting programs, children's mental health services, after-school programs and an emergency shelter for teens and youth in crisis.

» Southwest Solutions-Adult Learning Lab in Detroit, which supports and empowers people from around the southwest Detroit area who desire to go back to school and get their GED.

Each video team consisted of three Madonna students, who made site visits, videotaped advocates for the various programs and put together the

video. The three students who did the partnership's video – seniors Jordan Ozimek and Kyle Bogenschutz of Livonia and junior Ken Hobbs of Detroit – found the shoot to be exciting.

"Every door was open for us for anything we needed to do," Ozimek said.

Hobbs said the shoot, while challenging in its own right, was actually a breeze.

"Everything that occurred happened the way it was supposed to happen," Hobbs said.

The program really aids the nonprofits because the videos that were prepared on their behalf would have cost "somewhere between \$5,000 and \$30,000 to produce," according to Charles Derry, associate professor and director of Broadcast & Cinema Arts.

"That's the good part," Derry said. "That's the part where we're giving back to the community."

Engel, who has now part-

nered with Madonna on three parts of the partnership's factory project, was completely impressed with the quality of the product the students put together for the partnership. They talked to several advocates for the arts in the community, and folks who have benefited from the partnership.

Engel said the partnership plans to use the video to help market the project they're working on with the old Henry Ford factory in Cherry Hill Village, which Engel hopes to turn into a regional arts complex.

"As my 14-year-old son would say, (the video) is enormous," Engel said. "To have it (made) from a student perspective, they were all excited about the project. Everywhere we go, everyone is excited about this project. This video is really going to help us spread that word."

Tim McGorey, director of Southwest Solutions-Adult Learning Lab, knows how valuable such a positive piece can be for his organization.

"We definitely can use it as a fundraising tool," McGorey said. "We also had an opportunity for our students to meet Madonna students, who can serve as a kind of role model for them."

It works the other way, too, according to Martinez. She said Madonna students got an experience they might not otherwise have been able to have.

"They get to use their technical skills," Martinez said. "But they are also introduced to populations and organizations they might not otherwise be exposed to."

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WESTLAND COP CALLS

Hit and run

On Nov. 27, a resident in the 29000 block of Beldt told police that on Nov. 15, someone hit his 2007 Dodge Caliber while it was parked on the street. The driver's side rear door was damaged.

Larceny

A 600-pound winch and a carburetor valued at \$1,200 were reported stolen from a home in the 32000 block of Parkwood Nov. 28. The owner told police someone had entered the garage through an unlocked window and taken the items on Nov. 2.

Vehicle larceny

A resident of the Robert Thomas Terrace apartments, 31686 Kara, told police Nov. 27 that someone had stolen the driver's side mirror from his 2005 Chevy Malibu while it was parked in the lot.

Vandalism

A resident in the 38000 block of Carolan told police Nov. 29 that someone had taken a cement flower pot from her front porch overnight. The flower pot was located in the street in front of the home, the base cracked from being dropped and the contents scattered around the parking lot.

Vandalism

» The driver's side rear window of a 2009 Pontiac G6 was reported smashed overnight Nov. 30 while it was parked in the 300 block of Beech.

» On Dec. 1, a resident in the 33000 block of Lancashire told police that someone had slashed a tire on his 2013 Honda Accord while it was parked in his driveway.

» A resident in the 33000 block of Lancashire told police Dec. 1 that overnight someone had slashed two tires on his 2000 Chevrolet Trailblazer while it was parked nearby on Farmington Road. He said his dogs parked about 1 a.m. but he didn't think anything about that.

» On Dec. 1, a resident in the 6300 block of North Farmington Road reported a tire punctured on his 2014 Ford Focus.

» A Canton man told police that someone had broken the driver's side mirror on his 2007 Lincoln MKZ while it was parked at Greg's Bar and Grille, 31150 Palmer, overnight Dec. 1.

Break-in

Police were called Lady Jane's Hair Salon, 1909 N. Wayne Road, Dec. 1 after an employee reported someone had tried to pry the front door open. A small break was also found in a window. No entry was made to the business.

— By LeAnne Rogers

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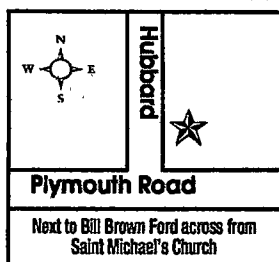
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COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL

Madonna ousted 3-0 in NAIA quarterfinals

California squad ends Crusaders' 41-2 season

By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

A grand Madonna University women's volleyball season ended with a thud Friday night during the quarterfinals of the 2013 NAIA National Championship in Sioux City, Iowa.

The fourth-ranked Crusaders attacked at a season-low .105 percentage, while No. 2 Concordia (Calif.) University, the defending national champion, was on fire hitting at a blistering .467 clip en route to a 25-13, 25-12, 25-13 victory at

the Tyson Event Center.

Concordia, 27-2 overall, moved on to the national semifinals Saturday against No. 3 Biola (Calif.), while No. 1-ranked Texas at Brownsville took on No. 5 Wayland (Texas) Baptist.

MU, which ended the year at 41-2 overall, had no answers for Concordia's 6-foot-1 Jessica Israel, who finished with 18 kills. Outside hitter Madison Ekis added 13.

Three Eagles also reached double figures in assist-to-kills, led by setter Liz Younglove (25), Jenee Henderson (12) and Kara Vincitorio (11). Vincitorio and Younglove also combined for 25 digs with 15 and 10, re-

spectively.

"They're as good as they were last year, if not better," MU coach Jerry Abraham said.

"They have 11 seniors on the team and they're just talented

from top to bottom. They just attack from antenna to antenna and we couldn't stop the block. Therefore, it was a free-for-all in the back row. The best team won, that's for sure."

No Crusader reached double figures in kills, with Emilie Freeman (Livonia), a 6-3 senior middle hitter from Lutheran



Freeman

High Westland, posting a team-high nine in her final match.

Samantha Geile and senior Stacey Catalano added five and four kills, while junior Amanda Obrycki had a team-high eight digs.

Setter Evia Prieditis, also playing her final match, dished out 19 assists.

Earlier in the day, Freeman recorded 13 kills and Katie Breault added 11 as the Crusaders ousted Columbia (Mo.) College, 25-20, 25-23, 25-21, in the first round of elimination.

Prieditis collected 30 assist-to-kills, while Cassie Castro added nine digs in the three-set victory.

Trinity Ojo had 10 kills and

Lydie Van Deurson added 34 assists for Columbia (30-11).

"We played so well this morning and yesterday," said Abraham, whose team won four of six matches during the weekend. "We kind of did what they did to us. It was just one of those nights for us. But overall it was a great season for us and we had a great group of girls."

Advancing through

On Thursday, the Crusaders bounced back from their first loss of the season with a 20-25, 27-25, 25-20, 29-27 win over MidAmerican Nazarene (Kan.)

See CRUSADERS, Page B2

BOYS BASKETBALL PREVIEW



Glenn's starting front line (from left) of senior James Pruitt, junior Mike Edwards and senior Isaac Everette should be formidable. BRAD EMONS

ROCKETS BANK ON FRONT LINE

Isaac Everette top returnee for Glenn

By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

The potential is there, no doubt about it, when it comes to the 2013-14 boys basketball season for Westland John Glenn.

The Rockets, coming off a 19-5 campaign and a district final loss to Class A state champion Romulus, boast one of the Detroit area's most formidable front lines since 6-10 Guy Rucker (Iowa) and 6-5 Tony Goins (Wayne State's all-time leading scorer) led Glenn to the state quarterfinals.

This year's Glenn squad is led by 6-foot-4 senior forward Isaac Everette, who is joined up front 6-7 senior James Pruitt and 6-9 junior Michael Edwards.

Everette averaged 14 points and six

rebounds a year ago, while the explosive Pruitt contributed eight points per game.

Edwards, who has shot-blocking ability, could be the X-factor after gaining valuable varsity time as a sophomore.

"They are long and athletic," Glenn coach Dan Young said. "My assistants Kirk Bradley and Isaac Everette (Sr.) have done a great job in the weight room this fall. We've gotten a lot stronger than we were. We know we're a lot stronger than a year ago."

Young expects the trio to increase their numbers significantly this season heading into Tuesday's season opener at home against Detroit East English Village.

"These guys obviously are expected to do their job - defend and rebound and score when needed," the Glenn coach said. "With Isaac - being so skilled and being a three-year starter - (he) has been in a lot of big games. And with James starting last year as junior and then 'Big Mike' was a backup last year,

who started late in the year when we started playing all the 'bigs' together ... was a good experience. They've been in a lot of big games together. We're looking forward to it."

Everette, an NCAA Division II caliber recruit, will be the trigger man for Glenn this season.

"Isaac is our hardest worker on the court and in the weight room," Young said. "He's probably 15 pounds heavier and stronger than he was a year ago. We're going to be able to play him inside and out. He's going to have outstanding season."

Young's biggest concern is replacing his backcourt as the school's all-time leading scorer Nick Daniels (1,170 points) graduated and is now redshirting as a scholarship player at Oakland University. Backcourt mate Richard Roberts (10 ppg) also graduated and is now playing at Oakland Community College.

When he starts the season, Young will

See ROCKETS, Page B4

SEASON PREVIEW

Red girls gymnasts eye return to 'states'

By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

Livonia Red girls gymnastics coach Kelly Grodzicki would be more than pleased if her team could duplicate last year's wildcard finish.

That's because Livonia Red earned the lone at-large berth in the 13-team state finals field after finishing fourth in Region 3 with a score of 140.075.

Livonia Red, a unified team from Churchill and Franklin, went on to earn a respectable seventh overall with a 138.575 total at the state team finals.

But the 12th-year coach will miss graduating seniors including Division 1 individual state qualifier Katie Kreutzschmar along with Division 2 qualifier Maggie McGowan.

Two other key team members are also gone including Mallory Dorton and Sarah Gosdzinski.

The team's top returning gymnast is sophomore Marissa McVey, who took 24th in the Division 2 all-around including a 12th on vault.

Other notable returnees among the upperclassmen include seniors Julia Twigg (floor, vault) and Lori Balfour (beam, floor), along with juniors Jackie Dzuirgot (all-around), Sydney Grenier (all-around) and Alysha Burd (floor, beam, vault).

Dzuirgot and Balfour will serve as team co-captains.

Sophomore returnees include Olivia Ryktarsyk (all-around) and Maddy Pargoff (vault, floor).

Among the promising newcomers include sophomore Natalie Martinez (floor, beam, fault) and Mikaela Hille (all-around), both from Livonia Franklin (along with Burd and Dzuirgot).

Livonia Red got off to a respectable start in Tuesday's season opener scoring 130.8 points defeating Walled Lake Maroon (98.8) and host Walled Lake Gold (95.45).

"We hopefully have to stay away from the injuries," said Grodzicki, who guided Livonia Red to a fourth-place finish in the KLAA last year. "I'm optimistic."

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WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

MU women hold off Northwestern Ohio

Lady Ocelots post big victory against Rochester College JV

Rachel Melcher scored a game-high 23 points as the Madonna University women's basketball team remained in a four-way tie for first place in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference following a 62-58 win Wednesday night over visiting Northwestern Ohio.

Melcher, a senior guard from Birmingham Marian, also pulled down a team-best nine rebounds and added four assists as MU improved to 5-4 overall and 4-1 in the WHAC.

Melcher and Tori Duffey each made two free throws in the final 27 seconds to help seal the victory.

Freshman center Erin Menard (Livonia Churchill) also enjoyed her best game as a Crusader with 16 points and seven rebounds.

Lauren Hopfner and Rebecca Puckett tallied 15 and 14 points, re-

spectively, for the Racers (5-4, 3-2).

Wesley propels Schoolcraft

Chelsea Wesley scored 15 points to pace four players in double figures as Schoolcraft College (4-5) earned a 69-53 triumph Wednesday over the host Rochester College JV (1-7) in a game played at Auburn Hills Oakland Christian High School.

Sara Gammons added 14 points, while Teniece Roberts and Tabitha Mann chipped in with 10 apiece for the victorious Lady Ocelots, who led 35-28 at halftime.

Jessica Parry contributed eight points and a team-best 10 rebounds, while Alexis Smith (Livonia Franklin) also added eight points.

Schoolcraft overcame 27 turnovers by shooting 44.1 percent from the floor (27-of-61).

Keara Brown posted a double-double with 11 points and 11 boards for the Rochester JV.

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Balanced Madonna attack sinks Racers

Naubert paces balanced attack with 22 points for Crusaders

Bobby Naubert tallied a team-high 22 points as all five starters reached double figures in Madonna University's 89-80 Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference men's basketball victory Wednesday over visiting Northwestern Ohio.

MU, now 7-4 overall and 4-0 in the WHAC, took a commanding 46-23 half-time lead and led by as many as 28 points in the second half before the Racers made a late run and cut the deficit to 76-66 with 2:46 left on a 3-pointer by Johnny Elliott, who finished with a game-high 35 points.

Naubert, a 5-foot-10 senior point guard from Livonia Stevenson, connected on 8-of-10 free throws and dished out seven assists.

Also scoring in double figures for MU was Fred Williams (20), Travis Schuba (14), Matt Jenkins (10) and Donald Owens (10).

Schuba and Owens added a team-best 11 and 10 rebounds, respectively. Kermerriaz Harrington added 16

points for the Racers (5-4, 3-2).

Schoolcraft cruises to win

Basel Ibrahim scored a game-high 25 points and added six assists Wednesday leading Schoolcraft College (7-3) to a 98-68 victory over the host Rochester College JV squad (2-9) in a game played at Auburn Hills Oakland Christian High School.

NJCAA Division II Player of the Week Terrence Coles (Redford Thurston) contributed 15 points and 15 rebounds for Schoolcraft, which led 41-35 at intermission.

Terrell Sewell (Canton) and Nathan Kamal added 14 and 13 points, respectively, while Andrew Maple contributed 11.

Devonta Riley dished out a team-high nine assists and also pulled down 11 rebounds.

Eugene Pratt tallied a team-best 15 points for the Rochester JV, which was outscored 57-33 in the second half.

Chase Mullis and Damon Robinson chipped in with 14 and 12, respectively, while Imran Abdulijami grabbed 10 rebounds.

CRUSADERS

Continued from Page B1

on the third and final day of pool play.

Kayla Vogel led the way with 16 and 15 kills, respectively. Also chipping in was Freeman and Breault with 14 and 10, respectively.

Prieditis finished with 56 assist-to-kills and 11 digs. Obrycki contributed a team-high 20 digs, while Catalano added 13.

Zoraida Heredia and Linjun Ji paced Nazarene (27-4) with 20 and 19 kills, respectively.

First setback

The old adage is that all good things must come to an end unfortunately held true Wednesday for MU, which had its

39-match winning streak snapped by No. 16 The Master's (Calif.) College, 25-16, 23-25, 25-19, 26-24, in the second round of pool play.

The Crusaders' streak began with the season's first match against Indiana-South Bend as MU dropped just 12 sets in their 39 wins.

Freeman paced the MU offense with 16 kills and a .375 attack percentage.

Geile chipped in with 10 kills, while Catalano tallied nine kills and 16 digs.

Obrycki had a team-high 18 digs, while freshman Payton Maxheimer matched her career-best with 15 digs.

Prieditis recorded 40 assists and 12 digs in the loss.

