

Christmas greetings are treasured

Did you get a stack of Christmas cards in the mail during the past two weeks?

Yes, this tradition lingers on even in the era of social media and text messages! According to the Greeting Card Association, about 1.6 billion cards were expected to circulate this month.

Even if you have stopped sending cards because it is too time-consuming to keep up with friends on the move, you have decided your horrible

year can't possibly compete with others' seemingly fabulous lives or you are weary over disputes on the "correct" phrasing of the season's greetings, you may have received some cards anyway.

You see, there are people such as myself who don't insist on a return card in order to keep a name on the list. We believe the tradition is worth keeping on its own merits.

If you are, or were, important enough to my husband and me to be added to our list and we still smile when we think of you, we will attempt to mail a card in December to your last known address. As a result, we send anywhere between 70 and 90 cards a year in addition to holiday greetings we give in person or send through other means such as Facebook or text messages.

I admit I have a big postage bill for that stack of mail. But my reaction to that is tempered by the fact our Christmas gift budget is lower than most families and I do quite well at seeking out sales on greeting cards.

There seems no reason to get upset at the cost of a first-class stamp, multiplied by a few dozen.

The card custom goes nearly as far back in American holiday history as the introduction of Christmas tree and the modern Santa stories.

Interestingly enough, just as with the Christmas tree and Santa, the card tradition can have as little — or as much — religious or secular spin as anyone wishes to impart on their keeping of it.

The Greeting Card Association has that story. The first greeting considered to be the modern Christmas card was sent in London in 1843 with a custom-designed illustration featuring three scenes, including one that appears to depict a holiday dinner party, two others that appear to depict charitable works, and the phrase "A Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year."

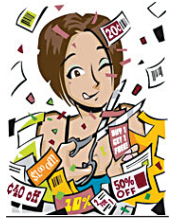
Given the fact that cards from 170 years ago reflected more than one sentiment, why should anyone be surprised that a range of images and greetings are seen among the cards that are sent today?

The fact that one of the cards we received this year features a Christmas cookie design, another is handcrafted card, another is a photo card designed on a home computer, while yet another features an ethnic Holy Family image is irrelevant to me. I know why each of those cards perfectly represents the personalities, traditions, talents and good wishes of the friends who sent them.

The fact that any card arrived in the mail is because someone thought of us, if even for the few minutes it takes to write out our names and address.

We feel loved when we look at those cards.

Contact Paula Wethington at paula@monroenews.com or 240-5745.



MONROE ON A BUDGET

Paula Wethington
Evening News
staff writer

SCHOOLS REACH OUT

Students, staff lend holiday helping hands to less fortunate

BY DANIELLE PORTEUS
dporteus@monroenews.com

AIRPORT COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

CARLETON — Third-graders at **Sterling Elementary School** went caroling at the Carleton Senior Center Dec. 10. The students provided the musical entertainment during a dinner provided by the Carleton Rotary.

On Friday, the students shared their holiday spirit caroling at Airport High School and Wagar Middle School.

Student council members also hosted a canned food drive for the Salvation Army.

BEDFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

BEDFORD TOWNSHIP — **Bedford Junior High School** students hosted a canned food drive to support families in need in the community. Students also hosted a coat drive and placed mittens on a tree in the cafeteria.

Spanish I students in Kelly Gargas' class at **Bedford High School** helped three Hispanic families in Toledo, collecting a variety of items for the families. Students also bought items for the families using Meijer gift cards, which were donated by the company.

The National Honor Society, led by adviser Gina Lundquist, hosted a food drive.

Jackman Road Elementary School spent time thinking of others in November for Character Counts recognizing citizenship. Each class brainstormed ideas to be better citizens.

One third-grade class helped sweep the sidewalk and take out the garbage from the cafeteria. They also picked up litter from the playground.

A fifth-grade class made sock puppets for Alpha House, a homeless center in Ann Arbor. Other classes made holiday decorations that were sent to Flower Hospital's Ebeid Hospice in Sylvania, Ohio, a residence for dementia patients; Aspen Grove; Hickory Ridge; Paula's House, a shelter for homeless women, and Toledo Hospital.

Monroe Road, Jackman Road and Douglas Road elementary schools hosted canned food drives to help Bedford Goodfellows.

DUNDEE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

DUNDEE — **Dundee Elementary School** hosted a canned food drive and collected toys for Toys for Tots.

Sixth-graders at **Dundee Middle School** hosted 10 Days of Giving. One group made stockings and filled them with donated candy for baskets that were donated through the high school.

A second group made Christmas cards which created pictures of "the old days," and were donated to the Dundee Senior Center.

