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EASY FAMILY MEALS

FOOD, B12

SUNDAY

December 12, 2010

The Observer & Eccentric
Newspapers

Volume 124
Number 34

\$1.00

PLYMOUTH OBSERVER

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ALL-AREA VOLLEYBALL

SPORTS, B3

PIPELINE

Omelette owners

Stop by the Omelette & Waffle Café at Westchester Square and meet the new owners - Matthew Amin and Jeff Alexander.

They promise all fresh foods from Eastern Market in preparing their specialties. And, they are open an hour earlier now during the week. Hours are 7 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Tuesday-Friday; 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Stop in and welcome them to the neighborhood.

Flu shots

The Salvation Army and Kroger are working together to provide flu shots to the uninsured. The program, which launched Dec. 5, runs through Feb. 28, or until the local supply of flu vaccines runs out.

To qualify for this assistance, the families or individuals will need an appointment with the Salvation Army to receive a voucher. A separate voucher is required for each family member aged 6 months and up. The vouchers can then be presented to the pharmacy at the Kroger they choose.

The program is for non-insured individuals only and the flu shots will be administered by Kroger personnel at times indicated at the pharmacy.

For more information, call the Plymouth Salvation Army, (734) 453-5464.

Christmas carols

The Plymouth Historical Museum presents an "Old World Christmas Carols Show," performed by Simply Dickens, on Monday, Dec. 13 at 7 p.m. The show highlights the carols that were well known long ago during the Christmas Season but are rarely heard by modern ears, along with a few of the more familiar tunes. There are also comedic holiday skits performed by group members. Simply Dickens is a period-dressed quartet of trained vocalists and musicians that specializes in the music of the 18th and 19th centuries.

Tickets to the show are \$10 per person/\$25 per family in advance or \$15 per person/\$30 per family at the door and can be purchased at the Plymouth Historical Museum or on the Museum's website www.plymouthhistory.org using PayPal. Museum doors will open at 6 PM; the show starts at 7 PM.

The Plymouth Historical Museum is located at 155 S. Main Street, Plymouth.

Holiday photos

Send us your favorite holiday photos for a chance to win a prize.

Go to hometownlife.com (Get Published) and post your favorite holiday photo (or photos) with a short caption, then encourage friends and family to vote by clicking recommend under the photo. The top vote-getter will receive tickets for two to Emagine Theater (Canton or Novi). The second- and third-place winners will receive a coupon for a free four-square cheese and one-topping Buddy's pizza.

Contest ends midnight Dec. 31. Share your holiday spirit with others! Go to hometownlife.com.



'Chef' Joshua Mangion takes an order for one crepe during New Morning School's French immersion event on Wednesday. Students also helped prepare quiche and ratatouille.

French cuisine

Immersion program gives students a taste of France

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Napoleon, Joan of Arc, novelist Victor Hugo, painters Henri Matisse and Edgar Degas and Gustave Eiffel, who designed a famous tower, walked the streets of Paris — in Plymouth Township — Wednesday.

It was French immersion at New Morning School, an event that had students and visitors traveling over time and space to learn about the culture of France.

Elementary students learned French words, served ratatouille and quiche, acted in skits and offered soliloquies as historical figures, studied maps of France, learned about the painting styles pointillism and impressionism and toured a "Paris" of cardboard and papier mache.

"We make it as hands-on as possible because the kids really learn much more," elementary teacher Cynthia Wilkinson said. The students even made chef hats, she said. "I don't know if there was an aspect we really didn't touch on."

Students from other than the elementary grades, plus parents, invited home-schooled children and other visitors, got to tour the immersion sets Wednesday.

"It was kind of cool to see people we didn't know from the outside have fun and participate," Wilkinson said. The first French immersion day was last month.

The private school regularly has immersion pro-



Using an iPad, Elyse Zurawski is a tour guide in 'Paris.' In back are Erika Ingle, Donovan Ingle, Michelle Bernard and Rita Ingle.

grams to give students a glimpse into the historical periods and cultures they're studying, Wilkinson said. They've toured Japan, explored the Oregon Trail, witnessed the Underground Railroad and, last spring, spent time in colonial-era America, washing laundry by hand, making their own candles and dyeing clothing in boiled onion skins.

They hadn't been to France before, however.

"It's kind of fun to learn it together," Wilkinson said.

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Deal extension buys some time for Daisy Wall

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Daisy Wall is leaning, and now sentiment is starting to tip, too — in favor of razing it.

The wall, the last standing remnant of the factory where Daisy Air Rifles were built from the 1880s to the 1950s, won a reprieve Wednesday when the Plymouth Planning Commission voted 8-0 for a six-month extension of the development agreement with Joseph Freed & Associates, the developer of the stalled Daisy Square condominium project. Without the extension, the agreement, originally reached in 2003, would have expired at the end of this year.

The deal originally called for the wall to be incorporated into a condominium building, but Freed representatives, citing its poor condition and the complexity of preserving it and building with it, now want to tear it down and use elements in some type of memorial to the Daisy Manufacturing Co., such as a park.

While commissioners informally called on preservationists to work with Freed and the city and come up with a plan for preserving the wall within 60 days, some indicated the clock is running out.

"Given where we're at it's an acceptable proposal," said Commissioner Conrad Schewe, the chairman, of the developer's request.

"It's got to come back to the people who are most affected," said Commissioner John King. "It's the residents, the people who stare at it every day."

Residents at and near Daisy Square, which is off of Union Street, have spoken at recent planning meetings and argued for tearing down the wall.

"Build it into something that's more of a usable space for residents," said Beth Foley, president of the association that represents

Please see **DAISY, A6**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Daisy wall, the last standing remnant of the factory where Daisy Air Rifles were built from the 1880s to the 1950s, won a reprieve Wednesday when the Plymouth Planning Commission voted 8-0 for a six-month extension of the development agreement with the developer trying to decide what to do with it.

Parents want their voices heard in Lansing

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

When members of the new state Legislature takes their seats next month, two-thirds of the representation for the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools will be new.

To a group of parents concerned with where the state is headed in terms of funding public education, that's an important factor as district administrators struggle to balance a budget filled with one-time money that's about to go away.

Democrat Dian Slavens returns to her seat in the state House's 21st District (Canton), but Republicans Kurt Heise (20th House) and Pat

Colbeck (7th Senate) are political newcomers. These parents want their state legislators to take their issues into account when they're dealing with the financial struggles that continue to plague the state.

"We're in a unique position right now ... two-thirds of the legislators representing our district are new," said Denise Zander, who co-chairs the parents' legislative committee. "We wanted to make sure they hit the ground running knowing what the concerns are of the parents of students in their district."

MONEY MATTERS

Those concerns revolve largely around funding. Some of these same

parents formed a group called Class Size Counts last year, when it became evident how tight the district's budget was going to be. Organizers said they formed to make sure administrators didn't use increased class size — and fewer teachers — to solve their budget issues.

Some of their members have also attended sessions of the district's finance committee and gained some understanding of the situation. Believing administrators have been "lean and mean with (district) money," the parents decided the way to attack the problem was from above.

"We realized if we're going to do anything it was to approach this at a state level," said Sheila Paton, the

other co-chair of the parents' committee. "We quickly realized Plymouth-Canton didn't know how much funding they had last year until June 30. The things the state puts the district through just aren't right. It isn't stable funding, it's not fair or equitable and it puts the district in a bad position."

"I think the district has done a fabulous job," Paton added. "We felt if there was something we could do as parents, it was to work with legislators and help them understand the pressures the district is under."

Those pressures are almost entirely financial. According to district financial figures, some \$341 of the pro-

Please see **PARENTS, A6**



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"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

Dress request

The Plymouth/Canton branch of American Association of University Women is requesting donations of gently used prom and party dresses.

AAUW officials note, "The prom is a very important event in high school and many girls are finding it difficult to afford that special dress in our current economic climate." AAUW will be having a special sale in April where suitable dresses can be purchased for minimal or no cost. Any profit will go to the group's scholarship fund.

AAUW volunteers will pick up contributions, or donors can bring it to any meeting. To arrange for pickup, contact S. Zaetta at (734) 455-6366 or szaetta@woway.com; K. Bellows at (734) 421-8807 or KiggityKate83@aol.com; or E. Nelson at (734) 981-4938 or enelson1c@att.net.

Remarkable sky

The Plymouth District Library will again welcome local sky enthusiast, Mike Best on Monday, Dec. 20 at 7 p.m.

Best will illuminate two significant occurrences to take place the next day, Dec. 21 — the winter solstice and a total lunar eclipse (the first one since 2008).

Best hosts the lively and popular "Stars, Moons and Planets" program at the library on the third Monday of every month at 7 p.m. For more details, contact the library, (734) 453-0750, Ext. 4, or go to www.plymouthlibrary.org

Holiday luncheon

The Plymouth Community Arts Council will present a Holiday Art Luncheon on Wednesday, Dec. 15 at the Joanne Winkelman Hulce Center for the Arts, 774 N. Sheldon Road, Plymouth.

Featured performer is professional vocalist Noelle Jacquez, who will entertain with caroling favorites and lead a sing-a-long to get everyone in the holiday spirit. The luncheon begins at 11:45 a.m.

Jacquez attended the Interlochen Arts Academy, and has a degree in Voice from the Blair School of Music at Vanderbilt University. She currently teaches voice lessons in the Plymouth area as well as Musical Theater classes at the PCAC.

Tickets are \$15, advance purchase only, and include a gourmet boxed lunch from Jeff Zak Catering as well as the holiday entertainment.

Tickets can be purchased by phone at (734) 416-4278 or by stopping in at the PCAC, 774 N. Sheldon Road, Plymouth.

Blue Christmas

St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 S. Sheldon Road in Plymouth, announced its



'Home for the Holidays'

The Plymouth Symphony will present 'Home for the Holidays' — the annual Christmas concert at the Penn Theatre on Thursday, Dec. 16. This year the symphony offers two performances; a Family Concert at 6 p.m. and the Traditional Holiday Concert at 8 p.m. Each concert will feature holiday favorites including a sing-along. At the Family concert, members of the Celebration Youth Orchestra will join the symphony for a number and the orchestra's trumpet section will be featured at the 8 p.m. performance for 'Bugler's Holiday' and a spectacular Vivaldi Concerto! Please call (734) 451-2112 for tickets and details or order online at www.plymouthsymphony.com.

annual Blue Christmas service, to be held on Sunday Dec. 19 at 4:30 p.m.

The "Blue Christmas" service, which has been adopted by many churches in recent years, is an alternative Christmas service for people who are for any reason uncomfortable attending traditional Christmas Eve and Day celebrations. Understanding that many people find it difficult to feel joyful during the holiday season, St. John's offers this service as a way to help people find peace and solace, and hopefully as a way to bring healing to those who are hurting because of loss or crisis.

St. John's Blue Christmas service includes readings from poetry and Holy Scripture, prayer, and a special candle-lighting litany, during which attendees are given the opportunity to light a candle in remembrance of their own special prayers. Holy Communion is also offered, and music will include not only beloved quiet Christmas carols, but also songs from the Taize tradition.

