

PLYMOUTH PIPELINE

Toy drive

Dick Scott Automotive Group will again be an official Toys for Tots drop-off site.

Donors can drop off new, unwrapped toy at any Dick Scott locations through Dec. 14.

Dick Scott will host a one-day holiday event Saturday, Dec. 5, to collect toys for the Toys for Tots organization at each of our dealerships. Santa will be at Dick Scott Dodge and Dick Scott Nissan from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. He'll also be at Dick Scott Motormall store from 10 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.

A United States Marine will also be on hand to greet visitors at all locations. As a special "thank you," donors will receive a coupon for \$10 off an oil change at any Dick Scott location.

Officials are asking donors not to bring stuffed animals, as they can no longer be distributed because they can harbor germs. Toys for Tots is always in need of gifts for 9- to 12-year-old boys and girls.

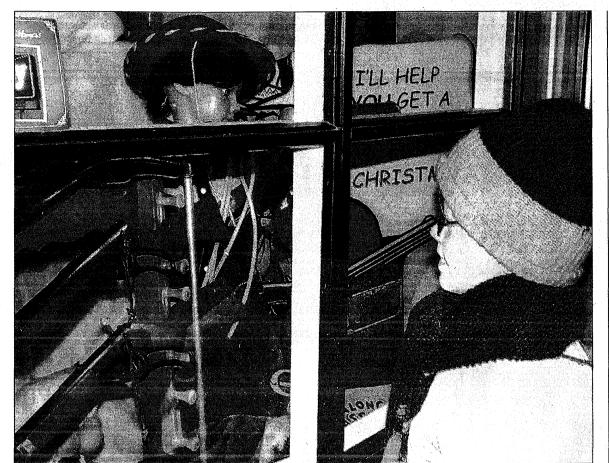
Dick Scott Dodge is located at 684 W. Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth. Dick Scott Nissan is at 42175 Michigan Ave., in Canton.

Turkey Day

Fox Hills Golf & Banquet Center hosts the annual "Turkey Donation Golf Day" Saturday, Nov. 21.

Anyone who brings in a frozen turkey 18 pounds or larger to the Fox Classic Golf Shop will receive free greens fees and cart for 18 holes of golf that day.

All turkeys will be donated to



'Ralphie' peers into the window at the present of his dreams, a Red Ryder BB gun, part of the Plymouth Historical Museum's new exhibit.

Classic ties

Red Ryder comes home with museum's 'Christmas Story'

BY MATT JACHMAN OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Fans of the holiday classic A Christmas Story might not know the movie's strong tie to Plymouth.

But that Red Ryder air rifle that the movie's narrator, Ralphie, longs for would have been made in Plymouth by the Daisy Manufacturing Co.

A Christmas Story, which explores a 1940s Christmas with Ralphie and his family in Hammond, Ind., is a 1983 movie based on semiautobiographical stories by Jean Shepherd.



Groups join forces for greater clout

BY MATT JACHMAN OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Strength in numbers. That's the guiding principal behind Collaborative Effort, a Plymouth-area human services program run jointly by local social services agencies and churches.

The idea, said Marie Morrow, president of the Plymouth Community United Way, is to together provide services that one agency or church alone could not afford, services that help those hurt by a troubled economy.

In its six-year existence, Collaborative Effort has paid for car repairs, helped struggling residents avoid utility shutoffs, funded emergency plumbing work and even paid for the removal of an active beehive at one house, those who work in the program say. People seeking help often have nowhere else to turn.

"There are a lot of people who go around and look for services, but not every (organization) has the same amount of money," Morrow said. Collaborative Effort is also a way

Collaborative Effort is also a way of helping needy people who might have fallen through the cracks in addition to being a way of pooling resources, said Morrow, who is in the midst of United Way's annual fundraising campaign. The United Way keeps a separate account into which Collaborative Effort members contribute.

Requests for help are vetted first by the Salvation Army's Plymouth Corps, then discussed by representatives from Collaborative Effort's member organi zations. Laurie Aren, the director of Family and Community Ministries at the Plymouth Corps, said economic downturn has changed the needs in the community. "With funding being cut, the requests have been for more routine things, like rent, utility bills - huge utility bills," she said. In addition to the Salvation Army and United Way, Collaborative Effort members include Plymouth Goodfellows, St. Michael's Lutheran Church, St. John Episcopal Church, local Catholic parishes and the Wayne Metro Community Action Agency. Morrow said the program has led to improved communications among service organizations and given the people involved a better idea of each organization's resources. "It's been beneficial, to bring certain types of problems to light," she said. "It's a good way of just working together to help the community."

the Plymouth Community United Way and the Plymouth Salvation Army Corps.

Street Lions

Members of the Plymouth Lions Club will take to the streets Nov. 27-28 to raise funds as part of the annual Candy Cane drive. Funds donated by community members will be used to support many local organizations including Penrickton Center, Michigan Eye Bank, Leader Dogs for the Blind, and Plymouth High Schools Scholarship Programs.

Money raised will allow Lions to meet pressing needs in the community, which include sight and hearing, which offers eye exams, glasses, and hearing aids to children and adults, First Step, and the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation.

The Plymouth Lions Club has more than 80 members and meets at 6:30 p.m. on the first and third Thursday of the month at Karl's Cabin. For more information or to get involved with the Plymouth Lions Club, visit the club's Web site at www.plymouth-lionsclub.org. Now, the Plymouth Historical Museum has revisited the movie and the Red Ryder — both the air rifle and the comic-strip cowboy character from which the gun was a spinoff — in a new exhibit.

"A Red Ryder Christmas Story," which opened Wednesday, depicts 1940s scenes that could double as the movie's set, complete with clothing, furniture and kitchen equipment of the era as well as a slew of Red Ryder books, comics and toys, plus antique Daisy air rifles, especially the Red Ryder model.

The exhibit is a revival of a 2007 show, with some new additions, including Red Ryder memorabilia the museum purchased on eBay, said Elizabeth Kerstens, museum director.

"We've got a great collection of Red Ryder stuff," Kerstens said Wednesday during an exhibit preview. "It's such a natural tie to Plymouth."

Daisy grew from the Plymouth Iron Windmill Co., which began making air rifles in 1886 when the windmill market changed. The Red Ryder model was introduced in 1939, according to

Please see RED RYDER, A3

United by tragedy, group captures folk spirit

'Ralphie' models the bunny suit sent to him for Christmas by his aunt.

Plymouth Community United Way can be reached at (734) 453-6879; call the Salvation Army's Plymouth Corps at (734) 453-5464.

mjachman@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2405

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BY MATT JACHMAN OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A local trio that captures the spirit of Detroit's 1960s folk music scene sprang from the roots of another group that was broken up by tragedy more than 40 years ago.

Pairadocs — Drs. Tom Ditkoff and Jeff London, plus Mike Mullen — is the headline act Saturday at the BaseLine Folk Society's open-microphone night at the Plymouth Community Arts Council in Plymouth. The guitar-and-vocals trio plays original folk music as well as traditional favorites by the likes of Bob Dylan, Peter, Paul and Mary, and Phil Ochs.

The group reaches back to 1967, when Ditkoff, Sue Dunn and Bob Mullen, Mike's older brother, were Wayne State University students playing folk music together as Two Plus Sue.

The group had been together just under a year and was about to begin a four-night concert stand in a venue on Plum Street, the center of Detroit's hippie scene, when Bob Mullen died in a Lake Erie sailing accident. He was just shy of 21. "Never played again," said Mike Mullen, who



Pairadocs – Mike Mullen (center), plus Drs. Tom Ditkoff and Jeff London – is the headline act Saturday at the BaseLine Folk Society's open-microphone night at the Plymouth Community Arts Council in Plymouth.

was just 9 when his brother died. "Tom said it was too painful."

Fast-forward four decades and Ditkoff, an orthopedic surgeon, is reunited with Mike Mullen. With Jeff London, a child psychiatrist, they become Pairadocs and a Mike, and later, simply

Please see GROUP, A3



AROUND PLYMOUTH

Rockettes rule

A2

(P)

The Varsity Salem Rockette Pom team took first place in the jazz category at the Mid-American **Pom Pon Dance Championship Competition at Eastern Michigan** University. The varsity team, coached by Heather Cornell, will compete in two categories Sunday in the UDA Competition. Members of the varsity include Amanda Hynes, Lexie Hotz, Kate Balsis, Shannon Cornell, Lauren Donaldson, Olivia Fuller, Michelle Hunsaker, Michelle Lent, Rachael Nosewicz, Nicole Vance, Katie Arnold, Mary-Liz Benintende, Alyssa Engle, Mary Colon, Stephanie Fogoros, Sarah Johnson, Taylor Liddane, Jenna Newman, Morgan Rice, Jessica VanOoyen and Marissa Ziegler.



"Around Plymouth" is designed to announce upcoming events taking place in the community. Items will run on a space-available basis. Send details to bkadrich@hometownlife.com

Preventing cancer

or \$15 at the door. Please respond via e-mail to sbidini@hotmail.com or call (734) 934-4440 for more information.

Farrand craft fair

Farrand Elementary School hosts its annual Vendor/Craft Fair 4-8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 20 at the school, located at 41400 Greenbrian Lane in Plymouth.

Well-known vendors as well as home-made crafts will be available.

Admission is \$1 at the door.

Good Grief

Our Lady of Good Counsel Church hosts "Good Grief, Good Death - A Glimpse of Eternity" Friday, Nov. 20 at 7 p.m. Nationally know speakers, Mary E. Mitsch, RN PhDc, an Associate Professor of Nursing at Madonna University, and Fr. John Riccardo, Pastor of Our Lady of Good Counsel Church in Plymouth, will speak to the importance of the rituals that give meaning to death and how creating a holy and sacred space at the bedside where a "good death" can occur is an event that encourages families to grieve well.

Our Lady of Good Counsel Church is located on the corner of Beck and North Territorial. For more information, call (734) 453-4921.

Holiday Arts & Crafts

The annual Plymouth-Canton Music Boosters Holiday Arts & Crafts Ensemble is a juried art and craft exhibition hosted by the Plymouth-Canton Music Boosters 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 21 at Plymouth High School.

Exhibitors include makers of handcrafted jewelry, holiday gifts, floral arrangements, purses, wood crafts, glass works, clothing & linens, paintings, painted glass ornaments, and more. In addition to the 100-plus exhibits, there will be food, baked goods, a raffle, and entertainment by local musicians and artists throughout the day. Admission is \$2.

All the proceeds from this one day event go towards the band and color guard programs at the Plymouth Canton Educational Park, the campus of three high schools in the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools. For more information visit www.pcmb. net/artcraft

For more information, call (734) 414-7654.

Whalers Food Drive

The Plymouth Whalers, in coordination with the Plymouth Community United Way, are sponsoring a Food Drive Saturday, Nov. 28, before their game against Kingston at Compuware Arena in Plymouth Township.

Fans are asked to bring non-perishable food items, paper or toiletry products to the game. A voucher for a discount on a future Whalers admission ticket will be given to those who donate.

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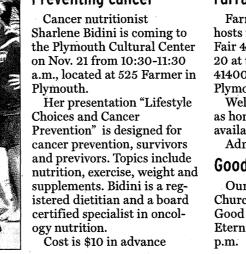
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[†]Based on Medicare's Plan Quality and Performance Rating 2009 Survey conducted by the federal Medicare program. To see full results, go to "Compare Health Plans" on www.medicare.gov

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H2312 H2322 S3440 357R Event Ad F&U Certified 11.11.09

Plymouth Canton and Salem Class of 1994 is hosting its 15-year reunion 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Friday, Nov. 27 at the Novi Sheraton, 21111 Haggerty in Novi.

Reunion time

Cost is \$50. Details can be found and tickets purchased at www.pcep1994.com

For more information, contact Julie Burkett (Orleman) via e-mail at julieburkett@ hotmail.com or call (734) 674-3478.

Entertainment books

The Beckridge Chorale is selling the 2010 Entertainment Book to support its vocal scholarship program. The book contains hundreds of 2-for-1 and 50percent discounts at airlines, restaurants, hotels, car rentals, movie rentals, theater and sports events, and much more. Retail cost is \$35; your cost

is \$20. Save money and support the BeckRidge Chorale.

Call (734) 459-6829 to order. Books will be delivered in the Plymouth area upon request.

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LOCAL NEWS

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, November 19, 2009

Third BaseLine show Saturday in Plymouth

BaseLine Folk Society, which brings together amateur and professional folk, traditional and acoustic musicians for monthly shows, will host its third open-microphone night of the season in Plymouth on Saturday.

The event begins at 7 p.m. at the Joanne Winkleman Hulce Center for the Arts, 774 North Sheldon, at Junction, south of M-14.

BaseLine's coffeehouses feature up to eight open-micro-

FROM PAGE A1

Pairadocs, playing their first show together at BaseLine in 2006.

It was the discovery of some old reel-to-reel tapes of Two Plus Sue, and a push from his mother, Belle, that got he and Ditkoff together, Mullen said.

"All those things just kind of came together so I can't help but think it's not coincidence," he said.

Ditkoff and Bob Mullen had met through WSU's Folk Music Association. With Dunn, they performed at the FMA's weekly meetings and at parties and small campus folk festivals.

For Mike Mullen, Bob was a much-admired older brother and mentor.

"I remember trying to be like him," said Mullen, who lives in Northville Township and is one of the founders of BaseLine. "I'm sure my musical influences have a lot to do with" Bob, he added. He remembers Two Plus Sue rehearsing at the Mullen house on Grosse Ile on the weekends.

For Ditkoff, Bob Mullen was a best friend and Two Plus Sue's lead singer. He was set to become the FMA president at WSU, a role Ditkoff assumed after Mullen's death.

"He was a great guy," said Ditkoff, of West Bloomfield. "He was personable, funny,

phone performers, who sign up on a first-come basis, plus a performance by an established musician or group.

The guitar trio Pairadocs – Drs. Tom Ditkoff and Jeff London, plus Mike Mullen, one of the founders of BaseLine — is the featured group on Saturday, and London, who writes many of the trio's songs, will also host the event.

BaseLine, which moved this year from Northville

to Plymouth, is offering memberships that are good for the entire season, which lasts through May, at \$25 for individuals and \$50 for families. For nonmembers there is a \$5 cover charge at the door.

Open-mic performers can register in person between 6:15 p.m. and 6:45 p.m.; if more than eight want to play, those who don't make the list are guaranteed a spot in next month's show.

and is the "personality" of the

Mullen, who is a freelance

music with his older brother's

guitar - adds meaning to the

"Bob's always in the back-

ground, but we really have

gone well beyond that and I

can't help but thinking he's

smiling down," Mullen said.

Macy's Optical

bandmate - and with Bob's

graphic artist, said playing

trio, said Mullen.

experience.



Pairadocs reaches back to Dr. Tom Ditkoff's old group, Two Plus Sue, which played folk music in the 1960s. That's Ditkoff on the left, with partners Sue Dunn and Bob Mullen. Mullen is the older brother of current Pairadocs member Mike Mullen.

witty, artsy, creative." The two met through the Folk Music Association, Ditkoff said, and soon began traveling to folk concerts together.

"He was somebody that reached out to a lot of people," said Mike Mullen. "Tom and I, I'm sure, every day we think about Bob."

Two Plus Sue performed cover tunes, whereas Pairadocs does covers and originals, many written by London.

Mullen said Ditkoff and London are "joyful" about their music and look forward

Jones. to rehearsing and performing. "Jeff writes wonderful songs'

RT TOWNS TEER ROPING

The Red Ryder air rifle coveted by Ralphie in the 1983 movie, 'A Christmas Story,' would have been made in Plymouth by the Daisy Manufacturing Co.

pany moved its headquarters to Arkansas in 1958.

Kersten said the air rifle depicted in A Christmas Story, with a compass and a sundial in the stock, is actually another Daisy model, the Buck

Museum volunteer Roy Pilkington, who made a staircase for the exhibit out of

wood from the old Plymouth Daisy plant, said he remembers seeing Red Ryder and his American Indian sidekick, Little Beaver, in the movies as a child.

He also remembers air rifles and the bull's-eye "bell" targets, one of which is on display at the museum, he tried to hit. "My dad made sure we knew how to use them safely," he said of the guns.

Tim Bryant, the chef at Independence Village, pronounced the museum "awesome."

"It was educational," said Bryant, who, with his crew provided refreshments for Wednesday's preview event. "So much history here in Plymouth that I had never known."

A3

(P)

'A Red Ryder Christmas Story' runs through Sunday, Jan. 24, at the Plymouth Historical Museum, 155 S. Main, Plymouth. The museum is open 1-4 p.m. Wednesday, Friday and Saturday and closed most holidays.

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RED RYDER

FROM PAGE A1 a company history. The com-

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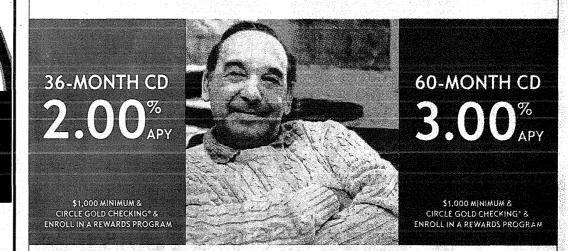
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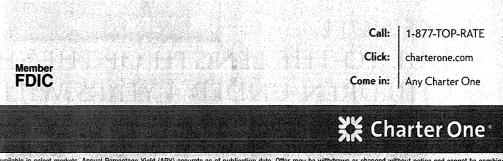
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Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, November 19, 2009

Lab on wheels

Army 18-wheeler makes science fun for students

BY BRAD KADRICH OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A4

(P)

When Tracie Lovsin started a science fun night at Hulsing Elementary School a few years ago, she did some research in an effort to make it as much fun as possible for the children, while making sure it was still a learning experience.

While surfing the Internet for ideas, Lovsin, a parent volunteer at Hulsing, came across information on the National Science Center's Mobile Discovery Center and immediately put in a request for an appearance.

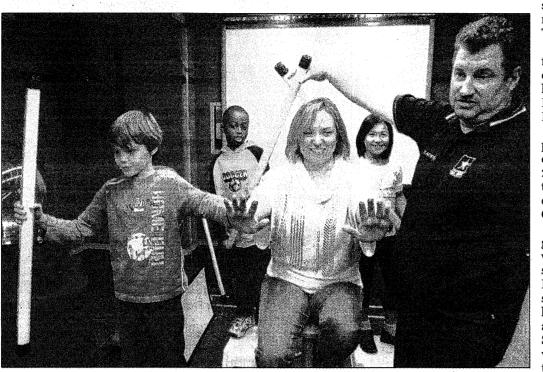
It took a couple of years, but the science van, sponsored by the U.S. Army, came to Hulsing Friday and, after all the classes had run through it, Lousin declared it worth the wait.

"It was great," said Lovsin, whose 9-year-old daughter Ava attends Hulsing. "It was something the kids could experience, rather than making them create on their own. It was wonderful."

The Mobile Discovery Center is housed in one of two 18wheelers that travel some 250 days a year, taking science on the road to schools all over the country. Based at Fort Knox, Ky., the center features a 45minute presentation including hands-on, interactive, highenergy science demonstrations on such things as static electricity, night vision and other science topics.

"What we do is excite kids about science," said Rich Cadwell, a retired Army enlisted man who's been traveling with the science center for four years. "The Army sees a need for scientists. A lot of kids are going into business, not a lot into science fields. The Army saw that and wanted to do something about it."

The interactive program saw students (and Lovsin) become a part of the demonstrations, used as conductors of electricity and in other roles as Cadwell and his partner, Sgt. 1st Class Joel Martinez, got



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Rich Cadwell, educational services specialist for the National Science Center, explains how the static charge from a hand-held Tesla coil will light the fluorescent bulbs and illuminate Tracie Lovsin, the mom who brought the mobile exhibit to Hulsing. Drew Miller, Jaylan Smith and Jode Palmer hold the tubes.



Hulsing students enter for the next session.

their message across. Michaela Julian, 8, of Canton, said she enjoyed being part of the demonstration and was surprised how much fun it was.

"It was really fun," she said. "I never knew how fun (science) could be."

bkadrich@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-8899



The students at Hulsing School waited nearly four years for the arrival of the National Science Center's Mobile Discovery Center, arranged by parent Tracie Lovsin.



Shruti Patel, Muhammad Abdul-Aziz and Michaela Julian feel the tingle of static electricity.

Vehicle burglaries net GPS systems, clubs

Items ranging from an incar navigation system to bottles of cologne were reported stolen in four separate larcenies from vehicles in Plymouth Township recent days.