Sam Dougherty was the big gun for The Master's hitting attack with 23 kills, while Rebecca Peluffo contributed 29 digs for the Mustangs (22-8), who won Pool D with a 3-0 record.



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SEASON PREVIEW

Livonia Blue gymnasts could surprise

All-stater Rhoad leads way

By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

All the signs are pointing in the right direction this season for the Livonia Blue girls gymnastics team.

The most notable loss to graduation was Jamie Jasinski, who earned Division 2 all-state honors (top eight) on the balance beam with a seventh-place finish (9.075).

Allison White also graduated, but the Stevenson High squad will feature an experienced team led by sophomore Bri Rhoad, who is coming off a stellar season after her first year.

Rhoad placed seventh in the Division 2 all-around (35.425), including an all-state finish on the vault (9.25), along with 11th on floor (9.125) and 14th on balance beam (8.85).

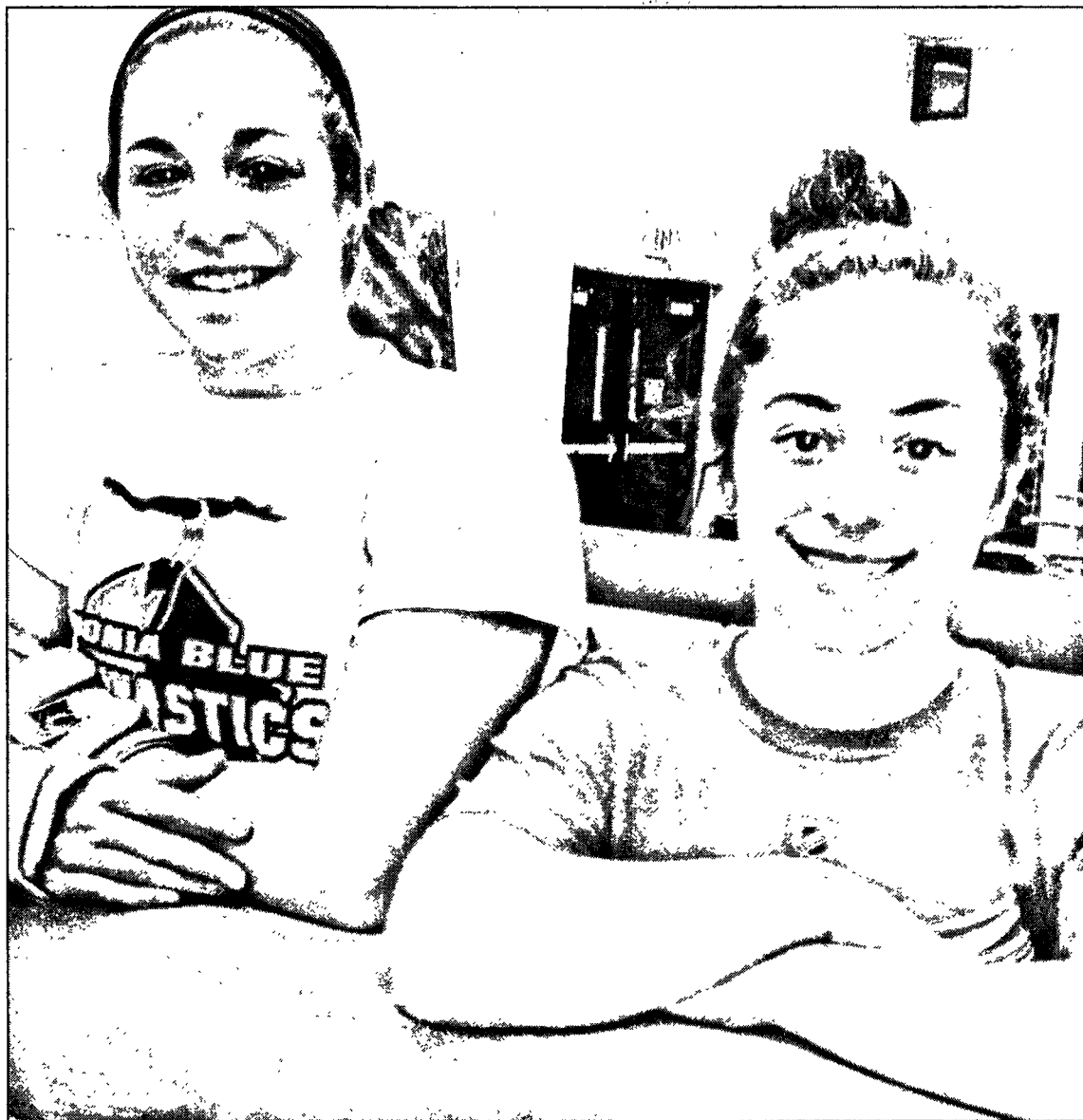
Rhoad is still recovering from a sprained ankle.

"She's looking good," Livonia coach Lisa Broomfield said. "She's coming off of an injury, so right now she's just doing three events instead of four. She's working in the gym in all four events right now, but will only compete on three. We don't want to push her too hard, too quick."

Rhoad is joined in the lineup by fellow sophomore Emily Chatterjee, an all-around performer who qualified last year for the individual state finals on the uneven parallel bars.

Other returnees include senior co-captains Jillian Zafarana and Alex Zukowski, along with juniors Nicole Sokolowski and Catie McDougall — all performing in the all-around.

Meanwhile, freshman Jessica Weak (all-around) also shows promise, according to Broomfield, who hopes her



Alex Zukowski (left) and Jillian Zafarana will lead the way this season for the Livonia Blue gymnastics team.

BRAD EMONS

squad can improve on last year's sixth place finish in the regional and eighth placing showing in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association meet.

"We're looking to place higher in our division as well as at the regional," said

Broomfield, whose team went 1-3 in the Kensington Division last season. "Our team goal is try and make it to 'states' this year. As long as we stay healthy, we'll have a good team this year to hopefully make our goal."

Livonia Blue opened its season Friday at the Bounce Gymnastics Academy in Hartland against a Milford-Lake-Land unified team.

"We're working on a couple of injuries that came at the end of the summer," Broomfield

GIRLS GYMNASTICS

DUAL MEET RESULTS

Dec. 3 at Walled Lake Central
TEAM SCORES: 1. Livonia Red, 130.8 points; 2. Walled Lake Maroon, 98.8; 3. Walled Lake Gold, 95.45.
Vault: 1. (tie) Julia Twigg (Red) and Marissa McVey (Red), 8.95 each; 3. Sydney Grenier (Red), 8.65; 4. Jackie Dzulgot (Red), 8.6; 5. Sam Randlett (Maroon), 8.55.
Uneven bars: 1. Shannon Ryan (Maroon), 8.325; 2. Dzulgot (Red), 8.175; 3. McVey (Red), 7.925; 4. Randlett (Maroon), 7.775; 5. Grenier (Red), 7.1.
Balance beam: 1. McVey (Red), 8.5; 2. Randlett (Maroon), 8.1; 3. Grenier (Red), 8.0; 4. Alysha Burd (Red), 7.8; 5. Abby Sachs (Gold), 7.75.
Floor exercise: 1. Randlett (Maroon), 9.25; 2. 2. Sammi Pulgini (Gold), 9.1; 3. McVey (Red), 8.85; 4. Grenier (Red), 8.675; 5. Dzulgot (Red), 8.475.
Livonia Red's dual meet record: 2-0 overall.



Livonia Blue sophomore gymnast Bri Rhoad hopes to parlay a fine All-State season as a ninth-grader.

LISA BROOMFIELD

said.
 "I'm looking forward to how we will compete as a team as a whole. You always have to get that first meet in to see where you stand."

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BOYS HOCKEY

Stevenson subdues Franklin with 3rd-period outburst, 7-2

Champs need four goals during final period to win

By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

Livonia Stevenson peppered Livonia Franklin junior goaltender Matt Monendo with a total of 49 shots Wednesday night, but needed four unanswered goals in the final period to subdue the upset-minded Patriots, 7-2, in a boys hockey game at Edgar Arena.

Stevenson, the defending MHSAA Division 2 state champion, improved to 5-1 overall.

The loss drops Franklin to 2-2.

"Give Franklin a ton of credit ... those kids worked hard and their coach Dennis Gagnon has that program headed in the right direction for sure," Stevenson coach David Mitchell said. "For us it was nice to get a win in a game against a city opponent. I also thought some of our young guys did some good things tonight, which was nice to see."

Stevenson led 2-0 after one period on goals by Stephen Olschanski (from Ben Kowalske and Alec Allen at 12:02) and Tyler Irvine on a power play (from Drew Hunter and Dominic Lutz) at 16:36.

Lutz then scored at 9:02 of the second period off assists from Devin Kelly and Hunter to make it 3-0.

Franklin got on the board at 12:04 of the same period on senior Matt Van Hulle's unassisted goal.

And the Patriots made things real interesting just eight seconds into the second period, when sophomore Trevor Lassaline scored from Van Hulle and Josh Dudek to cut the deficit to 3-2.

That seemed to wake up the Spartans, who pumped in three goals during a span of 4:24.

Lutz notched his 14th of the year on a nifty two-on-one break from Irvine with Christie also drawing an assist at 2:46, followed by Andrew Nowak's goal from Olschanski and Ryan Frazer at 6:26.

Kelly's goal from Lutz and Irvine just 14 seconds later made it 6-2 and Joe Alcanta-

ra's goal with 3:30 remaining from Alex Hunt and Hunter (his third assist of the night) completed the Spartans' scoring.

"I think Stevenson is even better this year than last," Gagnon said. "It seemed like every line they threw out there was fast, skilled and productive. Coach Mitchell is an outstanding coach and has assembled an excellent support staff. His players know how to get space in open ice and are tough to cover."

Stevenson goaltender Brad Coutts made 13 saves, while Monendo ended up with an eye-opening 42.

"Matt kept us in and gave us a chance," Gagnon said. "When we made it 3-2 to start the third, I thought we might be brewing something special, but it wasn't meant to be."

"We were happy with the way our defense battled all game led by Ryan Pace, Justin Makowski, Dylan Smith and freshman Kolby Dewhurst. Josh Dudek was a great leader and kept the guys up during the rough stretches."

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PREP HOCKEY ROUNDUP

Cromie's five-point night spurs Chargers

Senior forward C.J. Cromie's five-point night enabled Livonia Churchill to pick up its first boys hockey win of the season Wednesday night, 5-2, against visiting Canton at Edgar Arena.

The transfer from Livonia Franklin scored a pair of goals and added three assists as the Chargers improved to 1-3-1 overall and 1-0 in the KLAAs South Division.

Nick Misiak, Andrew Sparks (power play) and Joe Wozniak also added goals for Churchill, which led 2-1 after one period and 3-1 after two (following Cromie's short-handed goal during a five-on-three Canton power play).

Canton (1-3, 0-1) got a first-period goal from Connor Wherett from Tom Kiddle and Christian Flack, the latter who scored in the final period from Kiddle and Colin Smith.

Churchill goaltender Da-

vid Turel stopped 23-of-25 shots, while Canton's Nick Borg made 22 saves.

Pioneer clips Blazers

Mercedes Reyes and Caroline Hurd each tallied a pair of goals Wednesday leading host Ann Arbor Pioneer (4-0 4-0) to a 6-1 Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League victory over Livonia Ladywood (0-4, 0-4) at Veterans Memorial Ice Arena.

Alyssa O'Neill and Lauren Chapman also added goals for the Blazers, who led 3-1 after one period before putting it away with three goals in the final period.

Freshman Katie Hayward scored the Blazers' lone goal from Jackie Kristofik in the first period.

Pioneer goaltender Paulina Arsenault made 17 saves. Michaela Warner went all the way in goal for Ladywood.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

WYAA volleyball

Registration for Westland Youth Athletic Association girls volleyball (ages 9-17) is under way.

Games and practices will occur mainly at Marshall Upper Elementary School. League age-groups include 9-11, 12-14 and 15-17.

To register, visit wyaa.org. For more information, email wyaa@volleyball2013@comcast.net.

Pompon workshop

The annual Livonia Churchill varsity pompon workshop (ages 6-14) will be from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7, at the high school gym, located at 8900 Newburgh (between Joy Road and Ann Arbor Trail).

Registration starts at 9:30 a.m. The cost is \$30 per person (includes T-shirt, music C.D. and snack).

Workshop participants will be invited to perform at half-time of a Churchill varsity boys basketball game, which will begin at 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 9. (Admission for fans is \$5.)

For more information, email Denise Antongiorgi at aada525@aol.com; or call

734-788-9861.

Softball camp

The Livonia Churchill Chargers holiday hitting camp for girls in grades 3-8 will be from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 21, at the high school field house.

Pre-registration is required. The cost is \$25.

For more information, email Churchill varsity girls softball coach Steve Gentilia at Churchillsoftball@gmail.com or call 734-776-1716.

Pitchers-catchers

The Hawks Camps for Champs, a five-week pitcher and catcher progression camp will be from 1-2 p.m. (ages 6-12) and 2-3 p.m. (ages 13 and up) each Sunday at the Henry Ford Community College Athletic Memorial Building.

Upcoming camp dates include Dec. 8, 15; Jan. 12, 19, 26; Feb. 2, 9, 16 and 23.

The cost is \$30 for each session or \$100 for five pitching or catching sessions.

To register online, visit www.henryfordcamps.com.

For more information, call Steve Brown at 313-657-3200 or email sjbrown@hfcc.edu.

THE WEEK AHEAD

BOYS BASKETBALL

Monday, Dec. 9
 Crestwood at Churchill, 7 p.m.
 Stevenson at Franklin, 7 p.m.
 Wayne at Lakeland, 7 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 10
 East English at John Glenn, 7 p.m.
 Clarenceville at Airport, 7 p.m.
 Washtenaw at Luth. Westland, 7 p.m.
 Huron Valley at Birm. Roosevelt, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 11
 Edsel Ford at Franklin, 7 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 12
 Dbn. Tech at Luth. Westland, 5:30 p.m.
 Lutheran N'west at Clarenceville, 7 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 13
 Garden City at Churchill, 7 p.m.
 South Lyon East at Franklin, 7 p.m.
 Stevenson at Thurston, 7 p.m.
 Wayne at Belleville, 7 p.m.
(Mich. Lutheran Titan Tip-Off)
 Howardsville vs. Flint Academy, 6 p.m.
 Huron Valley vs. Mich. Lutheran, 8 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 14
 Titan Tip-Off Tourney, 5:30 & 7 p.m.
 John Glenn vs. Detroit Pershing at Detroit Edison PSA, 8 p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL
Monday, Dec. 9
 Franklin at Stevenson, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 10
 Washtenaw at Luth. Westland, 5:30 p.m.
 Huron Valley at Parkway, 7 p.m.
 Clarenceville at Garden City, 7 p.m.
 Ferndale at Ladywood, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 12
 Lutheran N'west at Clarenceville, 7 p.m.
 Cranbrook at Luth. Westland, 7 p.m.
 Huron Valley at Thurston, 7 p.m.
 Kettering at Ladywood, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 13
 Wayne at Belleville, 5:30 p.m.
 Churchill at Garden City, 7 p.m.
 Franklin at South Lyon East, 7 p.m.