More information on St. John's Blue Christmas service or on our other Christmas services can be found on our web-

site, www.stjohnsplymouth.org or telephone our church office at (734) 453-0190.

December exhibit

Holiday and winter art is on display at the Plymouth Community Arts Council through Dec. 23 in the exhibit, "Tis the Season," which features art work of Pam Grossman's adult students at the PCAC and work from the adult students of Kay Rowe of the Village Artists.

A variety of media will be included in this year's exhibit including watercolor, pastel, colored pencil and pen and ink. Most of the works will be for sale.

A reception for the artists will be held Saturday, Dec. 18 from 1-3 p.m. The public is always invited. The PCAC is located at 774 N. Sheldon Rd. in Plymouth. Call (734) 416-4278 for additional information.

Folk night

The BaseLine Folk Society preserves and Promotes traditional acoustic folk music every third Saturday of the month.

This month's night is 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 18, at the Joanne Winkelman Hulce

Center for the Arts, 774 N. Sheldon in Plymouth.

Entertainment includes eight open-mic spots (and lottery if more show up); sign-up is between 6:15 and 6:45 p.m. Also featured is December's featured duo, Alex and Maggie Zakem, with some seasonal sounds done in a traditional way. The event is hosted by Kathy Nieman.

Tickets are \$5 at the door. Contact Mike Mullen, president and founder of BaseLine Folk Society, at (248) 347-6881, for more information.

Jazz @ the Elks

This month's Jazz @ The Elks session features the "Just Jazz Trio" with Jerry McKenzie on drums, Matt Michaels on piano and Dan Jordan on bass.

The event takes place at the Plymouth Elks Lodge #1780, at 41700 Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth, from 7-10:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 28. Space is limited so please come early. No cover but donations appreciated.

Call (734) 453-1780 or visit www.PlymouthElks1780.com for more information.

Note cards

The Friends of Miller Woods have produced beautiful note cards with the photography of Marcia Fowler for seasonal gift giving. The cards make perfect stocking stuffers or teachers gifts.

There are four note cards to a package, each with a different picture, for \$6. Or save money by purchasing three packs for only \$15.

The cards are available in three different groupings, including: 1) Winter Scenery, 2) Four Seasons or 3) Spring Wildflowers.

Contact Cheryl Bord at (734) 459-7666 to place an order before Dec. 15.

Service of Lessons

St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 S. Sheldon Road in Plymouth, announces its annual Service of Lessons and Carols for Advent, to be held Sunday, Dec. 12, at 4:30 p.m.

The service, which follows a format popularized by King's

College of the University of Cambridge, England, alternates readings from Scripture with the singing of songs and carols appropriate for the season of Advent. Members of the church's music ministry, including Children's and Youth choirs, Handbell Choir, Parish Choir, and contemporary group SonShine, will come together to present the music for the service, under the direction of Minister of Music Julie Ford.

Although the concert is free of charge, attendees are encouraged to give generously to a free-will offering. Benefits from the concert will be donated to the Gleaners Community Food Bank of Southeastern Michigan. Gleaners, which was founded in Detroit in 1977, distributes more than 28 million pounds of food annually through its five Metro-Detroit distribution centers.

St. John's Service of Lessons and Carols for Advent is part of the church's concert series, Resounding Art in a Sacred Space. For more information on this program, the concert series, or the parish, please telephone (734) 453-0190, Ext. 16, or visit the church website at www.stjohnsplymouth.org

Holiday concerts

The Plymouth Symphony presents "Home for the Holidays" concerts at the Penn Theatre in downtown Plymouth.

Concerts are scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 16, at 6 and 8 p.m.

For more information, visit www.plymouthsymphony.com or call (734) 451-2112.

Holiday camp for kids

Join Bilingual Fun for an afternoon of fun, educational, and interactive learning. Children ages preschool- elementary are invited to attend Holiday Camp Dec. 21 from 12:30-3:30 p.m. at Praise Baptist Church in Plymouth. Children will learn Spanish through winter-themed activities, music, games, crafts, food, and more.

For more info, contact info@bilingualfun.com or 1-877-686-7399.

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Seattle transplant finds her niche

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Seasoned community organizer Terry Van Loon Craig came to the Plymouth-Canton area from Seattle in June 2008 after she was assigned by then-candidate Barack Obama's campaign to rustle up votes here for his winning presidential bid.

She never left. "There's an openness and warmth people have here in the Midwest," she said. "I've gotten to know so many people with such diverse points of view."

Sitting inside the Plymouth Coffee Bean, one of her favorite spots in a town she loves and now calls home, Craig said even the iconic coffee house on Penniman Avenue attracts customers ranging from Tea Party activists to left-leaning liberals. She has found their candor — even when they are challenging her — refreshing compared to the more subdued nature of Seattleites.

Craig coaxed her husband of 16 years, Steve, into moving here after he found a job as a renewable energy consultant for municipal governments. And she has found her niche after she was hired by the Plymouth-Canton Citizens for Diversity and Inclusion to coordinate its emerging TimeBanking program.

"She will be working to move TimeBanking forward in our community-building efforts," said Anne Marie Graham-Hudak, who chairs PCCDI's strategic planning board.

Craig plans to get TimeBanking started early next year by pooling the resources of people with disabilities, students from the Starkweather Alternative High School and a diverse group of Plymouth-Canton residents of all races, religions and political persuasions.

"I'm really excited about this job," she said.

TimeBanking can work in many ways. A retiree may volunteer to give a student a ride to school in return for



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Terry Van Loon Craig hopes to get as many as 150 people initially involved in TimeBanking and build from there, though she realizes her goal won't happen overnight.

getting snow shoveled from a driveway. A banker may take a vision-impaired woman to a doctor's appointment and benefit from an office-cleaning employee. A teacher may tutor a struggling math student and get a car repaired by a mechanic.

"TimeBanking is a tool that helps to build community," Craig said.

It's a Web-based program that allows participants to earn points for deeds they perform and cash them in for services they need. TimeBanking members will be subject to background checks, and they will be invited to occasional meetings amid hopes of strengthening their ties and building friendships.

"It's kind of like a pay it forward program," Craig said. "It's not just volunteering. People who give help also need to receive help. People need to look at it as a way to build a safety net for the middle class and not just to help people who are poor, disadvantaged or marginalized."

TimeBanking already has taken root in 42 U.S. states and 32 countries, and Graham-Hudak has said PCCDI initiated the project to pool the resources of Plymouth-Canton residents, strengthen the community and

build a better understanding among different people.

It's a concept Craig has embraced for 20 years as a community organizer.

She grew up in the Los Angeles area and received her undergraduate degree in political science from Whittier College. She moved to Seattle 18 years ago and received her master's degree in theology from Seattle University.

Craig worked on political campaigns for local candidates and presidential nominees, but her experiences reached far beyond the political arena in the Seattle area:

- She worked with an African-American community to get a community center built.

- She helped organize a successful campaign to keep a nuclear waste site from being built in Washington state.

- She developed a high school community service program and worked to get teens involved in projects such as sending packaged goods to service people overseas.

Craig has worked alongside Sikhs, Christians, Muslims, Presbyterians and other religious groups, and she said she is eager to tap into this area's diversity as she organizes TimeBanking. She learned about PCCDI and its

goals through the Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion.

"They're just phenomenal," she said.

Craig hopes to get as many as 150 people initially involved in TimeBanking and build from there, though she realizes her goal won't happen overnight.

"People have to ask for help to make it work," she said.

Anyone who wants to become involved or who simply wants more information may send an e-mail to PCTimebank@gmail.com, and PCCDI and Craig plan soon to announce a phone number potential TimeBanking members can call.

Craig smiles as she reflects on how she pulled up her West Coast roots after she just happened to land in the Plymouth-Canton area as a field organizer for Obama's campaign. She quickly grew to love this area and its people, and now she won't have to leave.

"It's like a dream come true that I get to stay here," she said.

dclem@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2238

U-M students get first-hand look at program

Last month, 23 University of Michigan students of social work descended on Plymouth's Kellogg Park, businesses and residential areas to promote the benefits of timebanking.

The students were assisting the local Plymouth-Canton timebank as part of an initiative led by the MI Alliance of TimeBanks. The initiative was to encourage community building through use of "timebank dollars" earned through volunteerism by both businesses and community members.

The organization is one of 400 such banks in the United States and 32 other countries. Business can benefit from timebanking by gaining volunteers to help with marketing, cleaning, packing - while offering their services to other volunteers in the timebank group. This helps to build community and helps struggling businesses gain support from local residents, what organizers call "a win-win situation."

The students benefited from the experience by learning the benefit of community building and organizing. The students also learned how to help communities work with one another through a very sustainable tool, TimeBanking. Patricia Simmons, one of the students said that she had a good time talking to the business owners and residents and was impressed with the response they received.

Laura Manthey said she's "extremely passionate" about community, but often wondered how to go about creating close community with neighbors. When the timebanking program was explained to her in September, something clicked.

"It triggered at something in me, and my time thus far in the TimeBanking Plymouth/Canton project has confirmed these initial feelings," Manthey said. I am excited to see how this project unfolds in this community."

Livonia Public Schools Opens Renowned Academically Talented Program to Out-of-District Students

Three seats are open to students entering 7th grade in winter 2011
Three seats are open to students entering 8th grade in winter 2011

Limited Registration window: Dec. 6, 2010 – Jan. 6, 2011

Livonia Public Schools is opening its Middle School Alternative Classrooms for the Academically Talented (MACAT) program to Limited Schools of Choice for the 2010-11 school year, second semester.

This program is geared toward academically talented students looking for a specialized learning experience. Registration will open from Dec. 6, 2010 - Jan. 6, 2011 at Churchill High School, 8900 Newburgh Rd, Livonia 48150 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. All candidates MUST meet the MACAT selection testing criteria.

For complete information on the application process, Contact Doug Coates at Churchill High School at 734-744-2650 ext. 46132

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Source: NCQA's Health Insurance Plan Rankings 2010-11 – Medicare BCN Advantage HMO-POSSM is a health plan with a Medicare contract. Blue Care Network of Michigan is a nonprofit corporation and independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

EDUCATION

Sunday, December 12, 2010

hometownlife.com

HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Contact Editor, Brad Kadrich

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Comment online at hometownlife.com

Grant helps symphony with pilot program

The Plymouth Canton Symphony Orchestras has received an education grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

The NEA grant will help the orchestra develop a pilot program on Musical Composition for fifth-grade students in the Plymouth Canton School District.

Called "The Composer in Me!" the program is being piloted at several of the district's elementary schools.

Students will have the opportunity to study with Dr. Andrea Reinkemeyer of Ann Arbor, a graduate of the University of Michigan. Reinkemeyer will work with students to learn about musical composition and how composers are inspired to create music. Students will work on creating musical compositions based on poems they have written in their language arts classes on subjects from the tested curriculum.

Reinkemeyer is a professional composer who has studied under some of the great contemporary composers of our time and has composed for orchestra, chamber and wind ensembles, in addition to vocal and percussion ensembles. She finds this approach to learning



Reinkemeyer

about musical composition to be fun and successful in teaching students to think like a writer as they work on musical composition.