A third group decorated the hallways for the holidays while a fourth group cleaned and fixed chairs in the school's upstairs computer room.

A fifth team made candy cane trees with messages that will be placed in the baskets for donation.

The sixth grade also made Christmas cards for nursing homes.

Before Thanksgiving, the middle school hosted a penny war and collected \$700, which provided 11 Thanksgiving meals to needed families.

Students collected toys for



— Photo courtesy of Bedford Public Schools

Kelsey Jones, Brooke Pendleton, Jada Jones, Casie Deiley, Parker Eason and Larissa Huffman (from left), students in Spanish I class at Bedford High School, collected a variety of gifts presented to three Hispanic families in Toledo to help brighten their holidays.



— Photo courtesy of Mason Middle School

The Mason Middle School's Volunteer Program conducted a food drive in early December. Students donated more than 600 items to the Salvation Army.

Toys for Tots.

Dundee High School collected donations for 50 care packages for complete Christmas dinners. The donations were packaged by the students and delivered by staff volunteers.

Riverside Academy participated in Operation Eagle for Adopt-a-Platoon. Students also hosted a canned food drive.

FLAT ROCK COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

FLAT ROCK — **Flat Rock High School** hosted its 12th annual Pennies for Presents charity campaign. The event is sponsored by the student council and National Honor Society. Students donated pennies and each class selected an ornament off the school's giving tree and purchased items for a local child or family. Student council and NHS officers delivered the presents to area elementary schools for distribution to the families.

Students in the engineer drafting and computer-assisted design program built geometric-shaped picnic tables to provide seating for more than 20 adults. Principal Andrew Brodie, wanted to provide outdoor seating to be used by those attending events in the auditorium along with students waiting for transportation.

Teacher Lowell Yoas looked for a design and challenged his students to build the items as part of the Downriver Career Technical Consortium. Woodworking students used power tools to help assemble the tables.

GIBRALTAR SCHOOLS

Chapman Elementary School hosted a Passing It Forward mom-to-mom shopping event. Each year, the school collects items like new or used toys, clothing and household goods. The items are given to the less fortunate who may come to school to shop for free.

Shumate Middle School staff donated money toward the purchase of gift cards to be given to school families in need through the Shumate Needy Fund. The school collected food to "stuff a bus." Toys and crafts were col-

lected to be donated to a local children's hospital.

Carlson High School hosted a penny war for the Forgotten Harvest. The school conducted an ugly sweater contest and ice cream sale to benefit Autism Alliance of Michigan and the anti-bullying program for the Anthony Ianni Foundation.

The Pep Club collected money to support charities and collected donations that were delivered to the organizations.

As part of its annual charity challenge, CHS students and staff selected charities to support this holiday season. Ninth-graders collected clothes and toys for the Salvation Army.

The sophomore class donated new socks and toiletries for the Covenant House, which helps abused women and children.

The junior class donated non-perishable food produced to local food pantries.

Seniors donated new toys to C.S. Mott Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor.

Staff members donated to Shelter to Home, a local organization dedicated to finding homes for abandoned pets. Items including pet food, cleaning supplies and cat and dog toys were collected.

IDA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

IDA — The district rallied together to support 40 local families in need this holiday season.

Ida High School and Middle School worked together and collected more than 5,000 canned food products to donate to local families for the annual "Give a Kid a Christmas."

Including the elementary school, the three buildings raised \$3,850 through penny wars and class donations. Student council members at the high school went shopping and selected presents for the family, which along with food, were delivered Friday.

Classrooms competed in a canned food drive contest.

Middle school students were provided an extra incentive as Principal Doug Lovell said if the students beat the challenge, he



— Photo courtesy of Ida Public Schools

Senior Cody Potter and junior Brooke Drouillard check out at Target with the gifts they bought for Ida's Give A Kid A Christmas program.



— Photo courtesy of Sterling Elementary

Student council members at Airport's Sterling Elementary School held a canned food drive for the Salvation Army.

would compete in a dance-off with counselor Jen Butz. Mrs. Butz won the contest and beat out two eighth-grade students.

JEFFERSON SCHOOLS

Sodt Elementary School third- and fourth-graders participated in the Big Brothers Big Sisters' Lunch Buddy Program. The students also made cards and wrote letters to members of the military through the Holiday Mail for Heroes program. More than 70 cards were created with the Lunch Buddies to send to military men and women.

Carolyn Moen of Riviera Hair Salon in Toledo visited the school and donated haircuts to the students.

Students participated in Walk for Wishes with the money helping to provide 30 Sodt families with a Christmas breakfast and dinner, toiletries and gifts.

During the school's annual Winterfest, children created holiday cards to be distributed to Ann Arbor Veterans' Hospital.