There were no signs of forced entry; at least three of the vehicles had been left unlocked, according to Plymouth Township Police Department reports.

• A set of golf clubs and a pair of eyeglasses were reported stolen Saturday from a 2000 GMC pickup truck. The truck, which was parked in the driveway of a house on Pine Court, had been left unlocked.

• A global-positioning navigation system and a digital videodisc player were reported stolen on Sunday from a 1996 Ford pickup. The truck was sitting in the driveway of a house on Howland Park Drive at the time of the larceny, late Saturday or early Sunday. It was not reported whether the truck had been locked.

• Another navigation system on Saturday was reported stolen from a 2009 Ford Flex. The car was in the driveway of a house on Tamarack Court and had been left unlocked, police

CRIME WATCH

said.

• On Friday, three bottles of cologne were reported stolen from a 2008 Ford that had been left unlocked, police said. The car was sitting in the driveway of a house on Plymouth Valley Drive.

Made for walkin'

A 37-year-old Westland man was arrested on a larceny charge after a security guard at the Kmart on Ann Arbor Road accused him of trying to walk out of the store on Sunday with a brand-new pair of boots.

It was about 1:30 p.m., the guard told police, when he noticed the man in the shoe department putting on a new pair of Texas Steer boots, along with a woman who appeared to be with him who put a pair of used athletic shoes in a box that she then put on a shelf.

The couple went to the jewelry department for a few minutes, the guard said, then began walking out of the store without paying for the boots.

The guard detained them and police were called. The woman was not arrested, as the store declined to press charges, police said.

- By Matt Jachman



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NorthRidge Church

LOCAL NEWS

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(CP)

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A5

St. Joe's facility drawing raves as opening nears

BY DARRELL CLEM OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

As St. Joseph Mercy Health System prepares Sunday to publicly unveil its new Canton facility expansion, the project is drawing accolades from township officials.

Hospital officials plan to show the Center for Advanced Medicine & Surgery during an open house 2-4 p.m. Sunday at 1600 S. Canton Center, just



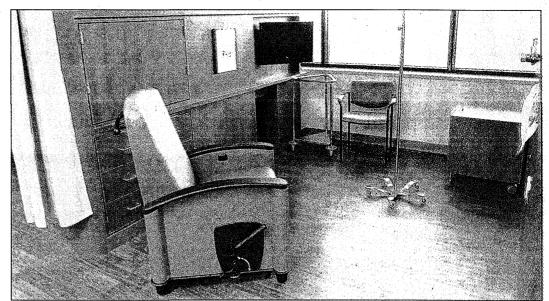
first-floor cancer center that is expected to open in early to mid-December, ushering in services such as a stateof-the-art radiation therapy, RapidArc, that marks a first for southeast Michigan.

A second-floor outpatient surgery center for minimally invasive procedures is expected to open in late spring. "Without having a full-service hospital, the expansion of medical services is important

to provide service in our back yard," Goulet said, adding that such services will become even more critical as the township demographics change and residents age.

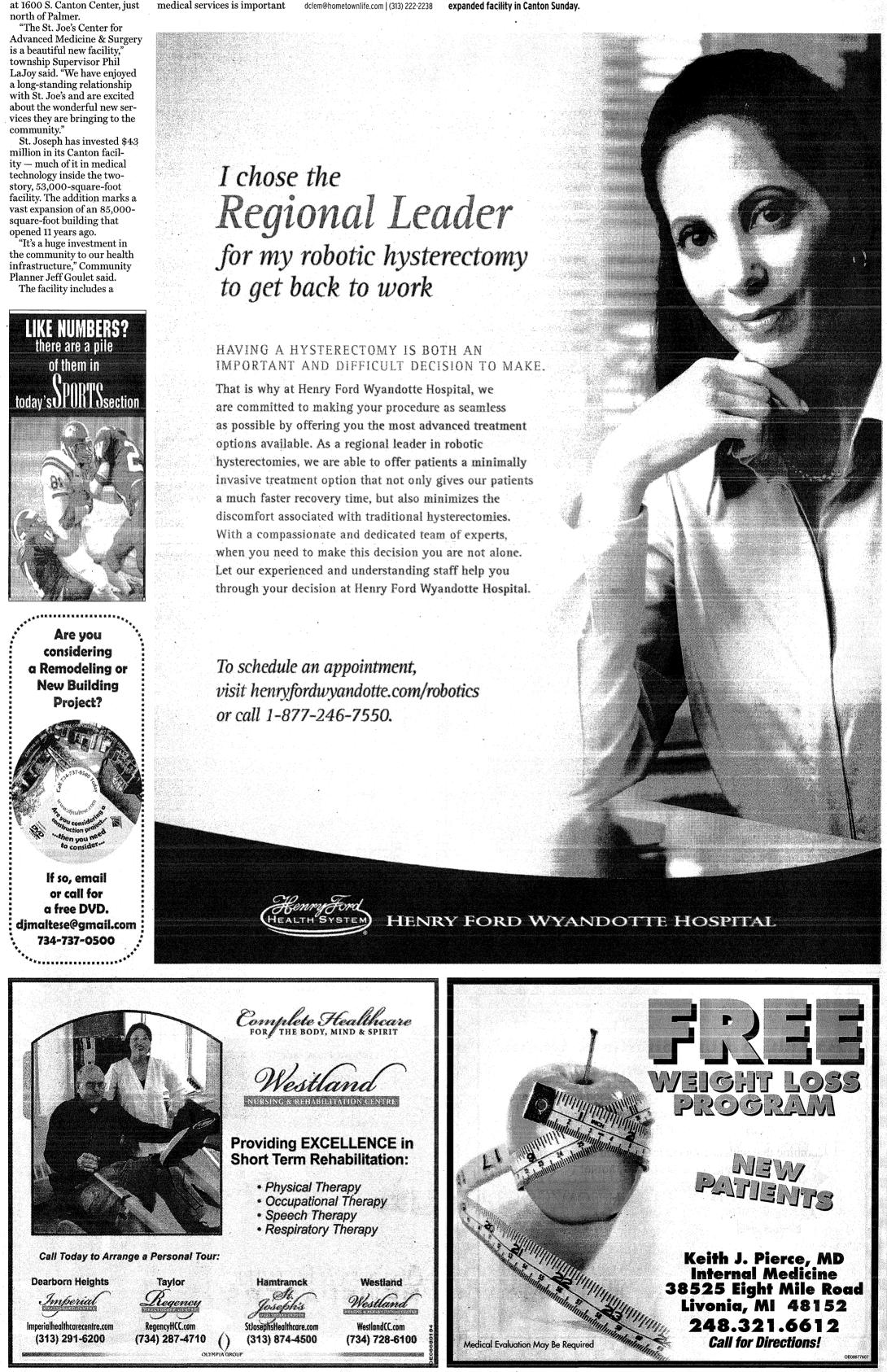
Goulet also said the new center will make it convenient for St. Joseph patients who now have to go to Ann Arbor for outpatient surgery procedures.

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Patients receiving chemotherapy have a private area that overlooks a 'healing garden.' St. Joseph Mercy opens its

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Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, November 19, 2009



PING TIPS

Getting started on your holiday decorating? Check back Dec. 3 for the "Decorating for the Holidays" special page!

ADVERTISING FEATURE Holiday Happenings

A6

(*)

Dixboro General Store Santa Claus is coming to town at Dixboro General Store from noon to 4 p.m. on Nov. 28-29, Dec. 5-6, 12-13 and 19-20, with a special reindeer appearance on Dec. 13. Call 734-663-5558 or visit www.dixboro.com.

THE SURPRISING HIDDEN COSTS OF HOLIDAY SHOPPING - AND HOW to beat them

As we head into this holiday season, shoppers will start to plan their holiday gift lists, hit the stores and start shopping. Getting the most for your holiday shopping dollars this year will not only be about sticking to a budget, but managing valuable time to spend on shopping for the holidays.

Bing.com commissioned University of Washington Economist Ali Tarhouni to analyze data on consumer shopping behavior and found the time spent holiday shopping could be more valuable than you might think.

• Research reveals that an average American can expect a \$114 savings, or roughly 10 percent savings per transaction in time and material cost this holiday season by reducing the running around typically associated with holiday shopping.

¥ Shoppers could make an average of 5.4 trips to the mall for holiday shopping this coming season, which is equivalent to an average of \$98 for lost working productivity and approximately \$16 for gas, according to Tarhouni's research.

• A typical consumer visits an average of five stores, shops for an average of two hours and spends an average of \$150 per mall trip during the holiday season, accordSites like Bing.com offer comprehensive user and expert reviews, and you can choose to shop entirely online, or hit the mall more empowered to find what you want in less time

• Shop alone. Take the kids to the mall to see the Holiday sights and sounds and enjoy hot chocolate and cinnamon rolls, but shop alone when you are not distracted or pressured. Shopping solo gives you the luxury to compare, contemplate and change your mind.

• Keep organized with an exclusive online shopping e-mail account and keep all receipts. Create an e-mail address that you use exclusively for online shopping. Now it will be a snap to keep all your invoices and receipts together in one place where they can be easily retrieved. Returns are always easiest when you have the receipt. Ask for "gift receipts" that do not show the dollar amounts to give to your recipient just in case the sweater doesn't fit or the color is all wrong. A stack of envelopes, each with the name of a person on your list, is the best way to stay organized.

• Shop early to take advantage of deals and free shipping. If you wait until the last moment you may spend all your savings on

Get the most value out OF YOUR HOLIDAY SHOPPING

What is the hottest holiday gift-giving trend this season? It's all about getting the most bang for your buck.

"Shopping for the holidays this year is all about finding value and stretching your dollar to get the most out of your purchases," says Steve Kemble, 'America's Sassiest Lifestyle Guru' and General Growth Properties (GGP) gift-giving expert. "Knowing the secrets to finding the best deals and creating a successful shopping strategy will get you the most value as you shop for family and friends this holiday season." To help make your holiday shopping experi-

ence a success, Kemble offers his top tips for a foolproof holiday shopping plan:

Tip 1: Subscribe to your local mall's e-mail list

Be the first to find out about the hottest deals by joining the e-mail list of your local mall. By adding yourself to these lists, you may be alerted of upcoming sales, or even receive special coupons or invitations to shopping events or promotions. Visit www. MerryGiving.com to find your local GGP mall Web site and register to receive exclusive news, retail offers and much more.

Tip 2: Buy early and late

Be a savvy shopper and buy gifts throughout the year when you find a good sale. By planning ahead and crossing some items off your list before the holidays, you can avoid feeling pressured into last-minute purchases and find a few gifts during late-season sales when some stores offer deeper discounts.

Tip 3: Buy last year's model

Skip the lines and the steep prices by buying last year's models on electronics that have likely seen up to 30 percent price cuts. Today's cutting-edge technological advancements in Mp3 players and digital cameras don't come cheap, so carefully consider the added value they offer. Do your research and find out if those extra pixels or special features are essential for the person you are shopping for. If you pay close attention, you

may find that last year's model does 95 percent of the things that this year's model does, but at 70 percent of the price.

Tip 4: Comparison shop

Being organized is crucial to developing a successful holiday shopping strategy. Start a list of items you need to purchase and watch for ads in the newspaper, on television, and in your mall subscription alerts starting in early November. Then make your purchases wherever you find the best deals or most compelling promotions. For example, participating GGP malls all over the country are offering special retail offers on Thanksgiving week-end, including \$10 GGP Gift Cards with qualifying purchases, and free holiday "Mistle-Tote" giveaways full of retailer goodies, while supplies last. Check out www.MerryGiving. com for more event information.

Tip 5: Find value in the season's hottest gifts

Finally, once you have planned the perfect the holiday shopping strategy, keep your eyes open for these hot holiday gifts that can offer great value. Eco-chic is in now more than ever, and many gifts put a hip spin on being environmentally friendly by using renewable materials that are both functional and ecoresponsible. For the techie on your list, smart phones are the do-it-all tool that keeps families connected with each other and the rest of the world. The latest smart phone technology is more affordable than ever - even free with a new contract or group plan - and available across a variety of carriers. Finally, for your fashionista friend, remember that high fashion doesn't necessarily have to come with a high price tag. Give big, bold accessories that make a stylish statement without breaking the bank.

To find more ways to get the most value out of the holidays log on to www.MerryGiving. com where you can explore details of exclusive shopping events, retailer sales, and a special partnership with Martha Stewart Living magazine, all taking place at participating GGP malls across the country. - Courtesy of ARAcontent

ing to a survey by Baker Retail Initiative and Verde Group Research. Conducting research by comparison shopping online before heading into stores or making purchases online can help reduce the amount of time and money spent.

Mary Hunt, personal finance expert and author of "Debt Proof Living," believes it's important to be smart in the way you approach your holiday shopping so you can avoid these hidden costs and be more productive this holiday season.

"This season it is all about value, and time is often a more precious resource than money," says Hunt. "If we consider how valuable each hour of our holiday shopping experience is, consider how much more valuable spending time with loved ones is, or volunteering at a local food bank. Shopping is about efficiency this time of year, and it's about using the tools available to make better purchasing decisions faster."

Hunt offers a few tips to help you make faster and more informed shopping decisions this holiday season:

• Use tools available online: when creating your holiday shopping plan, start online. You can organize your list, set your budget and comparison shop fast and efficiently.

overnight shipping. Shop early when you have the luxury of the cheaper and slower delivery options. • Get cash back. More online retailers

than ever are offering cash back this holiday season. Try Bing cashback for cash rewards on purchases from more than a thousand of your favorite retailers including Walmart, Target, HP, Nordstrom and eBay.

Bing shopping offers you a single destination to shop and get cashback from more than 1,000 retailers nationwide. You'll reduce your online shopping time with features including search result filters, comprehensive shopping results and opinion ranking.

Bing cashback allows you to set up an account and receive actual cash back on qualifying purchases. The site tells you up front what items will qualify and how much you'll save. Money is deposited into your account and you can ask for a payout 60 days (varies by merchants) after purchases as long as your account total tops \$5.

Log on to www.Bing.com/shopping to save time and money this holiday shopping season and earn cash back on your purchases.

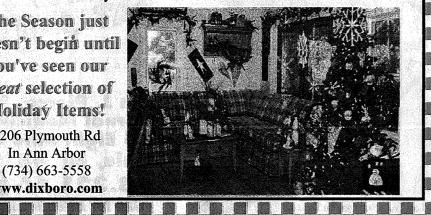
- Courtesy of ARAcontent

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Great season, tough ending for hometown marchers

LOCAL NEWS

BY DIANE HANSON CORRESPONDENT

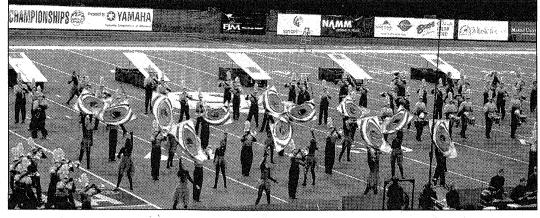
After a stellar in-state season of first-place trophies, culminating in the highest score of all 40 high school marching bands at the Michigan **Competing Marching Band** State Finals, and a secondplace Bands of America Regional finish, the Plymouth-**Canton Educational Park** Marching Band took 13th at the Bands of America Grand National Championships in Indianapolis' Lucas Oil Stadium Saturday, very narrowly missing placement in the top 12 finalist bands.

"This was a little shock to us," admitted David Armbruster, director of bands at the Park. "They have definitely come a long way this year. They got 10 times better this week alone, but this is the most competitive nationals we've had in easily 20 years. The good thing is that everything is a learning experience. I told them I was very proud of them."

After a spectacular preliminary performance of their show, "Beneath the Surface," on Friday netted them a score of 91.35 and placed them sixth among the top 30 high school marching bands in the nation, narrowed from a field of 91, an early draw for their semi-finals performance Saturday had the 170-member hometown team rising at 5 a.m. and performing at 9:30 a.m. with just the basic warm-ups, but no runthrough.

Band members and staff realized the second performance wasn't at the same level as the first.

"In the prelims, we really knocked it out, but Saturday



The Plymouth-Canton Marching Band delivered a crowd-pleasing performance of their innovative and eerily entertaining competition program, 'Beneath the Surface,' based on the writings of Edgar Allan Poe, at the Bands of America Grand National Championships in the Indianapolis Lucas Oil Stadium.



Trumpet player William Garcia warms up before the P-CMB semifinals performance at the Bands of America Grand National Championships in the Indianapolis Lucas Oil Stadium Saturday.

was a little different," said senior drum major Caroline Williams. "There were a couple of mistakes. Those things happen and you can't change things."

Even so, the average of the two scores from prelims and semi-finals (86.45) would have given the P-CMB a ninth-place overall. But placements for finals are based on semi-final scores alone, landing them in

the 13th slot.

P-CMB has never placed lower than 15th at the Grand Nationals, winning the championship title in 1990, 1991, and 1999. This year three other Michigan bands also made semi-finals, but no Michigan bands advanced to finals.

In spite of the disappointment of not making it into the finalist bands this year, the Plymouth-Canton Band made it a point to cheer on those who did.

"Band is a great thing," said senior flutist Alex Rodriguez. "And we all have so much in common – we all pour our hearts and souls into these shows. And even though our band can't personally be out there competing in finals, it's wonderful to support people like us who work as hard as we do. Even though I would love to be out there, I have nothing but well wishes for these bands. I'm very, very proud of them."

Many of the P-CMB parents, who provide a tremendous amount of support through the booster organization – building props, sewing and washing uniforms, and fund-raising among other things – were in those Colts' bleachers cheering as well.

"We were disappointed for them," said Sharon Hardin of the hometown marchers. Her daughter Cassie is a senior in the guard this year. "But, at the same time, we're glad for the other bands. It was a really strong field this year."



Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, November 19, 2009

PHOTOS BY DIANE HANSON

Rifles fly high as the Plymouth-Canton guard section practices maneuvers while the saxophone section, including from right, Erin Zaluzec, Justine Williams, and Grace Wine warm up before their semifinals performance Saturday at the Bands of America Grand National Championships in Indianapolis.



SIMPLY SELF STORAGE

Notice is hereby given that on December 16, 2009 on or after 9:30 a.m. that Simply Self Storage will be offering for sale under the judicial lien Process by Public Auction the following units. The goods to be sold are generally described as household goods. Terms of the sale are preferred <u>cash only but will except debit/credit.</u> Simply Self Storage reserves the right to refuse any and all bids. The sale will be at the following location: 34333 E. Michigan Ave. Wayne MI. 48184 (734)728-8204.



With our help, they won't stay empty.

As a community bank, First Place Bank is finely attuned to the unique circumstances of our local communities. While we're all facing tough times in this economy, keeping food on the table has been harder this year for many of our neighbors. In fact, food banks are reporting a 30 percent increase in people seeking assistance, many of them for the first time.

Open a new checking account at First Place Bank in November or December, and **we'll donate \$10** to Gleaners Foodbank of Southeastern Michigan. Because the Foodbank stretches every dollar into \$15 of food, the \$10 we'll contribute for each account opened will become **\$150 in food** you'll help bring to needy families in our community. Stop by First Place today and join us in making a difference.

To find a location near you, visit www.firstplacebank.com.



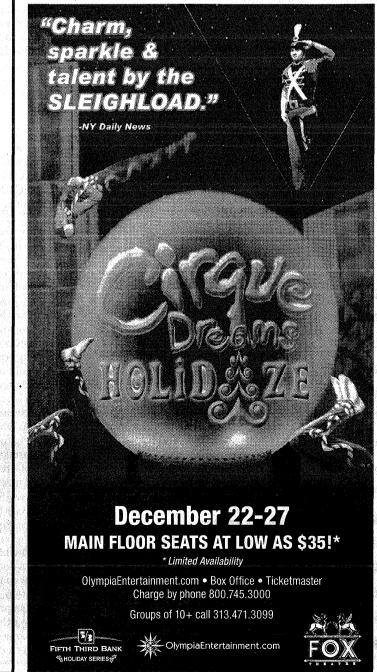
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B112	Edward Watkins	Motorcycle Parts, 5 Totes, 10 Boxes
B113	Edward Watkins	Engine Stand, Sanding Machine, Drill Press
C156	Brandi Warren	Toys, Stereo, 5 Boxes
C168	James Craemer	Desk, Microwave, 5 Boxes
C182	Laura Anderson	Table, Dresser, 5 Boxes
E146	Russell Redmon	Toys, 40 Boxes, 5 Bags
RV2	Scott Pierce	Sylvan Boat
RV50	Beverly Brown	Ford Bronco
RV53	Beverly Brown	Mercury Villager
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THURSDAY

November 19,

Brad Kadrich, editor (313) 222-8899 bkadrich@hometownlife.com

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Our fundamental purposes are to enhance the lives of our readers, nurture the hometowns we serve and contribute to the business success of our customers.