"The students are very lucky to have the Plymouth Symphony, which shows a vested interest in the musical education of the students in its community, as well as teachers who are willing to explore a new project like this," Reinkemeyer said. "My hope is that it will encourage students to see the humanities as a vehicle for self-expression. The cross-discipline approach is also exciting because we're incorporating elements from their classroom studies into the projects through haikus written by the students about science and literature; this kind of interplay is an integral part of the artistic process."

For more information on the "Composer in Me!" project or any of the other educational programs of the Plymouth Symphony please call (734) 451-2112 or visit www.plymouthsymphony.com.

Miller robotics team rolls to state competition

The Millerbots, Miller Elementary School's student robotics teams, won the 2010 Downriver Robot Rescue FLL Regional Tournament in November. Both of the school's teams also participated in the State Competition in White Lake.

The Millerbots came in ninth and 11th, respectively, in a field of 48 teams at the state competition. They received second place in programming and in innovative solutions.

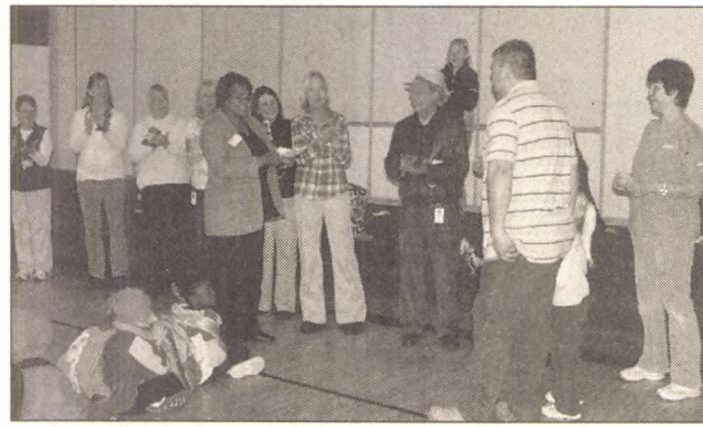
At the regional competition, the Millerbots Team 2 won two awards—the best overall championship award and the Creative Research Award. Millerbots Team 1 won the Innovative Strategy Award for Programming. In addition, the teams won seven "WOW" awards throughout the competition for their presentations, enthusiasm and support for other teams in the competition.

Teams are judged on their research presentation, a team-work problem solving event and the depth of understanding demonstrated in the programming of their Lego robot and the degree to which the robot achieves identified goals.

TAG screening

The Plymouth-Canton Community Schools is screening students for admission to its talented and gifted program for the 2011-12 school year. To apply for admission to the program, a student must reside within the P-CCS District boundaries and be in grades two to seven. Nomination forms are

SCHOOL BRIEFS



Walmart presented 10 Hulsing Elementary teachers with \$100 gift certificates and gave Hulsing Principal Carolyn Washington another \$1,500 for the school.

available in all P-CCS elementary and middle schools.

Completed nomination forms must be submitted to school principals or counselors by Dec. 15. Nomination forms are also available online web.pccs.k12.mi.us/tag. Nominations for non-public school students should be returned to the TAG Office at: Miller Elementary School, 43721 Hanford Road, Canton, Michigan 48187, or by fax at (734) 416-4801.

Screening for the program involves two phases of standardized testing, including the Iowa Test and the Cognitive Abilities Test.

Holiday drive

Mike Mardeusz, a fourth-grade teacher at Eriksson Elementary, has a son serving in the military in Afghanistan, so he's learned firsthand how few items from home soldiers receive while trying to do their important work.

Ultimately, soldiers rely on the generosity of people and businesses to get some of the basic necessities others often take for granted. As a result, Mardeusz has organized a collection of items and cards to send to soldiers fighting in Afghanistan.

Before holiday break Dec. 17, Mardeusz will box up the

donations and ship them overseas for distribution.

Math finalists

The Plymouth-Canton Educational Park has been notified that 21 students qualified as finalists in the 54th annual Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition.

They are part of the top 1,000 out of 7,000 Michigan students who took the exam in October. The finalists completed Part II of the competition on Dec. 1 and will be notified in February if they will be recognized as one of the top 100 mathematicians in the state.

The top 50 will be presented scholarships ranging from \$250 to \$2,500.

Walmart helps Hulsing

Hulsing Elementary teachers recently received early holiday gifts due to the efforts of parent Scott Mavracic, the assistant manager of the Walmart store on Ford Road in Canton.

Mavracic and Walmart Department Manager Margie Elrod, presented 10 teachers with \$100 gift certificates. Hulsing Principal Carolyn Washington also received a check for \$1,500 for the school, bringing the grand total to \$2,500.

The teachers receiving gift certificates included Diana Romanowski (kindergarten), Sharon Albert (first grade), Alissa Linton (first grade), Meg Jenkins (second grade), Cheryl Witt (second grade), Sherrill Brown (third grade), Michele Sonk (third grade), Matt Gold (fourth grade), Charles Huhta (fifth grade) and Nancy McNamara (PLUS Preschool).

All donations will be used to support students at the school.

Film award

Students in the Advanced Video class at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park entered their short film "Through Our Eyes" into Myvrspot.com's National Bullying Awareness Week Short Film contest.

These eight students were inspired to create a video Public Service Announcement with a positive anti-bullying message for the contest. Out of hundreds of videos submitted, their film was awarded an honorable mention. The video will be available soon for public viewing on www.myvrspot.com/contest

Cafeteria certification

The Michigan Department of Education recently notified P-CCS officials that Dodson Elementary School has earned a Bronze Certification for its school lunch program. The district's Food Service program as a whole also received praise from the state for its efforts to meet the HealthierUS School Challenge, a voluntary national certification initiative for schools participating the National School Lunch Program.

The award is given to recognize schools that maintain healthy environments by improving the quality of meals and increasing physical activity and nutrition education.

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 Saturday & Sunday – 2:00 – 3:20 pm
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Plans for former downtown gas station due for revisions

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Concerns about trash disposal, parking spaces and a first floor that would be below sidewalk level sent the partners behind a proposed Plymouth restaurant/retail complex scrambling to revise their plans last week.

Ed Dombrowski and Omar Hamdan want to build a three-story building at Ann Arbor Trail and Main Street, where a vacant gas station now sits, for either restaurants, retail stores or a mixture of the two. Dombrowski and his wife, Patricia, own the property and Hamdan has a background in developing and managing restaurants.

But members of the Plymouth Planning Commission, at their meeting Wednesday, objected to a few specifics in the plans — such as a trash chute in a women's rest room — and some questioned whether a below-grade first floor would be viable in a commercial building.

There was also a dispute over the number of parking spaces required.

Donald Wortman, a city planning consultant, said that based on the usable floor area, 28 parking spaces would be required; architect Alex Raichouni, of MA Designers Group, contended that only 12 spaces are needed. Raichouni objected to Wortman's counting of restaurant kitchens as usable floor area.

Commission chairman Conrad Schewe said the parking issue needs to be resolved.

Commissioner Tara Parks noted current plans the plans showed a trash chute in a women's room, but Dombrowski blamed that on a clerical error.

"We know we'd never put a trash chute in the ladies room," Dombrowski said Friday. "That's not the final print."

Commissioners also asked about a first floor that would start six feet below sidewalk level. Dombrowski and Hamdan envision a small food court there with five food kiosks; commissioners asked about the practicality of sending trash up and hauling food deliveries down. The developers said they could install a dumbwaiter to handle deliveries.

Hamdan appeared to be frustrated by commissioners' questions.

"It seems like you don't want the building to be built, but if that's the case, please let us know," he told them.

But commissioners said they were looking at changes to the plan they had just received, and wanted to ensure the plan's details meet the city's requirements and the building would be viable. The plans also need approval from the Historical District Commission, Schewe said.

"I don't believe anybody here is against this project at all," Parks said.

Dombrowski and Hamdan are to return to the commission on Wednesday, Jan. 12. They stressed that although restaurants are being discussed, they are uncertain about the final use of the property. "We are proposing a building but we don't know what's going to come up," Hamdan told commissioners.

Dombrowski on Friday said he and Hamdan plan "a showplace" that will fit in well with other downtown Plymouth buildings. He said he is set on the below-grade first floor and doesn't want a building "designed by committee."

But, he added: "I can see where they're coming from. They want a nice project. That building's going to be a masterpiece."

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Honor society

Some 34 seventh- and eighth-grade students at All Saints Catholic School were inducted into the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) in November, including David Bindon, Katie Birecki, Sarah Bloem, Hannah Cohen, Kara Costantino, Kaitlyn DePriest, Faith Ellis, Roscelia Fahmy, Christopher Fcasni, Alexandra Featherston, Avery Felty, Leanna Fronckowiak, Teresa Ganich, Megan Hammond, Hailey Harris, Hailey Hodgson, Alexis Hurley, Lauren McGovern, Luis Orozco, Glenn Piot, Kathleen Reidy, Caitlin Rukat, Kristen Sanson, Nathan Sarafain, Kevin Schulz, Taylor Smith, Sara Soltis, Hannah Stefanek, Hollyann Stewart, Valentine Vena, Jack Watts, Reid Wildenhaus, Kaila Wiktor and Eryn Zelek.

Youth group to shop locally for needy kids

The Plymouth Community Youth Advisory Commission, which is made of up teenagers from Plymouth and Plymouth Township, is doing something special for the holidays.

The group has for several years gone Christmas shopping at Target to buy toys for needy children. This year, the PCYAC decided to help children by

shopping at a local business.

The group usually has a \$500 budget, but fund-raising pushed that to \$700. The Plymouth Police Officers Association was so impressed with the effort of local teens they kicked in another \$250, all to be spent at Genuine Toy Co. With other donations, the teens have \$1,500.

Genuine Toy Co. owners Charles and Elle Dare will allow the teens to shop after hours on Monday, and give them a 20-percent discount. Plymouth's E.G. Nick's restaurant is providing coffee and hot chocolate and will be donating 20 percent of all Sunday and Monday food receipts.

After shopping, the teens

will give the toys to David Reeves, Commander of the Plymouth Veterans of Foreign Wars post. The group will donate some of the toys to returning vets who are facing tough times providing for their families. A portion will also go to an orphanage in Eaton Rapids for kids who have lost parents in the war.

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PARENTS

FROM PAGE A1

jected \$7,661 state foundation grant will come from one-time money such as the federal stimulus funds that have propped up the budget the last couple of years.

CLIFF APPROACHES

In the state's third-largest district with nearly 19,000 students, that equates to some \$6.5 million that will go away starting with the 2011-12 budget. That represents the financial "cliff" administrators have been eyeing for the last couple of years.

"There's a lot of one-time money funding schools right now. ... We want to know what the state is going to do to replace that," Paton said. "We're hoping we can get to the right people in Lansing, and make them understand every dollar they cut from the schools, it's going to affect students. Last year they cut textbooks, they cut technology, they cut teachers. Eventually it trickles down into the classrooms."

The two new legislators representing Plymouth-Canton have differing backgrounds in

education. Heise, a Plymouth Township resident who has two children in the district, sits on the board of the district's Educational Excellence Foundation. Colbeck, who lives in Canton but has no children, sits on the board of a charter school.