PREP HOCKEY
Monday, Dec. 9
 Ladywood vs. Cranbrook at Arctic Pond, 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 11
 Churchill at Trenton, 7:30 p.m.
 Stevenson vs. G.P. North, Franklin vs. Plymouth at Edgar Arena, 6 & 8 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 13
 Franklin at Novi (Ice Arena), 5:30 p.m.
 Churchill vs. Dearborn Unified at Edgar Arena, 6 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 14
 Ladywood vs. G.P. South at Arctic Pond, 5:30 p.m.
 Stevenson vs. Plymouth at Edgar Arena, 7 p.m.

PREP WRESTLING
Wednesday, Dec. 11
 John Glenn Quad, 5 p.m.
 Livonia City Tournament at Stevenson, 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 12
 Luth. Westland at Memphis, 6 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 14
 Redford Union Tourney, 9 a.m.
 Harrison Hawk Havoc, 9 a.m.
 Wayne County Championship at Wyandotte Roosevelt, 9 a.m.

BOYS SWIMMING
Tuesday, Dec. 10
 Northville at Churchill, 6:30 p.m.
 Country Day at Stevenson, 6:30 p.m.
 Garden City at John Glenn, 6:30 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 13
 N.D. Prep at Stevenson, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 14
 John Glenn Rocket Relays, noon.

GIRLS GYMNASTICS
Monday, Dec. 9
 Livonia Blue vs. Salem at Churchill H.S., 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 12
 Liv. Red at Brighton-Howell, 6:30 p.m.

PREP BOWLING
Monday, Dec. 9
 Clarenceville vs. Taylor Kennedy at Indian Lanes, 3 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 10
 Conference Singles Event at Drakeshire Lanes, 3:45 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 11
 Clarenceville vs. Crestwood at Cherry Hill Lanes, 3:30 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 13
 John Glenn vs. Waterford Mott at Brighton Bowl, 4 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 14
 John Glenn vs. Howell Wayne vs. W.L. Western at Howell Bowl-e-Drome, 8 a.m.
 Bay City Tournament at Monitor Lanes, 9 a.m.

GIRLS COMPETITIVE CHEER
Saturday, Dec. 14
 CCCAM Trenton Invite, TBA.

MEN'S COLLEGE HOOPS
Saturday, Dec. 14
 Davenport at Madonna, 3 p.m.
 Edison CC at Schoolcraft, 1 p.m.

WOMEN'S COLLEGE HOOPS
Saturday, Dec. 14
 Davenport at Madonna, 1 p.m.
 Edison CC at Schoolcraft, 1 p.m.
 TBA — time to be announced.

GIRLS BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

Garden City slows down Bland, Wayne girls

Chargers win low-scoring encounter vs. Crestwood

Wayne Memorial sharp-shooter Ashley Bland was giving Garden City's girls basketball team fits during the first half of Friday night's non-league game at Wayne.

So the Cougars put her in a box.

Actually, GC coach Michelle Tyree's squad switch to a box-and-one defense, which requires four players to play a zone defense while the fifth shadows the opponent's best player – in this case, Bland.

The strategy worked as Bland was held to just five second-half points after exploding for 16 in the first half of the Cougars' emphatic 65-43 victory.

Garden City improved to 2-0, while the Zebras fall to 0-2.

"I give a lot of the credit for the win to Deija Collier and Abby Joseph," said Tyree.

"When we switched to the box-and-one late in the second half, Deija covered Ashley Bland. When she got in a little foul trouble, we put Abby on her and they both did a great job of containing her. They made her work and got her a little frustrated."

The Zebras didn't have an answer for GC junior Kelli McDaniel, who scored 13 points while ripping down 12 rebounds. Lindsey Michalak and Collier added 10 points apiece.

"Our guards did a nice job of penetrating then getting the ball to Kelli inside," Tyree said. "She did a nice job of finishing her shots. She also was able to score on some put-backs."

GC 34-24 at the break and built a 52-33 lead with eight minutes to play.

Churchill, 11-10

Sophomore guard Alivia Kondrath made two critical free throws with 1:30 left to give Livonia Churchill (1-0) to earn a season-opening 11-10 triumph Friday over host Dearborn Heights Crestwood (0-2).

Junior guard Natalie Spala scored nine of Churchill's 11 points, while Danielle Clarke had five for Crestwood.

Churchill led 1-0 at halftime in a game that was reminiscent of last year's 13-1 win over rival Livonia Stevenson. The Chargers, however, led 7-6 after three quarters.

"Going into the game I didn't we'd come out thinking we'd just hold the ball," Churchill coach Matt McCowan said. "We literally held the ball and they (Crestwood) sat back in a zone. Our game plan going out was to create a lot of space, take advantage of space, work the seams and get open, good shots. I didn't think that they would sit back, so we pretty much took what they gave us."

Churchill was 4-of-6 from the line, while Crestwood was 1-of-2.

"My girls played amazing defense," McCowan said. "It was one shot and out every single time. Even I don't even for the first game was expecting that, but it at least showed the girls that every possession matters. The girls arose and were able to come through."

Skyline drops Pats

Twins Mea and Mia Morris scored 19 and 17, respectively,



Wayne's Ashley Bland (24) scored 21 points in Friday's loss to Garden City. DOUGLAS BARGERSTOCK

leading Ann Arbor Skyline (2-0) to a non-conference win Friday over visiting Livonia Franklin.

Julie Magdowski, Kynona Tate and Erin McNally each tallied four the Patriots, who trailed 28-4 after one quarter

and 36-10 at halftime.

Skyline was 7-of-12 from the line, while Franklin was 4-of-8.

Ladywood falls

Megan Swick scored 15 points to lead host Grosse Ile

(1-1) to a 45-29 non-league win Friday over visiting Livonia Ladywood (0-2).

The Red Devils led 16-10 after one quarter before outscoring the Blazers 13-1 in the second period to take a 29-11 halftime advantage.

Sophomore forward Erika Selakowski scored 12 points and grabbed seven rebounds, while junior forward Jessica Hasenau snared eight rebounds for the Blazers.

"The second quarter we had a hard time putting the ball in the basket," said Ladywood first-year coach Amber Culloty, whose team shot only 27 percent from the floor for the game. "But we looked like a brand new team in the fourth quarter (outscoring Grosse Ile 14-6). They showed me something and I'm excited for the future."

Trojans clipped

Senior Mikala Kieling tallied a game-high 15 points (all on threes), but Livonia Clarenceville (0-2) fell Friday night to host Berkeley (1-1) in a non-conference game, 38-35.

Senior center Ayanna Buckley added 12 points, 11 rebounds and four blocks.

Meanwhile, Erica Katz also contributed five points, 13 rebounds and three blocks in a losing cause.

Celia Somers and Emily Koerner scored eight and seven, respectively, for the Bears, who trailed 15-10 after one quarter and outscored the Trojans 9-8 in the final period.

Both teams struggled from the foul line Berkeley going 8-of-26 and Clarenceville 3-of-11.

BOYS BASKETBALL CAPSULE OUTLOOK

LIVONIA CHURCHILL

Head coach: Jim Solak, 12th year.
League affiliation: KLAAS Kensington Conference (South Division).

Last year's overall record: 8-13.

Notable losses to graduation: Dwayne Scott (fourth-team All-Area), Robert Foster, Jeremy Lewis, Jacob Whitlow.

Leading returnees: Jon Hovernala, 6-2 Soph. G (8 ppg); Dante Jackson, 6-1 Sr. G (6 ppg, 4 rebs); Brian Alsobrooks, 6-2 Jr. F; Ioan Andoni, 6-1 Soph. F; Mark Leja, 5-7 Sr. G; Steve Van Wormer, 6-5 Sr. C; Jalen Davis, 5-11 Jr. G.

Promising newcomers: Brett Bonarek, 6-2 Jr. F; Nathan Guzowski, 5-10 Jr. G; Jarrett Pletcher, 6-6 Jr. C; Shukur Luckett, 5-9 Jr. G.

Solak's 2013-14 outlook: "This group should be fun to watch; they play with a lot of energy and emotion. We aren't very big, but we're really athletic. Rebounding and team defense are areas of concern, but the guys have been working very hard and we should be ready by next week. We will be guard-oriented as we have a lot of guys that can handle the ball and shoot. Our schedule is tougher than usual and I think the guys are ready for it. This team gets along with each other and are a lot of fun to be around. We have some great battles going on for playing time. Practices have been great; attitudes and leadership have been outstanding."

LIVONIA FRANKLIN

Head coach: Jeremy Rheault, seventh year.
League affiliation: KLAAS Kensington Conference (South Division).

Last year's overall record: 6-15.

Notable losses to graduation: Olushakin Cole (fourth-team All-Area); Tyrone Rayford, Michael Cuth, Andrew Lebbos, Alex Armstrong.

Leading returnees: Nick Mardusz, 6-2 Sr. F; Alex Perelli, 5-10 Sr. F; Nick Gault, 6-3 Sr. F; Nick Curtis, 5-7 Jr. G; Joe Chinavere, 6-0 Soph. G.

Promising newcomers: Adam Monroe, 6-1 Sr. F; Evan Wroblewski, 6-0 Sr. F; David Millan, 6-0 Jr. G; Dante Ufford, 5-11 Jr. F; Jake Mushinski, 5-10 Soph.

G; Blaine Tikely, 6-0 Soph. F.

Rheault's 2013-14 outlook: "This team hasn't had the experience of being relied upon for the all core aspects of each game. They're going to come out from the shadows and be put on the front stage immediately. Captains Nick Mardusz and Alex Perelli will need to be the workhorses and set the example of expectations while we battle and bond together. Seniors Adam Monroe and Nick Gault will be looked to to contribute. There's a lot of inexperience that includes young players who have been added to the roster recently. We're getting our playing group organized and competing everyday with excitement for the season."

LIVONIA STEVENSON

Head coach: Brandon Sinawi, third year.
League affiliation: KLAAS Kensington Conference (Central Division).

Last year's overall record: 12-9.

Notable losses to graduation: Josh Campbell (second-team All-Area), Chris Haldane, Joe Mims, Mike Spoko.

Leading returnees: Jalen Webber, 5-8 Jr. G (10 ppg); J.T. McCallion, 6-0 Sr. F; Devin Kelly, 5-10 Sr. F; Billy Bonanno, 5-8 Sr. G; Justin Bradford, 6-0 Sr. F.

Promising newcomers: Nolan Bradford, 5-11 Jr. G.

Sinawi's 2013-14 outlook: "This year's team will be very competitive. We don't have a ton of size, but what we lack in size we make up for with speed and athleticism. We have terrific senior leadership with captains Kelly, Bonanno and Bradford and will rely on our juniors to step up early on in the season."

WESTLAND JOHN GLENN

Head coach: Dan Young, eighth year.
League affiliation: KLAAS Kensington Conference (South Division).

Last year's overall record: 19-5.

Titles won last year: KLAAS South co-champions.

Notable losses to graduation: Nick Daniels (first-team All-Area); Richard Roberts (second-team

All-Area); Aaron McClendon.

Leading returnees: Isaac Everette, 6-4 Sr. G-F (second-team All-Area; 14 ppg, 6 rebs); James Pruitt, 6-6 Sr. F-C (fourth-team All-Area; 8 ppg); Mike Edwards, 6-9 Jr. C; DeAngelo Kirksey, 5-10 Sr. G; Mike Woodard, 5-11 Sr. PG; Mo Foani, 5-10 Sr. G; Mike Woodard, 5-11 Sr. G; Davon Lundy, 6-0 Sr. G.

Promising newcomers: Ralph Parks, 6-2 Sr. G; Mychal Bradley, 6-0 Jr. C.

Young's 2013-14 outlook: "We lost three good guards from last year. That is significant, but we have players returning who have been though it before, so that will help. We should be in the mix if we have good attitudes and play team basketball."

WAYNE MEMORIAL

Head coach: Mike Schuette, fourth year.
League affiliation: KLAAS Kensington Conference (South Division).

Last year's overall record: 5-15.

Notable losses to graduation: Josh Lowry, Juavon Snipes.

Leading returnees: DeAndre Carter, 6-0 Sr. G; Jaden Jackson, 6-0 Sr. F; Jaque Muhammad, 5-8 Sr. G; Carlos Pernell, 6-0 Sr. G-F; Brian Williams, 6-1 Sr. G-F.

Promising newcomers: Dulon Brown-Deacon, 6-3 Jr. F; Trevon Craig, 5-8 Jr. G; Rashad Haley, 5-7 Sr. G; Taj Hobson, 6-1 Sr. F; Aaron Hughes, 5-8 Sr. G; Aaron Journey, 6-1 Jr. F; Travis Massey, 5-11 Jr. G; Raymond Thomas, 6-1 Jr. F; Cammeron Vazquez, 5-4 Jr. G; Juan Wise, 6-0 Jr. G-F.

Schuette's 2013-14 outlook: "Again this year, we are not a big team. We have to use our quickness and athleticism to our advantage. We look to play an up tempo style of game with a heavy emphasis on defense. We have some very good outside shooters as well as some outstanding defenders. If we can hold our own on the boards, we will be very competitive this season."

LIVONIA CLARENCEVILLE

Head coach: Justin Johnson, fifth year.
League affiliation: Western Wayne Athletic Conference (Red Division).

Last year's overall record: 8-14.

Notable losses to graduation: Austin Douglas, Zach Kubiak, DeAnthony Price.

Leading returnees: Jawan Nelson, 5-10 Sr. G (fourth-team All-Area; 12.7 ppg); Kimani Dooley, 6-4 Sr. F; Jermell Johnson, 6-2 Jr. G; James Hill, 6-3 Jr. F; Jalen Bryant, 6-2 Sr. F; Brad Davis, 6-5 Sr. F; Carlton Davis, 6-0 Sr. PG; Drake Taylor, 6-0 Sr. C.

Promising newcomers: Jake Kubiak, 6-4 Jr. F; Kimari Dooley, 6-3 Jr. F; David Vanderkerkhove, 6-2 Jr. F; Trevor White, 5-8 Jr. G; Noah Elegamy, 6-0 Jr. F; David Dulka, 5-10 Jr. G.

Johnson's 2013-14 outlook: "We have eight returning players from last year, a team that won eight out of its last 12 games. I think we have a chance to make a splash in the WWAC and I'm looking forward to playing more meaningful regular season games. I think we'll be able to score well this year, but defense will be the key after losing three of my best defenders. I have a positive outlook and can't wait for opening night."

LUTHERAN WESTLAND

Head coach: Jim Hoeft, second year.
League affiliation: Michigan Independent Athletic Conference (Red Division).

Last year's overall record: 10-10.

Notable losses to graduation: Nick Andrzejewski, Brandon Wyman, Ernie Babon.

Leading returnees: Jacob Davenport, 6-0 Jr. G; Nicklas Flaney, 6-0 Sr. G-F; P.J. Guse, 6-0 Sr. G; Daniel Roberts, 6-0 Sr. G-F; Brandon Ruelle, 5-10 Jr. G; A.J. Seltz, 6-1 Sr. G-F; Cleveland Tarp, 6-2 Jr. F-C.

Promising newcomers: Zach Anger, 6-0 Soph. F; Brent Croft, 5-11 Soph. G; Noah Huffman, 6-1 Jr. F; Michael LaChance, 6-2 Soph. F-C; Jordan Williams, 6-0 Soph. G-F; Alex Wixson, 5-10 Jr. F.