OUR VIEWS

Bond performance provides good bang for the buck

Work has begun on the last big project to be paid for with funds from Plymouth-Canton Community Schools' 2004 bond.

And while crews are renovating the front of Salem High School, using what is now the courtyard to ultimately create needed classroom space, a thought occurs to us.

The district got a pretty good bang for its \$109 million buck.

The Salem courtyard renovation project was the 25th bid package put out under the bond. With each package came 3-5 projects, which puts the total number of projects around 100, give or take a few.

Work was done on 26 of the district's buildings, and every building except one built before 2000 had renovation work of some sort done on it. The lone exception is Central Middle School, which district officials agree has outlived its usefulness as a school. The district has reconvened its Strategic Planning Committee, and the Central Middle School issue will be near the top of its priority list.

The performance under the auspices of the 2004 bond represents a confluence of efforts from administrators - primarily assistant superintendent Ken Jacobs - and construction managers at both TMP and McCarthy & Smith. According to district officials, every project came in on time and under budget, an amazing accomplishment considering the economy, the nature of the work, Michigan weather and human nature.

Don't think it's impressive? Ask Ann Arbor school officials, who had a host of problems getting its new Skyline High School up and running some two years later than originally projected.

That's not to say everything went smoothly. There were problems at West Middle School with issues relating to concrete. There were issues at the administration building with the quality of materials being used. There were weather issues, particularly a rainy August that left, for instance, a problem not-so-lovingly dubbed "Lake Gallimore" in front of Gallimore Elementary, where a new bus entrance/exit was

COMMUNITY VOICE

How annoyed are you that Michigan lawmakers messed up the budget process yet again this year?

We asked this question at the Plymouth District Library.



"Very annoyed. It's part of their job. If I didn't do my job, somebody would be upset with me, so I'm equally upset with them." Colleen Janosik



"Very. Very annoyed. It shows the inefficiency of the government right now and their inability to get anything done."

Robert Miller Plymouth



"I think it's ridiculous, absolutely. That's their job, isn't it?"

Alice Hathaway Northville Township



"It's getting hard with the bad economy. ... At some point, there's a party deadlock. ... If you look at it from the standpoint of the politicians involved, they don't want to hurt too many people."

Peter di Lorenzi Plymouth Township

Legion thanks

Wednesday, Nov. 11, was a beautiful fall day that reminded us of the blessing of living in this area, in this free country. At 11 a.m., the Veterans Memorial Park in Plymouth was the perfect background for the remembering and commemorating of all veterans, past and present, who made, and continue to make, the sacrifices that enable the rest of us to enjoy this great life.

LETTERS

who have suffered from the effect that this

economy has had on their ability to keep

health insurance. I recently spoke with a

young family who is struggling to continue

making Cobra payments since the husband

was laid off from his job. His wife continues

to work full time, but her job doesn't offer

health insurance and she has a "pre-exist-

ing condition." Even though their monthly

mortgage payment, this young family sim-

ply cannot afford to miss an insurance pay-

ment. Under the reform plan that passed

the House, the days of families choosing

between health care and a roof over their

is struggling to care for his son, who was

now work as many hours as they can get

at part-time jobs that, of course, do not

provide health insurance. While they feel

lucky to have work, they simply can't afford

the therapy their beautiful 2-year-old boy

really needs given their underemployment

I, as a mother, doctor and citizen, am

very concerned that during these trying

ing in direct opposition to the needs of

times my representative seems to be work-

the working families in my neighborhood.

This behavior on his part is nothing short

of irresponsible. As this process moves for-

Rep. McCotter to put families first and stop

Kathryn Bondy Fessler, M.D., Ph.D.

research fellow, University of Michigan

staff physician, Integrated Health Associates

ward, I hope that my neighbors, patients

and friends will join with me in urging

playing politics with our health care.

recently diagnosed with autism. I lose

Another patient, a laid-off auto worker,

sleep when I think that both mom and dad

heads will come to an end.

situation.

Cobra payments are higher than their



being installed.

Despite those issues, district officials also hang their hat on the bond creating something woefully missing these days, especially in Michigan: Jobs. According to McCarthy & Smith officials, the 2004 bond created some 760,000 manhours of labor, employing some 50 people a day.

Plymouth-Canton board members and administrators have had plenty of financial issues with which to deal lately. They've made some \$20 million worth of cuts the last eight years or so, and it still won't be good enough because the state can't get its financial act together.

The district has its critics, who think the estimated \$8 million the district saved by being on time and under budget so much should have gone back into the budget, rather than into more projects.

But officials knew there was work needed around the district they might not ever have the money to accomplish. Having seen bond proposals rejected in 2006 and 2007, they understand voters aren't necessarily in an approving mood.

They also look at the economy, understand the financial situation and don't wish to burden their residents with another bond.

But they also understood their buildings had infrastructure needs, and by taking care of those needs with savings realized in the 2004 bond, administrators have put the vast majority of their buildings in good shape for the next 15-20 years.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

We welcome your Letter to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content. Submit letters via the following formats. Web: www.hometownlife.com E-mail: bkadrich@hometownlife.com. Blog: You may also let your opinions be heard with your own blog at hometownlife.com. Deadline: Letters must be received by 9 a.m. Monday to be published in the Thursday edition.



We cannot thank them enough!

Earlier in the day, our group was honored to cook and serve breakfast to more than 60 people. Many veterans and their friends and families enjoyed the opportunity to eat, talk and do lots of reminiscing. This was our way of saying thank you to them.

We especially want to thank Bob Evans of Canton (on Ford Road) for again donating the pancake mix, sausages and other needed items for the breakfast. Their generous participation is very helpful to our organization.

We also want to thank our friends and families who got up very early that day to come and help do the cooking and then stayed to clean up!

We hope that you join us next year — same time, same place. We meet at the IOOF Hall on Elizabeth and Ann Arbor Trail the third Monday of the month. It's a great group with a great cause.

If you want more information, please call (734) 459-1778.

Eunice Taylor

American Legion Auxiliary Beasley-Zalesny Post 112

Put families first

I am a pediatrician and a mother, living and working in Thaddeus McCotter's district. While I fully expected that Rep. McCotter would not vote for the health reform bill, I did not expect that he would vote "yes" on the other health care proposal considered that day.

This health care plan, known as "the Boehner substitute," was clearly not written in the best interests of improving the quality of health care in this country. Rather, this proposal was cleverly drafted to best serve the needs of the insurance industry. According to the bipartisan

Congressional Budget Office which looked into this bill, eight out of 10 Americans would only see a 3-percent drop in insurance premiums under the best-case scenario and thousands of uninsured and underinsured families would receive no help whatsoever.

Fortunately, a health care reform bill passed without the assistance of Rep. McCotter's vote, but this is only the first act in a three-act play. Next the health care reform bill will move to the Senate for debate before finally heading to the conference committee to work out the differences between the successful House reform bill and what ultimately clears the U.S. Senate. As a doctor, I won't pretend to know exactly how to fix every problem with our current system, but I do know we just can't ignore these problems any longer. We all need a health care reform bill to hit President Obama's desk.

As a doctor, I talk to families every day

Image: Constant of American Legion Post 391 Frank Pawelak presents a medal of heroism to Steve Monaghan for saving the life of a woman stung by a swarm of bees during Plymouth's Veterans Day ceremony last week.

Hospice month

We seek your help in letting your readers know about National Hospice Month and, more importantly, about the services available to them from their local hospices.

Sponsored by both the National Hospice & Palliative Care and Michigan Hospice & Palliative Care Organizations, this special month pays tribute to hospice providers, who are dedicated to providing physical, spiritual and emotional support to terminally ill patients; it also serves as a means of increasing public awareness about the available choices in end-of-life care.

As you may know, Arbor Hospice is a 501(c) not-for-profit organization committed to improving end-of-life care and expanding access to hospice care with the goal of profoundly enhancing quality of life for people dying in southeast Michigan, and taking care of their loved ones as well. As a nonprofit, they also provide free grief support services to the community at large.

Health care professionals who specialize in hospice and palliative care work closely with staff and volunteers to address all the symptoms of illness, with the aim of promoting comfort and dignity.

Please help us spread the word about National Hospice Month and raise public awareness of the great support services provided by Arbor Hospice, which serves patients in Wayne, Oakland, Monroe, Washtenaw, Lenawee and Livingston counties and has offices in Ann Arbor, Plymouth and Woodhaven.

If you have any questions about National Hospice Month, hospice services or would like to make a donation to Arbor Hospice, please call (888) 992-2273 or visit www.arborhospice. org.

> **Gloria Danna Brooks** president and CEO, Arbor Hospice

Cell phones for Soldiers

Nationwide effort keeps troops connected

BY WENSDY VON BUSKIRK CONTRIBUTING WRITER

When Patt Carlson heard about Cell Phones for Soldiers, she immediately wanted to get involved. The nationwide program collects used cell phones and turns them into pre-paid calling cards for troops overseas.

"I thought it was a cool idea," said Carlson. "I just thought it was a wonderful effort.

Carlson is director of operations for Pogoda Management Co., a Farmington Hills-based business that manages 34 storage units throughout Michigan and Ohio. Each location will collect cell phones through December, and Carlson said the donation boxes are already more than half full.

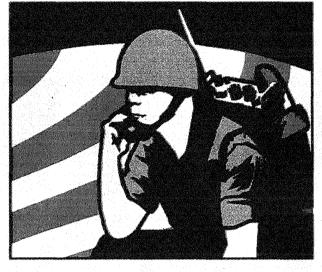
She said the self-storage facilities are a natural fit for the program, because customers are often moving or downsizing and sorting through all their stuff.

"It's amazing how many phones people throw away," she said. "I went through my drawer and found three.'

Old cell phones may seem obsolete next to shiny new iPhones and Blackberries, but they are actually loaded with value. Each donated cell phone is sent for recycling to ReCellular, an international company based in Dexter.

According to ReCellular's Mike Newman, about half the phones are reconditioned and resold to wholesale companies in more than 40 countries around the world. The rest are harvested for components like gold, silver and plati-

CELL PHONES FOR SOLDIERS



num from circuit boards; copper wiring from phone chargers; nickel, iron, cadmium and lead from battery packs; and plastic from phone cases and accessories.

For each donated phone, ReCellular pays enough to provide a soldier with one ĥour of talk time.

YOUNG FOUNDERS

Cell Phones for Soldiers was founded by teenagers Robbie and Brittany Berquist of Norwell, Mass., after they read an article about a soldier who ran up a huge cell phone bill calling home from Iraq. The siblings started the nonprofit using \$21 of their own money, and it has since raised almost \$1 million in donations and distributed more than 500,000 prepaid calling cards to soldiers abroad.

Through increased fund-raising efforts, the Bergquist family hopes to raise more than \$9 million in the next five years and expand into providing other services such as video phones.

More than 150,000 troops are currently serving overseas, and Carlson said it's especially important to help them stay connected with loved ones during the holidays.

"Our troops are representing all of us so we should support them," she said.

Visit www.cellphonesforsoldiers. com to find a drop-off site near you, or to print materials and create your own collection box. You can also download a cell phone data eraser, pre-paid shipping labels and donation receipts.

IKEA

CANTON - IKEA Social Initiative will donate \$1 to UNICEF and Save the Children for each soft toy sold during some weeks leading up to the holiday season. IKEA has donated \$16.7 million since launching the effort in 2003. Visit www.ikea.com for more information.

Holiday Food Drive

LIVONIA - Santa Claus is doling out some extra credit this holiday season to good boys and girls of all ages who bring the gift of non-perishable food to Laurel Park Place during November and December. Laurel Park Place is teaming up with Santa and his elves to collect food and financial donations for City of Livonia and Wayne County's neediest families. As part of Santa Feeds America, the largest nationwide canned food drive ever conducted by a shopping center developer, Laurel Park Place is joining more than 80 CBL properties across the country to collect non-perishable food for distribution to through local food banks. Gleaners Community Food Bank of Southeastern Michigan will use all donations to provide for those in need during the holidays and into 2010. For more information, visit CBL's Web site, www.cblproperties.com or LaurelParkPlace.com.

Coat Collection Efforts

WESTLAND - The Lands' End Shop at Sears in Westland Center is among Lands' End locations participating in the Big Warm Up, a nationwide initiative to collect coats for those in need across the country. Through Nov. 30 donate a gently used coat to Lands' End Shops at Sears, and receive 20 percent off the purchase of a new Lands' End coat. All donated coats will be given to the National Coalition for the Homeless for distribution to homeless people near communities where they are collected. Land's End Shops are also

MALLS & MAINSTREETS

located inside Sears at Twelve Oaks Mall and Livonia Mall. Visit www.bigwarmup.com or www.landsend.com.

WEST BLOOMFIELD - For 18 years, Tapper's Diamonds and Fine Jewelry has collected new and used coats and accoutrements to help individuals who cannot afford warm clothing through Michigan's harsh winter. This year, other tenants at Orchard Mall also will join the effort. Through Nov. 21, donate coats and cold-weather clothing at Maria's Bridal Couture, Yoga Shelter, Frameable Faces Photography, Eleganza Boutique, Guys N Gals, Gotta Dance, Massage Envy, The Beauty Lounge, Nancy's Linens and Toys! Toys! Toys!. Donations go to various organizations, including Orchards Children's Services, Baldwin Church Center, Grace Centers for Hope, Kids **Kicking Cancer, Mercy Health** Services and the Detroit Public Schools. Orchard Mall is located at Maple and Orchard Lake Roads.

Buckle Opens at Twelve Oaks

NOVI - in time for the holidays, Twelve Oaks is proud to announce the addition of the fashion-forward clothing retailer Buckle to its diverse lineup of nearly 200 stores and services. Offering a unique mix of high-quality, on-trend apparel, accessories and footwear, Buckle caters to style-conscious young men and women who seek to express their individuality through fashion. Reflecting Buckle's focus on helping

guests find their favorite jeans, the store carries a wide selection of fits, styles and finishes from leading denim brands, including their exclusive brand BKE. Buckle is also known for its personalized attention, including free hemming, free gift-wrapping, easy layaway and frequent shopper "Primo Cards." Visit www. shoptwelveoaks.com.

A9

New Art Gallery Opens

LIVONIA - The Art Gallery at Town Peddler, Livonia's newest art gallery and showplace, recently held its grand opening. Located within Town Peddler Craft and Antique Mall at 35323 Plymouth Road, The Art Gallery at Town Peddler features works from top local artists with a wide range of styles, media and prices. For more information, call owner Brenda Bumgardner or visit www. townpeddler.com.

Walk of Trees

PLYMOUTH - Reservations are now being taken for the 2009 Walk of Trees. Any resident, group or business is welcome to sponsor and decorate their own Christmas tree in Kellogg Park. Organizations, businesses, Scout troops and families will decorate their trees Nov. 20-22, which will remain on display through Dec. 30. Trees can be reserved for \$75 each. Each tree will be covered in 200 white lights and will be randomly assigned. The fee includes the cost of the tree, lights, signage, disposal fee and other City costs. Call (734) 453-1540 to reserve your tree.



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What will college tuition cost in 10 years?

College costs are increasing annually, making it difficult to estimate tuition rates, even for the next few years. This can make planning ahead difficult and frustrating. However, the Michigan Education Trust (MET) makes it possible for parents, grandparents, businesses and others to pre-purchase tomorrow's undergraduate tuition at today's cost.

MET is a smart, tax-advantaged way to save for college. MET contracts assure a child's college education savings will be there when they need it! MET contracts are portable and transferrable and the funds used to purchase a MET contract may qualify for a state tax deduction. MET contracts can be purchased for Michigan children in one semester increments or by the year with several convenient payment options available.

To learn more about the Michigan Education Trust, visit our website or call today:

www.SETwithMET.com 1-800-MET-4-KID



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LOCAL NEWS

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, November 19, 2009

online at hometownlife.com



Westland resident Sally Looney points out her mother's name on the 2008 Tree of Life as friend Josephine Giurlanda, also of Westland, looks on.

Tree of Life provides unique holiday tradition

For many shoppers who frequent Laurel Park Place in Livonia, the Angela Hospice Tree of Life is a sight they instantly recognize.

The annual Tree of Life offers individuals the chance to remember and honor their loved ones during the holidays by placing angel ornaments on the trees when they make a donation to Angela Hospice.

For Maureen Mullins, it is not only the beautiful trees

and lighted display that are familiar, but the thousands of names that grace the little gold angels. Mullins works in medical records at Angela Hospice and has talked with countless family members of the many patients whose charts she has processed.

"Being in medical records, I see every name that comes through here," said Mullins, a hospice volunteer. Tree of Life has become a tradition for

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her own family, just as it is a tradition for many in the community.

"It is interesting to see the names of patients I recognize from many, many years ago," she said. "Their families still pay tribute to them by putting an ornament on the tree. It is almost overwhelming to see."

Many Angela Hospice supporters visit the Tree of Life each year and attend the opening ceremony, open to everyone in the community as well. This year's opening took place Saturday. The Tree of Life is located inside Laurel Park, near the Von Maur store.

"I think it's a happy way of remembering people," Mullins said. "People associate losing someone with angels, and it's a way of remembering the people they've lost in a public way, to show they meant something to someone."

Last year more than 4,000 angels decorated the seven trees at Laurel Park Place, each angel representing someone who is loved and thought of at this special time of year. Mullins noted how the Tree of Life has grown in the years she has been involved, and it has become more meaningful to her own family as well.

Mullins helps to set up the display with her husband and daughter, along with other Angela Hospice volunteers. She also takes the opportunity to hang angels in memory of her loved ones, including her father and godmother who were both served by Angela Hospice.

"When we started this event 22 years ago, we couldn't have imagined it growing into what it is today," said Sister Mary Giovanni, president, CEO and founder of Angela Hospice. "I am pleased to be able to provide this opportunity for people to do something special for their loved ones, even those that are no longer with us. I am moved and grateful that so many people take this time to support Angela Hospice programs as well."

The Tree of Life will be on display during mall hours through Dec. 24. For more information on the Tree of Life, contact Angela Hospice events coordinator Barb Iovan at (734) 953-6045 or visit www.AskForAngela.com.



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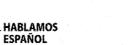
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Maureen Mullins holds the angel ornaments dedicated to her father and godmother for the Angela Hospice Tree of Life.

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Try to top that

he pigskin tumbled through the air, meeting a brisk wind, toward the uprights.

With time running out in the fourth quarter of Saturday's thrilling Division 1 regional football final between Canton and host Novi-Detroit Catholic Central, thousands held their breaths to see where the ball would land.

The undefeated Shamrocks and Tim Baechler's amazing Chiefs were knotted 24-24 likely to



the shock of the Catholic Central side of the stadium - when Canton senior Alex Dixon tried to nail a game-winning

47-yard field

goal.

Almost traveling in slow motion as everybody waited to find out the outcome of Dixon's kick, the football soared - then dipped - finally falling in the end zone a few yards short of the ultimate target.

Moments later in overtime, Catholic Central scored and Canton didn't. Final, 31-24. Season over for the Chiefs, just when it looked as though it might be extended to the dismay of Blue Nation.

Dixon might have fared better had the Shamrocks' defense not found an answer just in the nick of time. His field-goal try easily could have been shorter and more makeable.

Canton survived a wide-tohe-left field goal try at the other end and then had more than four minutes to go for broke. Most pundits predicted an easy win for CC; it was far from that as the Chiefs bounced back with a vengeance all afternoon.



PHOTOS BY ANDREW RUBENSTEIN

Grabbing hold of Canton senior running back Adam Payter (No. 9) during the final possession of the fourth quarter Saturday is Catholic Central's Diaz Benjamin.

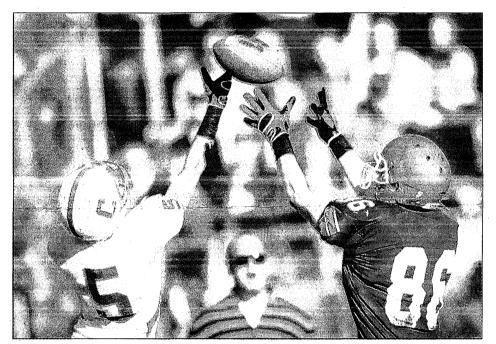
Chiefs nearly shock Shamrocks

BY TIM SMITH **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

With blue-clad fans sitting on one side of the field and red-clad fans on the other, the buzz in the air for Saturday's Division 1 regional football game between Canton and host Novi-Detroit Catholic Central couldn't have been any better.