The group has met with both, and came away satisfied that they're both willing to work with them. And the new legislators appreciate the effort and welcome the input.

"I think the more parents involved in the process, the better," Heise said. "It's also good there seems to be a core group of parents interested in what's happening in Lansing and how they can influence the outcomes in the next legislative session and with the new governor."

PARENTAL INPUT

"I see them as a go-to group to bounce ideas off of and get perspective on legislative issues," Heise added. "At the same time, we're walking into uncertainty the next few months, and we're waiting to see what the new governor's priorities are. I welcome the input from concerned citizens."

Heise said it fits well with

what he wants to do when he takes office next month. Heise plans to form at least four citizen advisory groups — on education, local government, small business and senior citizens.

"I think it gives me an added perspective on what other parents in the district are thinking and what their priorities are," Heise said. "I still have two kids in the school district, so I certainly have an interest in public education. The more input I can get from like-minded parents, the better."

The parents understand Lansing is going to do what Lansing does, but they want to make sure they at least have a voice in budgetary decisions that affect their children.

"We need to be advocates for our children," Zander said. "The people who aren't in control of any of the decisions are sometimes affected the most by decisions our legislators make. We just need to make sure there's a voice speaking on their behalf. We're not naive enough to think we're going to get everything we want. We just want to make sure they hear our issues."

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DAISY

FROM PAGE A1

the owners of Daisy Square townhouses. "I would rather have a space that could be used and enjoyed by the community."

"It's a blight on the area," said Eric Nemeth, who lives near the condominiums. "It's time to move forward."

The badly leaning, westward-facing wall is supported by steel beams and is full of broken windows and deteriorating bricks.

Fans of the wall spoke up Wednesday, too, and indicated they are willing to fight to keep it.

"We would like to work with the community to find a solution for saving the historic wall," said Wendy Harless of

the Plymouth Preservation Network. Harless added she is sympathetic to those who live near the wall.

"This particular building was an icon of Plymouth, part of our heritage," said Mark Oppat, a former member of the city's Historic District Commission (Daisy Square is not in the city's historic district).

Some were critical of Freed, which stopped condominium construction in 2007 because of the poor housing market and is trying to sell undeveloped portions of the site.

"I don't think there's any problem with holding the people (the developer) to what they agreed to seven years ago," said Dave Murphy.

Some commissioners said they wanted to see an alternative to either using the wall in a condominium building or

tearing it down and building a park. Commissioner Meg Dooley called on those who want to save the wall — herself included — to get busy, and said there's plenty of blame to go around.

"If we really want to save it we need to get organized," Dooley said. "We're all responsible for where we are right now."

Commissioner Christopher Harden drew laughs when he defended Freed from criticisms that it had not acted in good faith regarding the Daisy Wall.

"If they were that malicious, somebody would have accidentally driven a backhoe into it by now," he said.

Commissioner Joseph Phillips was absent on Wednesday.

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Study: Ford Road safer than a year ago

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The number of crashes along Canton's most accident-prone stretch of road — Ford Road between I-275 and Lilley — plummeted 28 percent this year compared to 2009, a new report shows.

Crash totals for the first 11 months in a two-year comparison may indicate that efforts to improve safety by beefing up police presence and issuing more tickets have caught the attention of drivers, Canton Special Services Lt. Scott Hilden said.

Canton police this year launched several special-enforcement efforts to catch Ford Road motorists who ignore red lights, trail other drivers too closely, make illegal turns and ignore other traffic rules.

"We are proud to report the overall number of accidents along Ford Road between Lilley and I-275 have decreased 28 percent in the last year," Hilden said.

The number of crashes at one of Michigan's worst intersections, Ford and Haggerty, fell from 77 to 57 during the



While a recent study says Ford Road was safer this year than last, Canton Public Safety officials still caution it's a hazardous road.

two-year period, marking a 26-percent reduction.

The Ford-Lilley intersection had 33 percent fewer accidents in 2010 than in 2009, and the Ford/I-275 area had a 25-percent decline in crashes.

"The thing we did different this year is we focused on special enforcement," Hilden said. "I asked our guys to focus on this high-accident area and do the enforcement of behaviors such as following too closely and running red lights. It's

probably as much to do with the higher number of tickets as the higher visibility of officers.

"If you travel an area frequently and you see more police officers writing tickets, it's going to change your driving habits," he added.

Hilden said the latest numbers reflect just one snapshot of Ford Road accidents, and he said road improvements long sought by township officials still are needed for long-term relief. "The Ford Road area is

still the No. 1 crash area in Canton," Hilden said. "Even with the reduction (in crashes), the only way to make permanent changes is to imple-

ment some of the road changes. Otherwise you're going to continue to put a Band-Aid on the problem."

The latest report came from traffic crash data from the Michigan Department of Transportation.

Local officials including township Supervisor Phil LaJoy and Municipal Services Director Tim Faas have long lobbied for federal and state funding to improve the Ford Road/I-275 interchange. Those efforts are continuing even though federal officials this year twice rejected a \$20-million request to reshape the interchange.

LaJoy has turned his attention to the incoming administration of Gov.-elect Rick Snyder amid hopes of getting Ford Road improvements placed on MDOT's list of priorities.

The traffic-improvement plan sought this year would have added extra exit ramps, or slips, to allow drivers to access Haggerty in either direction without using Ford Road. It also called for a northbound service drive alongside the freeway to accommodate traffic from Cherry Hill Road, allowing vehicles to avoid Ford and merge onto I-275.

LaJoy has cited a need for long-term improvements and said, "we're committed to this." Hilden said at least 50,000 vehicles a day travel through the Ford-Haggerty intersection. Although the number of crashes dropped significantly this year, he agreed that the only way to address the problem long-term centers on making road improvements.

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Foundation dishes out \$12K in grants

The Community Foundation of Plymouth recently awarded some \$12,000 in grants to local programs that benefit the Plymouth community.

Grants were awarded to the following local organizations and programs:

- Community Literacy Council: 21st Century Literacy, which provides free one-on-one tutoring services and literacy support for adults in the Plymouth area. Grant will fund extended office hours to provide greater opportunity for on-going online formative assessment of adult students, greater access to new computer lab, and more classes in

computer usage, internet use, and online job applications.

- Friends of the Penn, Inc.: Portable Audio System for Penn Theatre to support live events at the Penn hosted by community nonprofit groups.

- Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan: Plymouth Girl Scouting Membership Fees - to provide financial assistance to girls in need, who may not be able to participate due to socioeconomic barriers.

- Kiwanis Club of Colonial Plymouth: Kids Against Hunger- Isbister Elementary School Packaging. Students will package nutritional meals to be distributed by

the Plymouth Branch of the Salvation Army to residents in the 48170 area code.

- New Morning School: Scholarships for students from low income families in Plymouth to attend New Morning School's 2011 Summer Science and Engineering Camps - to encourage interest in science and to avoid significant summer learning loss.

- Youth Leadership Plymouth: Community Program for 8th grade students in Plymouth to help youth better understand their community, develop leadership skills, and participate in community service.

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Culinary students create gingerbread village



This Grinch is sweet.



The gingerbread village includes an operating train.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

An entire village made of gingerbread, candy and the imaginations of culinary arts students is on display until Thursday in the lobby of the VisTaTech Center at Schoolcraft College in Livonia.

Culinary arts students created the fantasy village based on children's Christmas stories in a competition for scholarships from the Schoolcraft College Foundation.

"Whoville Holiday," created by Sandra Angelos of Lake Orion, won first place. "If You Take a Mouse to a Movie," created by Kathleen Wielkopolan of Northville, won second place. "Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer," created by Tracy Oberholzer of Troy, won third place.

The students created the village on their own time under the direction of Certified Master Pastry Chef Joseph Decker. At least half of the construction materials must be made of gingerbread and must be completely edible, excluding the base on which it is built and non-edible plastic or other non-edible materials for the windows.

The creations must have a front entrance and walkway, must be decorated on all sides and may have electric lights. The scholarship competition winning entries were selected for their craftsmanship, neatness, originality, degree of difficulty and use of the theme.

The public may view the gingerbread village during regular hours.

The VisTaTech Center is on Haggerty Road between Six and Seven mile roads.

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It's time for school board members to unite

A grave injustice in our local Plymouth Canton Community Schools Board of Education has been transpiring of late.

It seems like a group within the school board has put upon themselves to disrupt working in cooperation with the board as a whole. Instead they would rather promote their own self-serving, egotistical and uncooperative agenda.

This is all being done while discrediting our competent, honorable and judicious superintendent, Dr. Craig Fiegel. Trustee Dianne Gonzalez openly admitted she did not think he was the proper candidate from the beginning.

They have disregarded being open-minded or assisting in his success. Some of them, along with certain key administrators, set the stage that would allow Fiegel to fail from his onset. Was this done in the best interest of the school district and the children being educated within it? I would say not.

At the school board meeting Sept. 28, Gonzalez, John Jackson, Judy Mardigian and Adrienne Davis



Mark Hutchins

voted not to extend Dr. Fiegel's contract past its expiration at the end of this school year. Barry Simescu, Nancy Eggenberger and Steven Sneiderman (all school board officers) voted to renew his contract for one year. Some even voiced that it should be extended even longer.

It strikes me odd that Simescu and Eggenberger are two of the three members who sit on the superintendent's evaluation committee, are board officers and are of the opinion that Dr. Fiegel has done a job worth extending his contract. Yet this group of four dissenters (Mardigian, Gonzalez, Jackson and Davis) felt Dr. Fiegel did not warrant a contract extension.

To add insult to injury, on Nov. 22, this same group of uncooperative board members put forth a motion to relieve Dr. Fiegel of his day-to-day operations duties.

Their claim was it would be done so Fiegel could focus on the key elements of his position and be able to have the time to search for another job. Oh, how noble of this group of four insurgents. The disingenuousness of their statement bled through as they spoke it. They had no interest in being supportive or caring. This action only helped facilitate their scheme.

When Eggenberger wisely asked that the matter be delayed until the entire Board had an opportunity to discuss it as a collective group, she was emphatically dismissed by Jackson, Gonzalez, Mardigian and Davis. The vote was put forth and was carried 4-3, with the same four uncooperative members not supporting Dr. Fiegel.

This vote was followed by these same four members putting forth a motion to install Ken Jacobs (current deputy superintendent) as a COO (Chief Operating Officer) that would allow him to take over the duties just relieved from Dr. Fiegel responsibilities. Sneiderman spoke out that this was not neces-

sary, could wait for further review and that Jacobs was not the person for this job, which was guised in an effort to bring continuity to the board and to the district. Besides, Mr. Jacobs has submitted his intentions for retirement at the end of the school year. It is my understanding that once one submits for their retirement with the State, it cannot be rescinded.

This action doesn't appear to be an astute choice when combined with the fact of his pending retirement. I personally don't know Mr. Jacobs, I only know of him. It is not my intent to discredit his long tenure with the district.

How can these actions be in the best interest of the PCCS District? How can they bring unity to the board? How can these actions bring teachers, administrators and other district employees together? They cannot! It only facilitates further disconnect, animosity and uncooperative actions among the Board Members as well as with the district employees.