Hoeft's 2013-14 outlook: "I am really excited about this year's team. We have a good core group of guys returning from last year along with a lot of other newcomers who will play some very valuable minutes throughout the season. We are a very athletic team. I'm counting on our speed and quickness this year. We have been working hard on

our stamina and being able to finish games. I want our team to be high-octane for thirty-two minutes. I also believe this team is very strong. We have a few more 'biggs' who can get down low, bang, and keep offensive possessions alive. Overall, I'm extremely optimistic about our chances in our conference. It's going to be an exciting season!

HURON VALLEY LUTHERAN

Head coach: Jim Ott, 14th year.
League affiliation: Michigan Independent Athletic Conference (Red Division).

Last year's overall record: 7-14.

Notable losses to graduation: Brian Blackwood, Alex Harris, Justin Howell, Chad Morgan, Jacob Miller, Kyle Schaffer.

Leading returnees: Ryan Schaffer, 6-1 Sr. G (fourth-team All-Area; 19.4 ppg, 8.9 rebs); Jordan Runstadler, 5-8 Soph. G; Milan Monk, 6-0 Sr. F; Collin Wagaman, 6-0 Sr. G.

Promising newcomers: Joe Lohman, 5-10 Sr. F; Adam Hodgson, 5-10 Jr. F; Eric Ologu, 6-0 Jr. F; Omar Ali, 5-9 Sr. G; Jacob Kempainen, 5-10 Sr. F; Sam Evans, 5-8 Jr. G.

Ott's 2013-14 outlook: "After coming off a season where we expected to do better than our 7-14 record, we end up with a completely different looking team this year. The different look comes from the fact that we lost seven seniors from last year's team – one not returning for personal reasons and six due to graduation. Those seven players accounted for an average per game of 20 points, 11.5 rebounds, and 2.5 steals. With that much turnover, it doesn't leave much chance to redeem last year's disappointing record. However, we do return one part-time starter in Jordan Runstadler and two starters in Ryan Schaffer and Milan Monk. With that core coming back, it does ease the fan of losing seven players. However, the new guys will have to figure out a way to replace the lost statistics from those players not returning. How much success we have in wins this year will depend on the six new players. We know what we are getting in the four returning players."

ROCKETS

Continued from Page B1

rely on a backcourt trio led by 5-9 senior DeAngelo Kirksey, 6-2 senior Ralph Parks, 6-0 junior Mychal Bradley.

Also in the mix at the guard spot is 6-0 senior Davon Lundy, 5-10 senior Mo Foani and 5-11 senior Mike Woodard.

"With Kirksey, Parks and Bradley we probably have a starting six," Young said. "Mo is probably our best outside shooter and Davon is a good perimeter defender. Woodard is a backup point guard who is a smart player."

The key, however, will be the improved play of the front line as Glenn will once again be a co-favorite again in the KLAAS's South Division along with Canton.

"They're part of the puzzle, but just because you're tall doesn't mean you're going to rebound," Young said. "We're working a lot on using our body, getting inside position and having a nose for the ball, so it's getting better."

Young, who announced that he is stepping down after the season, is optimistic this Glenn team can make some waves in 2013-14.

"I'm excited about this season because it's a good group of guys," he said.

See capsule outlook of area boys basketball teams.

hemons@hometownlife.com
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ALL IN THE FAMILY

It's official: Father-son duo work dream game

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Last weekend's MHSAA Division 3 football final between DeWitt and Zeeland West may have been the first game ever in which the officials were as pumped as the players.

Well, at least two of the guys wearing stripes.

That would be Redford Township residents Bobby and Sean Williams, a father-and-son refereeing duo who worked the D-3 game together. Partners on the same officiating crew during the regular season, it was the first time they've been paired together for a state final contest.

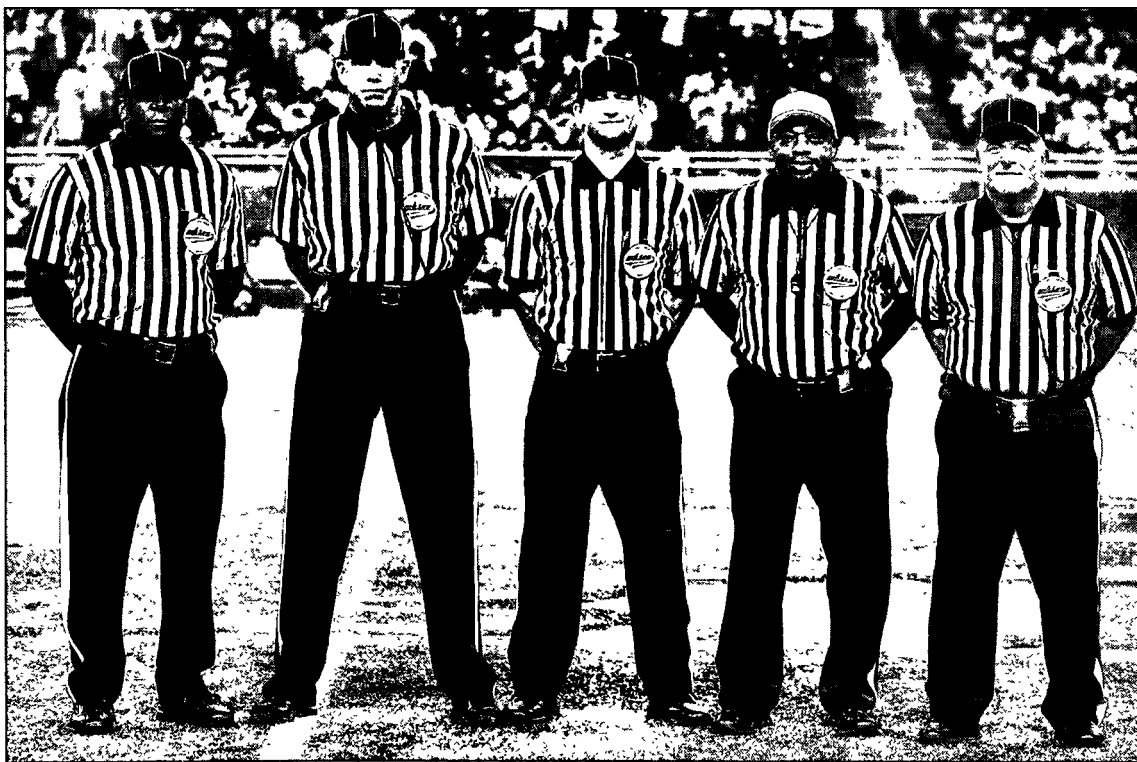
"Just working in a state final game for the first time made it special for me," 26-year-old Sean said. "But to be able to work it with my mentor – my dad, the one who got me interested in officiating – made it even more so. It was a very cool experience for both of us."

Bobby Williams has been a highly-respected official for more than four decades and a veteran of several championship contests.

But there was no matching last weekend's game when it came to an adrenaline rush, he admitted.

"I've worked in a lot of big games over the years, but that was by far the biggest for me," he said. "Being able to work a state championship game with Sean was just awesome."

"Years ago, Sean would come to the games me and my crew were working and he'd



The Redford-based father-and-son officiating team of Sean (center) and Bobby Williams (far right) worked the MHSAA Division 3 football championship together at Ford Field on Nov. 30. MHSAA

be the ball boy for us. Eventually, he decided he wanted to get involved in officiating and I was fortunate enough to get him on my crew."

Not surprisingly, the Williamses talk shop even when they're away from the gridiron.

"After every game, we get together and talk about what we did right and I'll ask him questions, like 'How would you have handled this?'" Sean Williams said. "I'm lucky to have a dad who knows as much about the profession as he

does."

Officiating-wise, the game – which Zeeland West won, 34-27 – went off without a hitch.

"Since it was televised, my mom asked us, 'Well, you guys will be on TV, right?'" Sean said. "And we both said said, 'We hope not; if the refs are on TV, that means we probably did something wrong.'"

"When the games are uneventful," Bobby Williams added, "we know we did our job."

Coincidentally, the Williamses are joined on their

regular crew by another father-son tandem: Joe and Mike Kavulich.

The officiating crews for the state finals are selected by a committee made up of assigners and athletic directors.

The Williamses found out they'd be working at Ford Field together "about two weeks" before the game, Bobby Williams said.

"As soon as I found out, my adrenaline started pumping," he said, smiling.

ewright@hometownlife.com



The Evans family, Kirk (left), June, Pete and Kerri Wheeler at Disney World.

Ex-Livonia residents brighten holidays for needy

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Peter and June Evans live in Florida but keep Livonia close to their hearts.

The couple has given food baskets to needy families in the Franklin High School area at Thanksgiving and Christmas for the past 26 years.

"Our kids were raised in Livonia and graduated from Franklin. They got a great education and had a wonderful network of friends and teachers," Peter Evans said, in a phone interview last week. "I was privileged to give back. I was active in Little League sports and Scouts. We got to mingle with a lot of families in the area. We decided in 1987 to buy meals."

Evans and his son, Kirk, bought food for complete holi-

day dinners and then donated the meals to families through Franklin's student assistance program. Kirk Evans, married and the father of two children, now lives in Tennessee. The Evans' daughter, Kerri Wheeler, is married, the mother of two children, and lives in North Carolina.

Evans and his wife moved to North Carolina in 1992 — and then to Florida in 2003 — but wanted to continue helping families in their former hometown.

"We didn't have the ability anymore to actually go out and pick the products. I contacted Larry's Foodland and they said they'd be happy to do so on my behalf," said Evans, who turns 66 this month.

Families receive turkeys for Thanksgiving Day and hams for Christmas, along with all of

the trimmings.

Matching donations

"It's such a wonderful project and we're delighted to be involved with it," said Sherrie Beaver, deli manager at the store. She has worked with Evans for the past seven years. "I look forward to his phone call in the fall and at the end of the season I like to drop him a note and tell him how it went."

Beaver said the store matches the couple's donations. Food for Thanksgiving meals went to 10 families last month. Another 10 will receive Christmas dinner.

"Larry (Lokuta) takes care of most of it, but a lot of times (employees) will get turkeys as gifts. They'll donate them," Beaver said. "It's nice to know there's something this time of year we can do."

Lisa Walker, student assistance coordinator at Franklin, will decide next week which families would benefit most from the Evans-Foodland donations.

Evans hopes his outreach inspires others to give. He said his son, who owns a bar and grill in Nashville, Tenn., often cooks meals for a local food bank. His daughter volunteers through her church.

Learning to give back

Both Evans and his wife were raised in Detroit. They moved to Florida to care for their elderly parents after Evans retired and ended up fulfilling a longtime desire to work at Disney World. Both Evans and his wife are "seasonal characters" stationed at the Haunted Mansion attraction.

Evans said he and his wife learned about the importance of "giving back" when they were youngsters.

"This all came from the way my wife and I were raised. Our parents were stellar," he said. "They gave back and they taught the importance of giving back. It was all part of growing up Catholic, and of being good citizens."

Through the years, Franklin administrators have shared some of the thank you cards they received for the food baskets.

"One comment that struck me was from a lady," Evans recalled. "She said 'when I get back on my feet, I'm going to do the same for another.' Maybe this is going to be an incentive for some of those families to say, if we can, we'll give a meal to someone."

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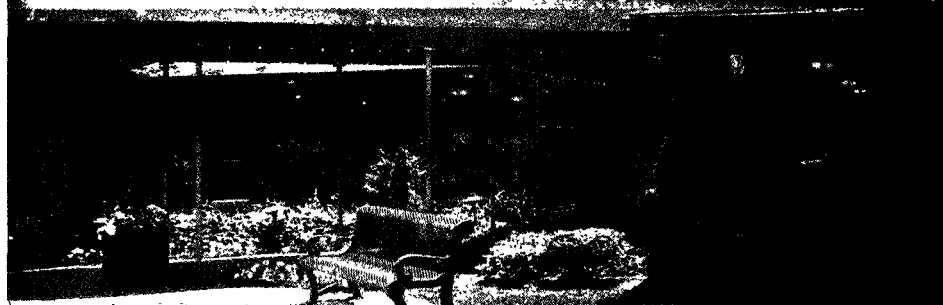


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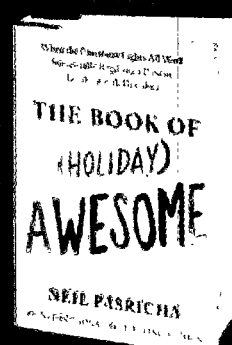
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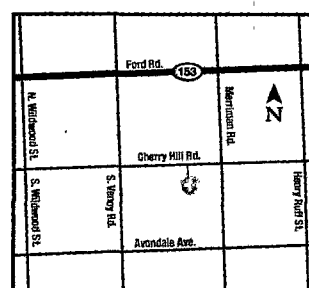
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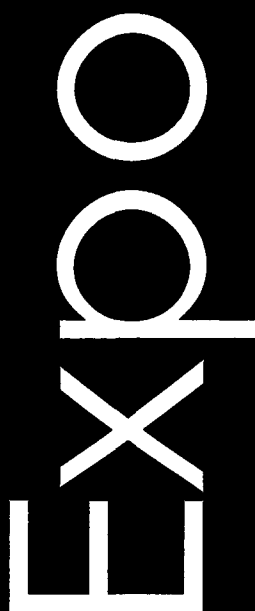
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Cleaning dishwasher, oven

Let me begin this column with a favorite quote I use when speaking with young students about to go out into the hard knocks of tomorrow: "Life is but a stage and you are the actor." I have just lived this quote for two days talking with hundreds of homeowners shopping for major home appliances.

I absolutely just loved every moment of it and although I was so physically tired, I kept that smile going knowing that I was in my element. One common statement was that I always tell it like it is and how much that is appreciated. So today, I tell you like it is. By the time you read this, I will have gone through some serious surgery and be on the road to recovery or I will be in "appliance heaven."

Jim writes: "The discharge hose on our dishwasher, which goes to the garbage disposal, gets plugged with something that looks like grease. We are fanatical about cleaning food off anything that goes into the dishwasher. Could it be the brand of soap we are using? Any other thoughts would be appreciated."

Reply: Yes, Jim, it would appear as grease and here are a few reasons. A dishwasher needs an internal cleaning a few times a year and I've recommended the Tang treatment for more than 30 years. I have that prescription for you if needed. Just send me a request and it's yours.



**Joe
Gagnon**
APPLIANCE
DOCTOR

Years of usage causes a buildup of undissolved detergent inside the dishwasher in areas you can't see. This affects the door seals, spray arms and motor impellers and when you rub your fingers on it, it is just like grease.

Powdered dishwasher detergent is recommended and very little should be used compared to what most homeowners do use - two level teaspoons if you have a water softener and eight level teaspoons if you are on city water. This little tip is critical and I do mean to be exact. The drain line should have no kinks in it and sometimes that can be accomplished by wrapping an old wire coat hanger on the line where it makes a bend. The last thing is be sure you clean the inside of the garbage disposer every few weeks by filling it with ice cubes, letting them sit for an hour and then turn on the disposer.

Gale writes: "My mother has been hand cleaning the electric range that is a self-cleaning range. She was afraid of the high temperatures. Would it be safe now to run the clean feature on the range after years of hand scrubbing?"

Reply: Please, tell your Mom again that she is a very smart woman. I am

in charge of our self-cleaning range in my Valorie's kitchen and I am also afraid of the high temperatures. The cupboard walls on each side get very hot, so I move the plastic or paper products away from the walls. I make sure there is nothing made of plastic in the pot and pan drawer at the bottom of the stove. I also do this in the cold months of the year because in summer the high heat in the kitchen makes the central air conditioning system go on overload.