It's too bad only one team could win. For those spectators, the afternoon tilt turned out to be a real treat with the Shamrocks dodging a major Canton bullet late in regulation and going on to win 31-24 in overtime.

Catholic Central will next face Holt 1 p.m. Saturday at Lansing Everett in a D1 semifinal



SIDELINES

WSJFL Super Bowl

The Plymouth-Canton Steelers' freshmen squad gave it their all Sunday. But the team lost 26-12 to the Lake Area Hawks in the Western Suburban Junior Football League freshman Super Bowl.

Despite the loss at the Dearborn Redskins-hosted game, the Steelers finished 10-1 and captured the WSJFL Division A championship and - as did all of the Steelers teams this fall (varsity, junior varsity, freshmen) - proudly represented their organization with sportsmanship and dedication, noted a team spokesman.

In the Super Bowl, the Steelers were buoyed by the running of Aaron Brazelton and Dylan Stackhouse, the latter who scored the season's final touchdown.

Offensive lineman David Dart Jr. anchored the front line to help the tailbacks find ample running room.

Defensively, Jared Golles had a great game with several huge tackles and Luke Walkley did an awesome job on the line.

For more about youth football, please look inside today's Observer.

Coaches, please call

It's getting close to the winter season of high school sports, believe it or not.

Coaches or their assistants are asked to supply recaps of games, meets and matches (win or lose, home or away) to help spotlight the accomplishments of deserving studentathletes at Canton, Plymouth, Salem and Plymouth Christian Academy.

To do so, please e-mail Observer sports editor Tim Smith (tsmith@hometownlife.com) or leave him detailed

For example, twice after the Shamrocks scored, a Canton player broke less for TDs on the very first play of the subsequent series.

NOT ENOUGH

In absolute crunch time, the Chiefs moved crisply. It was first-and-10 at the CC 26

Please see SMITH, B3

"I'm so proud of our guys," said Chiefs" head coach Tim Baechler. "Both teams just played great, both teams deserved to win. There's no loser today."

Echoing those sentiments was Catholic Central's Tom Mach, who watched his team score three touchdowns only to have the Chiefs immediately answer with sixpointers each time.

"I wasn't surprised that they (the Chiefs) kept coming back because they've got great athletes and they did a great job of constantly rebounding," Mach said. "Every time we scored, they scored. It kind of ended up being a classic battle for 48 minutes."

The back-and-forth contest was tied 24-24 after Catholic Central's Justin D'Agostino missed a field goal, giving the Breaking up a Catholic Central pass intended for junior tight end George Darany (No. 86) is Canton junior defensive back Ryan Powell.

Chiefs a first down from their own 20 with 4:12 remaining.

Canton (10-2) then silenced the Catholic Central fans by moving down to the Shamrocks' 26-yard line with 1:30 to go.

Senior running back Adam Payter, who gained 174 yards in 16 carries, moved the chains with runs of 13, 12 and six yards. Quarterback Kevin Delapaz also completed a 15-yard toss to Ryan Powell.

ANSWERING THE CALL

But that's where the Shamrocks' defense met the challenge, pushing the Chiefs back to the 30-yard line.

"They played good defense," said junior running back Davion Stackhouse (103

Please see CHIEFS, B3



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Ashley Micek of Salem is shown swimming at the recent KLAA tournament. She is one of an impressive contingent qualifying for the Division 1 state meet from the three Plymouth-Canton high schools.

PCEP girls set for ultimate splash

BY TIM SMITH OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

There will be quite a contingent from Plymouth-Canton Educational Park on hand in Holland, Mich., on Friday when the Division 1 girls swim state meet begins.

The preliminaries are slated for Friday at the Holland Community Aquatic Center with swimmers pushing to continue to Saturday's proceedings.

For example, KLAA South Division co-champions Plymouth and Salem will send a combined 12 swimmers.

Seven will make the trip for Plymouth, representing the largest group in Wildcats history

- four of them competing in four events. "It's the first time we've ever been able to send all three relays to the meet," said Plymouth coach Doug Schade. "We're hoping to swim fast and have fun, breaking more school records in the process.'

The trip to Holland culminates a solid season for the Wildcats.

"We've had success this year because the girls are willing to accept coaching even though many of them come from different clubs," said Schade. His Wildcats finished with a second-place

record of 4-1 in the South but caught Canton

Please see SWIMMING, B2

Hats off to Myles: Whalers win big

BY TIM SMITH **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

A natural hat trick by forward Myles McCauley Saturday night couldn't have come at a better time for the Plymouth Whalers, who have been limping along without injured Tyler Seguin.

McCauley tallied the first three goals of the Whalers' contest against Kitchener, sparking a 5-1 victory before a sellout crowd at Compuware Arena. He also set up another goal.

"Last night we only got one goal and the other team played pretty good," said Plymouth head coach Mike Vellucci, referring to a 2-1 loss to Guelph Friday night. "But yeah, we were looking for more offense from other

guys." Seguin - among OHL scoring leaders with 36 points - missed his fourth game Saturday due to a hip pointer. Although he is expected back later this week, the team was glad to see McCauley step up with

the first hat trick of his career.

'That's a lot of scoring, so when you lose him (Seguin) that's the majority of our offense," McCauley said. "I just felt really good, had a good night sleep last night and had a good pre-game. I felt great tonight."

GOOD IMPRESSION

Another plus for Plymouth (13-9-0-0) was the sturdy goaltending of Minnesota (NHL) property Matt Hackett. He made 34 saves, all with Wild goalie coach Bob Mason in attendance at Compuware.

"I know the Minnesota goalie coach was here and some of the other scouts," Vellucci said. "So he put on a good show for them.'

Hackett said he saw Mason after Thursday's contest at Windsor, when the netminder stopped 45 of 48 shots in a 4-2 defeat (the fourth goal was an empty netter). "He was actually at the

Please see WHALERS, B3

great start to the season," Central Scouting's Chris Edwards told NHL.com. "He has been producing and playing consistently well. He makes things happen every time he is on the ice and he

Senior Olympics

The Michigan Senior Olympics are three months away. but it's not too early to start getting in shape.

Event organizers are looking for athletes 50 years and over to compete and enjoy the camaraderie and challenge that the MSO has to offer. It's a good time to chase away the winter blues and have some wintertime fun. The 2010 Michigan Senior Olympics are scheduled for Jan. 25-27 at various venues in Oakland County. The registration deadline is Monday, Dec. 14.

The games feature the snow sports of Alpine skiing, cross country skiing and snow shoeing. Badminton, pickleball, weight lifting, bocce ball and dancesport are the other scheduled events. Visit www.michiganseniorolympics.org, or call (800) 400-8161 for more information.

messages at (313) 222-2637. Deadlines are Tuesday nights for the Thursday paper and Friday nights for the Sunday edition.

Scouts love Seguin

Plymouth Whalers scoring sensation Tyler Seguin is ranked at the top of Ontario Hockey League prospects in the latest ranking by NHL Central Scouting, according to NHL.com.

Seguin jumped to the head of the class thanks to outstanding numbers so far this season. The speedy, playmaking forward is second in the league with 19 goals and fourth with 36 points in just 18 games. He is expected to return this week after missing several games due to an injury.

"Tyler Seguin has had a makes his teammates better."



B2 (CP)

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, November 19, 2009

LOCAL SPORTS



Sara Kroll

Churchill



Megan McPherson

Franklin



Salem



Victoria Tripp Bianca Kubicki

Canton

Gabby DeFlorio Farmington



Kerigan Riley

Churchill



Salem



Jordyn Moore Shannon Flynn Salem

online at hometownlife.com



Kara Booms Salem

Katie Rash Churchill

Salem girls harriers dominate All-Observer team

FIRST TEAM SARA KROLL, SR., LIV. CHURCHILL: The senior enjoyed a banner season placing third in the Division 1 state finals (18:10.7) to earn All-State honors for the third straight year.

Kroll was also KLAA Kensington Conference champ with a meet record 17:54 (for 5,000 meters).

Among her other accomplishments was a school-record 17:25.2 along with firsts at the Wavne County (meet record), Jackson (course record) and KLAA invitationals. She also was Public Schools of Livonia Invitational champion and set a course record at the challenging Cass Benton Park (17:54.1).

The Churchill MVP and twotime All-Stater in track (800) also holds the Churchill freshman record (18:27.9).

Kroll is being aggressively recruited by Illinois, Michigan State and Michigan.

"Sara is the type of athlete that most coaches only dream of coaching," Churchill coach Sue Tatro said. "It has been an absolute privilege these past four seasons, and definitely one of the biggest highlights of my career.

"She is the whole package when it comes to an elite runner. She possesses talent, intelligence, drive, passion, and leadership. What more can a coach ask for in an athlete. Sara proved that she is not only one of the best runners in the state, but also in the country. I am looking forward to seeing what this talented athlete will do in the future.

MEGAN MCPHERSON, JR., LIV. FRANKLIN: The junior, who bowed out of the state finals with an injury, was regional champion (18:37.3) and Kensington Conference runner-up (18:37.4).

McPherson also placed third at the Wayne County meet with a personal best and school-record time of 18:26.4

The school-record holder at Cass Benton, Nankin Mills and Willow Metropark courses, McPherson added runner-up honors at the KLAA Invitational (18:37.3), placed 12th at the Michigan State Invitational (18:44.0), and won at Monroe-Jefferson (18:35.0).

The two-time state qualifier was 32nd in the MHSAA finals as a

2009 ALL-OBSERVER GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY FIRST TEAM Sara Kroll, Sr., Liv. Churchill Megan McPherson, Jr., Liv. Franklin Victoria Tripp, Jr., Salem Bianca Kubicki, Jr., Canton Gabby DeFlorio, Soph., Farmington Kerigan Riley, Fr., Liv. Churchill Jordyn Moore, Sr., Salem Shannon Flynn, Fr., Salem Kara Booms, Jr., Salem Katie Rash Jr. Liv Churchill SECOND TEAM Svdney Anderson, Fr., Liv, Churchill Christie Goodwin, Fr., N. Farmington Paula Green, Sr.; Plymouth Ade Jepperson, Fr., Salem Kelly Kerwin, Soph., Salem Lydia Macklin-Camel, Sr., Farmington Bethany Pilat, Soph., Liv. Churchill Olivia Salinas, Soph., Farmington Amanda Southwell, Sr., Liv. Churchill Britta Swanson, Jr., Plymouth Nicole Traitses, Soph., Plymouth Angela Wright, Soph., N. Farmington **COACH OF THE YEAR** Dave Gerlach, Salei **HONORABLE MENTION** Churchill: Alexis Hickson, Sarah Bauman, Lisa McMullen, Melissa Roe, Jenna Szuba, Megan McDonald, Rachel Tomassi, Vivien Okechukwu, Tiffany Raisanen, Jessica Raisanen; Franklin: Tiffany Lamble, Brittany Dilley, Leslie Gomez, Megan Wickens; Stevenson: Julia Capeneka, Victoria Saferian, Taylor Cieslak; John Glenn: Kirsten Smith, Ashley Bailey, Mary Dreher, Abbey Wright: Wayne: Holland Boertje; Lutheran Westland: Sarah Maynard, Erin Lyle, Jess Rice; Ladywood: Meredith Houska, DeYana Walker; Canton: Rachel Rohrbach, Emily Southern, Katherine Grimes, Cassie Kramer, Melanie

Kulczycki, Rache Brunk; Plymouth: Julie Forster, Julie Hahn; Salem: Autumn Burin, Emily Bizon, Amanda Beyer, Shannon Fitzpatrick; Farmington: Alexina Salinas, Sierra Resovsky, Michelle Mac; N. Farmington: Cherie Gaines, Maria Vicini: Harrison: Cameron Chism, Catherine Barkach; Mercy: Katie Clark, Mary Bridget Welch, Heather Smith, Mary Haapala.

prepared for the level of competition and the conditions of each course. Every time she raced she made me so proud because she executed perfectly. Her best races were down the stretch at the Wayne County, conference, and regional meets.

"She ran under 19-minutes seven times this year and established herself as one of the elite runners in the area and state. Although she was injured at the state meet (rotated

a second straight year when she placed seventh at the regional finals with a time of 19-minutes, 34-seconds. At the state meet, she finished 31st with a time of 19:24.8.

She also registered her personal best time of 19:05.9 at the Wayne County Championship, the third fastest time in Salem history for 5.000 meters.

Other highlights included being named the team's Most Valuable Runner, taking fifth place at the Kensington Conference Finals (19:29) and sixth at the Wavne County Championship (19:05.9).

Victoria's a talented young lady who strives to be the best she can every competition," said Rocks coach Dave Gerlach, whose team won its first Kensington Conference title. "Tori loves to compete. Tori has very high goals and expectations for herself and works to achieve them every day.

BIANCA KUBICKI, JR., CANTON: The junior had an excellent season, finishing seventh at the D-1 regionals and 35th at the state meet.

Kubicki's season's best mark was 19:07, close to her career best -atime of 18:54, which is a Canton school mark she shares with another runner.

Chiefs coach Eric Pahl said Kubicki developed into a team leader so much that teammates named her the 2010 captain.

Honors included being 1st-team picks for the all-county and all-conference teams.

"Bianca has really dedicated herself to cross country this year," Pahl said. "She trained all summer and came into the season in good running shape.

"She was asked to take on many different challenges with the team. Not only did she succeed in this, but she excelled."

GABBY DEFLORIO, SOPH., FARMINGTON: The sophomore placed fourth at Brighton regional with her best time of the season (18:50). DeFlorio was 68th in the D-1 state meet. She won the Farmington city meet and was second in the OAA White Division meet.

DeFlorio also finished 18th at Oakland County, sixth at the Haslett Invite and 13th at the MSU artan Invita Sha

coach Chip Bridges said. "At a certain point last track season, Gabby decided she wanted to be the best runner she could be. She decided to take running seriously, and she has gotten better and better since then. "She won our Most Improved

Runner Award, too. She improved 1:28 over her best time last year. Nobody improved more this year than Gabby did. She followed the workout plan through summer and fall more closely than any girl on the team. It's not that other girls did a poor job; she just did the best job." KERIGAN RILEY, FR., LIV. CHURCHILL: The

freshman burst onto the scene with some impressive performances including an eighth at the regional (19:46.8); 12th in the Kensington Conference: and 176th at the Division 1 finals.

She also took third at the Public Schools of Livonia Invitational, ninth at the KLAA Invitational (19:57.0) and 14th at the Jackson Invitational (19:11.0).

Rilev turned in a season-best 19:04.8, 10th fastest in Churchill history en route to Most Valuable Freshman honors

"Kerigan is definitely one of the most successful freshmen to come through our program," Tatro said. "She possesses a great deal of talent, motivation, passion, and desire. It was obvious during her middle school years that she was going to come to Churchill and have an immediate impact on our program. I am really looking forward to seeing what Kerigan will accomplish in her future cross country and track seasons at CHS."

JORDYN MOORE, SR., SALEM: Team captain and "Senior of the Year" for the Rocks. Moore also excelled on the courses throughout the season. At the Division 1 regionals, she

took 11th place with a time of 19:51.1 to qualify for the state meet for a third consecutive year. At the finals, she finished 65th (19:58.1).

Other top showings included a personal best of 19:24.1 at the Jackson Invitational (Sharp Park), which Gerlach said is the seventh fastest time recorded by a Salem runner.

Moore tallied a 10th-place finish at the Kensington Conference Finals and 13th at the Wayne

sonal goals," Gerlach said. "Jordyn is a true competitor who knows what it takes to be successful.

"Jordyn is a very goal-oriented athlete and works extremely hard to achieve those goals."

SHANNON FLYNN, FR., SALEM: Making an immediate impact, Flynn qualified for the D-1 state finals by way of her 12th-place finish at the regionals (19:51.6).

She ran 20:03.6 at the state meet for 70th place, but that didn't spoil the accomplishment. Others included tallying Salem's third fastest time for a freshman in school history (for 5,000 meters) with her 19:49.2 at the Wayne County Championship, which was her personal best.

Flynn also finished in 11th place at the Kensington Conference Finals (19:51) and 15th at the Wayne County meet.

Shannon is an all-around athlete who is very competitive," Gerlach said. "Shannon has unlimited potential as a distance runner and has already experience much success.

"This team is looking forward to what else she can accomplish."

KARA BOOMS, JR., SALEM: The Rocks' "Junior of the Year," Booms emerged this season. She qualified for the D-1 state meet with her 16th-place time of 20:22.2 seconds at the regionals.

Other highlights included finishing with a personal best of 20:07.0 at the Kensington Conference Finals (9th-best time in school history for a junior), good for 16th place and a 21st-place showing at the Wayne County Championship (20:16.8)

"Kara is a very passionate athlete whose love of running carries over to the team." Gerlach said. "Kara had a breakout year this season to provide Salem with a solid fifth runner.

"Kara is one of the most consistent distance runners who knows when to step up.'

KATIE RASH, JR., LIV. CHURCHILL: The junior ran a personal best 19:56.7 at the Jackson Invitational.

Rash wound up 82nd in the Division 1 finals (20:10.1); 16th at the regional (20:27.9) and 22nd at the Wayne County Invitational (20:31.0). She added a 28th at the Wavne County meet (20:31.0).

"Katie really stepped it up this

ble of running some great races. "It was truly a joy watching Katie shine during the season. She capped off a great season by having a great performance at the state meet. I am looking forward to watching her continue to excel at this new level."

COACH OF THE YEAR DAVE GERLACH, SALEM: For the second

time in his distinguished coaching career at Salem, Gerlach was named Coach of the Year by the Observer and with good reason. Gerlach's team not only won the KLAA Central Division with an undefeated record in dual meets, the Rocks captured their first-ever Kensington Conference Championship.

Salem qualified as a team for the Division 1 state finals and did well, placing eighth.

And Salem won the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park championship for the

first time since 2006. With a firm, but fair approach, Gerlach teaches and motivates the girls to become successful runners. "It is a great

Salem coach from the Observer

and my fellow coaches," said Gerlach who lives in Canton with his wife Kimberly, daughter Emilee and stepdaughter Adriane. "Over 15 years of coaching at Salem we have tried to instill a tradition and quality program for these young ladies.

We try to lead by example and are as passionate about the sport as we expect our athletes to be.'

Gerlach said he lays the knowledge and groundwork for success, but "the rest of accountability lies on the athletes to follow through and work hard."

"This group has been so much fun to coach because they wanted to be good and had high goals," he added. "They were very passionate and worked very hard to achieve their individual and team goals."

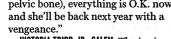
The 2009 Rocks were a team that meshed well in all aspects, Gerlach said

We had terrific team chemistry this season with a great balance or rookies," he continued. "For me it was a great pleasure to be a part of this season's team success and these young ladies deserve all the credit."



sophomore.

"Megan had an outstanding season where she ran some terrific races," Franklin coach Dave Bjorklund said. "She was always



VICTORIA TRIPP, JR., SALEM: The junior qualified for the D-1 state meet for

in dual meets. "Gabby improved her time on almost every course we ran, any-

where from 30 seconds to a minute,"

Salem's home course (Willow Metropark).

"Jordyn is a true leader who places the team goals as high as her per-

experienced runner," Tatro said. "I always knew that she possessed a great deal of talent, and she proved to herself and others that she is cana-

FROM PAGE BI

(5-0) for a share of the title by winning the division meet.

Salem's Rocks – described by head coach Chuck Olson as being the best 2-9 team in memory - will be represented by six swimmers while five members of the Chiefs will travel to the shores of Lake Michigan.

Meanwhile, Canton divers Mallory Hudak and Robin Piwowar took part in Tuesday's D1 regional diving meet at Ann Arbor Pioneer. The top 16 will also go to Holland.

Olson said he is "very optimistic" that the Salem swimmers' preliminaries "will be fast and will ensure their return for the finals on Saturday."

One of six members of the Salem varsity girls swim team headed to the

Division 1 state meet in Holland is Lauren Seroka, shown here diving into the

• Relays in the state meet for the Wildcats include: the 200 medley relay of freshman Emily Toro, senior Sijia Hao, junior Rachel Huhta and freshman Linda Erickson; the 200 free relay of Huhta,

JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

sophomore Stephanie Matsui, senior Michelle Chang and senior Chantel Cote; the 400 free relay of Hao, Erickson, Matsui and Chang.