Dr. Fiegel should be reconsidered

for a contract extension along with restoring his full duties as superintendent. The entire board should discuss their differences in an open and professional way. Let those that have issue with Dr. Fiegel present their case in a cooperative, transparent and open-minded manner.

Mardigian, Gonzalez, Jackson and Davis have been extremely less than broadminded in this issue and have not given any effort to assist in the success of Dr. Fiegel. It has been quite the opposite.

I encourage everyone to voice their support of Dr. Fiegel to the school board (suggestions@pccs-mail.net) and the media. Granted, this issue has become larger than Dr. Fiegel, but sound reasoning must be put forth. Hope of unification is still apparent. Open and forthright dialog must transpire so these injustices will be rescinded and hopes of restoring cooperative and collective collaboration will be set forth in our PCCS Board.

Mark Hutchins is a resident of Canton.

Finding your passion is the key to success in life

I'm not done singing yet," one of my four-year-old twin grand-daughters said as she finished her role in the preschool's holiday concert.

Her comment struck a chord with me. Leave it to a child to offer a world of truth in so few words. This little girl has a passion for singing. She may be peanut-sized, but she belts out a big vibrato voice that won't be quieted.

Perhaps it's the wear of age that makes most of us hide our voices under the drone of splashing water in the shower. But no one can hear our big



Joan Noricks

voices in there. How else can we tell the world what we are passionate about? The giving season and a New Year are typically when the world takes a moment for reflection. Indeed it is a perfect time for each of us to sing as loud as we can and make our voices heard about what moves us and stirs our passions.

Some folks passionately crusade for animals and the envi-

ronment. Others raise their voices to protect children. And still others are determined to eradicate homelessness and hunger.

This week the Canton Community Foundation was informed that the Michigan Department of Human Services is reporting more than 3,000 Canton residents are receiving food stamps. Wayne is just behind Canton, but the numbers are even higher in Westland and Romulus.

Hunger is the most basic need. And fulfilling basic needs in the community has

stirred our passions at CCF this year as Michigan's stagnant economy and continuing joblessness put many residents at risk. Without an immediate economic miracle, we can only assume that families will continue to struggle.

Plenty of charitable organizations in our local communities are available to help those in need. Passionate leaders and volunteers work daily to raise funds and develop programs that can help improve our corner of the world.

In November, CCF hosted its second annual philanthropy

summit that drew local non-profits who work with donors fulfilling their own passions.

An example of a Canton resident who followed her passion is Mary Beth Levine, who began the Detroit Area Diaper Bank in 2009. She didn't wait for millions of dollars to come along. She started small in her home and continues to work from there. The lack of diapers - government assistance programs do not pay for them - for infants and adults can put family hygiene, health and independence at risk.

Other passionate lead-

ers are Deb Bondie, founder of Livonia-based Seedlings, which provides Braille books for blind children, and Elaine Kennedy, founder of New Morning School in Plymouth. They are fulfilling their passions, while leaving indelible marks on the lives of so many.

Just think what we can all accomplish by following our heart-filled passions and singing our own songs.

Joan Noricks is president of the Canton Community Foundation. She may be reached at (734) 495-1200 or jnoricks@cantonfoundation.org.

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SOCIAL SECURITY

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

The tragedy is that less than half of those persons who are denied benefits file an appeal. Thus, many thousands of people who deserve benefits never receive them.

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

Attorney J.B. Bieske has represented only Social Security Disability clients for over 20 years. That is the only type of law he practices. And, he personally meets with all clients and appears himself at all court hearings. Many large firms assign clients to young associate attorneys with much less experience.

In addition to practicing only Social Security Disability law Bieske has written a book for attorneys about the subject. He also has been interviewed on various radio and television programs and has given speeches to many groups.

Bieske's office staff consists of paralegals and secretaries who are also highly experienced in assisting him with Social Security Disability cases. And they are extremely helpful in answering questions with regard to the status of clients' cases and administrative procedure.

Attorney Bieske welcomes you to call him to determine if you may be eligible for these benefits. He offers free phone or office consultations. If Bieske represents you, there will be no fee charged until after the case is won. The fee is a percentage of retroactive benefits.

In a recent radio interview attorney Bieske explained that many people are not even aware that they are eligible for Social Security Disability benefits. These are not the same as Workers' Compensation benefits. It is possible to receive both benefits at the same time. If you have an illness or injury (whether or not related to your work), are under 65 and unable to work full-time you may be eligible. Social Security Disability benefits are based on your work record or your deceased spouse's work record (Widow's/Widower's benefits).

Bieske represents clients from all over the state of Michigan. Call him at 1-800-331-3530 for a FREE consultation if you have been denied. Or if you are thinking of possibly applying for Social Security benefits call him for FREE advice.

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Figuring cost basis for investments can be tricky

Q: Dear Rick: I read your column regarding year-end tax planning and one of the things I discovered is that I have a number of investments that I cannot locate the cost basis. I bought the investments sometime in the early '90s, but that's all I can remember. I know I bought it through a discount brokerage house, but they are no longer in business. It makes sense to sell the stock this year, however, I am concerned I don't have the cost basis. What do you suggest?

A: Cost basis is what you originally paid for an investment plus any dividends or capital gains you reinvested. In this situation, since you purchased an individual stock, you did not have any capital gain distributions and most likely did not have dividends reinvested. Therefore, your cost basis is the original purchase price of the stock.

In many cases where people don't know their cost basis, I recommend they contact the brokerage firm where they purchased the individual stock for assistance. However, in this case, that strategy will not work. Therefore, the first thing to do is determine if the stock you hold pays a dividend. If it does, you can pull out your old tax returns and use that as a guide to help determine when you purchased the stock.

If, for example, the first time a dividend from that stock showed up on your tax return was 1992, at least you have a starting point. You can then use an average of the stock price to determine basis. If it



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

You may be surprised to hear this, but the Internal Revenue Service recognizes the fact that in some situations calculating cost basis is difficult. In the unlikely event that you are audited, they will look at how reasonable you were with regards to your guesstimate. Never forget to document how you calculated your cost basis. This should then be part of your permanent tax file for that year.

There are many situations where when completing tax returns, taxpayers do not have complete documentation and are in the situation where they have to guesstimate items. The key is to be fair and reasonable. If you're donating a used pair of jeans and claiming a \$100 charitable deduction, that may not be considered fair and reasonable. On the other hand, if you claimed a \$5 deduction, that wouldn't raise any concerns.

I believe when it comes to taxes, we should take every deduction we are entitled to. However, the one caveat is you must have some sort of backup documentation for the

deductions you take. It is when people get audited and they don't have any backup documentation that they run into problems.

One last note on taxes. I'm sure that readers have heard that President Barack Obama and the Republicans have reached a compromise with regards to extending the current tax laws. The issue to me isn't whether you agree or disagree. I'll leave that to others. My issue is that we, as taxpayers, shouldn't assume anything with regards to taxes until the law is actually signed by the president. We all know how the legislative process works and there are always last-second changes. My advice has always been to make tax decisions based upon what the tax laws are now, not what they may be down the road. I would love it if we were in an environment of tax certainty, however, we are not. Even if the current tax law is extended for the two years, that is not a long time. In addition, does anyone think that we won't have other tax law changes over the next two years? The reality is we are in an environment where tax laws are ever-changing and, therefore, we have to make decisions based upon what the law is today and not speculate too much about the future.

Good luck!

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

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Getting ready to cut the ribbon at the new Steppingstone School, from left, Farmington Hills Mayor Jerry Ellis, board president Rich Niemisto, Head of School Kiyo Morse and Mary Engelman, Greater Farmington Area Chamber executive director.

Steppingstone School settles into new digs

With the sun shining to signify its bright future, Steppingstone School marked the official opening of its new campus on Friday, Dec. 3, with a ribbon cutting ceremony.

Mary Engelman, executive director of the Greater Farmington Area Chamber, held the ribbon while Head of School, Kiyo Morse, cut the ribbon in the recently named Son Room near the library. Farmington Hills Mayor Jerry Ellis spoke a few words acknowledging the value of Steppingstone in the community, and Morse thanked everyone who came to celebrate this "official" grand opening.

Among the guests were Farmington Hills City Manager Steve Brock and Economic Development Director Teri Arbenowske, as well as several other city officials and many local business owners and professionals.

John and Roda McAuliffe, parents of Steppingstone's

first enrolled student, Patrick McAuliffe, all of whom reside in Canton, were also in attendance. Members of the board circulated with the many guests along with staff to answer questions about the repurposing project and plans for the future.

Steppingstone acknowledged Trustee Yong Son and general contractor, Sonny Son of Mich Construction, an Ypsilanti-based company, for their generous donation of time and services. Morse recognized the Sons for the untold hours of time they devoted toward the selection, purchase, and repurposing of the school within budget and for making the summer move-in deadline possible.

While enjoying a light lunch, guests were able to tour the classrooms and discuss the educational program with students, parents, and faculty.

Steppingstone School for Gifted Education believes that every child deserves a satisfying and challenging

learning experience; in order to receive this, gifted children need a different program. Steppingstone is an elementary and middle day school (Young Kindergarten - Grade 8) with a full academic and enrichment curriculum dedicated to addressing the unique and individual needs facing many gifted children.

Steppingstone was founded in 1981 by the current head of school, Kiyo A. Morse, to help a group of families who urgently needed an educational program for their gifted children. After more than 25 years of development, the curriculum provides integrated in-depth studies and enrichment as well as problem solving and critical thinking skills. Supplementing the basic curriculum, the school also offers fine arts, foreign languages, discovery science, computer programming, and a unique physical fitness program that includes fencing and instructional swimming.

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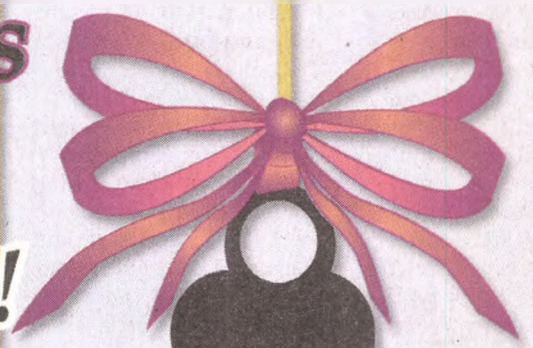
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Cox budget plan passes first reading

The Wayne County Commission is one step closer to budgeting on a multi-year cycle.

Wayne County Commissioner Laura Cox (R-Livonia), Chairperson of the Commission's Committee on Ways and Means, has proposed an ordinance that would place Wayne County on a multi-year budget cycle, a move that she says will provide cost savings and realize greater financial efficiency.

"The time is now for fiscal responsibility," Cox said, pointing out the county is in the throes of a budget deficit that is approaching \$300 million. "A multi-year budget will improve long-term financial planning and priority setting."

Cox's proposal moved through a first reading at

the Commission's Dec. 2 full board session. It will now return to the Ways and Means Committee for fine tuning before being voted on for final approval and adoption by the 15-member commission.

Cox's vision for a multi-year budget — budgeting for no less than two years at a time — would proactively anticipate deficits, allowing for an equitable allocation over a longer period of time. This, she said, would lessen harsh negative financial impacts in any single year. If approved, the ordinance would go into effect on Jan. 1.