As for cleaning by hand, it is important not to use anything so abrasive that it removes the special coating on the oven walls, ceiling and floor. If she did, she can still put it through a self-cleaning cycle, but the spots that were abused will still show signs of baked-on matter. She will have to use a soft form of cleaning by hand in those areas.

My most sincere thanks go out to all of you who read this column and so many of you who drop me an email. The holiday season is upon us and if Shakespeare was around today, he would say, "It's time for family and a time to share the love in your hearts. Think of what the season is all about and even if it's just once a year, life is but a stage." Stay tuned.

Joe Gagnon can be heard at 8 a.m. each Saturday on WAAW-AM (1600). You can email your problems and questions on appliances to appldr@twml.rr.com.

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Holiday cards still have stamp of approval, but some send electronic greetings

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Barb and Jim Berberet of Canton used to send about 80 Christmas cards each year, but have winnowed that down to around 30.

"People can send email now and wish you a Merry Christmas or even text. Times have changed, for sure," Barb Berberet said, adding postage is a factor.

"We mostly send to out of state and family and close friends," said Berberet, a retired HR manager for a plastic injection company in Livonia. She and Jim lived in five towns in three states for his work as plant supervisor with Texaco Inc., so they met many people.

The Berberets have three grown children, seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

"I love getting cards, especially ones with pictures of people we haven't seen in a long time," she said. She's 70 - an age she reveals with great pride as a two-time cancer survivor - and agreed retirees often cut back on their card list.

The Berberets' kids are spread out geographically and out of state, so their celebration gets smaller. "But that's the circle of life," she said.

She enjoys taking small gifts like homemade bread to neighbors on Christmas Eve: "Something homemade."

Cards for students, elderly

Mary and Graham Martin of Plymouth Township are active in their Lake Pointe Bible Church. She'll send

Christmas cards to students she teaches, such as youngsters from MOPS and AWANA, as well as Sunday school and adopt-a-student.

Mary Martin, a homemaker, also mails cards to her grandchildren who are old enough to enjoy getting mail, to international friends and to elderly shut-ins.

She and Graham, a retired Plymouth-Canton schools art teacher, don't go all out on cards. For some 40 years, they've run the Upper Peninsula Bible Camp and had a December mass mailing to get out.

"Just to get that out was about all we could handle," she said. The Martins have four grown children, 11 grandchildren and another on the way.

Their church used to do a bulletin board to share yule cards, with money saved then going to charity. Martin said they now get around 15 cards a year.

"Most of those include a letter or picture, which is nice," she said.

Martin's daughters-in-law are creative with their family cards. One does "pretty little handmade cards" and another is a photographer who makes her own. That daughter-in-law also does a gift Advent calendar with family photos.

"So they're doing better than I am," she said. "We always had a picture card when I was growing up."

Her dad had worked in photofinishing for Fox Photo. "So it was a natural for him," she said of those family photos taken in the living room or by the piano.

Personalized cards

Tiffany Zendejas and husband Julian of Canton send some 125 cards a year.

"My husband has a really big family," said Zendejas, owner of the Sincerely Yours stationery store on Center Street in downtown Northville. "He's the second youngest of seven."

The couple has a son, Alexander, 2½, and is now adopting a second child, this time from China. Tiffany Zendejas has owned Sincerely Yours almost 15 years.

"I find that more and more people want to do something personalized," she said of cards. The store can easily incorporate family photos such as vacation shots into yule cards.

Sincerely Yours also sells traditional cards and she's found corporate clients are back to sending those. They tend to be "Peace in the New Year" or "Celebrate the Season," with the corporate name usually inside. Winter scenes like birch trees or cardinals are common for corporate cards.

Scott and Yvonne Lorenz of Plymouth, parents of two grown children, send cards to family and friends.

"Sometimes we go photo, sometimes we go newsletter," said Scott Lorenz, 57, who runs his own public relations firm, Westwind Communications.

"I don't do any corporate stuff," he said. "We like getting cards from friends and family." It's fun to see their children grow up, he said.

"We have some friends who do really



Graham and Mary Martin (center, back row) of Plymouth Township enjoy getting together with family over the holidays. The Martins don't go all out on yule cards, partly due to a mass mailing for the Upper Peninsula Bible Camp they've handled in December for years.

humorous newsletters," Lorenz said. One woman joked about her husband putting in a fence, which took place over a long,

long course of time. The Lorenzes hang their cards on a door in the kitchen. He noted the crossover in his

work and personal life: "And a lot of clients are friends as well."

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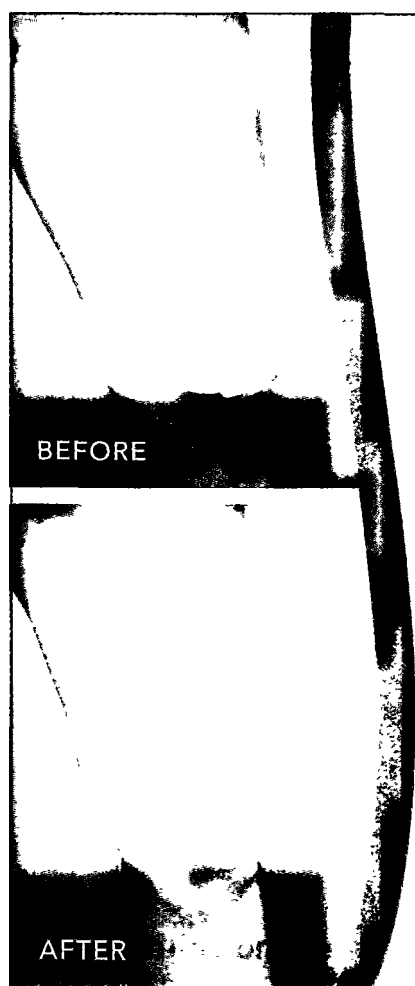
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Cookie sales offer dozens of varieties

It's cookie walk time at local churches.

St. Helen's Philothochos will sell 50 varieties of holiday and ethnic cookies, Greek pastries, and home-made spinach pie, from 9 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Dec. 14, at St. Constantine and Helen Hellenic Cultural Center, 36375 Joy road, Westland.

Coffee also will be available. For more information, call 734-

525-6789.

Get European cookies, nut and poppy seed rolls, sweet bread, stuffed cabbage and more at Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church's annual sale, starting at 9 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 14. Doors will open at 7:30 a.m. for coffee and company. The church is located at 36075 Seven Mile, Livonia. Call 248-476-3432 for more information.

Polish history group sets annual Christmas program at Livonia parish

The West Side Detroit Polish American Historical Society, will present its Eighth "Annual Opłatek" Sunday, Dec. 29, in the Activities Center of its headquarters, St. Collette Catholic Church, 17600 Newburgh, north of Six Mile, in Livonia.

The Society will honor the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America (P.R.C.U.A.), St. Stan's Society #718 — which was founded at St. Hedwig Catholic Church in Detroit, the Society's original headquarters — on its 100th anniversary.

A Mass will begin at 12:30 p.m. in the church. The Filarets Women's Choir of Troy will perform at 2 p.m. The concert

will feature Polish Christmas carols and a sing-along led by choir director, Robert Barnhart.

Traditional sharing of opłatek wafers will follow with a light reception that will include sandwiches, Polish desserts, and coffee. Admission is free, although donations will be accepted.

R.S.V.P. for headcount purposes by Dec. 22 by leaving a message for Laurie at 1/855-POLONIA (765-6642) or emailing lgomulka@detroitpolonia.org.

The Society's Heritage Room will be open for members and non-members alike to view firsthand the Society's archives. Also, for Society members, this will serve as the annual meeting and a sign-in sheet will be available.

The West Side Detroit Polish American Historical Society was incorporated as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in February 2006. It exists for the observation, study, appreciation, and preservation of the history of west side Detroit Polonia's neighborhoods and the Polish-American immigrants who settled and who continued to build the community through-

out the decades. This includes their descendants and their neighbors, surrounding institutions, businesses, and churches. The Society also serves as a repository of historical archives, including artifacts, documents, oral histories, and other significant records relevant to its mission and purposes.

Visit www.detroit-polonia.org to download a membership application, or call Laurie A. Gomulka at 855-POLONIA or email lgomulka@detroitpolonia.org.

RELIGION CALENDAR

DECEMBER ADVENT SERVICES

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Dec. 11 and 18

Location: Lola Park Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford

Details: The theme for meditations is "Waiting for the Savior."

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

BREAKFAST

Time/Date: 8:30-11:30 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 15

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

Details: French toast, pancakes, ham, sausage, applesauce, coffee, tea, juice, milk; \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children, 2-10. Santa Claus will visit and there will be live musical entertainment

Contact: 734-425-4421

CANDLELIGHT NIGHT

Time/Date: 5-9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14

Location: Zhong Shu Temple, 23845 Middlebelt, Farmington Hills

Details: Reception starts at 5 p.m., followed by evening ceremony at 6 p.m. Potluck dinner after the ceremony. Bring a vegetarian dish with no garlic and no onions.

Contact: RSVP to michigan-temple@yahoo.com

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

Time/Date: 7 p.m. and 11 p.m. Dec. 24

Location: Good Hope Lutheran Church, 28680 Cherry Hill Road, Garden City

Details: Late night worship is candlelight service

Contact: 734-427-3660

CONCERT

Time/Date: 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8

Location: Newburg United Methodist Church, 35000 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia

Details: The combined choirs of Newburg Methodist Church and Garden City Methodist Church, along with dulcimer and piano accompaniment, will present *Appalachian Winter*, a cantata for Christmas, by Joseph M. Martin. A reception follows.

Contact: 734-422-0149

CONCERT

Time/Date: During 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. worship services, Dec. 8

Location: Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia

Details: The Advent/Christmas Cantata will include adult and children's choirs, handbells, brass and string instruments

Contact: 734-522-6830; christoursavior.org

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OFF WORK AND ARTHRITIS

Only a few physicians have read the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 but all physicians are held to its provisions. The Act and its protections come into play every time a doctor writes an off work slip for a patient with a joint or muscle problem that precludes that person from working.

The Disabilities Act prohibits a physician from discussing a patient's diagnosis with any employer or employer representative except an organization's medical director or nurse practitioner. A doctor is not allowed to write an employer a letter such as: "Your employee John X has an attack of gout in his foot and cannot return to work until the episode clears." Instead, the physician can only state that: "Your employee John X is under my care. Because of his condition he cannot return to work at this time. He can resume his usual duties when his condition resolves."

The protection for the patient comes from the privacy's state of health is a private matter between doctor and patient. An employer has the right to know that an employee is off work for a legitimate reason, but the medical issue is personal and private. The patient's doctor can only share that private information with another physician such as a company's medical director.

Another issue of off duty letters is how long will the patient be unable to work, or is it feasible to have the person working part time, or undertaking some but not all of the usual work duties? There are no quick answers; the doctor's response, by necessity, is shaped by the medical condition under treatment and the nature of the patient's work.

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Observer & Eccentric Media specializes in community-based information on a variety of platforms — print, web, mobile and video. O&E Media publishes 13 individually edited newspapers, a website and more than 75 special sections and specialty products annually. The staff includes more than 40 journalists, 25 advertising account executives and other key support personnel in circulation and production. O&E Media — Because local matters. Come join our team.

Observer & Eccentric Media is looking for an Account Executive for the South Lyon, MI Territory. This position will work out of the South Lyon, MI location.

RESPONSIBILITIES: This position is responsible for all sales and related activities to advertisers within an assigned geographic territory. Will mainly be servicing businesses with the opportunity to sell into the Hometown Weeklies, Observer & Eccentric publications and DMP products. Primary responsibility is managing the territory to achieve sales quotas and developing new business. The Account Executive will develop strategies, make presentations to new and existing advertisers and be responsive to customer needs. Sales orders, reports and documentation are prepared for management's review.

REQUIREMENTS: An Associate's degree and two years of sales experience and/or equivalent. Bachelor's degree preferred. Professional communication, presentation and organizational skills are required. Must be highly motivated, analytical, detail-oriented and able to work under deadline pressure. Proficiency using a personal computer is required. Use of personal vehicle, valid driver's license, state mandated auto insurance and good driving record are required.

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The company's 82 U.S. daily newspapers, including USA TODAY, reach 11.6 million readers every weekday and 12 million readers every Sunday, providing important news and information from their customers' neighborhoods and around the globe. USA TODAY, the nation's No. 1 newspaper in print circulation, and USATODAY.com reach a combined 6.6 million readers daily.

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TRUCK DRIVER

Office furniture installation business in Wixom is looking to fill FULL-TIME TRUCK DRIVER positions. We are looking for RESPONSIBLE, DEPENDABLE, PRESENTABLE individuals. You must have a valid driver's license, CDL license a plus, be able to travel for out of town projects and work weekends and evenings. To be considered for this position, apply in person: Synergy Installation Solutions, 29988 Anthony Dr., Wixom, MI 48393

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WAREHOUSE

Office furniture installation business in Wixom is looking to fill full-time Warehouse positions. We are looking for RESPONSIBLE, DEPENDABLE, PRESENTABLE individuals. You must be able to work weekends and evenings, have reliable transportation and a valid driver's license. Organizational skills are a plus. This is a physically demanding position which requires heavy lifting. To be considered for this position, apply in person: Synergy Installation Solutions 29988 Anthony Dr. Wixom, MI 48393

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MILESTONES

WEDDING

HARRIS-WOLFE

Kayla Sue Harris and Thomas Harry Wolfe were married Aug. 31, 2013, in Anchorage, Alaska. A mutual friend, Staff Sgt. Brent Allen, officiated.

The bride is the daughter of Mindy S. Gates of Rougemont, N.C., and the groom is the son of Jerry and Kathy Wolfe of Livonia.

Kayla is an airman pharmacy technician. Thomas is a 2004 graduate of Stevenson High School and is an airman first class C17 avionics technician. Both work at Elmendorf Air Force Base in Anchorage, Alaska.

The wedding was attended by friends and coworkers in Alaska, as well as both families from home via Skype. The reception was held at a chalet on the base.



Kayla Sue Harris and Thomas Harry Wolfe

ENGAGEMENT

MILLER-MCALEER

Martha R Miller and Brandon S. McAleer announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Ken and Laura Miller of Canton, graduated from Divine Child High School and earned a B.S.N. degree from Eastern Michigan University. She works as a registered nurse at St Joseph Mercy Hospital's

Emergency Department.

Her fiancé, son of Gary and Cathy McAleer of New Hudson, graduated from South Lyon High School and earned a B.S.N. degree from Madonna University. He works as a registered nurse in the neurosurgery spine unit at St Joseph Mercy Hospital.

A September 2014 wedding is planned in Plymouth.



Martha R Miller and Brandon S. McAleer

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

Send holiday entertainment items to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com. Send photos as jpg attachments.

COMEDY

GO! COMEDY

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, through Dec. 21
Location: 261 E. Nine Mile, Ferndale

Details: *The Worst Noel*, the fifth annual holiday sketch revue. Tickets are \$15 Thursday, \$20 Friday and Saturday, available at gocomedy.net

Also playing: *Frosty*, 10 p.m. Dec. 5, 12 and 19, is an original late night show about Frosty the Snowman who returns to the town of Armonk from the North Pole to find the children he once knew have grown up and are home from college. Tickets are \$10.
Contact: 428-327-0575

DANCE

PLYMOUTH-CANTON BALLET CO.