• For Salem, relays going to Holland are: the 200 medley team of freshman Abby Aumiller, junior Ashley Micek, sophomore Lauren Seroka and junior Emily Nelson; the 400 free relay of Nelson, sophomore Irene Li, Aumiller and Seroka

• And for Canton, the 200 free relay of junior Kari Schmitt, junior Sara Schmitt, junior Kayla Eyster and freshman Delaney Adams as well as the 400 free team of Kari Schmitt, Eyster, junior Sara Krebs and Adams will compete.

This marks the third straight appearance in the 400 free relay for Kari Schmitt.

INDIVIDUAL EXCELLENCE

There will be a lot of individual events with Plymouth, Salem and Canton swimmers as well.

For the Wildcats, swimmers in those events will include Hao (200 individual medley, 500 free), Erickson (200 IM. 100 backstroke) and Matsui (50 free, 100 free).

Salem's individual qualifiers include three swimmers who will take part in two events. Seroka is slated to swim in the 200 free and 500 free, Nelson is set for the 200 IM and 100 back and Aumiller's events are the 200 free and 100 back.

In the lineup from Canton will be Kari Schmitt (50 free, 200 free), Krebs (100 breast) and Adams (100 fly).

Rounding out the PCEP presence in individual events is Salem freshman Joyce

Lamoureux, who will take part in the 500 free.

REDEMPTION

According to Salem's Olson, a good showing this weekend would help take the sting out his team's losing record.

But he emphasized that the Rocks are much better than that 2-9 record in dual meets.

"I told the girls this is the best worst team I've ever had," Olson said. "On paper we don't look very good, 2-9 in dual meets, which doesn't sound very good."

But he said Salem swam competitively against stateranked teams such as No. 4 Novi and three others in the top 10 - Livonia Stevenson, Northville and South Lyon.

"So we've lost to good competition and we've been in the meets," Olson added. "But we just couldn't finish the deal."



pool at the recent South Lyon East-hosted KLAA Kensington Conference meet. For all of the teams, their relays are making quite a

Plymouth will have three relay teams in the mix with two more from Salem and Canton:

PLENTY OF RELAYS

splash.

LOCAL SPORTS

IEFS FROM PAGE B1

all-purpose yards), who scored TDs on a 67-yard run and a 23-yard pass from Delapaz. "They figured out what we were doing and stopped us, they just shut us down."

With wind blowing into his face, Canton senior Alex Dixon just could not put enough steam behind a 47yard field-goal attempt that would have won the game as time elapsed.

"Our defense finally got one stop and that was the opportunity we needed," Baechler said. "And then we ran out of time and the field goal was just too far, with a little bit of wind in our face."

In overtime (where teams start from the 10-yard line), the Shamrocks needed just one play — a 10-yard run by senior Anthony Capatina (17 carries, 106 yards) to break the deadlock and win their 12th straight game and their first regional title since 2007.

"We didn't really expect our defense to give up that much (24 points)," Capatina said. "But they've bailed us (offense) out all year and so it was our turn to step it up. We both got it done when we needed to.

As they have all season, Capatina and senior tailback Niko Palazeti (18-84, 3 TDs) proved to be a tough 1-2 punch for the Chiefs.

"They do have different styles," Mach said. "One can beat you fast and one can beat you slow. We're going to wear you down. But they wore us down at the same time."

COMING BACK

It didn't take long for Canton to show the Shamrocks that it wasn't going to be business as usual. Catholic Central allowed just three defensive touchdowns before Saturday, when the Chiefs doubled that total.

CC took an early 3-0 lead when D'Agostino booted a 28yard field goal with 2:37 left in the first.

The Chiefs came right back, as they did all day, with a 58-yard pass from Delapaz to senior tight end Dakota Dark-Bird and a bulldozing 11-yard run by Payter enabled freshman Conner Shennan to tie the game with a 23-yard field goal.

Catholic Central marched



the first quarter is senior tight end Dakota Dark-Bird, who caught this Kevin Delapaz pass near midfield and took it down to Catholic Central's 19yard line to set up a field goal. The play went for 58 yards.

the first half.

A 14-yard run by Capatina on a third-and-long deep in the Shamrocks end kept the drive going and Palazeti finished things with a two-yard plunge, leaping over the goal line.

Undaunted, Canton immediately responded to hush the CC crowd.

On the very first play after getting the ball back, Stackhouse blew through the line and veered down the left sidelines for a 67-yard touchdown gallop. The extra-point try was wide left to make it 10-9 at halftime.

The Shamrocks started the second half with good field possession following Capatina's 32-yard return to the CC 35 and senior quarterback Sam Landry (6-12, 88 yards) hit senior tight end Michael Kinville for a clutch 11-yard gainer to midfield.

A personal foul against Canton further helped CC's cause as did a 12-yard run by junior tailback Justin Messner.

PHOTOS BY ANDREW RUBENSTEIN Canton junior Davion Stackhouse secures a 23-yard TD pass from Kevin Delapaz to even the Division 1 regional at 24-24 in the fourth quarter. throw just in time that junior wide-out Andrew Nelson hauled in for 23 yards along the left sidelines with less

> the third. After the Chiefs got the ball again, they took it 68 yards in 11 plays. This time, Canton came through on fourth down as Delapaz fired a pass across the grain to Stackhouse for a 23-yard TD catch with 10:00 to play in regulation.

than three minutes to play in

The extra point made it 24-24 and set up the final chapter of an intriguing matchup.

But the final page turned out to be not so sweet for Canton.

"We worked really hard in practice and we knew we could do it, ... it hurts," Delapaz said.

FROM PAGE B1

following the latest in a string of full-speed-ahead runs by Canton senior running back Adam Payter.

But Catholic Central's defense – which gave up 30 points all season before Saturday — wouldn't fold and actually pushed Canton back a yard or two on first, second and third down.

Oh, what might have been with just one more Payter run or completion from senior

quarterback Kevin Delapaz. Of course, this was one of those games where both teams performed like champions on a perfect autumn day for football, before a crowd estimated at more than 3,500 fans.

And the atmosphere was a winner, too. Fans rode shuttles from a nearby field or shopping center parking lot to Catholic Central. Where else does that happen?

Turning off of Beck Road, buses whisked down a feeder road past hundreds of handmade signs proclaiming it "Shamrock Country" or a place where "CC Attitude"

WHALERS FROM PAGE B1

game in Windsor, last night and tonight, too," Hackett said. "So it was pretty nice for me to play well. ... I definitely wanted to impress him."

Although crediting his defense for letting him see the puck, Hackett was particular solid during a two-minute 5on-3 penalty kill late in the first period with Plymouth up 2-0.

McCauley got the Whalers on the board at 8:22, beating Kitchener goalie Brandon Maxwell (22 saves) with a wrist shot. He converted a pass from forward Tyler G. Brown to finish a hard-driving line rush, started by left wing Josh Brittain.

The Whalers added to their lead with McCauley's second goal, a power-play marker at 11:47. He walked out of the left corner and flipped a shot into the goalmouth, which banked in off a skate.

Assisting on the goal were defensemen Austin Levi

would lead the team to its 12th straight victory.

Once fans muscled their way through the crowded gates, they had to squeeze into whatever bleacher space they could find.

Media members stood on top of the press box and fans of both teams ringed the outside of the Turf field because they couldn't find seats.

With fans of the teams on opposite sides of the field, it was easy to tell whether the Shamrocks or Chiefs were on the move or holding on for dear life.

When Canton scored to make it 24-24, Shamrock fans were so quiet it was as if a community mute button was pushed.

They let loose a huge roar, or maybe a sigh of relief, once the game finally ended.

It's too bad it did, because the D1 championship game Nov. 28 at Ford Field might not be as compelling or competitive as the 48-minutes-plus of great action Saturday. We can only hope it will be.

Tim Smith is sports editor of the Plymouth-Canton Observers. He can be reached at (313) 222-2637 or via email, tsmith@hometownlife.com.

A Plymouth penalty early in the middle stanza wiped out an apparent goal by winger Ryan Hayes, but McCauley got it back with his 14th of the season at 8:34 to make it 3-0.

Perched to the left of Maxwell, he ripped home the rebound of a Hayes shot high into the cage for the natural hat trick.

The Rangers (15-4-1-2) broke Hackett's shutout at 17:44 of the frame when defenseman John Moore blasted a shot through the goalie's five-hole during a two-man advantage.

But the Whalers restored their three-goal lead with just six seconds left when McCauley's shot was stopped by Maxwell, only for winger Joe Gaynor to bang it home.

Defenseman AJ Jenks finished the scoring with a beautiful end-to-end rush less than a minute into the third.

The blueliner skated down the ice and ripped a drive that Maxwell turned aside. But Jenks followed his shot for the rebound goal. Clarkston's Josh Bemis started the play.

The Whalers now go on the

B3 (CP)

88 yards in 15 plays to take a 10-3 led with just 1:10 left in

On third down and short, the Chiefs' defense stopped

fourth-down conversion. Despite Canton's defensive pressure, Landry launched a

Palazeti. But when the 6-2,

245-pounder got the ball

again on fourth down he

a 17-9 advantage.

IN THE CLUTCH

in the third.

muscled his way 18 yards for

Canton answered again

with a big-play score as Payter

stormed 76 yards up the mid-

dle of the field for six points.

The Chiefs then made it 17-17

Delapaz to junior tight end

on a nifty two-point pass from

Angelo Lanava with 7:09 to go

The game's see-saw flavor

continued on CC's next offen-

sive series. The Shamrocks

scored on a two-vard run by

Palazeti, but the key play of

the 80-yard drive was another

the TD, giving the Shamrocks

tsmith@hometownlife.com

Canton Bills flag down state title

Canton's Workman Elementary School must be buzzing these days thanks to the Canton Bills flag football team.

The Bills, comprised entirely of Workman students, Saturday captured the 2nd Grade Division of the Michigan Youth Flag Football League State Championships at Walled Lake Northern with shutout defense in all three tournament games.

After blanking the Northville Jets 13-0 in the team's opener, the Bills knocked off the Canton Texans in the second and championship games, by scores of 14-0 and 6-0, respectively.

The three opponents managed a total of two combined first downs.

In the championship final, the Bills broke a scoreless tie

late in the first half as Nathan Janke ran around the right corner and sprinted into the end zone.

Outstanding defense in the second half by Adam Janack was a key factor, and the game-winning flag pull by Marko Aki ended the game.

In the earlier win over the Texans, Bills defenders Fletcher Cummings, Donovan Hails and Janack excelled in pitching the shutout.

Against Northville, good runs by Luke Nader and Caden Musa sparked the offense with touchdowns scored by Janke and Aki. Completing an extra-point pass was Connor Fox.

Meanwhile, the Bills dedicated their tourney performance to star player Cian McGill, who was ill and missed the entire state championship.



Celebrating Saturday after winning the 2nd Grade Division of the Michigan Youth Flag Football League State Championships are the Canton Bills. The entire team is comprised of players from Workman Elementary School in Canton. The team includes the following: (front row, from left) Luke Nader, Conhor Fox, Donovan Hails, Caden Musa, Nathan Janke, Marko Aki, Fletcher Cummings and Adam Janack; (back row, from left) Coach Walt, Coach Scott, Coach Rob and Coach Todd. Not pictured are Cian McGill and Coach Darin.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Give 'Pickleball' a try

Plymouth and Canton residents are welcome to sign up for a unique recreational sport being offered by Northville Parks and Recreation - pickleball.

The sport combines ping pong and badminton, with a hard paddle used to send the ball over the net. Open pickleball sessions are held at the Northville Recreation Center based out of Hillside Middle School.

Beginner to intermediate play is 1-3 p.m. Mondays and Tuesdays (\$2 per person) and 10 a.m. to 12 noon Wednesdays and Thursdays (\$2). Three courts are available.

Intermediate to advanced play is 12 noon to 3 p.m. Wednesdays (\$3) and 6-8 p.m. Saturdays (\$4).

Paddles and pickleballs are provided at the center. Call (248) 349-0203 for more information.

Plymouth YMCA eyes grant

Liberty Mutual will soon donate a \$2,500 Responsible Community Grant to 20 youth sports organizations demonstrating their commitment to doing the right things on and off the playing surface.

The Plymouth Family YMCA is hoping to be one of the recipients.

"The Liberty Mutual Responsible Sports program targets many of the issues we see happening at youth sporting events by shining a positive light on what it means to be a responsible coach and a responsible sports-parent," said Greg Gordon, vice president of Consumer Marketing at Liberty Mutual. "Beyond that, Liberty Mutual is making a significant financial contribution to support the efforts of local organizations like Plymouth Family YMCA.

The ongoing, community-based program offers meaningful, easy-to-use educational resources for youth sports parents and coaches, including access to onthe-field game and practice preparation tools as well as self-paced online courses filled with learning tools, videos and topics addressing youth sports issues.

The Responsible Sports program, including community grants, comes at a crucial time for communities where youth programs are under pressure from increasing numbers of participants, limited volunteer activity and mounting program-administration costs.

Through the resources provided by the grants, it is hoped that "our organizations thrive even under challenging circumstances.'

For more information, contact the YMCA at (734) 453-2904 or go to www. responsiblesports.com.

Time to register for YMCA

The Plymouth Family YMCA is offering plenty of leagues and instructional classes this fall and winter, as detailed below:

There is something for everyone this Fall at the Plymouth YMCA. Registration is ongoing for Girls Volleyball Clinics (for ages 8-10 and 10-12), Basketball Clinics (for ages 6-7 and 8-9), Sports Sampler Class (for ages 3-5) and Little Dragons Martial Arts (for ages 4-7).

For more information on YMCA leagues and programs, check out www.ymcadetroit.org or call the office at 734-453-2904. (Farmington Hills) and Jenks (1 goal, 2 assists).

Madonna women fall

Thirteen different players scored Tuesday night as NCAA Division III quarterfinalist and defending Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association champion Hope College (1-0) opened its season with a 82-70 non-conference win over Madonna University (2-1).

Carrie Snikkers led the Flying Dutchwomen, who were 28-2 a year ago, with 17 points. Erika Bruinsma added 11, while Philana

Greene contributed nine points and nine rebounds.

MU, unable to cover from a 50-27 halftime deficit, got a game-high 21 points from Tabatha Wydryck.

Kim Olech (Plymouth) contributed 12 points and 11 rebounds. Shantelle Herring chipped in with 11 points.

The Crusaders shot just 8-of-27 from the field during the first half (29.6 percent) and committed a total of 33 turnovers.



B4 (*)

online at hometownlife.com

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TRADITIONAL WASHER	MVWC7ESWW*	\$599.00	\$499.00	WHITE
	MVWC400VW*	\$509.00	\$399.00	WHITE
TRADITIONAL DRYER	MGDC700VW*	\$649.00	\$524.00	WHITE
	MEDC700VW*	\$579.00	\$499.00	WHITE
	MGDC400VW*	\$529.00	\$424.00	WHITE
	MEDC400VW*	\$429.00	\$399.00	WHITE
FRONT LOAD WASHER	MAH2400AWW*	\$749.00	\$599.00	WHITE
	MHWZ600TW*	\$949.00	\$699.00	WHITE
an a	MHWE300VW*	\$1,099.00	\$699.00	WHITE
	MHWE450WW*	\$1,399.00	\$1,099.00	WHITE
HE DRYER	MDE2400AYW*	\$749.00	\$599.00	WHITE
	MGDZ600TW*	\$1,029.00	\$799.00	WHITE
	MGDE300WW*	\$1,179.00	\$725.00	WHITE
	MEDE300WW*	\$1,099.00	\$699.00	WHITE
MICROWAVE -OTR	MMV5207BAW*	\$419.00	\$275.00	WHITE
	MMV1153WW*	\$219.00	\$175.00	WHITE
	MMV1153WB*	\$219.00	\$175.00	BLACK
ELECTRIC RANGE	AER3311WAW*	\$351.00	\$299.00	WHITE
	AER5830VAW*	\$599.00	\$499.00	WHITE
	MER7662WW*	\$649.00	\$549.00	WHITE
	MER7662WB*	\$649.00	\$549.00	BLACK
	MER7662WS*	\$749.00	\$649.00	STAINLES
GAS RANGE	AGR3311WAW*	\$351.00	\$299.00	WHITE
	MGR7662WW*	\$649.00	\$549.00	WHITE
	MGR7662WB*	\$649.00	\$549.00	BLACK
i i e bise servi i e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e	MGR7662WS*	\$749.00	\$649.00	STAINLES
WALL OVEN	JJW7530DDB*	\$1,149.00	\$399.00	BLACK
DISHWASHER	MDBM601AWQ*	\$479.00	\$299.00	BISQ
	MDB5601AWQ*	\$479.00	\$299.00	BISQ
and a state of the second s	MDB6701AWW*	\$599.00	\$399.00	WHITE
	MDB6701AWQ*	\$599.00	\$399.00	BISQ
TOP FREEZER	M1TXEMMWW*	\$899.00	\$759.00	WHITE
SIDE X SIDE	MSD2542VEW*	\$999.00	\$875.00	WHITE
BOTTOM FREEZER	MBF2556KEW*	\$1,599.00	\$1,324.00	WHITE
an na an taon an ann an taogailte an tao	MFD2562VEW*	\$1,799.00	\$1,499.00	WHITE

Thursday, November 19, 2009

B5 (P)

Plymouth Strictly Business



IT'S YOUR BUSINESS Q&A

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sisters Sondra Hathaway and Ronda Miller own Second Time Around, a women's consignment clothing store on Ann Arbor Trail in Plymouth.

Consignment store keeps women in style

Observer: Tell us about your business, including the types of services and/or products you feature.

Second Time: We are a women's consignment shop offering items that are gently used and often are new with tags. All items are current and in style. We do offer some vintage clothing. Our sizes range from 0-18. We also have a great selection of purses (Coach, Dooney & Bourke, Fendi, Vera Bradley to name just a few!) Other items for sale at great deals are shoes, jewelry, scarves, gloves, and coats!) All of our items for sale

SECOND TIME AROUND

• Business name and address: Second Time Around Women's Consignment Shop, 445 W Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth

• Your name and title: Sondra Hathaway, David & Ronda Miller, owners/operators

- Your hometown: Rochester
- Business opened when: June

2007 • Your Business specialty: We specialize in gently used, often new with tags womens clothing, shoes, purses and jewelery that are current and in style.

to a great shop. Our customers love the feeling when they come in. There's a homey feeling and it's relaxing to come in, forget the stress of the day and shop.

Observer: How has it changed since you opened?

Second Time: We've learned alot since we opened $2\frac{1}{2}$ years ago. We've seen what works and what doesn't. We listen to what our customers say and take our lead from them. We like to think we learn from what we do and move on. We've done alot to the building since we've opened. For example, we've added all new

Economic breakfast

The December 2009 **Good Morning Plymouth Community Breakfast will** again take a glimpse into our economic future. The event will feature local experts who work directly in fields critical to our economy. This year we have also added to the line up of speakers **State Representative Marc** Corriveau to discuss the impact of decreasing state tax revenues on the Michigan economy.

Speakers include: • Government:

Representative Marc . Corriveau

• Financial Institutions: Bill Lawton, Community Financial • Real Estate: Jeff Glover, Keller Williams Realty, Jeff **Glover & Associates**

• Investment/Stocks: Steve Alexandrowski, GEM Asset Management, LLC

• Auto: To be announced These breakfasts normally draw 50-80 people and provide an excellent opportunity for networking. On December 10 the breakfast will be from 7:30-9 a.m. at Independence Village located at 14707 Northville Rd. (South of Five Mile Rd.). To attend this event, please call (734) 453-1540 or e-mail teri@plymouthmich.org. The cost is \$12.00 and can be paid in advance. 48 hours prior to the event, since the Chamber is liable for

This event is sponsored by TDS Metrocom and Independence Village.

Community/Business News

From now through Dec. 14, **Dick Scott Automotive Group** will be collecting toys for the Toys for Tots organization. On Saturday, Dec. 5 they will host a special one-day only

CHAMBER CHAT

Dec. 5 between 9 a.m. and 3

at any Dick Scott Dealership.

site to greet visitors and Santa

will be available for free pho-

tos compliments of Dick Scott Automotive Group between 10

Please do not bring any

note that Toys for Tots is

always in need of gifts for 9

to 12 year old boys and girls.

Craft or hobby kits, makeup

kits, electronics and CD's, are

Dick Scott has convenient

locations in Plymouth, Canton

Sweet Afton Tea Room is now

selling tickets for their 2009

Holiday High Teas on Sunday,

Dec. 6, 1 p.m., Friday, Dec. 11, 7

Each Tea includes enter-

located at 450 Forest Ave. in

The Plymouth Historical

Museum is showcasing a special

Downtown Plymouth.