Cox represents the 10th District in Wayne County, which includes portions of Livonia, Northville, Northville Township, Plymouth and Plymouth Township.

Farmington Community Band free concert Sunday

Farmington Community Band Presents "The Big FCB Variety Showcase!" at 3 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 12 at the Harrison High School Auditorium in Farmington Hills.

The concert is free open to the public. Harrison High School is on 12 Mile, between Orchard Lake and Middlebelt.

The central theme for this 45th milestone season is "musical variety" showcasing the signature FCB sound and wind ensembles that have shaped the instrumental group's 45 year legacy.

Enjoy an afternoon of great entertainment featuring the 80-piece FCB Concert Band, under the direction of Damien Crutcher, performing a dynamic collection of concert band classics and holiday favorites. The musical variety continues with special appearances by the FCB Clarinet Choir and the fabulous 20-piece FCB Big Band, under the leadership of Randy



Farmington Community Band Presents 'The Big FCB Variety Showcase!' at 3 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 12 at the Harrison High School Auditorium.

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A dedicated group of volunteers will help to produce the annual free Christmas dinner at St. Dunstan this year. They include the Rev. Don LaCuesta (from left), Judy and Bruce Larry, Donna Spiteri, Sandy McLean and Carol Behr.

Church serves Christmas dinner to those who have no place to go

BY SUE BUCK
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Judy Larry's grandchildren know where to find her mid-day Christmas.

Nicknamed Judy "O," the Westland resident will again be helping to serve a full dinner in the St. Dunstan Church Hall to those who have nowhere else to go Christmas day.

After serving her own family a Christmas breakfast at home, her kids and grandkids agree that if they want to see more of Grandma Judy, they can follow her over to the church complex on Inkster Road, south of Ford in Garden City, roll up their sleeves and pitch in to serve the guests.

Larry's eyes well up and she becomes emotional when talking about what keeps her going every year to give up her time for the greater community good. It is, she said, the vision of the recipients' grateful faces which causes her to tear up and the voices of those who

HOLIDAY TRADITION

What: Dinner for anyone who would otherwise be alone Christmas day.

Where: St. Dunstan Catholic Church on Belton in Garden City. Belton is the second street west of Inkster Road. Take Belton south from Ford and it will dead end at the church.

When: The doors open at 1 p.m. and dinner is served at 1:30 p.m.

How: The dinner is free, but advance reservations are required by calling (734) 595-3049.

call and leave their names as they RSVP.

It's also looking at the list of names, many of which includes the number 1 after them. They are coming alone from Livonia, Plymouth, Wayne, Detroit and Dearborn. They have no one else to be with.

"This whole church hall is filled on Christmas day," Larry said. "People have no family, nowhere to go and just need to

be with someone."

People often have holiday traditions and Christmas day dinner at St. Dunstan Church is an annual event. St. Dunstan is the only church in the area that hosts a dinner Christmas day. The dinner is free to people who would otherwise be alone on the holiday. The only other requirement is a reservation. More than 100 people came to dinner last year; many were senior citizens.

Larry's volunteers haven't wavered through the years. She sends a special thank you to volunteers John and Mary Surge, who helped to initiate the program and who now, because of health problems, can no longer participate.

Larry took over the task more than 10 years ago.

People make cash donations to help offset the costs for the dinner, which is funded through St. Dunstan's Christian Service fund. That money also feeds hundreds of people during the year through the church's food pantry program.

Center needs winter gear to give to homeless

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The current blast of frigid winter weather is forcing the Lighthouse Home Missions to put out an urgent call for donations of hats, mittens, gloves, socks and winter clothing to provide to the homeless.

Based at Full Gospel Temple on Palmer Road in Westland, LHM has been able to give out some blankets to the homeless who come to the center for assistance and to eat at the soup kitchen. However, it's come up short on warm weather gear to pass out.

"We need blankets and gloves to give out, at least until the warming center opens," said Pastor Ruby Beneteau, who started LHM in her Westland home more than 25 years ago.

"We have no gloves yet, no heavy winter coats, especially for the bigger guys," added Ginger

DuPrie of Romulus, who runs the soup kitchen. "The homeless like larger clothing because they layer to stay warm."

Housed in the original church, LHM runs a food depot, clothing bank, soup kitchen and warming center. It works with homeless to help get them the resources they need to get them back on their feet.

The soup kitchen offers warm lunches from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday, while the warming center provides dinner, shower and a place to sleep indoors from 7 p.m. to 8 a.m. Jan. 1 through March 31, although it has opened its doors early when temperatures have dipped below freezing.

The warming center is supported by churches from Westland and Canton that provide volunteers to prepare the meal and serve it. The soup kitchen relies on leftover food from local restaurants.

It will be serving a holiday lunch on Christmas Eve. The meal is being provided by the Westland Fire Department.

"It's the only time we don't have to cook," DuPrie said.

DuPrie expects about 35 people to stop by. A Thanksgiving dinner of turkey and the trimmings attracted 35 people — several families and many of the homeless "who are living in the woods," she said.

Donations can be dropped off at the center at 34033 Palmer, east of Wayne Road, at anytime. According to Beneteau, watchman are at the building 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Appointments are needed to access the food pantry and clothing bank. They can be made by calling (734) 326-3885 between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Wednesday and Friday.

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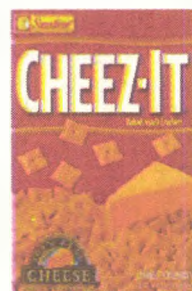
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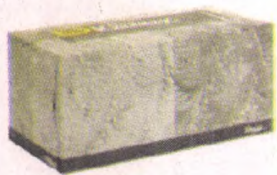
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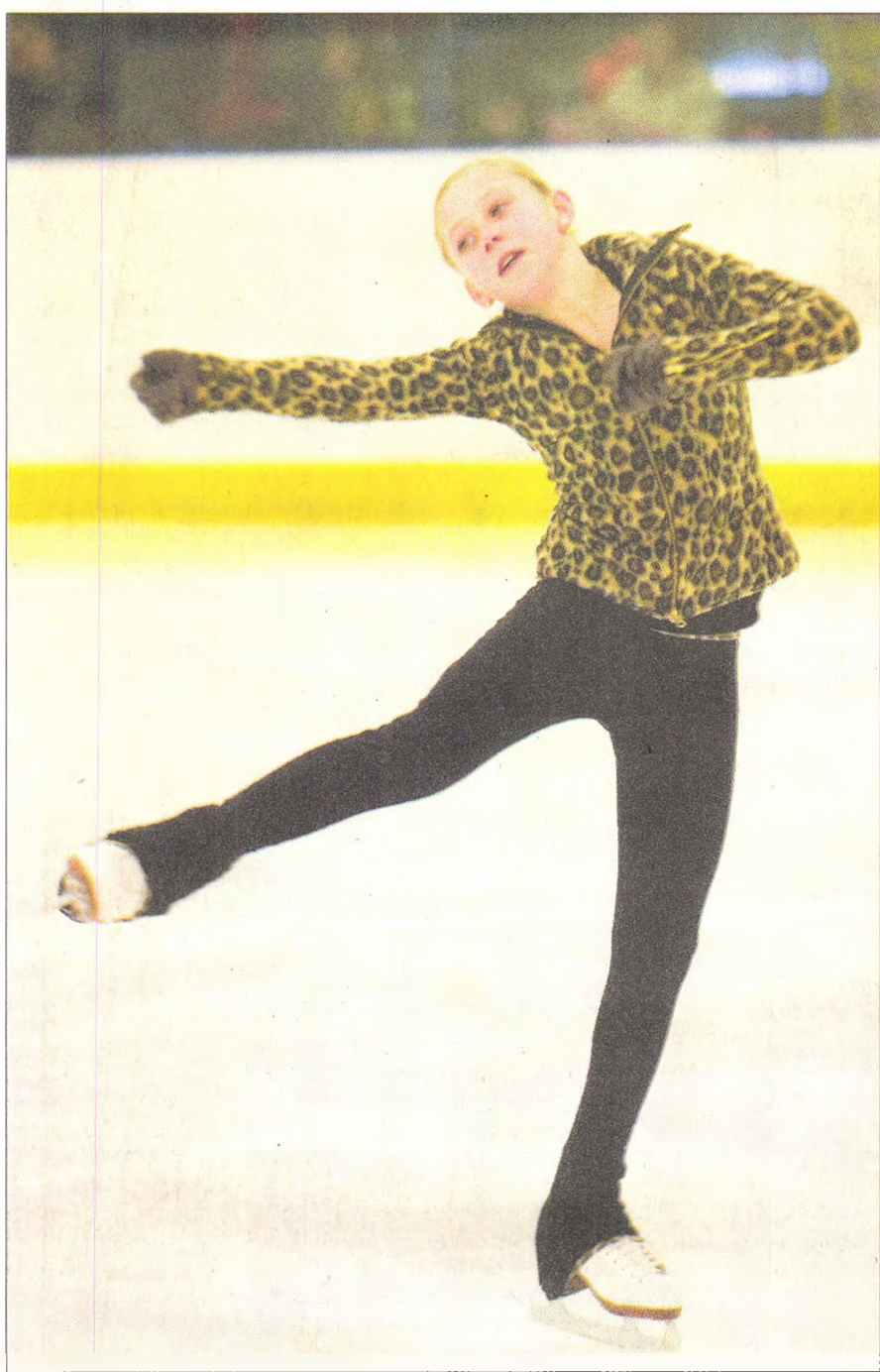
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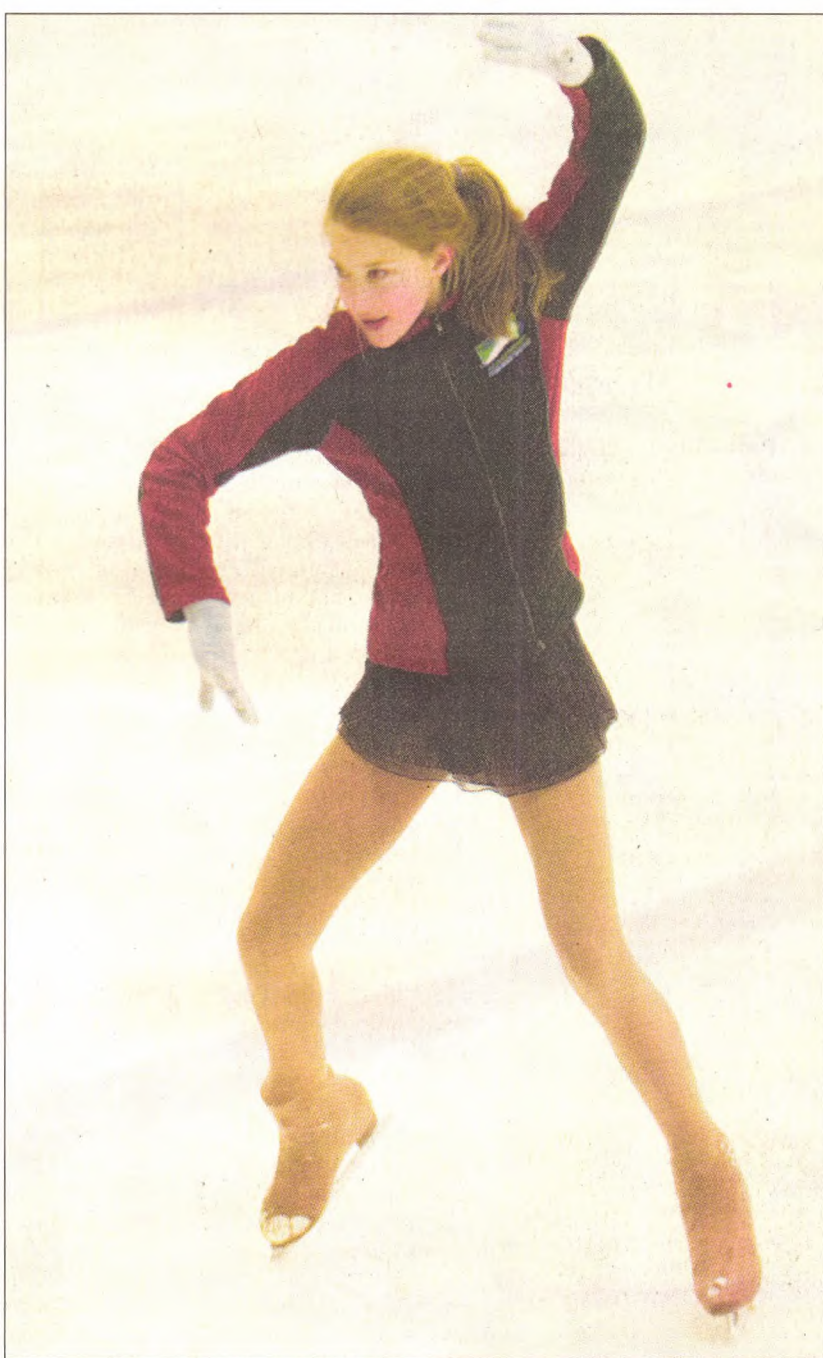