The school also hosted a food drive collecting more than 200 items for needy families, which were distributed Wednesday.

MASON CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS

ERIE — **Mason Middle School's** Volunteer Program hosted a food drive earlier, collecting more than 600 items for the Salvation Army.

The school choir performed at the Lutheran Home of Monroe, where students also took Christmas cards to the residents, and for seniors at the Francis Family YMCA in Temperance.

Santa Claus visited **Mason Central Elementary**, where students had their pictures taken with him. Each student received a free 4-by-6-inch photo courtesy of Larrow Photographics and Mason Central Parent Teacher Association.

MEADOW MONTESSORI SCHOOL

Meadow Montessori's National Honor Society students volunteered at two holiday events, including Christmas luncheon with Santa at the Monroe Coun-

See **SCHOOLS**, Page 6A

▶ FROM PAGE 3A

Schools (cont.)

ty Intermediate School District and a breakfast with Santa Dec. 14 at Arborwood School.

Middle school students adopted a family referred to the school by the Arthur Lesow Community Center. Students hosted a bake sale Dec. 12 to raise money to buy gifts for the family.

Students also collected change to buy gifts for children attending a Big Brothers Big Sisters Holiday Party Dec 5. The school gave journals, gel pens, gloves, holiday socks, and hair and nail accessories to the nine girls and baseball hats, sketchbooks, and gloves for six boys.

Lower elementary students collected items for the Humane Society of Monroe County, including food, litter and other pet goods.

Members of the 4-H club donated new hats, mittens and gloves, which will be distributed by the 4-H extension office.

MILAN AREA SCHOOLS

MILAN — Classes, staff and their families along with local businesses and church groups adopted 19 families for the Christmas season.

The groups that helped include Tom Stahl's Future Farmers of America group and Kathy Falkner's Peer Mediation class, both at Milan High School, and Ashley Kern's class at Symons Elementary School.

MONROE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Every year, the Monroe Public Schools family helps numerous families in the community. Students have been out in the community performing more than 30 concerts before Christmas with more than half taking place in nursing homes, hospitals and public institutions.

One of the largest Adopt-a-Family activities ever done by the district took place this year when the **operations, custodial maintenance and transportation departments** provided Christmas gifts to a Monroe family with 10 children.

Aided by donations from vendors, the family received two sets of bunk beds and bedding, clothing, toys and other gifts totaling more than \$2,000.

The district hosted a mobile food pantry Saturday and distributed 300 boxes of food to families who have children attending the district.

At **Riverside Early Learning Center**, children and staff donated non-perishable food for distribution to the MCOP and Salvation Army food closets.

The **Arborwood Elementary School North and South School** math and science club sold popcorn to raise \$236 to donate to Habitat for Humanity. The group also made ornaments to donate to new homeowners.

Arborwood students and staff sponsored a giving tree to benefit nine campus families. The "tree"

provided the families with gifts, hygiene products and food gift cards.

The health and wellness committee, mostly sixth graders, sponsored a last-day-before-Christmas break blood drive.

Several academy groups from Arborwood South and North collected toys, books, puzzles and stocking stuffers for Toys for Tots.

Led by its student council, **Custer Elementary School** collected 28 boxes of household items for MCOP. The students and staff also collected 32 boxes of non-perishable goods for the Salvation Army.

Eleven classes wrote letters and cards that went into Christmas boxes that were sent from the Military Families of Monroe County to personnel from Monroe County who are serving outside of the country. The children contributed some 250 cards and letters.

To honor one of its students who has been helped by Mott Children's Hospital, **Raisinville Elementary School** students made decorative holiday bookmarks to send to cheer up students who are hospitalized there. (See Page 1A)



— Photo courtesy of Whiteford Agricultural Schools

Scott Shultz, an eighth-grader at Whiteford Middle School, uses a sewing machine to create a stocking that was filled with items for people in need. Students in Linda Scott's class made 60 stockings.

First- and second-grade students in Ronda Meier's class at **Waterloo Elementary School** continued a tradition making 75 greeting cards for people who live near the school and then touring the neighborhood by foot and passing out the cards. It is one of the district's longest running outreaches to the surrounding community.

Students in Shelly Gorowski's class wrote letters to Marines.

Twenty-five students from Team 8-A at **Monroe Middle School** rang bells for the Salvation Army, collecting more money than any other group in a two-hour span at Walmart. The same group adopted two Monroe County Head Start classrooms, giving each of the 68 children a gift bag with new hats, gloves and scarves.

Students from Team 8C used "theme days" each day of the week before

Christmas to raise money to buy art supplies and other items for hospitalized children suffering from cancer. Students donated \$1 each to participate in the various theme days.