Red Ryder

stuffed animals, as they can no

longer be distributed because

they can harbor germs. Please

a.m. and 1 p.m.

great choices.

and Fowlerville.

Holiday High Tea

They will have a Marine on

on Saturday,



Story," in which the main character, Ralphie, longs for a Red Ryder BB gun for Christmas. Throughout our Main Street there will be vignettes of scenes from the movie and from the original story that the movie is based on, Plymouth Historical Museum style. Red Ryder BB guns were sold by Daisy Manufacturing Company of p.m. you'll receive a coupon for Plymouth. The exhibit runs through Jan. 24. Call (734) \$10 off on your next oil change 455-8940 for the museum's schedule.

Genisys top workplace

Genisys Credit Union was chosen as one of the 2009 Detroit Free Press Top Workplaces in the medium size category (150-499 employees). The survey, conducted by WorkplaceDynamics of Exton, Pa., identified key factors that are important to employees such as business practices, company growth, education, income, atmosphere and future opportunities.

Based on the responses from employees, Genisys finished 16 out of the 58 highly ranked businesses in the metro Detroit area that were honored.

New directory

There are only a few more weeks left to purchase advertising in the Chamber's new Business Directory and Local Area Profile. The book provides a buyers guide to all member companies and will be used as a marketing piece about the Plymouth Community. To learn more about advertising opportunities in the guide, please call Gillian Mashni of NovoPrint at (734) 718-4049.

Wes Graff is executive director of the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce. He can be reached via email at wes@plymouthmich.org or by calling (734) 453-1540.

p.m., Friday, Dec. 18, 7 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 20, 1 p.m. tainment by Harpist Bethany Cancellations must be received Stawasz. Tickets are \$35 for adults and \$24 children under 10 and can purchased in person or by phone at (734) all meals. 454-0777. The Tea Room is

exhibit, "A Red Ryder Christmas Story." The exhibit draws its inspiration from the popular 1983 movie, "A Christmas

are current and in style! Observer: How did you first decide to open your business?

Second Time: My mom bought the house we have the store in several years ago. Her intention was to have a home and also a business that we could run to help offset the mortgage. We tossed around several ideas for businesses. One day my sister, Sondra, came in and said why don't we open a consignment store for women's clothing. It was a great idea, especially in the economy we're in right now. Women are trying to be frugal, but they still want to look good! We started working on the house right away to transform it into a consignment boutique. We loved that it was an older house just a block from downtown Plymouth. We think the building really lent itself to what we were trying to accomplish. We wanted our customers to come in and have an experience from the ambiance of the store to the

• Hours: Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; **Closed Sundays (Consigments** are accepted Tuesday - Saturday, no appointment necessary) • Business phone: (734) 737-9133; a Web site is coming soon

customer service! **Observer: Why did you choose** Plymouth?

Second Time: My sister and I were drive through Plymouth looking for houses that could also be used as businesses. We drove by this house and called the realtor and asked to see inside. It was exactly what we were looking for. We love how Plymouth is like a step back in time with it's downtown square, old movie theater and great little shops! Observer: What makes your business unique?

Second Time: Our business is unique because we've taken an old house and converted it

lighting, added a computer software system and we have a website coming soon! Our future goal for next spring/ summer is to repaint the outside of the house. Observer: How has the economy affected your business? Second Time: We started

our business when it's was just heading into a bad economy. So we don't know what it will be like when the economy improves. But we do know that people are really into recycling and make things last longer and we don't think that will change. People are starting to realize hey why spend alot of money on clothes when I can shop consignment, get a good deal and spend my money on something more memorable like a vacation. Observer: What is in store for the

future of your business? Second Time: We hope

God continues to bless our business! We will strive to keep our customers our #1 priority as well as provide them with only the best



440 N. Lafayette • South Lyon

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Now's the time to do last-minute tax planning

tax-deferred

you eventu-

gross income,

typically the last

(which means

t's hard to believe that the year and the decade is almost over. It is incredible what we have witnessed over the last 10 years. When this century began, Y2K was the great fear. The years of the 2000s have seen incredible changes to the world and to our financial system. There are, however, certain things that have remained relatively the same. One in particular is that now is the time to do any last-minute tax planning. It is important to recognize there is no time to procrastinate. Year-end tax planning must be done now.

Everyone's tax situation is a little different and the advice given for one doesn't necessarily apply to everyone. However, there are some issues that affect many people that should be taken into consideration.

One is Roth IRA conversions. Converting money from a traditional IRA into a Roth IRA has the advantage of turning money that grows

ally pay income taxes) into money growing tax-free. To qualify for **Money Matters** a Roth IRA conversion, adjusted

Rick Bloom

line on the first page of the tax return, must be \$100,000 or less. If it is, you are eligible for a Roth conversion. Once you have met the IRS

requirements, you should consider my personal test to determine whether you should proceed. The first is whether converting the money will throw you into a higher tax bracket.

Remember, the money that you convert from a traditional IRA into a Roth IRA is taxed at your ordinary income bracket. If it will not throw you into another bracket, the next

question is, will you need this money in five to seven years? If you can invest the money for at least this time, the next question is, do you have the money to pay the additional tax without touching any of the money that you are converting? If the answer is yes, I believe a Roth conversion makes sense.

My advice when it comes to tax planning is to always be certain you do not let the tax tail wag the dog. You do not want to do something for tax reasons alone. Ultimately, what you decide must make good economic sense. The goal is not to lower your taxes, but rather have more money in your pocket. That's the ultimate goal. Good luck!

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at moneymatters@hometownlife.com. For more information, visit Rick's Web site at www.bloomassetmanagement.com.

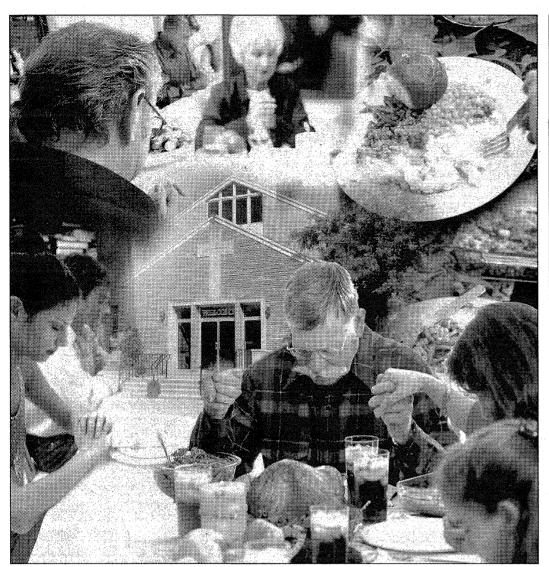
Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, November 19, 2009

B6

(*)

BELIEFS & VALUES

online at hometownlife.com



Church distributes turkeys

Living Word Church of Plymouth will give away 500 turkeys to needy families Sunday, Nov. 22.

Those interested in reserving a turkey can call the church and leave a message at (734) 207-WORD (9673) or e-mailing them at thanksgiving@livingwordcommunity.net.

They should include their name and phone number in the voice mail message. The turkeys will be dis-

tributed after a special Service of Hope at 10:45 a.m. The service is open to

Turkeys will be distributed from 12:30-3 p.m.





Remember the loved ones you've lost by placing a special holiday remembrance tribute.

The Observer and Eccentric/Hometown Weekly newspapers will be publishing a special "In Remembrance" page for the holidays. Here's the perfect opportunity to honor the memory and celebrate the life of loved ones who hold a special place in your heart.

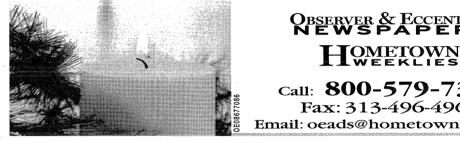
Prices start at \$15.00

for a photo "In Remembrance" ad

Publication: Sunday, Dec. 20th

... in the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers Thursday, Dec. 24th

Deadline for both issues...Monday, Dec. 14th



Redford couple, church cook Thanksgiving dinner for all

BY SHARON DARGAY **O&E STAFF WRITER**

Karen and Don McCuean will start Thanksgiving Day this year like they always do - cooking up enough turkey and trimmings for 400 people.

We do real turkeys – nothing processed - turkey and gravy, mashed potato - that's real, not boxed," said Karen McCuean. "The sweet potato is fresh. There's stuffing with sausage. We do creamed corn cornbread and a vegetable medley. I put Swiss cheese and mushroom soup in. I do a gourmet coleslaw with cranberry and celery and apple. It's like a Waldorf with homemade poppy seed dressing and there's a pistachio salad.

Then there are relishes and rolls and butter. We have assorted pies and they come from St. Colette (in Livonia). They have a piefest the day before Thanksgiving and everyone brings a pie to share and a pie to donate to charity. They donate all their pies to our Thanksgiving dinner.'

The Redford couple puts on a feast and invites anyone who wants to share the holiday. never really my favorite holiday, but now that my husband and I do this it is our favorite holiday. It's so nice to help out other people."

Karen initially cooked and cleaned for an elderly couple, bringing them special dinners at the holidays. Her husband suggested they expand their efforts and cook a holiday meal for the community. They knew of other elderly couples, people who couldn't cook for themselves and those who were home alone without any family.

They enlisted the help of other parishioners and served about 50 guests that first year. Participation has since ranged between 150-250 guests. Any leftovers are passed along to another church feeding program.

"The guests all have different situations," Karen said. "One group came in - there were 10 of them - that had a death in the family and were going to a funeral home and couldn't cook Thanksgiving dinner. So they stopped in.

"They all have different situations. They're not always people who are alone or are handicapped or are financially strapped. Some people have a sudden crisis. I never know how many people I'll have from year to year."

... in the Hometown Weekly Newspapers Observer & Eccentric

> Call: 800-579-7355 Fax: 313-496-4968 Email: oeads@hometownlife.com

Volunteers from their church, Our Lady of Loretto in Redford, and donations from generous supporters have helped continue the tradition, which marks nine years next week.

"If it wasn't for them we couldn't do this," Karen McCuean said. "My husband goes in around 8 a.m. or 8:30 a.m. and volunteers come in around 9 a.m. to do prep work. We have volunteers who come in and serve from 2-5 p.m. and we have people come in for clean-up. We're done and out of there by 6 p.m.

We enjoy it. Thanksgiving years ago was

Religion calendar items appear on Thursdays on a space available basis. To submit an item, e-mail sdargay@ hometownlife.com or write: Religion Calendar, Observer Newspapers, 615 W. Lafayette-2nd Level, Detroit, MI 48226, Attn: Sharon Dargay. Item must include the venue address and phone number and any admission costs for events. Items must be submitted at least a week in advance of publication. For a complete listing online, go to hometownlife.com.

NOV. 19-25

Advent reflection

St. Michael the Archangel Parish will host a "Journey to Bethlehem," an afternoon of Advent reflections led by the Rev. Alex Kratz, O.F.M., of the Archdiocese of Detroit's Mobile Evangelization Team, 1:30 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 22, in the school gymnasium, 11441 Hubbard, south of Plymouth Road, between Farmington Road and Merriman in Livonia. This event offers an opportunity to prepare for the coming of the Christ child through Fr. Kratz's insights into the people, culture, and city of Jesus' birth. Fr. Kratz, a Franciscan priest, has served as a pilgrimage leader to the Holy Land for a number of years for TerraSanctaPilgrimages and knows the area and its people intimately. The event is free of charge and open to the public. (734) 261-1455

Chili cook-off

11a.m.-2 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 21, at St. John Lutheran Church, 23225 Gill, Farmington Hills. This is a fund-raiser to support the church's "Rebuilding Together Oakland County" effort, assist church youth in attending their statewide retreat and defray material costs for Lutheran World Relief

She hopes fears over the Swine Flu doesn't discourage people from attending the dinner this year. She'll have hand sanitizers placed throughout the dining area and volunteers will be stationed at each food dish. They'll serve the guests, cutting down on the number of people who handle utensils.

Thanksgiving dinner will be served from 2-5 p.m. on Nov. 26 at the church family center, located at Six Mile and Beech Daly. To make a reservation, call (313) 534-9000 on or before Monday, Nov. 23.

RELIGION CALENDAR

Quilts. Participants may choose from a variety of chili dishes, take home items from the bake sale and bid on items in the silent auction. The silent auction will run though 12:30 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 22. \$5.00 per adult, \$1.50 age 10 and under. Price includes chili, salad and beverage. (248) 474-0584

Christmas ornament

The Limited Edition Our Lady of Good Counsel Christmas ornament is now on sale. This ornament was specially crafted in Poland and is hand painted with a mosaic portrait of the O.L.G.C. Mother and Child. This keepsake ornament is available for \$35 after Masses at O.L.G.C. All proceeds benefit Our Lady of Good Counsel. For more details or to arrange delivery, call Mark Coulter at (734) 453-5423 or Mary Vangieson at (734) 737-9442.

Concert

of the Sacred Heart, 29575 Middlebelt, north of 13 Mile, in Farmington Hills. Hear sacred music featuring Lisa Agazzi, soprano, performing such favorites as "Pie Jesu," "The Lord's prayer," and "Ave Maria." Selections from Handel, Mozart, Beethoven, Bach and Gounod will be on the program. A free will offering will be accepted. For more information call Barb Glinski at (248) 553-0999 or e-mail to Iglinski@aol.com. **Dinner and auction**

6 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 21, at Solid Rock Bible Church, 670 Church Street, Plymouth. Silent Auction and Charity Dinner includes live, silent and raffle auctions with proceeds going to the Zambia Mission Trip for the church. Suggested \$10 donation for the dinner. Questions? E-mail to pamseymour@ameritech.net or call (734) 455-7711.

Food drive

at 20200 Merriman, Livonia.

2 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 22, at Monastery

Thursday, Nov. 19 is the last day to reserve a pick-up time for Kenwood Church of Christ's Thanksgiving food distribution. Interested parties should call the church at (248) 476-8222 from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., to set up a reservation and time to pick up food on Nov. 21. The church is located

NOV. 26-DEC. 2

Advent service

Lola Park Evangelical Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford, will hold midweek Advent services at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 2, 9 and 16. Each service is 45 minutes long and is intended to help people prepare for Christ's coming. For more information, call (313) 532-8655.

Clothing closet

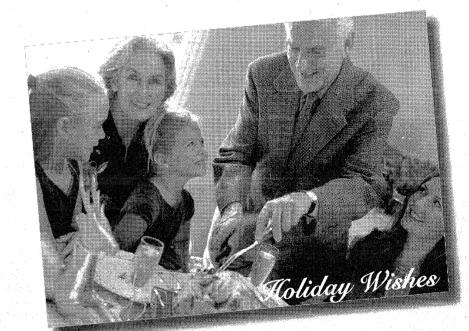
Canton Christian Fellowship Clothing Bank will be open to people in need 10 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Nov. 28, 5-6:30 p.m.., Wednesday, Dec. 9, and noon-2 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 19, at 41920 Joy Road, between Lilley and Haggerty. Donations of winter coats, gloves, boots accepted. (734) 404-2480

Lessons and Carols

Candlelight service, 7 p.m., Nov. 29, at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville. Join the chancel choir, ensembles, instrumentalists for this time of calm reflection, of hearing and singing the carols of Advent. Childcare provided through age 4. For more information call Lillian Mobley at (248) 374-5928.

Please see CALENDAR, B7

Don't miss a thing this Holiday!



Enjoy your holiday season to the fullest with better hearing.

This is the time of year when family and friends gather to share new experiences and relive old ones. Everyone takes time to reconnect.

Don't miss out on any of these conversations this holiday season. With a wide range of styles available from Phonak, a leader in hearing instrument technology, we will help you find the best option for your hearing needs.

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BELIEFS & VALUES

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, November 19, 2009

CALENDAR FROM PAGE B6

Thanksgiving Day service

■ 10 a.m., Nov. 26 at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville.

This service will be a wonderful celebration of heritage of freedom. Dr. Jerry Smith, former Director of Music at Ward Church, will conduct the Chancel Choir and Orchestra, Teen Choir and guest musicians in "Battle Hymn of the Republic. Invite your family and friends to launch the holiday season in prayerful thanksgiving and song. Child care provided through age 4. For more information call Lillian Mobley at (248) 374-5928.

■ Lola Park Evangelical Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford, will have a special service of Thanksgiving at 10 a.m., Nov. 26, The sermon theme will be: "It is the bread the Lord has given you to eat." For more information, call (313) 532-8655.

DEC. 3-9

Advent service

Lola Park Evangelical Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford, will hold midweek Advent services at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 9 and 16. Each service is 45 minutes long and is intended to help people prepare for Christ's coming. For more information, call (313) 532-8655.

Breakfast

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 39020 Five Mile, Livonia, presents Breakfast with Angels, 9:30 a.m., Saturday, Dec.
5. The special event for families with children age 3-7, will include breakfast, crafts, singing and a special visit from the angels. Contact the church office at (734) 464-0211 for more information.

Concert

■ Christmas concert featuring the Classical Bells handbell ensemble and the Livonia Civic Chorus, 7 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 6 at St. Matthew's United Methodist Church, 30900 Six Mile, between Merriman and Middlebelt, Livonia. A reception will follow. Tickets \$12 each in advance; \$14 each at the door; \$10 each for groups of 10 or more. Go to SeatYourself.biz/stmatthewslivonia or call (734) 422-6038 to purchase tickets or for more information.

■ First Presbyterian Church of Farmington presents the acclaimed men's choral society Measure for Measure in a special joint concert with the Wayne State University Concert Chorale at 8 p.m., Friday, Dec. 4, at the church, 26165 Farmington Road, at 11 Mile. There is no admission fee for this event, which is open to the general public, but donations of \$10 per person or \$25 per family are suggested. (248) 474-6170, extension 208

Drop and shop

6-8 p.m., Dec. 8 and 15 at Nativity United Church of Christ, 9435 Henry Ruff, Livonia. Mothers and Grandmothers will take care of children while their parents are out doing last minute errands for Christmas. No charge for the service.



Measure for Measure will sing at First Presbyterian Church of Farmington at 8 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 4.

For more information call (734) 421-5406. **Gift shop**

Congregation B'nai Moshe Sisterhood of West Bloomfield presents a Holiday Gift Bazaar 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 6. Discover gifts for all ages, including items such as handbags, clothing, toys, jewelry, works of art , Judaica and more. Congregation B'nai Moshe is located at 6800 Drake, between Maple and 14 Mile Roads in West Bloomfield. For more information about the Gift Bazaar, call Linda Mondrow at (248) 682-0471 or e-mail to Imondrow@aol.com

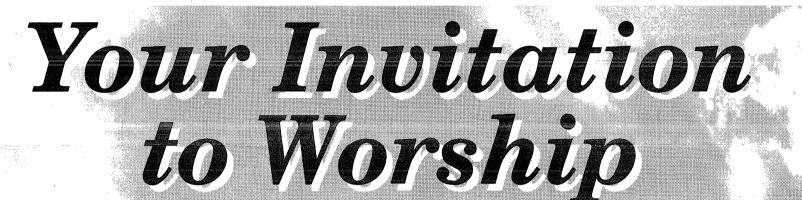
Special needs event

Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Livonia invites adults with developmental disabilities and their caretakers to attend a Christmas "Sing & Ring" event 6:30 p.m., Friday, Dec. 4, at the church, 34567 Seven Mile, between Farmington and Newburgh, Livonia. Participants will sing carols, ring bells, hear the Christmas story, and enjoy dessert and beverages. RSVP to Judy Cook at (248) 442-8822 or email to judy@emmanuel-livonia.org no later than Friday, Nov. 27. If local schools are closed because of heavy snow or inclement weather, the event will be cancelled. Swedish Christmas Shop

5-8 p.m. Friday Dec. 4 and 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Sat. Dec. 5 at Faith Covenant Church, 35415 W. 14 Mile, corner of Drake, in Farmington Hills. Swedish Christmas ornaments and decorations, along with homemade cardamom bread and crafts from Thailand and South Africa.