Cutting edge

'Cats earn first win for coach



Isabella Falsetti, 12, of Novi works on a routine at Canton Arctic Edge in preparation for this week's U.S. Junior Figure Skating Championships in Utah.



It doesn't matter to Canton's Delaney Hoberecht, 13, where she skates – even the junior nationals this week. She just loves to show what she can do.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Bob DeBear notched his first victory as head coach of the Plymouth varsity girls basketball team Friday night, as the Wildcats trounced Ann Arbor Skyline, 54-26.

The Wildcats (1-3) featured a lineup where just about everybody made a nice contribution to the victory.

"It was a pretty easy game," DeBear said. "The story was balanced scoring and a lot better (scoring) at the free-throw line."

After sinking just three free throws in Tuesday's loss to Walled Lake Central, Plymouth far exceeded that just from the efforts of junior forward Isis Haywood — who canned 10-of-17 attempts from the charity stripe.

Haywood tallied 16 points to pace the attack, with Kylie Robb and Kate Watson each registering eight.

Other Plymouth contributors included Taylor Birman (six points), Alex Roberts and Jada Woody (five each).

Huron nips Rocks

A late run by host Ann Arbor Huron cost Salem in a non-conference contest Friday night, as the Hurons won 53-49.

The Rocks (1-2) stayed in the mix until the third, when the Hurons outscored them 17-10.

"We played a pretty good game," Salem head coach Fred Thomann said. "We just came up a little short at the end."

Scoring 21 points for the Rocks was Bri Berberet, with Heidi Schmidt tallying eight points and five rebounds.

Also playing well were Breanne Beaver (seven points, five rebounds) and Kate Heitmeyer (10 boards).

PLYMOUTH CHRISTIAN 40, ANDOVER 34: In this Tuesday night girls basketball game at Bloomfield Hills Andover, Brianna Harris scored 12 points — despite missing the third quarter due to illness — to lead the Eagles.

Plymouth Christian also benefited from strong, all-around games from Karen Windle and

Please see **BASKETBALL, B4**

Young figure skaters excelling at something they love to do

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

JUNIOR NATIONALS

Off the ice, words tumble softly and measured out of the mouths of Isabella Falsetti and Delaney Hoberecht.

But when 12-year-old "Izzy" and Delaney, 13, hit the ice at Canton Arctic Edge for another round of precision-packed spins and jumps, their eyes become the size of gold medals.

Forget interviews. Both Arctic Figure Skating Club members love to skate and compete — which they will do later this week at the 2011 U.S.

Junior Figure Skating Championships in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Isabella and Delaney qualified for junior nationals in individual freestyle (singles), while Isabella also earned a spot in the pairs competition with 16-year-old Justin Highgate-Brutman of Detroit.

"She speaks more on the ice with her skating," said Isabella's dad, Rodney Falsetti of Novi. "I've noticed that Izzy really comes alive more out on the ice."

And why not? It's that exhilarating frozen stage that beckons her and Delaney both.

Delaney's mom certainly understands the attraction.

"If you're not a skater, I don't think you know what that feeling is like," said Canton's Becky Hoberecht, watching her daughter's latest practice. "Because for those kids who have moved on, to college or whatever, that ice always calls them back. There's just something about that."

Becky's daughter took to the sport as soon as she was introduced to it, skating on a pond in Oxford about

seven years ago.

"It was so much fun that I wanted to start with the basic skills," Delaney said. "It was just like this pure joy and I wanted to continue."

Fast forward to December 2010. That joy is still written all over her face. It's not just because she still skates, but because she can "show people what I can do," Delaney said with a grin.

The same goes for Izzy, who like Delaney is making her second appearance at the junior nationals. Both

Please see **SKATERS, B2**

Icers pick up Canton-Plymouth rivalry

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

There was another hard-hitting battle between Canton and Plymouth before jammed-pack stands.

This time, it wasn't football. The host Chiefs and Wildcats played to a 2-2 tie in a KLAA South Division varsity boys hockey game at Canton Arctic Edge.

"This rivalry we've had for the last couple years," said Canton head coach Jeremy Majszak, whose team is 5-1-1 and 3-0-1 in the division. "It was nitty gritty last year (and) it's kind of a spoiler relationship."

"Tonight was a great game, both

teams battled hard and it showed on the scoreboard."

According to Plymouth head coach Paul Fassbender, whose team is 2-0-3 so far, Canton's physical style of play took a lot out of his squad.

"They're big, they're strong and I really think they tired us out," Fassbender said. "We had guys that almost couldn't go any more they were so tired."

"Third period, we came out and battled and we started getting momentum. I don't know where they found it in them, they're gassed."

PRIME TIME

The players knew the prime-time

matchup between campus rivals would be a good one, and Plymouth senior defenseman and co-captain Justin Bauer said it definitely was.

Bauer, who scored the game's first goal in the opening period, said his team wanted to once again show it can take care of Canton — as the football team did during the recent playoffs.

"Everybody was here to cheer us on," Bauer said. "We wanted to show them that, since Plymouth won in the (football) playoffs against Canton, we've got to show them we can do it again."

Bauer put his team on the board

Please see **RIVALRY, B4**



With Plymouth goalie Michael Justus (No. 20) down and out, Canton's Shawn May (No. 3) just can't reach the puck.

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Figure skaters rely on each other

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It's no different than becoming a standout in any other sport.

If you ask either Isabella Falsetti or Justin Highgate-Brutman, becoming a top-notch figure skating partnership requires a grueling workout schedule in order to master the graceful.

They practically live at Canton Arctic Edge throughout the year, tweaking and honing their routine so that they are able to reach lofty goals such as qualifying for the U.S. Junior Figure Skating Championships (this week in Salt Lake City).

Last Monday, Novi resident Falsetti and Detroit's Highgate-Brutman worked on their "death spiral" move and looked to have it down.

The 16-year-old Highgate-Brutman — a longtime hockey player whose unique agility redirected him into figure skating four years ago — and Isabella, 12, repeated the sequence before the eyes of pairs coaches Johnny Johns and Adrienne Lenda.

With hands locked into each other's, Justin whirled the close-to-the-ice Isabella like a propeller just an inch or so above the ice.

Then, he lifted his 75-pound partner up over his head and launched into a rapid spin.

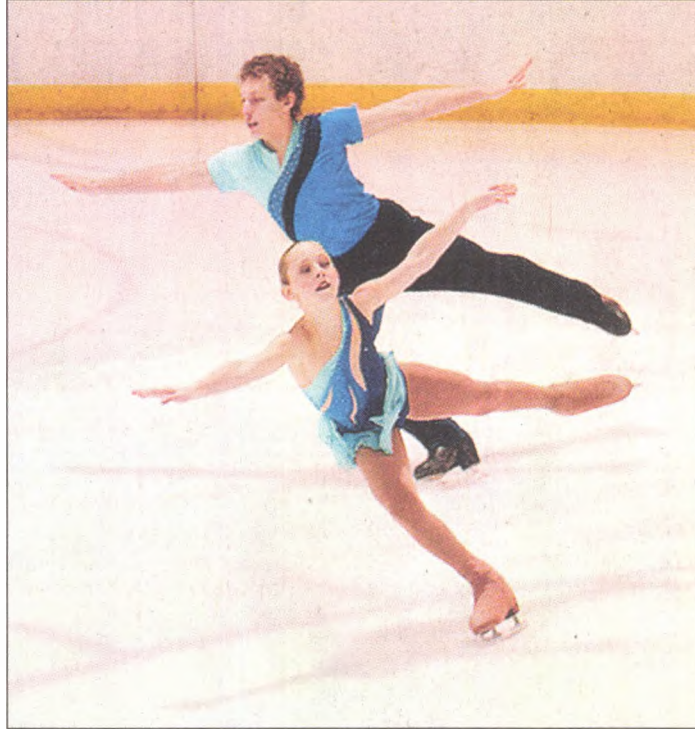
The two skaters circled the ice with every choreographed move completely in sync.

"We're progressing fast and really good," said Highgate-Brutman, who only started skating with Falsetti over the summer. "It's (improving) mostly in lifts and throws."

He added that they now are at the point where muscle memory takes over, where they just go out and do it.

And watching them practice throws out any notion that figure skaters just twirl around and try to look nice.

"They're both fast skaters, which is good in pairs," said Isabella's dad, Rodney



ARNOLD BRUTMAN

Set to skate in the pairs competition at junior nationals are Isabella Falsetti and Justin Highgate-Brutman, shown from a previous event.

Junior Nationals schedule

Following is the schedule for the U.S. Junior Figure Skating Championships, to be held in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Monday, Dec. 13
• Unofficial Practice Ice

Tuesday, Dec. 14
• Official Practices - Intermediate Ladies, Intermediate Men

• Unofficial Practice Ice

Wednesday, Dec. 15
• Official Practices - Juvenile Girls, Juvenile Boys

• Qualifying Rounds - Intermediate Ladies, Intermediate Men

• Opening Ceremony

Thursday, Dec. 16
• Official Practices - Intermediate Pairs, Juvenile Pairs, Intermediate Dance, Juvenile Dance

• Qualifying Rounds - Juvenile Girls, Juvenile Boys

Friday, Dec. 17
• Short Program Final Rounds

• Intermediate Ladies, Intermediate Men

• Pattern Dance - Intermediate Dance, Juvenile Dance

• Free Style - Intermediate Pairs, Juvenile Pairs

Saturday, Dec. 18
• Free Style Final Rounds - Intermediate Ladies, Intermediate Men, Juvenile Girls, Juvenile Boys

• Free Dance - Intermediate Dance, Juvenile Dance

• Awards Ceremony

• Competitors Party

Falsetti. "They (judges) like to see speed. Both of them are strong."