Students and staff collected more than 1,250 non-perishable food items for MCOP.

In the two weeks before the holidays, staff paid \$1 a day each to wear jeans and raised \$270 for the MMS Needy Student Fund.

Project Unify collected coats for middle school students who need them. Other jackets went to the Salvation Army.

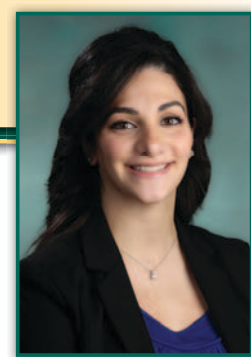
The middle school worked with the nonprofit Focus on the Children Inc. to host a Christmas dinner and distribute gifts for children who may not otherwise be able to celebrate Christmas. When the school hit 100 donated toys, all students would enjoy a lunchtime ice cream party.

The National Junior Honor Society collected

See **SCHOOLS**, Page 8A

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Dr. Jerome R. Switch

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WEATHER REPORT

Tonight
Cloudy
 Low: **12°**

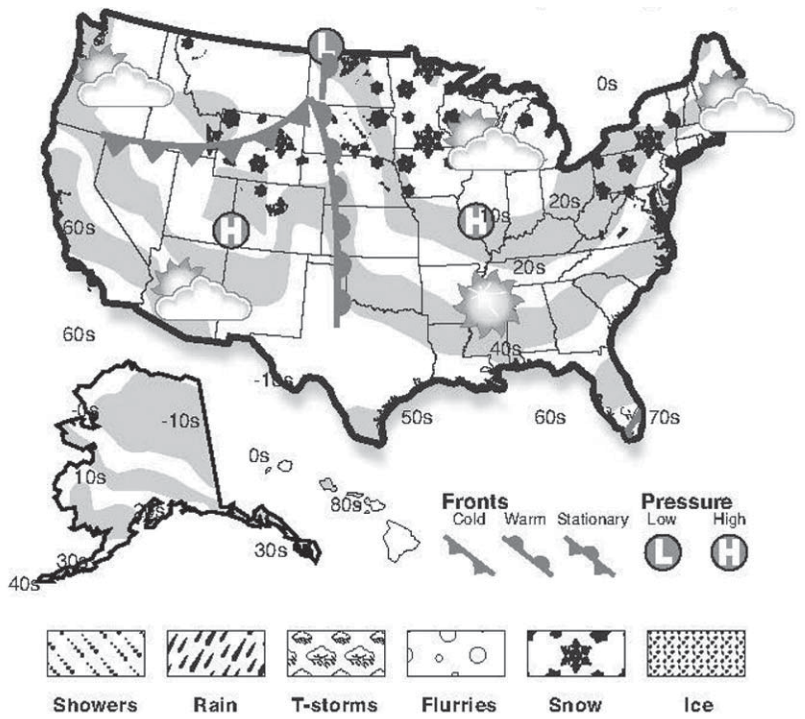
Area Forecast
 Partly cloudy tonight becoming mostly cloudy. Lows 10-14. Breezy and cloudy Wednesday with a chance of light snow and highs near 26. It will be cloudy at night with a chance of snow showers and a low about 22.

LOCAL STATISTICS

Monday's high	36	Monday's precipitation25 in.
Monday's low	28	Dec. precipitation	3.59 in.
High, year ago today	35	2013 precipitation	39.62 in.
Low, year ago today	24	Sunset	5:06 p.m.
Record high	60 in 1931	Sunrise	8 a.m.
Record low	-11 in 1983	Seasonal snowfall	12.66 in.
Average high	34		
Average low	22		

LAKE ERIE CONDITIONS
 Northwest winds 5-15 knots tonight becoming south 10 knots or less. Waves 2-4 feet subsiding to 1 foot or less. South winds 10-20 knots Wednesday becoming southwest 15-25 knots. Waves 1-3 feet building to 4-6 feet.

NATIONAL OUTLOOK forecast highs for today



A low pressure system in southeastern Canada will set off snow showers in the Northeast. Rain showers will be possible along the Mid-Atlantic coast due to a cold front just off of the coast. Another cold front will produce snow in the Dakotas and Minnesota.

► FROM PAGE 6A

Schools (cont.)

and donated more than 1,100 personal care and toiletry items to MCOF.

Monroe High School's Trojan Impact sponsored a family at Christmas. It also packed and sent 21 care packages to soldiers, including such items as hygiene products, snack food and entertainment items. The students also wrote letters to the soldiers.

The student council hosted a blood drive prior to Christmas break. Council members also prepared and served food and beverages at a recent God Works! Dinner at Solid Rock Church. The students distributed more than 200 toiletries they collected. Led by the student council, the high school held a warmth drive, collecting warm items to distribute at a second God Works! Dinner Dec. 16.