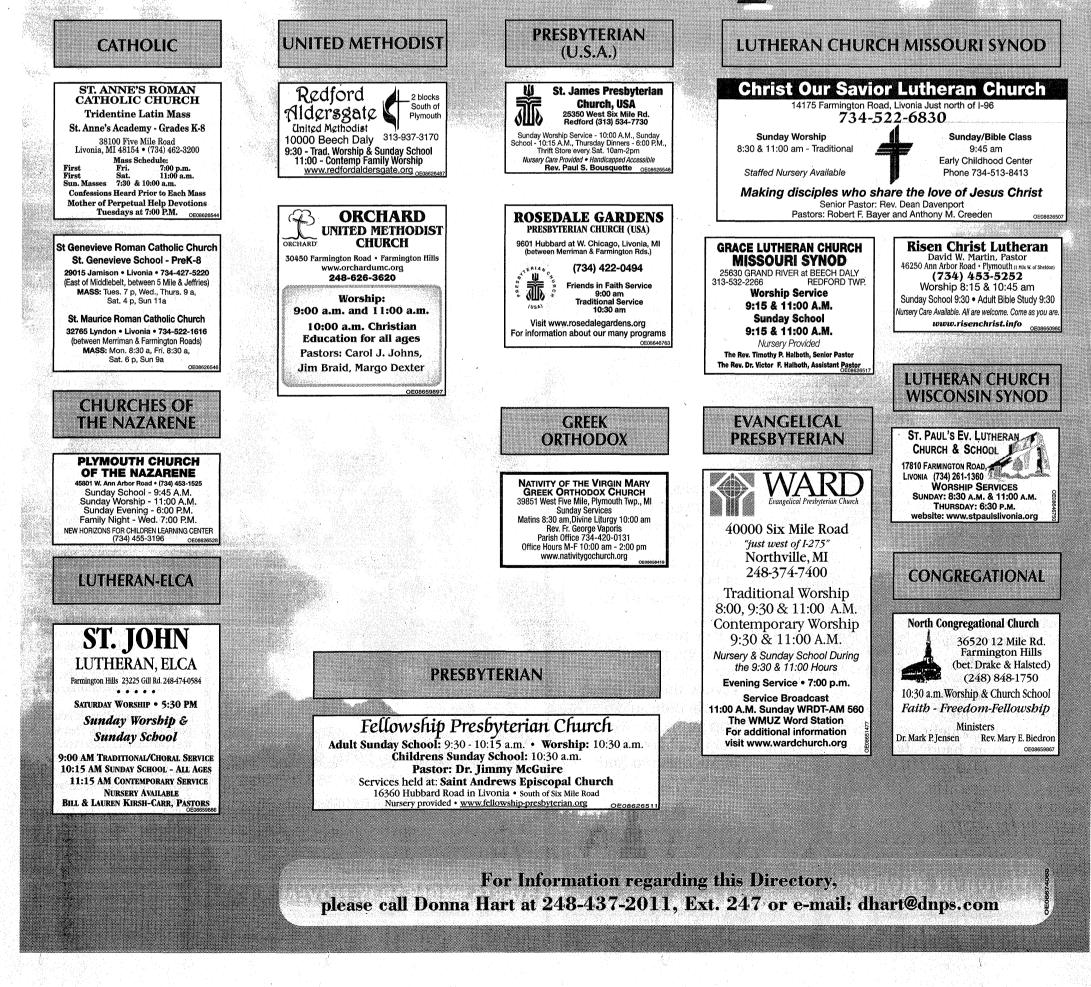


Livonia Franklin High School 31000 Joy Road, Livonia



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B7



FITTER 'American Idol' runner-up joins orchestra for Christmas favorites

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN CONTRIBUTING WRITER

B8

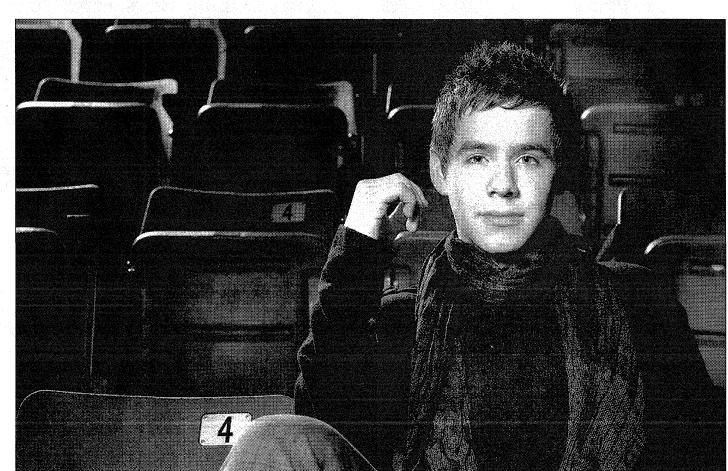
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Dave Siefkes can't wait for the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra's concert featuring special guest David Archuleta at Hill Auditorium. Not only is the American Idol runner-up singing music from his latest recording, but for the first time performs Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas to arrangements for orchestra.

Archuleta is currently on tour with his Christmas from the Heart CD released in mid-October. In addition to selections such as Joy to the World and Silent Night and Ave Maria, Archuleta sings his original *Melodies* of Christmas. The orchestra rounds out the program with selections from the Nutcracker Suite as well as Sleigh Ride.

"This is the first concert he's ever done with symphony orchestra," said Siefkes, orchestra marketing director and a former Livonia resident. "This is the premiere of these arrangements even for his biggest hit Crush (the first single from his debut album) and a couple we're keeping as a surprise. He has such a great voice. We'll have our 76 piece orchestra on the stage with him, all special for this concert."

Archuleta in 2007 received more than 97 million votes in the American Idol competition that became a close run against David Cook who eventually won. Since then Archuleta has thrilled crowds in tours across the U.S. and United Kingdom. His Nov. 27 appearance is a way for the orchestra to draw



American Idol David Archuleta will perform with the Ann Arbor Symphony.

young people to concerts. As part of their educational outreach Ann Arbor Symphony members regularly present programs that introduce students to classical music at schools in Farmington Hills, Livonia, Northville, Novi, West Bloomfield, Canton, and Plymouth.

YOUNG PERFORMER

Archuleta appeals to the very young as well as those young-at-heart. He was only 10 years old when he won the Utah Talent Competition's division for children and then two years later became the Junior Vocal Champion on Star Search 2. When he auditioned for American Idol Archuleta was the youngest singer ever to compete at just 16 years old. His Honduran-born mother exposed Archuleta early to the Latin music. She and her sisters sang at events while his

father played recordings of a variety of music styles including the jazz he performed.

"We're trying to do something to extend our reach a little," said Siefkes. "The folks at Radio Disney helped us put this together. We're happy to have this collaboration and plan to do something together again in the future. The fun part of the concert is we'll have extra instruments like a harp and celesta, a percussion instrument that's

very beautiful. And it's at Hill Auditorium that has three levels and not a bad seat in the house."

David Archuleta joins the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra in concert 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 27, at Hill Auditorium, 825 North University Avenue, Ann Arbor. Tickets range from \$19 to \$72 plus extra service charges of \$4 to \$14 per seat. Call (734) 994-4801 or go online to www.a2so. com.



Isabel Bayrakdarian sings Dec. 4 at the Dearborn Ford Center for the Performing Arts.

Internationally known soprano to perform church benefit

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Anyone who enjoys opera and classical music won't want to miss the Dec. 4 concert by Isabel Bayrakdarian at the Ford Community & Performing Arts Center in Dearborn. The soprano ecently returned from Florence

Unique glasses help vision impaired see better

Low vision doctors Sheldon Smith and **Donald Haiderer** prescribe spectacle aids for the visually impaired.

Vision loss is devastating, stealing independence and quality of life. The good news is many determined people have begun to fight back.

Desmond Roberts lost his license to drive. He saw Dr. Sheldon Smith of Low Vision of Michigan desperate to maintain independent driving. With telescopic driving glasses prescribed by Dr. Smith his license was reinstated.

"My life ended at my front door, but this gave my life back," said Roberts. "You saved my life."

David Welch sought surgical quality to read without hand magnifiers and drive with confidence. The doctor prescribed one pair for driving and another for

Low Vision of Michigan

Located throughout Michigan: Livonia, Warren, Grand Rapids, Saginaw, Port Huron, Okemos, Fenton, Burton, Lambertville

reading. "No other specialists helped me like Dr. Smith," said Welch, moved to tears by seeing better.

"Today we make glasses that noticeably improve sight," said Dr. Smith. "They can be taken anywhere, unlike electronic table-top magnifiers.And unlike magnifiers, spectacles are hands free."



David Welch with driving glasses

"We prescribe telescopes for sight loss," said Dr. Don Haiderer of Low Vision of Michigan. "They are custom focused for simplicity

of use so your eyes see the best they can. Details look bigger, closer and easier to make out."

Urgency is critical to success. Prompt treatment gives better outcomes. There is no advantage in waiting to get worse. Whether reading or driving, the best time to start is early, with milder devices. If necessary, using stronger devices comes easier after mastering mild ones.

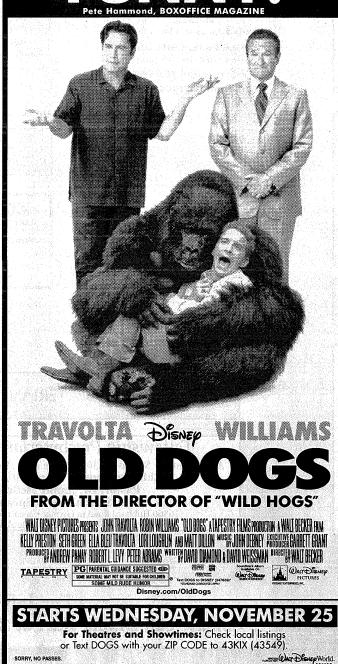
We help people with mild, moderate and severe vision loss. Every situation is unique. Special reading glasses start at \$600 and custom telescopes start from \$1800.

Patients and referring physicians are welcome to review their situation or schedule an appointment. We can help. Call Low Vision of Michigan to find out how.

TOLL FREE: 877-677-2020

Dr. Sheldon Smith and Dr. Don Haiderer low vision optometrists www.suburbaneyecare.com

KNOW THE SCORE check out the numbers in today's **Sports** section



where she ended her European tour.

Bayrakdarian is an award-winning singer having won first prize in the 2000 Operalia competition founded by Placido Domingo, the legendary tenor. Since then she's taken home four Juno awards. She won the Metropolitan Opera National Council Award in 1997, Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal in 2005, Virginia Parker Prize from the Canada Council for the Arts, and the Leonie Rysanek Award from the George London Foundation.

Bayrakdarian has several recordings to her credit including the Grammy Award winning soundtrack for the film The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers.

Born in Lebanon, Bayrakdarian is of Armenian heritage, so when approached by the board at St. Sarkis Armenian Apostolic Church in Dearborn she immediately said yes to helping them raise funds for the church. Bayrakdarian's first experience as a vocalist was at church. Now a citizen of Canada, Bayrakdarian says the church and her family remain the focus of her life.

"I encourage everyone who loves fine classical music to come to the concert," said Michael Hagopian, chairman of the church's board of trustees and a Northville resident.

"One of the parishioners is related to Isabel and asked me if the church would be interested. We immediately jumped at the opportunity."

Robert Kachadourian is only too happy to be part of the committee planning the performance for the last six months.

"I think this is a wonderful opportunity for people of the area to hear someone from the New York Met," said Kachadourian. "There are not too many people of her caliber coming around. It's kind of a coup in a way.

Soprano Isabel Bayrakdarian performs 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 4, at the Ford Community & Performing Arts Center, 15801 Michigan Ave., Dearborn. For tickets, call (313) 943-2354 or online at www.dearbornfordcenter.com.

Tickets are reserved and priced at \$25, \$40 and \$50.

We've made it as reasonable as we possibly can," said Hagopian. "It is hard economic times in Michigan. We want to expose as many people as we can to her talent and the music she will be performing."

FILTER

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, November 19, 2009

ART

Detroit Artist Market

Location: 4719 Woodward Avenue, in the Detroit Cultural Center

Contact: (313) 832-8540 or visit www.detroitartistsmarket.org

Costick Center

Time/Date: Nov. 19-Jan. 8, 2010; gallery hours are 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday Details: The work of multimedia artist Susan

Warner Location: 28600 W. Eleven Mile, in Farmington Hills

Contact: (248) 473-1856

Lotus Arts Gallery

Location: 995 West Ann Arbor Trail, downtown Plymouth

Contact: (888) 889-4ART (toll free) or (734)453-5400

Northville Art House

Location: 215 W. Cady Street, downtown Northville

Time/Dates: 5th Annual Northville Holiday Art Market; show continues through Dec. 12

Details: Hand-crafted work in pottery, fiber, jewelry and painting will be for sale by well-known local artists

Contact: (248) 344-0497, or visit www.northvillearts.org

COMEDY Go Comedy!

GET OUT

Time/Date: Various show times Wednesdays thru Sundays Location: 261 E. Nine Mile, Ferndale

Details: Improv most nights. Open mic/jam session show for improvisers is 10 p.m. Wednesdays Contact: (248) 327-0575; www.gocomedy.net

JD's House of Comedv

Time/Date: Various show times Wednesday-Saturday evenings

Location: 25333 W. 12 Mile, inside Star Theatre complex, Southfield

Details: Stand-up shows, 8 p.m. Thursday and 8 p.m., 10:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday; Apollo amateur night, 8 p.m. Wednesday

Contact: (248) 348-2420 or www.ticketmaster.com

Jazz Cafe at Music Hall

Time/Date: 9 p.m. third Thursdays Location: 350 Madison Ave., Detroit Details: Show Up, and Go Up, open call, free Contact: (313) 887-8532, www.jazzcafedetroit.com

Joey's Comedy Club of Livonia

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Mondays, Open Mic; 8 p.m. Tuesdays, Local Legends; 8 p.m. shows Wednesdays, Thursdays; 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays Location: 36071 Plymouth Road, Livonia Contact: (734) 261-0555, www.kickerscomplex.

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M-F 7am-11am only. Not valid o

\$4.25 Purchase Limit 1

Breakfast Special #15 2 EGGS, HASH BROWNS,

2 BACON OR SAUSAGE/TOAST

Ith purchase of beverage per person \$2.49. Fram-11am only. Not valid on specials. With coupon only upon may not be combined. Dine-in only. Expires 12/16/09

Time/Date: Open Mic 8 p.m. most Wednesdays; Justin Schlegel, Nov. 19-21; Mike Green, Nov. 27-28; Matt Kirshen, Dec. 3-5; Dan Cummins, Dec. 10-12; Juston McKinney, Dec. 17-19; Kevin McPeek, Dec. 26; Jim David, Dec. 31

Location: 269 E. Fourth, Royal Oak Contact: (248) 542-9900, www.comedycastle.com

CONCERTS

The Ark

Time/Date: Frank Vignola and The Hot Club of Detroit, Thursday, Nov. 19; Carrie Rodriguez, Friday, Nov. 20; Willy Porter & Luke Doucet, Saturday, Nov. 21; Bill Harley, Sunday, Nov. 22; Blind Pilot, Monday, Nov. 23; Haley Bonar with Matt Jones, Tuesday, Nov. 24; Matt Watroba, Friday, Nov. 27; Mr. B, Saturday, Nov. 28; Gemini, Sunday, Nov. 29; Cliff Eberhardt & Storyhill, Tuesday, Dec. 1; Lindsay Tomasic with Annie & Rod Capps, Wednesday, Dec. 2; Jackopierce, Thursday, Dec. 3; Orpheum Bell, Friday, Dec. 4; WPA, Saturday, Dec. 5; Lee Murdock with seasonal lore of the Great Lakes, Sunday, Dec. 6; Trinidad Tripoli Steel Band, Tuesday, Dec. 8; Bill Kirchen Honky-Tonk Holiday, Thursday, Dec. 10 Location: 316 South Main, Ann Arbor Contact: (734) 763-8587; www.theark.org

Detroit Institute of Arts

Time/Date: Friday Night Live concerts, 7 and 8:30 p.m.

Location: 5200 Woodward Ave Contact: (313) 833-7900. www.dia.org **Hill Auditorium**

Time/Date: 4 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 29 Location: 825 N. University, Ann Arbor Details: The Vienna Boys Choir with "Christmas in

Vienna," Tickets \$10-\$36 Coming up: Handel's "Messiah" 8 p.m., Saturday,

Dec. 5 and 2 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 6; tickets \$10-\$32 Contact: (734) 764-2538; www.ums.org

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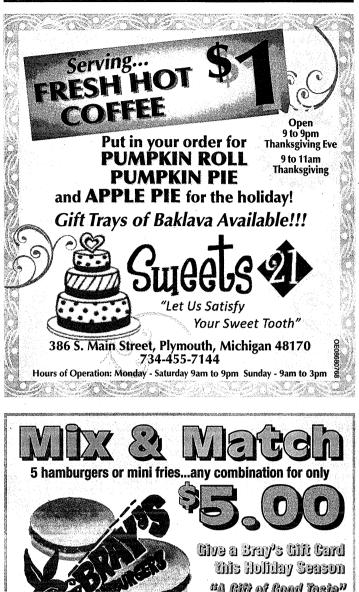
Happy Hounds.

While you are at work, or out of town, we are at work caring for your loyal friend and companion. Look in on them on our doggie web-cams!

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Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, November 19, 2009

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Enjoy a stress-free, easy and impressive holiday

Whether you've made a number of holiday dinners or not, this coming holiday season is filled with enough challenges for any family. Why not approach the main holiday meal from a more relaxed state of mind? You don't have to be a television food chef to make a dinner that will be memorable — it can be as simple as stuffing your thawed turkey with fresh citrus fruits, brushing on a glaze, and making a few no-stress side dishes to perfectly complement the meal.

You'll want to start with a fresh or frozen thawed turkey, appropriately rinsed and drained. Quarter a fresh orange or two and stuff into the carcass. Stir together about 3 tablespoons fresh orange juice, ¼ cup of vegetable oil, 1 teaspoon garlic salt, 1 teaspoon fresh or dried herbs of your choice, and a dash of pepper, and brush over the bird. Cover and bake according to package directions.

The citrus flavor permeating your turkey will perfectly blend with Easy Sausage and Cranberry Stuffing, as well as a Fruity Holiday Salad that's ready in less than five minutes and sure to please. Add some baked yams, canned cranberry sauce and fresh bakery rolls or bread for a meal to remember. Your stuffing can bake while the completely roasted turkey rests and is carved.

It doesn't take great culinary skills or a lot of effort to create a good holiday dinner. For more recipes and holiday tips, visit www.stuffingrecipes.com.

FRUITY HOLIDAY SALAD

Makes a large bowl, sure to feed a crowd!

1 medium head of fresh lettuce, chopped or 1 bag of pre-packaged salad

1 large, fresh carrot, shredded (optional if using bagged salad) 1 cup fresh, sliced celery

½ cup dried cranberries

B10

. (*)

1 cup canned Mandarin Orange slices, drained

½ cup purchased or prepared light vinaigrette salad dressing

2 cups salad croutons

Toss the vegetables, fruit and vinaigrette together until well combined. Sprinkle with croutons and serve for the perfect blend of sweet and savory, crunchy salad.

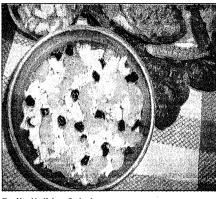
EASY SAUSAGE AND CRANBERRY STUFFING

Makes 10-12 servings			1
1 cup dried cranberries			
½ cup apple juice			
½ cup chicken broth			
1 pound uncooked breakfast	or mild sau	sage	
2 cups diced, fresh celery			
1 cup diced, fresh onion			
1 to 1½ cups chopped pecans	(optional)		
³ / ₄ cup chicken broth			
1 10-ounce package herb sea	soned cube	stuffing	

Place dried cranberries, apple juice and ½ cup chicken broth into small glass bowl; microwave uncovered on high for 2 minutes. Stir, and place to the side (allowing liquid to be absorbed by dried berries).

Preheat oven to 350°F. In large, nonstick pot, brown sliced or chopped sausage, breaking up and stirring frequently until browned. Reduce heat to low, add vegetables and sauté until somewhat tender (about 3-4 minutes). Add chopped pecans if desired, soaked cranberries (including liquid), and ³/₄ cup of chicken broth; stir and remove from heat.