Time/Date: 2 p.m. Dec. 8
Location: Plymouth Salem High School Auditorium, 48181 Joy, Canton

Details: The Michigan Philharmonic will perform the music for the ballet. A Sugar Plum parade will be held following the performance. The audience will be invited to meet the dancers. WDIV Channel 4's Ashlee Baracy will open each performance with a reading of *The Night Before Christmas*. The P-CEP Madrigal Choir will perform choral work during the ballet. Tickets at the door are \$25 for adults and teens and \$18 for children. Sugar Plum Parade tickets are \$3 each

Contact: 734-676-7233; www.plymouthcantonballet.org

FILM

REDFORD THEATRE

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Dec. 20 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Dec. 21
Location: 17360 Lahser, north of Grand River Avenue, Detroit

Details: *White Christmas*; tickets \$5. Bring your camera to get a photo with Santa. Donations of nonperishable food items will be accepted for St. Christine Food Pantry.

Contact: 313-537-2560

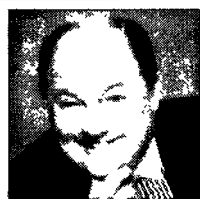
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Deadlines: Friday, 4:15 p.m. for Sunday paper • Wednesday, 9:45 a.m. for Thursday paper



BRETHEN, CHARLES A. III "CHIP"

November 28, 2013, peacefully at home in Bloomfield Hills, age 67. Proud veteran United States Air Force. Longtime executive in the automotive paint and coatings industry. Beloved husband of Gail K. (nee Powers). Dear father of David A., Geoffrey C. (Kiara) and the late Charles A., IV. Son of Barbara A. and the late Charles A. Brethen, Jr. Brother of Susan Lapelle (Hunter) and Nancy Strickland (Tom). Uncle of John Lapelle, Susan Muskovitz (Andy), Nicki Arnold (Jack), Steven Strickland (Julie) and Scott Strickland (Anne). A Celebration of Life Service will be held in the spring of 2014. Family Memorial Services were held at Christ Church Cranbrook. In lieu of flowers family suggests memorial tributes to the Cranbrook Educational Community. A.J. Desmond & Sons (248) 549-0500.

View obituary and share memories at: DesmondFuneralHome.com

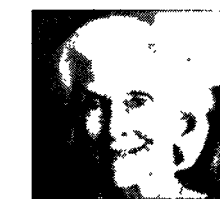
DesmondFuneralHome.com

May you find comfort in family & friends



CLOSE, DORIS I.

Age 94, of Northville, passed away peacefully November 30, 2013. She was born May 14, 1919 in Plymouth, Michigan; daughter of Harold and Olive (nee Roberts) Compton. She was a graduate of Plymouth High School in 1937. Doris was united in marriage to Donald "Mike" Herrick on December 2, 1940, who passed away April 13, 1973. Doris was then united in marriage to Richard Close on May 1, 1977; they spent 18 loving years together until his death in 1995. Doris worked as a seamstress and designer for Cadillac Drapery in Plymouth, doing freelance seamstress work as well. She has been a resident of Northville since 1990; formerly of Union Lake and Plymouth. She and her husband Richard enjoyed many summers on Round Lake in the home they built together. Doris sang in the church choir for most of her life. She began while a member of the First Baptist Church of Plymouth, and continued her love of singing with the First United Methodist Church of Northville after becoming a member in 1970. She was very active with FUMC throughout the years; her involvement included co-founding the Youth Club program, serving on the Youth Club Board, the FUMC Scholarship Fund, as well as the Christian Education Department. Doris also served as a co-crew leader using her building expertise for the Appalachian Service Project, making homes in that area warmer, safer, and drier. It was a passion she shared with her family, especially granddaughter Kelly. Doris was caring, resourceful, and brilliant. Following her mother's death when Doris was 14, her father taught her and her sisters how to be inventive and creative. She instilled in her own children how to be respectful, goal oriented, and independent; without question her family was raised the right way. She loved to dance, even participating in amateur ballroom dancing competitions with her husband Richard at Arthur Murray Dance Studio; in fact, she and Richard met while dancing. Doris is survived by her loving children, Judy (Russell) Doré and Nick (Judy) Herrick; her step-daughter, Barbara Close; her grandchildren, Patrick (Karen) Calhoun, David (Cathy) Doré, Kelly (Greg) Moore, Jay (Roseanne DiPonio) Herrick, and Kevin M. Herrick; and her great-grandchildren, Anna and Russell Calhoun, Alice, Charlotte, and Claire Doré, Sophie Moore, and Julianna Herrick. She was preceded in death by her husband Donald "Mike" Herrick and her husband Richard Close; her parents; her step-son, Dale Close; and her sisters, Helen Wallace, Catharine Sherrick, and Jeanne Mettetal. Visitation will be held Friday, December 6, 2013 from 1 p.m. until 7 p.m. at Casterline Funeral Home, 122 W. Dunlap, Northville. A Funeral Service will be held Saturday, December 7, 2013 at 1 p.m. with visitation 12 noon until 1 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 777 W. Eight Mile Rd., Northville 48167. Doris will be laid to rest at Rural Hill Cemetery in Northville. The family would appreciate memorial contributions to Appalachian Service Project or FUMC Scholarship Fund. Online condolences at: www.casterlinefuneralhome.com



CRAIG, PATRICIA CHUBBUCK

passed away peacefully in her sleep on November 30, 2013 at Glenmont Nursing Home in Hilliard Ohio. Patricia was born October 26, 1927 in Detroit, Michigan and graduated from Bloomfield Hills High School and then attended Principia College, the University of Geneva, Switzerland and the University of Colorado. Muz, as she affectionately was called, married her high school sweetheart Richard Craig who preceded her in death. They have three children Karen Craig Appleby (Larry), Steven Jeffrey Craig (Lisa), and Andrew Roger Craig (Laura). Muz also has seven grandchildren Michelle Newton, Bryan Appleby, Kevin Appleby, James Craig, Christopher Craig, Nathan Craig and Matthew Craig as well as four great grandchildren. Patricia is also preceded in death by her parents Marie and Charles Chubbuck and her sister Alys Chubbuck Monod. Patricia was employed at the Cranbrook Educational Community and the Control Engineering Company. Patricia spent most of her adult life in Harbor Springs, Michigan where she was a member of First Church of Christ, Scientist in Petoskey, Michigan. Her great loves were her family, her church and the beauty of Northern Michigan. A family memorial celebration will be held at a later date back in Harbor Springs. Condolences and special memories may be shared online at www.heritagecremation.com. Heritage Cremation Society 800-864-2295

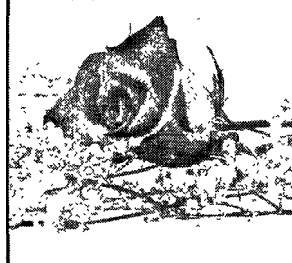


ENGELBRECHT, SUZANNE HOWARD

Suddenly November 27, 2013. Age 79. Longtime resident of Birmingham and Sand Lake, MI. Devoted wife of the late Martin Engelbrecht and the late Robert Howard, Jr. Loving mother of Julie Johnson (Stuart), Robert Howard, III and John Howard (Beth). Fabulous grandmother of Audrey (Aaron Ohlrogge), Helen, Ted, Jane and Jack. Great grandmother of Jesus, George and Nicholas. Sister of Matthew Seward (Suzanne) and the late Dennis King (JoAnn). Private family service has been held. A.J. Desmond & Sons Funeral Home, (248) 549-0500.

View obituary and share memories at: DesmondFuneralHome.com

May peace be with you in this time of sorrow.



FREEMAN, MARGARET ANN (NEE: McCARTEN)

passed away peacefully surrounded by her family on December 6, 2013. Age 83 of Birmingham. Beloved wife of the late Carl for 49 years. Devoted mother of Cecily Roney (William), Carol Freeman and Robert Freeman (Renee). Proud and loving grandmother of Alex, Amy, Andrew and Ian. Sister of Jean Anderson and Cecily Jones. Also survived by nieces, nephews and many friends. Margaret's family would like to thank the American House facility for all the care and friendship extended to their mother. They would also like to thank The Chester Street Residence, and their staff for making their mother's final days filled with peace and caring thoughts. Memorial Service Saturday 11 a.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 1669 W. Maple Rd., Birmingham. Visitation at church begins Saturday at 10 a.m. In lieu of flowers, family suggests memorials to Salvation Army, Detroit Zoo, PEO of the First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham, or any nature/birding organization in Michigan. A.J. Desmond & Sons, 248-362-2500.

View obit and share memories at: DesmondFuneralHome.com

DesmondFuneralHome.com

LUVISCH, SEYMOUR LEONARD

Age 92, passed away on November 15, 2013. He was born March 10, 1921 in Detroit, Michigan. Seymour served in the United States Coast Guard. Seymour attended MIT and Harvard. He worked many years in construction, building new homes. Seymour was preceded in death by his wife, Ella and son Donald Luvisch. He is survived by daughter, Nancy Richards; son Jim Luvisch; grandchildren: Scott, Marne, Erin and Don; great-grandchildren: Chelsea, Zach, Ally and Katie Jewell, Haley and Ava Farquar, Mallory and Mitchell Luvisch.



MAHON, CATHERINE

A very loved Wife, Mother, Grandmother, Great Grandmother. Survived by husband Ralph, son's Michael, Pat, Ted, grandchildren Kim, Pat, Rachel, Pat, great grandchildren Sydney, Gillian, Zachary, Palmer, Megan, Ethan, Emily, and Rebecca. Step mother to Claudia, Chip Brian, Helen. A service will be held Tuesday December 10, 2-4 p.m. R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home, Livonia.

MCDOWELL, JAMES E., JR.

December 3, 2013, age 85. Beloved husband of Kathy. Dear father of Wayne (Nancy), Lorrie (Larry), Bill, Sherry, Dorie, Kathy (Gary), Merri Lou and Dawn. Step-father of Mar (Sandy), Paul and Shawn. Survived by 26 grandchildren and 27 great-grandchildren. Brother of Wanda, Lloyd, June, Pete, Walter and Judy. James served in the Air Force from 1944-49 as a photographer. Memorial Service on Sunday Dec. 8 at 1:00 p.m. at the Moose Lodge in Garden City, Michigan.



MOORES, ELAINE M.

Age 93, passed peacefully on December 3, 2013 at her daughter's home surrounded by her loving family. Beloved wife of the late Jack F. Sr. for 62 years. Dearest mother of Jack Frank Jr. (Kathy), Richard L. (Clare), Cheryl (James) Patrick, Thomas J. (Karen), Ann (J. Keith) Clark, the late Susan Elaine and Mary (Mike) Spitzley. Proud grandmother of 18, great-grandmother of 18 and great-great-grandmother of one. Dear sister of the late John W. Jr., (the late Helen) Schmidt and James (Beverly) Schmidt. Elaine was a homemaker with a generous spirit and a willingness to help others always. She enjoyed time with family and will be greatly missed and fondly remembered. Visitation Sunday 1-6 p.m. McCabe Funeral Home Canton Chapel, 851 N. Canton Center Rd., Canton. Scripture Service 3 p.m. In State Monday 9:30 a.m. until time of Mass 10:30 a.m. at St. Thomas a'Becket Catholic Church, 555 S. Lilley Rd., Canton. Entombment Oakwood Memorial Mausoleum, Saginaw, Michigan. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Vincent de Paul at St. Thomas a'Becket or the United Mitochondrial Disease Foundation. www.mccabefuneralhome.com

McCabe Funeral Home



RAYMOND, MARGERY (SEITZ)

Age 92, Went to be with the Lord December 5, 2013. Beloved wife of the late Walter Seitz and Paul Raymond. Loving mother of Fred (Mary) Seitz and Lee Anne Kientzy. Dear grandmother of Walter, Laura, Molly and Kari. Great grandmother of Gabe, Madison, Emma, Matthew, Nathaniel and the late David. Margery was a former Dearborn P.T.A. Council President and employee of Co-op Services Credit Union in Dearborn. Visitation at the R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home, 15451 Farmington Rd., Livonia, Monday from 1-9 p.m. and at Ward Presbyterian Church, 40000 W. Six Mile Rd., Northville, Tuesday from 10 a.m. until Funeral Service at 11 a.m. Memorial contributions may be directed to The Salvation Army. Please share a memory at www.rgrrharris.com

May you find peace in this time of sorrow.



Paying tribute to the life of your loved one.

May peace be with you in this time of sorrow.



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When you have lost a loved one, place your notice on our website and in "Passages", a directory located in every edition of your Observer or Eccentric newspaper.



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Coin-size batteries pose threat to toddlers

Nearly 3,000 children were seen in U.S. emergency rooms in 2012 after swallowing coin-sized button batteries that resulted in serious injuries and in some cases death.

According to the National Capital Poison Center, the trend is growing, with an average of eight children seen in emergency rooms every day.

When a child swallows a coin lithium button battery, the battery often sticks in the child's throat. The child's saliva will trigger an electrical current, which causes a chemical reaction that can severely burn their esophagus in as little as two hours. And once burning begins, damage can continue even after the battery is removed.

The number of coin-sized button battery swallowing cases resulting in serious injury or death, more than quadrupled from 2006-10 compared to the previous five years. Children, 4 and under, are at the greatest risk.

"Parents and caregivers often don't realize that coin-sized button batteries are included in talking and singing children's books and many other common items that are mistakenly left within reach of their children around the home," said Amber Kroeker, Safe Kids Huron Valley coordinator and injury prevention health educator for Mott Children's Hospital.

As demand grows for smaller, slimmer and sleeker electronic devices, the number of coin-sized lithium button batteries in homes grows as well. These batteries power common products around the home, including mini remote control devices for DVD players and MP3 speakers, flameless candles, keyless entry devices,



calculators, bathroom scales, reading lights, children's talking and singing books, singing greeting cards, and watches.

Preventing injury

Keeping coin-sized lithium batteries out of sight and reach of children is one of the easiest ways to avert a trip to the emergency room. Make a television remote control safer by placing duct tape over its battery compartment.

If you suspect that your child has swallowed a battery, head to the emergency room immediately. It may not be obvious at first that something

is wrong. Children can breathe with the coin lithium battery in their throat.

Keep the National Battery Ingestion Hotline's number handy; 202-625-3333. Make caregivers, friends, family members and sitters aware of lithium battery dangers.

Safe Kids works to prevent unintentional childhood injury, the leading cause of death and disability to children through age 14 in the United States.

Safe Kids Huron Valley is led by University of Michigan C.S. Mott Children's Hospital. Visit Safe Kids Huron Valley on Facebook.

NEW FACES

Three doctors recently joined the medical staff at Botsford Hospital in Farmington Hills:

» Nancy K. Juopperi, D.O., is board-certified in neurology with additional qualifications in neurophysiology and headache management. She practices at Seniors Wellness Group of MI, Suite #201, 221 S. Main, Royal Oak, and at the Senior Assessment Center at Botsford Commons, 21440 Archwood Circle, Farmington Hills.



Juopperi

Juopperi attended Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine in East Lansing where she currently serves as an assistant clinical professor in its Department of Internal Medicine. Following a yearlong clinical internship at Detroit Osteopathic/Bi-County Community Hospitals in Highland Park, she served a three-year neurology residency at Botsford.