The council adopted a family for Christmas, collecting food and gifts for a teenage mom and her baby girl. The council also collected more than 1,000 cans of non-perishable food for donation to MCOF.

Monroe High Unify, a group of students, some with various challenges and some without, together assembled about 25 holiday gift boxes for young people staying in Paula's House and Sunrise House.

Personnel at the administration building collected warm clothes for students in the district. The donations are accepted until Jan. 6.

NEW BEDFORD ACADEMY

LAMBERTVILLE — New Bedford Academy spread holiday cheer through several service projects, including a mitten tree, which has been a school tradition.

Paper ornaments made to look like mittens are placed on the tree in the lobby. Families are asked to select an ornament and bring in items to donate.

The recipients of the mitten tree gifts were a food pantry at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Temperance and a women's shelter. Faculty adviser Andrea Smock and the student council delivered the items donated by the school's families.

ST. CHARLES CATHOLIC SCHOOL

NEWPORT — Sixth- and eighth-graders of Darlene O'Donnell and Amy Tillman's classes at St. Charles Catholic School visited the Alice Loraine Care Center to sing Christmas carols.



— Photo courtesy of St. Charles Catholic School

Sixth- and eighth-graders of Darlene O'Donnell and Amy Tillman's classes at St. Charles Catholic School in Newport visited the Alice Loraine Care Center to sing holiday carols.

Each student made a card and gave residents small gifts during the visit, which was one of the ways students integrated the Works of Mercy into the Advent season.

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL

ERIE — Second-graders in Jennifer Long's class at St. Joseph Catholic School participated in Random Acts of Kindness throughout the school and community.

Students have done everything from writing thank-you notes to the principal to giving doughnuts and cards to the lunch ladies.

Second-graders brought homemade muffins to the Sisters of Notre Dame

who are in residence at the convent along with homemade Christmas cards.

The students wrote thank-you notes to the Erie Township police and fire departments.

The class adopted two soldiers who are related to local families and sent them Christmas care packages.

Students also wrote notes to their parents to express their thanks for what they do for their children.

ST. MARY CATHOLIC CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

St. Mary Catholic Central High School Interact members volunteered at the Monroe Rotary Club luncheon with Santa at the

Monroe County Intermediate School District. They helped Santa hand out gifts, sang songs, danced and played games with kids.

The members also volunteered at the Arborwood Community Breakfast cooking a pancake breakfast, passing out gifts and entertaining the children with face painting and crafts.

The National Honor Society sang Christmas carols and visited with nuns at the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

They sponsored two families through the Salvation Army. The NHS also assisted at the gingerbread house making at Dorsch Memorial Library and helped with a live nativity

at St. Patrick Catholic School.

The student council collected food for Thanksgiving that fed 21 families, and sponsored a family for Christmas through the Salvation Army.

The music program adopted a family from Waterloo Elementary School and collected gifts for the family with six children.

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC SCHOOL

CARLETON — Students at St. Patrick Catholic School created holly leaves that share the positive ac-

tions each is doing during Advent to let the light of Christ shine. The leaves were combined to create a giant Advent Wreath in the school hallway.

Fourth- through eighth-graders are writing petitions for one of three liturgies that were prayed each Wednesday of Advent.

Preschool and kindergarten students created a nativity scene outside the school office. Each day two students add items to the nativity scene.

Students collected new and slightly used outerwear for the Solanus Casey

See **SCHOOLS**, Page 9A

PUBLIC NOTICE

PAID PUBLIC NOTICE

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Notice is hereby given that the undersigned will sell, to satisfy lien of the owner, at public sale by competitive bidding on www.storagebattles.com ending on January 3, 2014 at or after 10:00 am for units located at:

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 Unit 4467 — Erika O'Bannon
 Unit 5019 — John Lollio

DECEMBER 17, 24, 2013

PUBLIC NOTICE

PAID PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN
 PROBATE COURT
 COUNTY OF MONROE
 NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 Decedent's Estate
 FILE NO. 2013-0651-DE

Estate of **VERDIE MOLLETTE**, Deceased

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, VERDIE MOLLETTE, died 02/23/2013. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all CLAIMS against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Patricia Fraley, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 106 East First Street, Monroe, MI 48161 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Dated: 12/17/2013
 Patricia Fraley
 Personal representative
 14170 Tuttle Hill Road
 Milan, MI 48160
 (734) 439-2758
 Robert B. Creal P12333
 Attorney-at-Law
 18 W. Main St., PO Box 53
 Milan, MI 48160-0053
 (734) 439-1223
 DECEMBER 24, 2013