Fold in entire contents of stuffing mix until well combined, and spoon mixture into a 9- by 11-inch baking



Fruity Holiday Salad

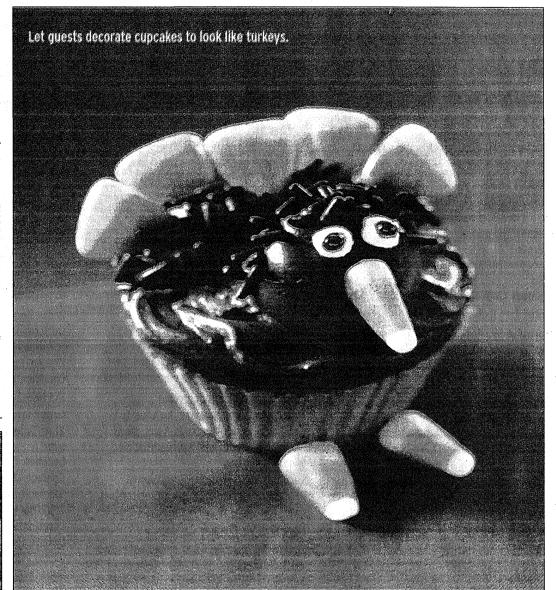


A sausage and cranberry stuffing makes a perfect side to citrus-glazed turkey.

dish that has been prepared with cooking oil spray. Cover baking dish with foil and bake for approximately 20 minutes. Remove foil, return to oven, and bake for an additional 10 minutes uncovered.

Remove from the oven, cool slightly while slicing turkey or other poultry to serve with the meal, and garnish before presentation with ½ cup pecan halves, if desired.

Courtesy of Family Features



Let guests help decorate holiday cupcakes

Sometimes, it's the little turkeys — not the centerpiece feast — that can be tough to manage during Thanksgiving. By giving your younger guests something to do while the main course is being prepared, they will stay busy and feel like they have a role in the big day.

Switch up the typical pumpkin pie dessert and capture their attention by helping them exercise their imagination with these Turkey Cupcakes.

Using a Devil's Food cake mix as the base, it's easy to bake and prepare these cupcakes the day prior to the holiday. Then, on Thanksgiving, guests young and old can customize their turkey cupcakes with candy corn and frosting as feathers, feet and the beak.

After the cupcakes are decorated and ready to be enjoyed, encourage each child to make a hand turkey by tracing the outside of their hand onto a sheet of construction paper and writing one thing they are grateful for on every finger of the outline. Decorate with feathers, wiggly eyes and crayons. With these hand tracings serving as table decorations, ask each child to read aloud the list of things they are grateful for during dinner.

TURKEY CUPCAKES

1 box Devil's Food cake mix – water, vegetable oil and eggs called for on cake mix box

- 2 containers (1 pound each) milk chocolate frosting
- 1 tube (4.25 ounces) white decorating icing
- 1 tube (0.68 ounces) brown decorating gel
- Candy corn
- Chocolate candy sprinkles

1. Heat oven to 350°F (325°F for dark or nonstick pans). Make and cool cake as directed on box for 24 cupcakes.

 Frost cupcakes with frosting. Place remaining frosting in corner of resealable freezer plastic bag. Snip off small corner of bag.

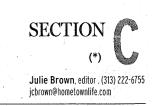
3. To decorate each cupcake, pipe 1-inch mound of frosting on one side of cupcake to look like head of turkey. Make eyes with white decorating icing and brown decorating gel; add candy corn for beak. To make feathers, pipe frosting on opposite side to hold candy corn; place candy corn upright on frosting to look like feathers. Sprinkle chocolate candy sprinkles near head and at base of feathers. If desired, add candy corn at base of cupcake for feet. Store loosely covered.

Prep Time: 30 minutes Total Time: 1 hour 45 minutes Makes: 24 cupcakes

Courtesy of Family Features



REAL BOLIE CONTROL STATE **THURSDAY** November 19, 2009



Habitat homes: Hand up, not a handout

BY JULIE BROWN **O&E STAFF WRITER**

Angela Landon's pretty excited about moving into a Habitat for Humanity home in November.

"Oh, my gosh, a lot," she said when asked of the Taylor home's meaning to her family, which includes two children ages 7 and 10. She wants a stable place for her kids to grow up, and Habitat for Humanity of Western Wayne County came through.

"I never would have had a chance to own a house any other way," said Landon, who had lived for about five months in Westland's shelter.

"Things happen to everybody," said Landon, who'd had a good job. She got sick: "I ended up in a shelter. It was a really eye-opening experience." The shelter staff and volunteers were a big help to Landon, who is disabled.

"There are people who have a lot more need even than me," she said. "I'm so lucky to have found Habitat."

She'll get the keys to her home at 6665 Buck in Taylor the morning of Monday, Nov. 23. Alice Dent, executive director of the Habitat affiliate, based in Plymouth, is so encouraged when she hears stories like Landon's.

"I'm just thrilled we are providing housing for the homeless," said Dent, noting some people don't realize Habitat does that. "We were able to find creative ways to get her sweat equity hours completed."

All new Habitat homeowners must complete so many hours of "sweat equity" work on their own or other houses. The Buck home in Taylor has UPS and JP Properties as sponsors, and was a rehab construction.

It's a busy time of year for the Habitat affiliate with dedications also in Inkster, Wayne and Westland. At all dedications, the keys are turned over to the new homeowners. For the Taylor site, there was a UPS grant, and Dent worked with the city of Taylor's Taylor Cares program in a partnership, with JP Properties giving the money for the house.

Dent praises all the officials she's worked with in the communities. "That's our first build in Wayne," she said of the Thrivent Financial for Lutherans build at 35430 Glover in Wayne. Thana Beavers and her family are the partner family for that new construction, dedicated Nov. 2. The Westland site at 37241 Vincent came via Neighborhood Stabilization funds, with public money for sites in Taylor, Wayne and Westland. The Inkster property at 26120 Dunning was bought from a private individual. Oct. 29 was dedication day for the 26120 Dunning in Inkster build by



Delta employees who worked on the build on Dunning in Inkster with the partner family in the front row.

Delta Air Lines. Northwest Airlines has done home builds with Habitat locally in the past, Dent said, and this most recent one marked the merger with Delta.

The Delta 6 build included six Habitat affiliates in states across the U.S. Sept. 16 was the wall-raising for all states' Habitat homes.

"So that was a significant build for everyone this year," Dent said. The Chantel Dixon family, coming from Taylor to live in the home, did sweat equity work at other sites as well.

This was a Blitz Build," Dent said. "This house was built in one month." Today, Thursday, Nov. 19, at 4 p.m.

is the dedication for the Apostle Churches build at 37241 Vincent, Westland.

Kanette Washington's family is the partner family for the Westland rehab construction.

"We're excited to be busy," Dent said of transitioning four families into good housing through the Christian ministry. She was excited to give Landon two gallons of bright pink paint for her daughter's room. "This is one of the most memorable builds. This is just giving her so much hope." Other Habitat homes have been built on Dunning in Inkster, and there's one lot left with sponsors being sought. It's next to the Delta home.



Meet me in St. Louis you'll be glad

Q: I am being transferred to St. Louis and I am wondering what the city that awaits me will be like particularly, in terms of residing in the downtown or Forest Park area?

A: St. Louis is more dynamic than ever with a MetroLink that provides rapid transit from the airport to downtown and other locales. There is much development in the downtown area including new condominiums and conversions as well as in the Forest Park area. The weakened economy has not



hurt St. Louis as much as in other areas, and I think you will find a wide variety of residential opportunities as well as a clean City with two new

Robert Meisner

stadia. You are best advised to consult with a well-known real estate firm and lawyer before entering into any real estate transaction.

Q: Do you have any information about the real estate market in St. Louis?

A: The real estate market is relatively strong in St. Louis although there are a number of developments that have suffered with the economy. On the other hand, there are new condominiums being constructed throughout St. Louis, particularly in the downtown area overlooking the Mississippi. There are also a number of apartments for lease in the downtown area. some of which constitute new construction. The downtown area has major shopping and entertainment with a multitude of restaurants from low end to the very high end.

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and the author of Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track, second edition. It is available for \$9.95 plus \$1 shipping and handling. He also wrote Condo Living: A Survival Guide to Buying, Owning and Selling a Condominium, available for \$24.95 plus \$5 shipping and handling. For more information, call (248) 644-4433 or visit bmeisner@meisner-associates.com. This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.



The Dunning home in Inkster partner family in front of their new home (Chantel Dixon, her children and their grandmother).

"We're really looking for someone to do that so we can complete that project," Dent said.

Alice Dent of Habitat for Humanity of

\$220,000

\$246,000

Western Wayne County can be reached at adenthfhwwc@aol.com or (734) 459-7744. The office address is 638 Starkweather. Plymouth, MI 48170, the Web site habitatwwc.org.

HOMES SOLD – OAKLAND COUNTY

These are the Observer & Ec	ccentric-area	5875 Misty Hill Dr	\$186,000	866 Grace St
residential real estate closi	ngs recorded	8767 Morning Mist Dr	\$340,000	533 Morgan Cir
the week of Aug. 10-14, 2009, at the Oakland		4952 Paula Ave	\$190,000	Novi
County Register of Deeds of		Commerce Township	21503 Ingram Rd	
are cities, addresses, and s	ales prices.	4828 Driftwood Dr	\$475,000	44577 Midway Dr
Auburn Hills	· · ·	645 Polvadera St	\$118,000	23530 N Rockledge
3392 Grove Ln	\$154,000	5443 Starwood Dr	\$212,000	45004 Paine Dr
2527 James Rd	\$40,000	Farmington Hills		40636 Paisley Cir
3670 Lexington Dr	\$160,000	27944 Brandywine Rd	\$155,000	24707 Picara Dr
2311 Liverpool St	\$82,000	36273 Fredericksburg Rd	\$233,000	45298 Yorkshire Dr
750 S Briarvale Dr	\$88,000	33016 Glenvalley Dr	\$146,000	Rochester Hills
Beverly Hills		21041 Marshview Dr	\$210,000	239 Arlington Dr
19191 Devonshire St	\$193,000	21103 Ontaga St	\$40,000	2165 Avoncrest Dr
16174 Lauderdale Ave	\$250,000	21862 Ontaga St	\$105,000	843 Dumont Pl
Bingham Farms		30335 Patricia St	\$110,000	737 Dunedin Dr
32900 Outland Trl	\$325,000	29436 Pendleton Club Dr	\$57,000	2567 Emmons Ave
Birmingham		39358 Plumbrook Dr	\$249,000	2464 Melvin Ave
824 Bennaville Ave	\$484,000	34461 Ramble Hills Dr	\$365,000	3890 Mildred Ave
820 Humphrey Ave	\$435,000	29361 Shenandoah Dr	\$250,000	792 Oak Brook Ridge Dr
883 Larchlea Dr	\$905,000	27630 W Echo Vly	\$50,000	704 Preston Ct
2602 Pembroke Rd	\$175,000	24541 Westmoreland Dr	\$117,000	3079 S Adams Rd
Bloomfield Hills		25447 Wykeshire Rd	\$157,000	2817 Tallahassee Dr
95 Guilford Rd	\$330,000	Lake Orion	같은 것이 있었다. 13 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 1	2864 Trailwood Dr
Bloomfield Township	방 : 서망한 것 : .	2797 Fox Hollow Ct	\$35,000	226 Windrift Ln
2544 Aspen Ln	\$150,000	3845 Hi Villa Dr	\$186,000	South Lyon
4510 Charing Cross Rd	\$1,100,000	341 Indianwood Rd	\$200,000	778 Hidden Creek Dr
4576 Niagara Ln	\$300,000	Milford		57758 International Dr
3892 Oakhills Dr	\$205,000	863 Barberry Dr	\$222,000	61550 W Eight Mile Rd
1696 S Hill Blvd	\$158,000	1425 Horseshoe Cir	\$220,000	Southfield
439 Tilbury Rd	\$310,000	2972 Old Plank Rd	\$200,000	27377 Lexington Pkwy
Clarkston	- 동물 연양하는	Northville		30094 Pleasant Trl
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22682 W 11 Mile Rd

28913 Walnut Grove Ln

HOMES SOLD – WAYNE COUNTY

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residential real estate closings recorded the		43661 Nowland Dr	\$225,000	20330 Osmus St		Redford	612 000	
week of Aug. 3-7, 2009, at the Wayne County			2171 Preserve Cir E	\$127,000	11141 Oxbow St	\$88,000	9636 Beech Daly Rd	\$32,000
	Register of Deeds office. Listed below are		48805 Rockefeller Dr	\$281,000	13999 Riga St	\$91,000	19398 Centralia	\$25,000
÷	cities, addresses, and sales prices.		607 Sandalwood Rd	\$299,000	15543 Stonehouse Cir	\$180,000	9172 Dale	\$47,000
	Canton		46842 Spinning Wheel Dr	\$180.000	15378 Susanna Cir	\$213,000	9135 Dixie	\$49,000
	43600 Appomattax Ct	\$140,000	42274 Trent Dr	\$245,000	14657 Yale St	\$125,000	25953 Fordson Hwy	\$70,000
	852 Aylesbury Ct	\$250,000	437 W Canford Park	\$265,000	Northville	n	20000 Garfield	\$50,000
	42400 Beechwood Dr	\$150.000	1773 Willard Dr	\$145.000	40512 Coachwood Cir	\$330,000	20476 Indian	\$77,000
	44080 Candlewood Dr	\$199,000	1861 Willard Dr	\$150.000	16030 Morningside	\$131,000	9551 Mercedes	\$75,000
	2243 Cleveland Way	\$218,000	Garden City		16115 Portis Rd	\$217,000	10035 San Jose	\$26,000
	50509 Coolidge St	\$195,000	29051 Bock St	\$44,000	49072 Rainbow Ln S	\$265,000	9204 Tecumseh	\$71,000
	45431 Cypress Ct	\$230,000	29435 Brown Ct	\$90,000	18000 Stonebrook Ct	\$650,000	Westland	김 동물 관계 문제
	40675 Deer Creek Ct	\$200,000	6777 Gilman St	\$57,000	Plymouth	Contractor - 1	1930 Alexander Dr	\$102,000
	3944 Elizabeth Ave	\$74,000	Livonia		416 Auburn St	\$152,000	8302 Carrousel Blvd	\$88,000
	43589 Fleetwood Dr	\$140,000	34940 Beacon St	\$176,000	12106 Deer Creek Run	\$430,000	7311 Garden St	\$74,000
	4189 Forest Bridge Dr	\$58,000	30425 Bonnydale St	\$139,000	9434 Fellows Creek Dr	\$480,000	36241 Hazelwood St	\$36,000
	45475 Glengarry Blvd	\$265,000	32910 Brookside Cir	\$169,000	11903 Glenview Dr	\$285,000	36241 Hazelwood St	\$70,000
	51067 Gold Ridge Ln	\$225,000	18480 Gillman St	\$63,000	13120 Graefield Cir	\$240,000	33296 Mill Race Cir	\$88,000
	4159 Hunters Cir E	\$69,000	18994 Harrison Ave	\$164,000	12512 Howland Park Dr	\$390,000	1540 N Hanlon St	\$77,000
	48813 Ivybridge Way	\$350.000	8955 Lamont St	\$147.000	13000 N Ridge Rd	\$450.000	8318 Randy Dr	\$112.000
	48702 Manhattan Cir	\$368,000	9801 Merriman Rd	\$45,000	45192 Riveredge Dr	\$269,000	33635 Tawas Trl	\$100,000
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Foreclosure tours

Tour foreclosed homes in the Farmington and surrounding areas on every Sunday at 1 p.m., offered by Home Smart Realty, 20853 Farmington Road. Call (248) 426-6754 for more information and registration.

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A free Reverse Mortgage Seminar is 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday at Colonial Mortgage Corp., 33919 Plymouth Road, Livonia. No obligation. Learn about reverse mortgages. Please RSVP with Larry Brady at (800) 260-5484, Ext. 33.

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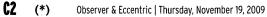
&R Property Management Company was honored with seven awards on Nov. 6 during the Property Management Association of Michigan's GLASTAR awards at the Kellogg Center at Michigan State University. The awards honor excellence in the multifamily industry throughout the State of Michigan.

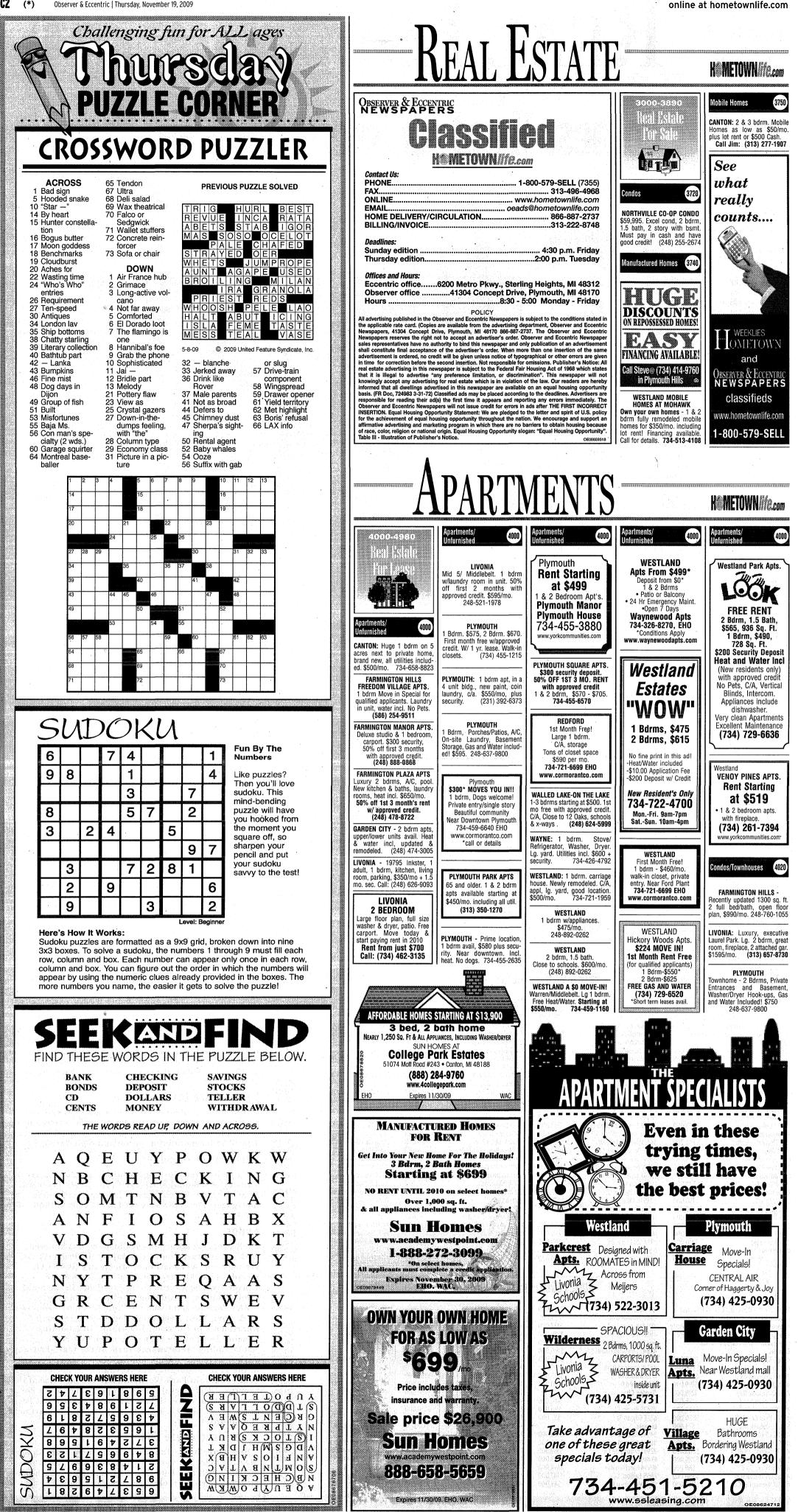
R&R Management won for "Best Brochure"-Fountain Park Novi, "Best Decorated Model"-Brittany Park Apartments in Harrison Township, "Outstanding Leasing Team of the Year"-Fountain Park Novi, "Outstanding Maintenance Team of the Year"-Brittany Park Apartments, "Outstanding Maintenance Person of the Year"-Fountain Park Westland, "Manager of the Year"-Fountain Park Westland, and the big prize of the evening, "Best Overall STAR Property"-Fountain Park South in Southgate, the third time this award has been given to one of R&R Management's managed apartment communities.

Free Foreclosure Tours

1월 4일 1일 2월 4일 2월 1일 1월 1일 2월 1 1월 1일 2월 1

Free Foreclosure Tours are 1 p.m. every other Sunday. Meeting place is Panera Bread on the southeast corner of Middlebelt and I-96. E-mail Georgia@addedvaluerealty.com or visit FreeForeclosureTour.com.





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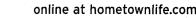
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