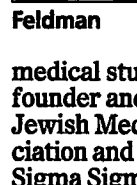
» Jennifer L. Beal, D.O. is a board-certified geriatrician and internal medicine physician who practices at Millennium Medical Group West located at 6149 North Wayne Road in Westland. Before attending Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine in East Lansing, Beal worked for nearly four years as a nursing assistant. She served a clinical

internship and internal medicine residency at Botsford where she distinguished herself as internal medicine chief resident. Beal completed a yearlong geriatric medicine fellowship at the University of Michigan Health System in Ann Arbor.



Beal

» Lindsey J. Feldman, D.O., a board-certified internal medicine physician, also practices at Millennium Medical Group West in Westland. She attended T. Still University-Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine in Missouri. As a



Feldman

medical student, she served as founder and president of the Jewish Medical Student Association and was inducted into Sigma Sigma Phi, the national honor society in osteopathic medicine. During that time, Feldman also served as a volunteer court-appointed special advocate for abused and neglected children, as well as a mentor to first-year medical students. She completed her post-graduate clinical training at Botsford.

For more about the Millennium Medical Group visit westland-clinic.com. For more about the Senior Assessment Center at Botsford Commons, see botsfordcommons.org/senior-assessment/.

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

UPCOMING

DRUG SERIES

"Teens Using Drugs: What To Know and What To Do," a free, ongoing, two-part workshop series, is set for 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 7 and 14, 2014 in the St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center, Exhibition Room on the first floor, 5305 Elliott Drive, Ypsilanti.

"What To Know," on Jan. 7, will provide information on understanding and recognizing teen substance abuse problems. "What To Do," on Jan. 14, will provide information on what should and should not be done when a teen substance abuse problem is suspected or identified. Call 734-485-8725, or e-mail info@dawnfarm.org.

HO, HO, HOLD on to Your Sanity! Stay Calm This Holiday, and Don't Let Stress Get the Better of You.

From A Garden City Hospital Health Expert



Dr. O'Dwyer
Psychology

The reality of the holidays can be very different from the happy family scenes we see in the movies. For many, the season is filled with stress, anxiety and sadness. Psychologist and Clinical Director of GCH's Center for Counseling, Dr. Phil O'Dwyer, provides a unique angle for coping with the pressures of the season.

While preparing to write this article, I did a computer search, and found over 250 million hits for "Dealing with the Holidays". Clearly, there are many people struggling with the added burden that often comes this time of year, and there is no shortage of advice on how to cope. One of the primary stressors for many is the feeling of isolation. We are inundated with images and messages of family, joy and the holiday spirit, which often conflicts with the occurrences of everyday life. But, the truth is you're not alone in feeling depressed, angry or stressed. And, because the embarrassment or shame attached to having these feelings is still so widespread, no one wants to admit to having these feelings. By not admitting our true feelings, it can isolate us even further.

This is not a list of "10 Tips for Managing Holiday Stress" (that can be found in the latest issue of our *Healthy Generations Magazine*, online at GCH.org), but rather a simple suggestion that will help keep you from becoming overwhelmed with negative emotions. *Talking to someone helps.* It just does. The "chemistry" of our emotions must finish itself once started, and somehow find release. We are literally "chemical" beings and there are specific chemical reactions which occur, causing our thoughts and emotions. Once we begin a chain of thoughts that lead to negative emotions, the chain reaction must run its course. How we cope along the way will determine the amount of pain we endure. If you find yourself with no one you feel comfortable confiding in, choose a professional, like a psychotherapist or counselor. Check if your health insurance plan offers assistance programs where some of your counseling sessions would be free-of-charge. If money is an issue in seeking professional support, perhaps you can find a church and talk to a clergyman. Pastors, rabbis, priests, chaplains, they'll listen and many are quite gifted in caring for the human spirit.

Most importantly, if you are convinced you're not worth the moments it might take someone to care for you, stop right now, and believe me - it's just not true. Get up and interact with others, do something, I mean anything. I have discovered purpose can be found in doing even the smallest act. Volunteer at a soup kitchen for an hour, call to check on a friend...anything to lift you out of the moment. Interacting with others often leads to conversation and connecting with others ...and feeling better.

PRACTICE SELF-COMPASSION AND BE HAPPY THIS SEASON!
GCH Health Expert, Dr. Phil O'Dwyer will kick off our 2014 Lunch & Lecture series at Westland Mall. Join us for "New Year, New YOU: Positive Psychology" on Saturday, January 18 at 1 p.m. To make an appointment to speak with Dr. O'Dwyer, or any of the GCH Health Experts, visit GCH.org or call 877.717.WELL.

Reasons why businesses turn to Observer & Eccentric Media COMMUNITY

Linda Robin, Owner of Showroom of Elegance in Canton speaks about advertising success in Observer & Eccentric Media



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Joy of the Holidays
Share your holiday activities with Scoop. He has a gift for his favorite but it's a surprise! Send a photo, along with your name, age, city and contact info. Deadline: December 27th.

CELEBRATION AND DIVERSITY

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Name: _____

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Date of Birth: _____

Boy or Girl: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

*Parent's Printed Name: _____

*Parent's Signature: _____

Fill out the form and have your parents fill in their name and signature. Clip and mail, it's that easy!

* Required for Birthday Club

There are many celebrations in the month of December.

Hanukkah known as the Festival of Lights and Feast of Dedication, is an eight-day Jewish holiday celebrate.

Winter Solstice marks the first day of winter and is the shortest day of the year.

Christmas is a Christian holiday that celebrates the birth of Jesus.

Kwanzaa is a non-religious holiday that celebrates African-American heritage.

New Year's Eve is the last day of the year filled with celebration.

Did you know?

NO ONE IS QUITE SURE WHERE THE TRADITION OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE BEGAN. IT IS THOUGHT TO HAVE BEGUN IN NORTHERN EUROPE.

Create a GIFT: 3D Hand Imprint

Here is cool craft that you could give as a gift. Just trace your hand. Add some curves. Use markers to color it. Place it in a picture frame. A one of a kind piece of art.

BIRTHDAY WISHES

Carly	Greifenbergs	Farmington Hills	12/19
Kamar	Taylor	Inkster	12/19
Antonio	Biggs	Livonia	12/22
Michael	Brooks	Detroit	12/25
Damien	Dallide	Canton	12/27

GET THE PICTURE?

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: SNOWMAN

November's Winner



Preston Bognear, 3 years old of Wayne
To keep himself active, Preston hunts for bugs. He received a \$20 Gift Card to Community Bowling Center to share with his family.

Making an Onigiri

by Sabriana D'Water
6th Grader at Adams Upper Elementary School

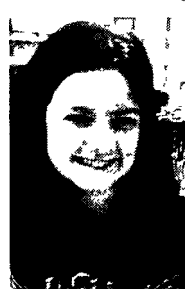
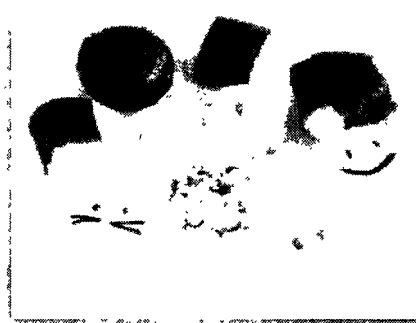
An onigiri is an easy-to-make riceball. This is a recipe to craft the Japanese dish.

Ingredients:

- A nice amount of rice
- As much filling as you want (tuna is a good filling)
- Seaweed (you can try lettuce if you want)

Cook the rice. Let it sit until the rice feels sticky. Grab a hand full of rice. Shape it into a triangular-type shape. This is the base of your riceball! Put a dent in the middle of the rice. Put filling in the dent. After this, take a small amount of rice and completely hide the filling. Reshape it into a rounded triangle shape. Finally, put seaweed on the bottom of the riceball. This is to hold it without having to touch the rice.

Enjoy your onigiri!



Sabriana D'Water

SHARE YOUR TALENT

Do you write, draw, make crafts, take photographs, or do something else that you would like others to know about?

We may share your extraordinary talent in an upcoming Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights



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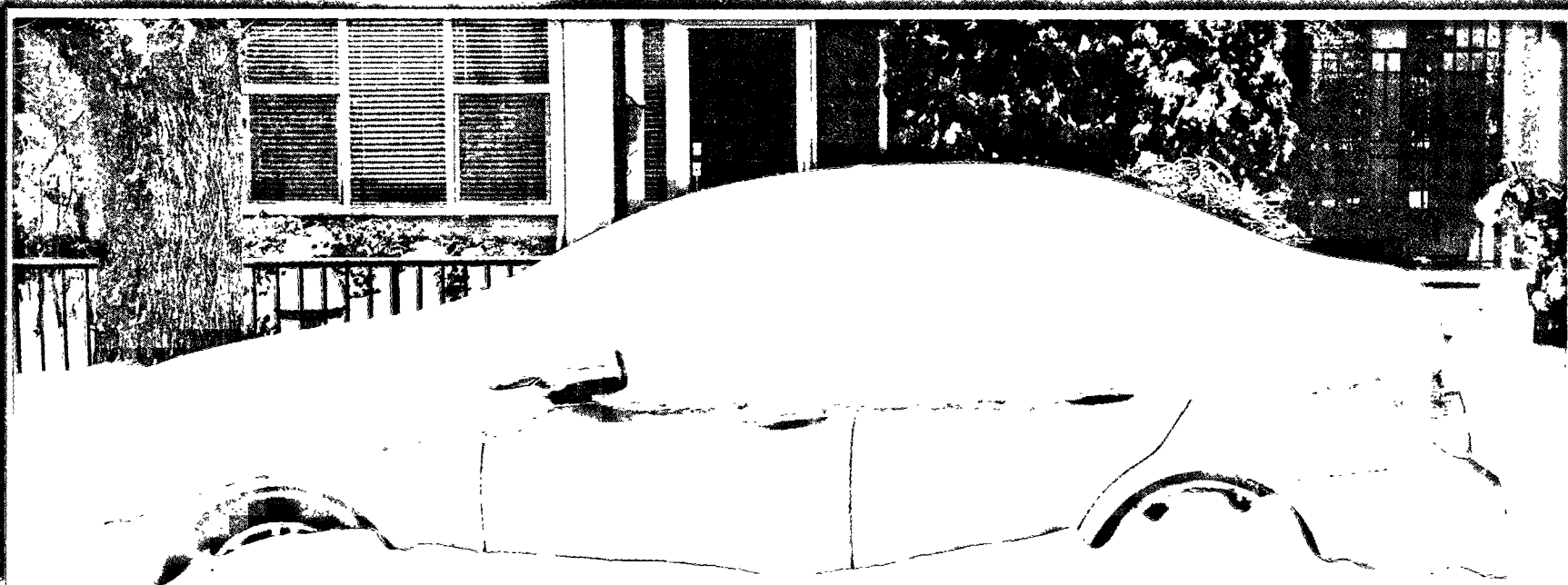
Coordinator/Contributing Writer:
Choya Jordan, Marketing Manager
Design/Layout:
Randall Masters, Graphic Artist

Interested in becoming a sponsor of Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights or have general questions?
Email cbjordan@hometownlife.com

Mail contest entries, birthday forms and talent submissions to:

Scoop the Newshound, Observer & Eccentric Media, 615 W. Lafayette, Detroit Mi 48226 or email your submission to cbjordan@hometownlife.com by **December 27**

Winning submissions will be announced in a future Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights.



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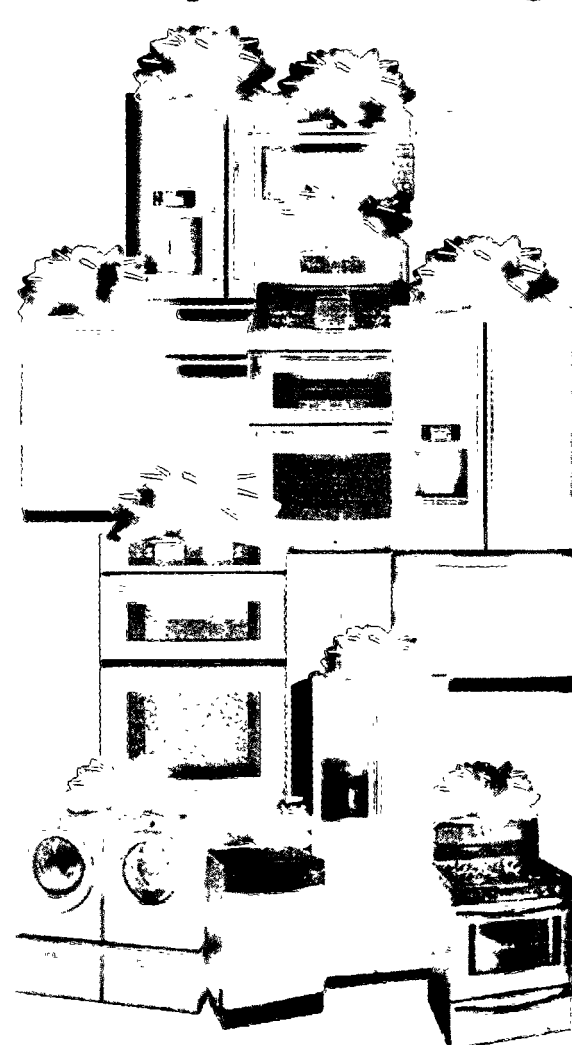
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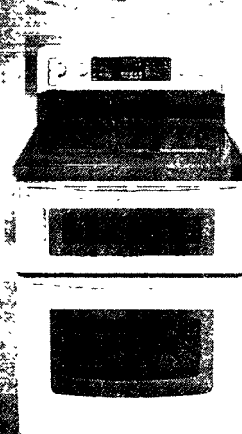