PUBLIC NOTICE

PAID PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN
 PROBATE COURT
 COUNTY OF MONROE
 NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 Decedent's State
 FILE NO. 2013-0638-DE

Estate of **Charles Branch, Sr.**, Deceased

Date of birth: 10/11/1931

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Charles Branch, Sr., died 08/28/2013. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all CLAIMS against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Earlene Branch, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 106 E. First Street, Monroe, and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Dated: 12/19/2013
 Earlene Branch
 Personal representative
 14075 Timbers Rd.
 Carleton, MI 48117
 (734) 770-9443
 Howard T. Linden P25438
 Attorney-at-Law
 3000 Town Center, Suite 2200
 Southfield, MI 48075
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NOTICE
 LaSalle Township is accepting sealed bids to demolish the structure on parcel number 5809-150-007-00, located on Allenhurst Road in LaSalle Township. Demolition and removal of all materials to the foundation level are required. For further information contact Supervisor Tim DeSloover at (734) 241-4344. Mail or deliver all sealed bids to LaSalle Township, 4111 LaPlaisance Road, P.O. Box 46, LaSalle, Michigan 48145, during the hours of 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM and 1:00 PM to 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday. Sealed bids for the project will be opened at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, December 30, 2013 at a Special Meeting at the Township office. All persons bidding on this project must furnish proof of insurance as required by the State of Michigan. LaSalle Township reserves the right to reject any, part of any, or all bids AND to waive any irregularities in bidding, or to accept the bid that in the Townships' judgment and opinion, is in the Township's best interests even though such bid may not be the lowest apparent bid. Public Act PA 517 of 2012 requires that bidders certify that they are not an Iran linked business. December 24, 2013

LOCAL NEWS

Pothole repairs on city streets begin

BY DEAN COUSINO
dean@monroenews.com

With winter just a few days old, the war on potholes in the City of Monroe has begun.

Crews for the Monroe Department of Public Services were busy filling potholes on N. Monroe St. Monday, with other problems areas reported on Winchester St., W. Elm Ave. and N. Custer Rd. Those sections deteriorated rapidly with winter frost leaving the ground and heavy rain.

"My DPS crews told me they had finished filling potholes on Monroe St. around 1:30 or so," Patrick M. Lewis, director of engineering and public services for the city, said Monday. "We had up to four people working on it, though two of them had to pull off for a couple hours (to run) salt trucks since it started snowing for a little while. We're trying to catch all of the specific complaint areas that came in (Monday), even if it means holding a few people on overtime."

Weather conditions over the past several days — including warming temperatures, melting snow and the rain — didn't help and usually create the best conditions for potholes to form, Mr. Lewis said. Monroe St. is particularly bad, because most of the road hasn't been resurfaced in

Electrical pole hit in three-car crash

A three-car crash at Cole Rd. and Macomb St. caused traffic to back up Monday night.

The accident occurred around 5:30 p.m., and the intersection was blocked off as emergency personnel worked the scene.

One of the vehicles collided with an electrical pole.

A crew from DTE Energy was called to assist in the cleanup effort.

The victims in the crash suffered minor injuries, police said.

almost 20 years, he said. The Michigan Department of Transportation has plans to resurface the highway in April.

"We've had some isolated major streets with lesser issues, including some sections of Winchester," he said. Crews were authorized to work Monday night, if needed, to make sure there were no gaping holes on any of the major streets, he said.

Crews also were busy patching N.

Monroe St. on the weekend.

"We actually had a call late Friday night where the on-call DPS supervisor did come in, attempted to fill the hole, ran out of cold patch and made adjustments in the location of the lane closure areas to keep traffic moving safely," Mr. Lewis said. "We actually had folks in Saturday night as well, responding to a call from Central Dispatch, which is the way we usually get notified to come in."

Crews continued the repairs Monday on Monroe St. in an attempt to be proactive with the smaller holes.

"While a certain amount of base failures and potholes are an unfortunate fact of life, I believe this excessive number on one roadway at one time is at least partially a byproduct of being unable to keep on preferred resurfacing schedules due to funding constraints," he said.

MDOT had planned to resurface Monroe St. through town in 2010, but it was postponed to 2011 due to lack of funding. The project was again delayed until 2014 after it was pushed back behind the US-24 widening north of Stewart Rd. that was done this year.

"We'll try to do our best to stay on top of it, though, and hold it together until spring one more time," he said.

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Schools (cont.)

Center in Detroit. The Aaron Jones family delivered more than 15 large bags of items for distribution.

At the end of November students sent non-perishable food and household items to the St. Joseph Food Closet in Monroe.

The school partnered with the National Catholic Education Association and Catholic Charities to provide donations for a special Hurricane Sandy Catholic Education Fund.

Students created "Thinking of You" notes that were shared with ill or homebound members of the community.

School families contributed gifts through the St. Patrick Parish giving tree program.

SUMMIT ACADEMY

FLAT ROCK — For Thanksgiving, Summit Academy students organized a food drive by teaming up with Focus on Charity, a local community organization that feeds nearly 300 families in the Downriver area.

The school adopted 25 families providing them with household items, coats, holiday wreaths, garland and toys.

Twenty-three members of the National Junior Honor Society shopped for families in need on Dec. 10 at Walmart.

TRINITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Students and staff at Trinity Lu-



— Photo courtesy of Summit Academy

Members of the National Junior Honor Society at Summit Academy shopped for families this holiday season. Anna Sindone, Nolan Kopytko, Marcus Barton and Emily Schultz (from left) were among the students who went to Walmart to buy presents for the adopted families.

theran School adopted five families through the Salvation Army for Christmas. Each class wrapped gifts and donated the items along with canned goods, cleaning products and hygiene items which were delivered Friday.

On Dec. 17, students in kindergarten through third grade visited the Lutheran Home to sing Christmas carols to the residents.

TRIUMPH ACADEMY

Students at Triumph Academy have been busy this holiday season. The National Junior Honor Society hosted a canned food drive and students from kindergarten through eighth grade brought in 1,300 canned goods, which were delivered

to Monroe First Wesleyan Church to help stock the food pantry.

The school adopted two families for Christmas.

Students made Christmas cards for patients at MagnumCare Nursing Center and collected toiletries for Mercy's Angels.

WHITEFORD AGRICULTURAL SCHOOLS

OTTAWA LAKE — Students in Linda Scott's middle school class made 60 Christmas stockings that were given to a church. The stockings were given to needy families so they would have stockings from Santa Claus Christmas morning.

Cody (cont.)

diagnosed with high-risk, stage-four neuroblastoma, which is a type of cancer that develops in nerve tissue. His case was severe, and if he were to become cancer-free, the reoccurrence rates were high.

In one year, Cody underwent chemotherapy and radiation treatments, had a tumor removed from his abdomen and had stem cell and bone marrow replacements.

Mrs. Wood, who was pregnant with the couple's third child at the time, went into labor with

daughter Megan, now 3, while Cody was staying in the hospital the first time.

"The first year we were in and out of the hospital," she explained.

Doctors had Cody try an antibody treatment that his body later rejected. At the time, he was only the third child at the hospital to have that kind of treatment, his mom said.

About 18 months after he was diagnosed, Cody was declared cancer-free and has been so for a little more than two years.

Though he is healthy, Cody has suffered a few effects from the chemo-

therapy treatment. His growth is stunted and he is lactose intolerant, but otherwise he is a normal 5-year-old.

Cody and his siblings, Hayden, 7; Megan, and Shelby, 2, were anxiously anticipating the arrival of Christmas.

As to what he was hoping to find under the tree, Cody replied, "An iPad!"

Cody was featured on Mott's Little Victors calendar for 2013, which celebrates the success stories of the children who visit the hospital. Cody was featured in November.

Mrs. Wood said she had

shared the item on Facebook, which might be why members of Raisinville's staff found out about his battle.

Cody still has to undergo body scans that check for the possibility of cancer reoccurring. Last week, he couldn't attend the bookmark making event at his school because he was undergoing testing.

The family will learn Thursday the results of the latest tests, but things have been looking positive for the little boy.

"Doctors say his recovery has been miraculous," Mrs. Wood said.

Bookmarks (cont.)

Naomi Whicker, 5, is friends with Cody and in the Young 5s program. She was using a variety of glue and glitter to create her bookmark.

"We wanted to help and be nice to people because it's good to be nice on Christmas," she said. "We want to bring Christmas to them."

Grady Brooks, 5, said he misses his pal Cody when he is out of school.

"He was never here

sometimes," Grady said. "We are trying to do something nice."

Fifth-graders John Zureki and Ronnie Burgard, both 10, were busy turning gingerbread men into unique creations.

"I think it's important for us to help because

there are children who won't be home on Christmas," John said.

"I hope it makes them feel happier," Ronnie added.

The bookmarks were sent to the hospital shortly after the items dried.

► DEATHS

Betty J. Fairbanks

Aug. 15, 1919-Dec. 19, 2013

Betty J. Fairbanks, age 94, of Dundee, passed away Thursday, December 19, 2013 at Magnum Care in Monroe. She was born in Dundee, Michigan August 15, 1919 the daughter of Ransom and Helen (Smith) Jenne. She graduated from Dundee High School and married Wilbur (Jay) Fairbanks August 14, 1937 at Milan.