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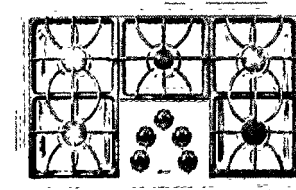
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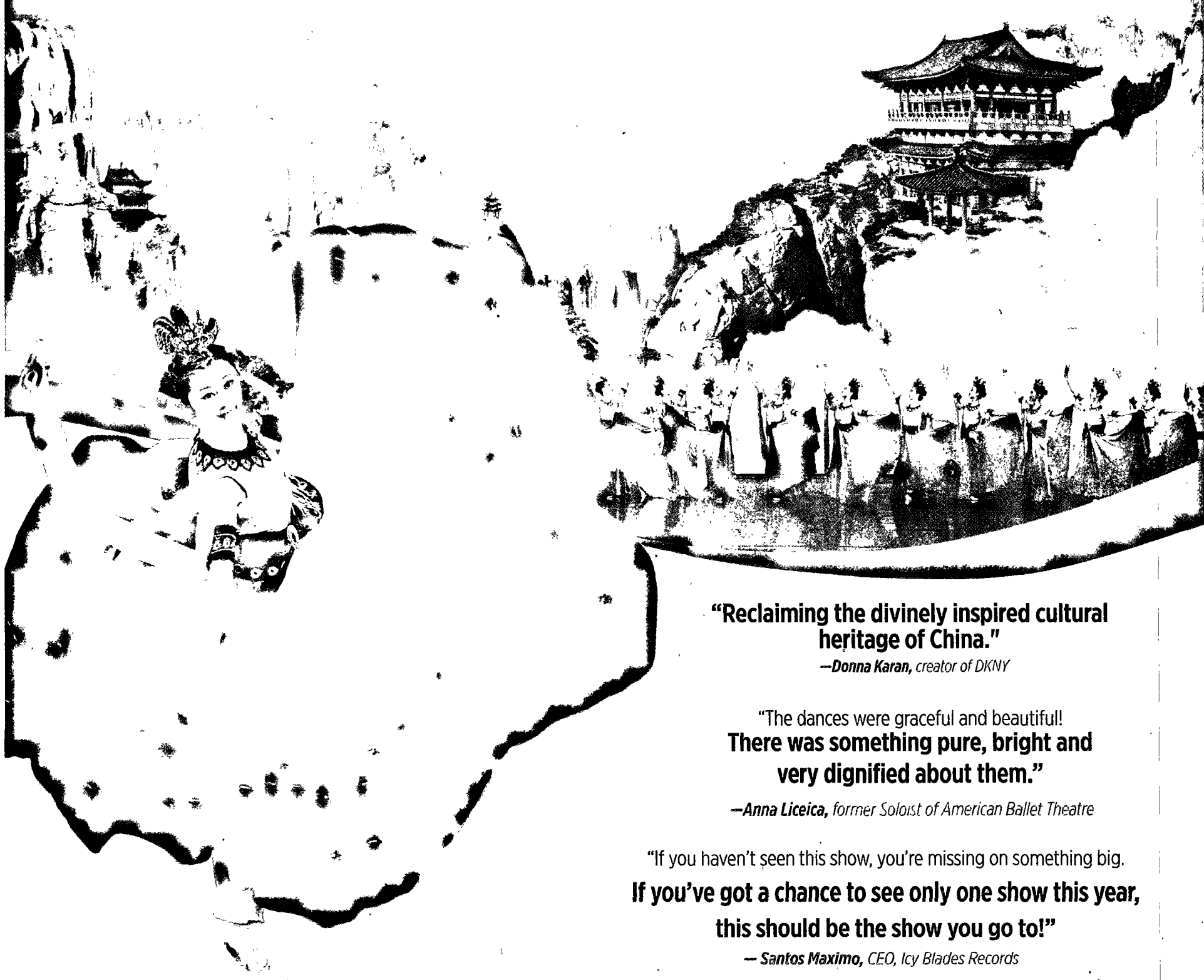
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SHEN YUN



"Reclaiming the divinely inspired cultural
heritage of China."

—Donna Karan, creator of DKNY

"The dances were graceful and beautiful!
There was something pure, bright and
very dignified about them."

—Anna Liceica, former Soloist of American Ballet Theatre

"If you haven't seen this show, you're missing on something big.
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this should be the show you go to!"

— Santos Maximo, CEO, Icy Blades Records

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Stunning, animated backdrops

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dience member put it, "It's like a fashion show, opera, concert, and dance performance all rolled into one." Difficult? Yes. Impossible? No. Our passion motivates us to bring it all together into one extraordinary experience.

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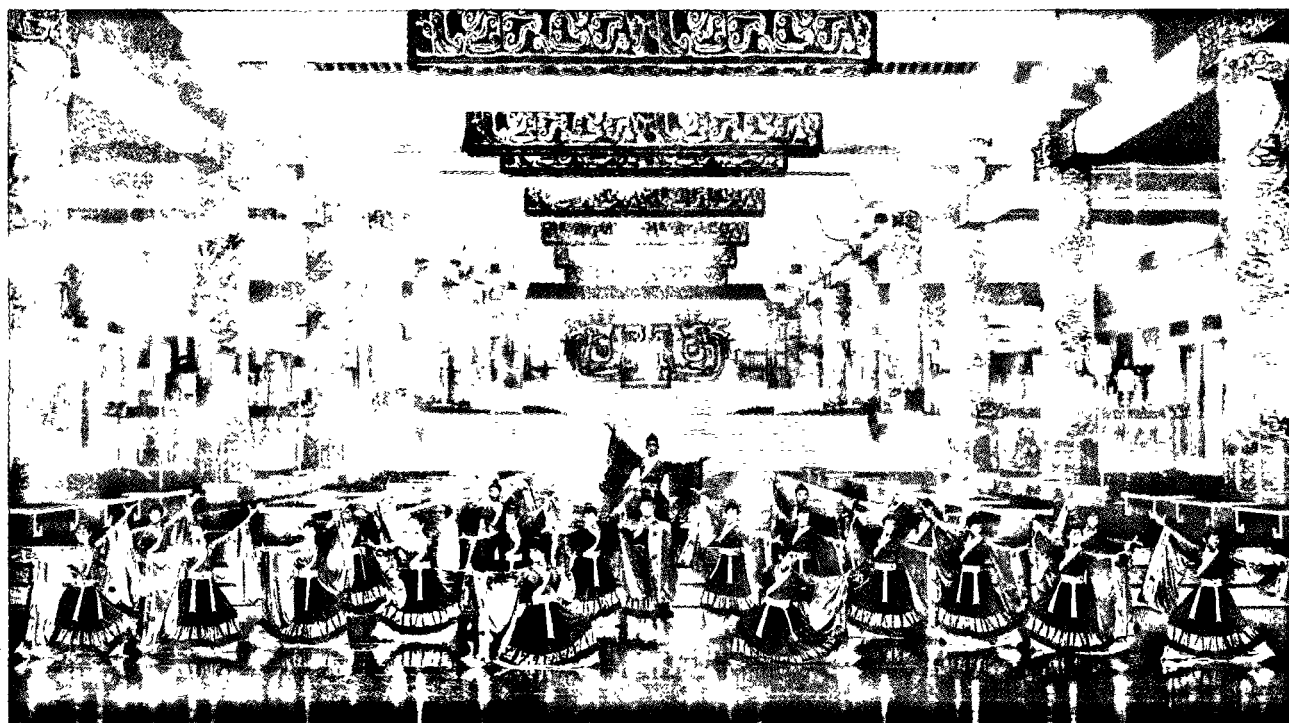
more than a few minutes. Our graphic artists, meanwhile, use advanced digital technology to produce stunning animated backdrops that correspond precisely to each dance.

After seeing the show, one audience member marveled, "This production... is nothing short of a miracle."

神韻

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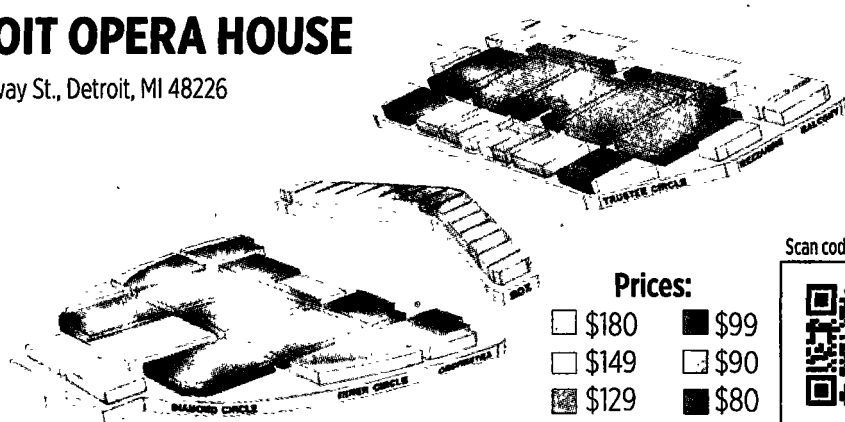
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AN UNMATCHED THEATRICAL EXPERIENCE...

SHEN YUN. For Chinese, the words evoke a sense of wonder, magic, and the divine. To audiences who have seen it, they recall the experience of a lifetime—a moment so powerfully beautiful it touches the soul.

Discover the grandeur of a fantastically rich culture, that of classical China, brought to life through brilliantly choreographed dance and mesmerizing, all-original orchestral compositions. Magnificently costumed dancers—the world's elite—move in poetic

arrangements that evoke pastoral beauty, imperial drama, and the glory of an ancient civilization. This season, discover what art was meant to be.

Discover Shen Yun.

**Dance 舞 and
Martial Arts 武**
are from same origin and share
the same pronunciation

**"It captivated
all of my senses!"**

—Alessandra Marc,
internationally-acclaimed soprano

MORE THAN AN ART...

Top classical artists from around the world
Ancient artistic traditions
Beautiful art stemming from inner beauty



The people of China have long held that their magnificent culture was a gift from the heavens. Art was primarily a means to explore the connection between humankind and the higher universe. Artists cultivated virtue in themselves because they felt that to create art worthy of the divine, there must first be inner beauty and purity. Shen Yun follows in these ancient traditions.

Shen Yun artists believe that just mastering the surface of the art is not enough, as it is the heart of the artist that the audience feels. So they take the wisdom and values of traditional Chinese culture as part of their lives. These inspire them to nurture goodness in themselves on their path to artistic perfection.

TWO GREAT CLASSICAL MUSIC TRADITIONS — ONE GLORIOUS SOUND.

Live music by the Shen Yun Orchestra
Melodies by ancient Chinese instruments
Music written exclusively for the show

FROM THE MOMENT the gong is struck to herald the beginning of the show, you know you are in for something musically memorable.

The Shen Yun Orchestra masterfully blends two of the world's greatest classical music traditions, Chinese and Western. Ancient Chinese instruments such as the soul-stirring erhu and the delicate pipa lead the melody on top of a full orchestra of Western strings, percussion, woodwinds, and brass. The

Western orchestra with its energy and grandeur, and the Chinese instruments with their distinct tones and styles, create a dramatic new sound.

VOCAL SOLOISTS

The resounding voices of bel canto soloists are an integral part of the Shen Yun experience. Each program is heightened by several moving selections from our singers. Their impassioned songs give voice to hopes that have shaped Chinese culture for centuries.



**Music 樂 is
Medicine 藥**

Do you know that 樂,
The Chinese character
for "music" and
"happiness" was also
the character for
medicine?



SHEN YUN 2014

神韻晚會

"5,000 years of
Chinese music and dance
in one night."

— The New York Times



ALL-NEW SHOW
ACCOMPANIED BY
SHEN YUN ORCHESTRA

THOUSAND OF MYTHS AND LEGENDS COME TO LIFE ON STAGE

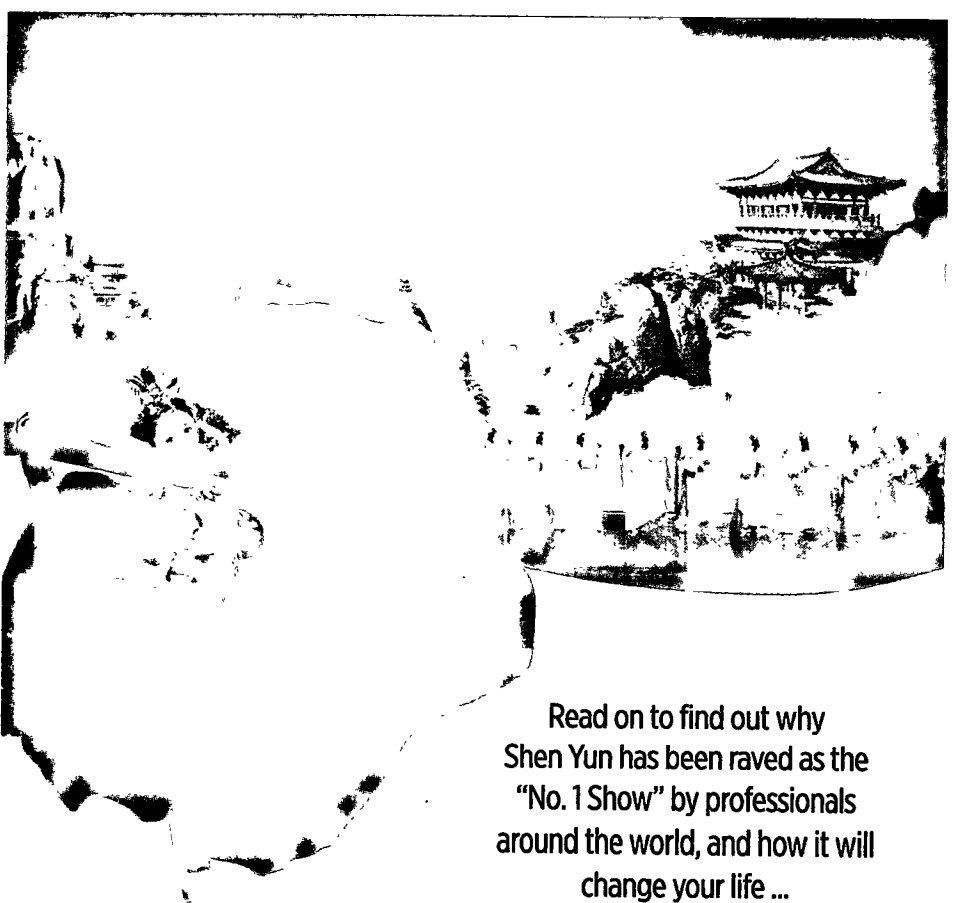
FROM THE LEGEND of the Yellow Emperor to the story of the Terracotta Army, from the mountains of Tibet to the banks of the Yangtze River ... Shen Yun takes you on a magical journey through ancient dynasties and faraway lands.

Immerse yourself in a world of sublime beauty and grace, and experience a China you've never known.

FEB 06-09, 2014
DETROIT OPERA HOUSE

5 SHOWS ONLY
BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW!

877-328-7469 | 888-974-3698 | ShenYun.com



Read on to find out why
Shen Yun has been raved as the
"No. 1 Show" by professionals
around the world, and how it will
change your life ...

SHEN YUN IS NOT JUST ANOTHER SHOW



"It was **an extraordinary experience** ... the level of skill, but also the power of the archetypes and the narratives were startling. And of course **it was exquisitely beautiful.**"

—Cate Blanchett,
Academy Award-winning Actress



"What I loved about the show was the authenticity of it. It was taking me on a **journey to the many aspects of China.** ... The voices were extraordinary, absolutely extraordinary, ... but what I loved the most was that they were all in one!"

—Donna Karan,
fashion designer and creator of DKNY clothing line



"Everything was impressive... It has transcended the technique, **they're performing through their spirit, ... it's a breath of fresh air.**"

—Elvis Stojko,
world figure skating champion



"Thank you so much for doing this as **it's enormously important,** and if heaven is the way we saw it tonight, count me in!"

—Nathaniel Kahn,
Oscar Academy and Emmy nominated filmmaker



"I have reviewed over 3,000 to 4,000 shows since 1942. I **give this production 5 stars.** That's the top... I've seen enough Broadway shows that still cannot compare to what I saw tonight. The best word to use is **'mind blowing.'**"

—Richard Connema,
renowned Broadway critic



"I come away with feeling like a better human being for having experienced this magnificent event. It speaks not only to my intellect, but **it speaks to my heart... It was a complete edifying experience of the human spirit.**"

—Omega Medina,
Opera singer & former Senior Manager of
Classical Music for the Grammy Awards



"It's so beautiful. I'm amazed at how delicate it is, and clean and pure... There was something really touching about that. It was really sweeping and soulful. **I was about to start crying.**"

—Elan McAllister,
Broadway producer whose credits
include Spamalot and Hairspray

"DON'T SEE IT ONCE, SEE IT TWICE!"

—WVOX



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