Among many things Betty had done in her life, she was a waitress for many years at the Coffee Cup Restaurant in Dundee; she and her husband owned and operated the B & J Market in Dundee; after selling the store she and Jay ran a milk route together in Dundee.

Her survivors include her husband Jay; daughter Jean Ellis of Dundee; grandchild-

dren David Miller, Karen Hasten, Jacqueline Ellis Duvall, Kristin Ellis and Jay Ellis; son-in-law Dale Miller of Hale, Michigan. She was preceded in death by her parents, daughter Kay Miller and son-in-law Ronald Ellis.

Friends may call on Saturday, December 28, 2013 from 10 AM until services at 11 AM at the Cover Funeral Home, 297 Tecumseh Street in Dundee (734-529-3156). Officiating will be Rev. Douglas Olsen, pastor of the Dundee United Methodist Church.

In accordance with her wishes cremation has been held. Cremains interment will follow later at Maple Grove Cemetery in Dundee.

Memorials in her name may be made to the Dundee United Methodist, 645 Franklin St., Dundee, MI 48131. Online condolences may be made at www.coverfuneralhome.com

Kay Lynn Flanagan

Dec. 6, 1939-Dec. 20, 2013

Kay Lynn Flanagan age 74 of Lambertville, Michigan passed away Friday, December 20, 2013 in her home.

She was born December 6, 1939 in Sylvania to Frank and Lois Prettyman. She enjoyed square dancing, cards and was an avid reader. Kay was also active in the Rebekah Lodge where she was a Past Chief Matriarch. She was also a member of the Ladies Auxiliary of the VFW, the Fraternal Order of Eagles and the IOOF.



The widow of John Francis Flanagan she was also preceded in death by her parents and brother Wade

Prettyman. Surviving are her children Charlena Beach (Jake) Crutchley, Dawn Marie (Chris) Dickson, Mark Edward (Beth) Beach, Shandra Lea (Leo) Lott and James Allen (Diane) Townsend; 12 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; and sister-in-law Jeanne Prettyman.

Friends may visit the family after 10 AM Thursday at the Walker Funeral Home, 5155 Sylvania Ave. (west of Corey) where memorial services will follow at 11 AM. Interment will be private. In lieu of flowers the family suggests memorials to Save the Children, Disabled American Veterans (DAV) or the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

Condolences may be sent to the family at walk-erfuneralhomes.com.

Harold E. Silverthorne "Uncle Harold"

Aug. 30, 1921-Dec. 20, 2013

Harold E. Silverthorne, 92 years, of Temperance, MI died Friday, December 20, 2013 in his home.

He was born August 30, 1921 in Toledo, OH to Louis A. and Lillian L. (Schramm) Silverthorne. Number nine of thirteen children, he grew up working on the family farms in London, MI and Erie, MI and retired from the A&P Tea Company in 1975. He served in the Army of the United States during WWII as an MP.



Uncle Harold had a heart of gold, always wore a smile and had a joke to tell.

He is survived by his great niece and her husband, Jolaine and Rick Petersen and his special girls, great-great nieces, Kiersten and Kendall Petersen. He will also be missed by his

best friends, Betty Salati and Judy Pompof.

The family would like to thank Uncle Harold's aide, Nancy and LPN Darice, from Great Lakes Care, all the staff at Christian Home Care, and Nurse, Michael Pellerino who helped us give the best care to Uncle Harold.

As Uncle Harold requested, his life was celebrated in a private service at Urbanski's Bedford Funeral Chapel, 8300 Lewis Avenue, Temperance, MI with burial being held in Brigham Cemetery, Erie, MI and Military Honors were conducted by Lambertville VFW Post #9656.

Donations in memory of Uncle Harold may be made to Toledo Junior Academy, 4909 Sylvania Ave., Toledo, OH 43623 or The Toledo School for the Arts, 333 14th St., Toledo, OH 43604.

Online condolences may be shared at www.bedford-funeralchapel.com

DEATH NOTICES

William D. Xerri

Dec. 23, 2013

William D. Xerri, 70, of Carleton died Monday at Oakwood Southshore Medical Center, Trenton. Arrangements by Arthur Bobcean Funeral Home, Flat Rock Chapel.

Lee Ann Lamb

Dec. 23, 2013

Lee Ann Lamb, 60, of Monroe died Monday at Mercy Memorial Hospital. Arrangements by Merkle Funeral Service, North Monroe.

Gregory S. Millican

Dec. 22, 2013

Gregory S. Millican, 46, of Monroe died at 2:10 a.m. Sunday at home. Arrangements by Rupp Funeral Home.

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