Also working with the duo to help them get ready for

junior nationals is their jumps coach, Steven Pottenger of Canton. He discussed the difference between singles and pairs, two areas of competition that Isabella Falsetti will experience at junior nationals.

"You get to spin, you get to entertain (in singles)," Pottenger said. "You're out there by yourself, so it's a kind of different feel. Even if you make a mistake, you're normally the only one that knows it, even your coach."

"Whereas in pairs, if there's a mistake you can see it, because the other person's not matching you."

Having strong verbal and visual communication cues is essential for on-ice success. It is apparent that the Isabella-Justin duo is on target in that department.

Isabella, meanwhile, enjoys competing as part of a duo more than going solo.

"Cuz I'm not alone out there, I'm not as afraid," she said. "I have someone supporting me. Sometimes, when I make a mistake, I don't want him to feel like it's his fault."

SKATERS

FROM PAGE B1

made the cut at October's Eastern Great Lakes Regionals in Nashville, Tenn.

WORKING IT OUT

That's pretty fast for someone who at age 7 gave up gymnastics for figure skating to follow the lead of her older sister, Mikaela.

"The jumps I really like, and the speed," Izzy said. "I'm proud of myself and I can do better there and get better and better as I keep skating."

Her early morning and late afternoon ice sessions bookend school days, and one gets the impression she'd never leave the rink if she didn't have to.

And why not, as long as she has parents and grandparents able to chauffeur her to and from Arctic Edge?

"It's kind of a family affair," Rodney Falsetti said. "I take her, her grandfather takes her and her mom (Sally) takes her. She's here sometimes twice a day, four times a week."

According to Arctic Figure Skating Club primary coach Theresa McKendry, going to junior nationals is a by-product of that willingness to put in so many hours — and become supremely confident young athletes in the process.

"All of the kids have started out with the goal of making junior nationals," said McKendry, who teams up with secondary coach Lisa Kirby.

"And they all worked really hard, practiced extra, came in extra, did off-ice strength training and did what it took and they all succeeded in doing it."

Both girls train with jumps coach Steven Pottenger of Canton, who is wowed by their work ethic.

"I'm hired to help them with their jumps," Pottenger said. "That's fun for me, and they're also really good jumpers, so it's easy on my part. They really enjoy coming to the rink and attacking it every day. These are probably some of the hardest workers you'll find here."

In addition to Izzy and Delaney, the skating club will be represented by Daniel Li and the pairs tandem of 11-year-old Sophia Dai of Canton



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sophia Dai of Canton and her partner, Wixom's Jeffrey Fishman, polish up their routine before making the trip to Salt Lake City.



Daniel Li of Ann Arbor is one of seven skaters going to junior nationals who either are members of Arctic Figure Skating Club or train regularly there.

and Jeffrey Fishman. Also going are Justin and Daniel Takayama, who train out of Arctic Edge.

McKendry, a Canton resident, said "the more they skate and the better they get, their confidence comes up automatically."

That certainly applies among those in the Utah contingent.

"I don't worry about anything, just skating," Isabella said.

Whether smoothing out any kinks in her singles or pairs programs — the latter including her spin-your-partner "death spiral" move with Justin — the big thing for Izzy is practice makes perfect.

"It makes us feel good that we can get it down," Isabella

said. "That we know it's clean."

NO STOPPING THEM

Meanwhile, Delaney's mom said for as much as her daughter loves to skate, she also has a very serious, competitive side. When it's showtime, it's the place she wants to be.

"She loves to compete. That's her very favorite thing to do," Becky said. "One thing that's nice is she doesn't ever seem to get nervous. The stiffer the competition, the more she sort of rises to the challenge."

One gets the feeling Izzy and Delaney don't plan on stopping their competitive ascent, either.

When asked about long-term goals, Delaney said she just moves up the ladder one rung at a time.

"I just take the short-term goals because I know the long-term goals will come," Delaney said, still speaking quietly.

Izzy merely wants to keep working, perfecting her routines and reaching for the stars.

"First it's doing my double axle, and then getting all my other jumps, triples, then going to Olympics when I get all those done," she said.

These girls might be soft-spoken, but don't mistake that for not having the right stuff. It comes through loud and clear that they do.

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Mercy trio, North's Krause earn all-area honors

ALL-AREA FIRST TEAM
MADDY DOYLE, Jr. OH, F.H. Mercy: The petite, 5-foot-8 junior doesn't look like she'd be an imposing hitter with a powerful swing, but that quickly becomes apparent once the match starts. She led the Marlins to a second straight Final Four appearance in the Class A tournament with her hitting, but she's also a quality, all-round player. Doyle had 816 kills, 498 digs and 42 aces. She is a repeat member of the all-area first team.

CORY URBATS, Sr. S, Liv. Churchill: The 5-7 senior setter is one of the most accomplished players in Churchill volleyball history leading the Chargers to a 149-17 three-year record.

Urbats earned all-KLAA, all-Region 18 and third-team Class A all-state honors this season for the state quarterfinalists. She was also a member of Churchill's state semifinal teams her junior and sophomore seasons.

This season, Urbats set a school record with 1,201 assist-to-kills and holds the career mark with 3,113. Both are MHSAA records as well.

Urbats also carries a 4.34 grade-point average and is a MIVCA academic all-stater.

"Taking all the volleyball athletes we've had at Churchill, Cory is clearly the best of the best," Churchill coach Mark Grenier said.

KARA KEMPINSKI, Sr. Libero, Liv. Churchill: The 5-6 senior libero anchored the Chargers' defense with a total of 853 digs (6.8 per set), second all-time in a single season.

Kempinski also ranks second all-time at Churchill in career digs (1,334).

She earned all-KLAA, all-Region 18 and Class A honorable mention all-state honors this fall.

"A lot of our success the past two seasons is a direct result of the hard-nosed, aggressive play that Kara gave us," Grenier said. "She epitomizes the calling card of Churchill volleyball, which is all about defense. Her pinpoint and accurate passing, along with her defense, enable us to get into our offense and be successful. Kara's positive attitude and work ethic will be sorely missed next year."

KATY ROONEY, Sr. MH, Liv. Ladywood: The 6-1 senior middle hitter earned all-Catholic, all-Region 18 and second-team all-state honors in Class B as the Blazers reached the state semifinals.

Rooney, headed to NCAA Division I Lafayette College (Pa.), finished with 337 kills on the year (3.6 per set) to go along with 102 total blocks.

"Katy was just a phenomenal leader for us this year, on and off the court," Ladywood coach Erin Craggs said. "She was our top offensive threat and was very difficult to defend when we were in system."

"Katy was a tremendous blocker, averaging over a block per set."

HALIE BAKER, Sr. OH, Westland Glenn: The 5-9 senior outside hitter, headed to Siena Heights, led the Class A regional finalists with 437 total kills (3.6 per set) to go along with 69 solo blocks and 33 block-assists.

The all-KLAA and all-Region 18 selection also collected 62 aces in 120 sets.

Baker was also chosen by her teammates for the Best Offense award.

"Halie really took charge at the net this season," Glenn coach Sharon Hubbard said. "She was committed to her team, and unanimously voted as one of the three team captains. She will be greatly missed by the John Glenn volleyball program."

KATIE HORTON, Soph. MH, Wayne: The 6-1 sophomore is one of the best kept secrets in the state as she led the Zebras in kills averaging six per set.

Horton was also an all-KLAA and scholar-athletic selection.

"Blocking is also a strong point for Katie," Wayne coach Deb Mills said. "She played both middle hitter and back row this year because we needed her to. She has a great attitude on and off the court. Currently there are several Big

Ten teams looking at Katie including Michigan, Penn State and Ohio State."

JENNY RHODES, Sr. OH-Libero, Liv. Ladywood: The 5-8 junior libero and outside hitter earned both all-Catholic, all-Region 18 and third-team Class B all-state recognition for state semifinalists.

Rhodes finished the season with 445 digs (4.7 per set) and served at a 92 percent rate with 56 aces. She only had 42 errors in 630 serve receptions.

"Jenny did everything for us this year," Craggs said. "She is a tremendous athlete and played wherever she was needed at the time."

"Her best position is libero, but was an outside for us during the state tourney run. She was our top serve receiver and led the team in digs all season. Jenny also has a great serve that kept team from effectively running their side-out offense."

EMILY NORSCIA, Soph. MH, Liv. Churchill: The 6-1 sophomore earned all-KLAA and all-Region 18 accolades after racking up 622 kills, sixth all-time in a single season at Churchill.

Norscia's kill percentage was .405 and she also finished with 49 aces.

"Emily made the transition from a middle blocker to an outside hitter," Grenier said. "And she had an outstanding season leading us to a quarter-final finish."

"I look forward to see what Emily can do for her junior season. And with the improvement she has made, she'll definitely be one of the most dominate hitters in the state."

BROOKE ZYWICK, Sr. Libero, Westland Glenn: The 5-4 libero, headed to NCAA Division I Marist College (N.Y.), racked up 807 total digs (7.2 per set) en route to all-KLAA and all-Region 18 honors.

Zywick also had a passing rating of 2.46 and added 80 aces in 112 sets.

"Brooke had an amazing season," Hubbard said. "Not only was she unanimously voted by her teammates to be one of the three team captains, but she also received the 'Best Defense' award, also chosen by her teammates."

Zywick also excels in the classroom with a 3.7 cumulative grade-point average. She is a three-time scholar-athlete and member of the National Honor Society.

LINDSEY LERG, Jr. OH, F.H. Mercy: The 5-foot-7 outside is a quality hitter in her own right and a perfect complement to Doyle on the other side of the frontcourt. Lerg was a major factor in Mercy (52-8-2) being the Catholic League champion and Class A runner-up to two-time winner Marian. She also never leaves the floor during a match and excels in the backcourt, too. Lerg, a repeat selection for the all-area first team, had 736 kills, 517 digs and 53 aces.

KAITLYN KRAUSE, Sr. Setter, N. Farmington: The 5-11 senior setter and all-round player excels in all phases of the game. She averaged 7.3 assists per game and had 569 total. Krause had 113 kills and a .378 kill percentage, and she also had 84 blocks (30/54), 184 digs and 11 aces. A two-time, all-area pick, Krause has a scholarship to play at nationally-ranked Dayton.

"For me, at North, I don't think I'll ever be able to replace a kid like that," coach Joe Lamagno said. "She's a great athlete and leader. It's going to be a rough time, trying to find somebody to do what she can do. When we were down and needed a spark, we looked to Kaitlyn to help us."

"Dayton is an extremely athletic team, and Kaitlyn is a perfect fit because she's athletic as well. She's smart, fast and doesn't lack confidence. This is what she has worked for since she was 12 or 13, and she's done everything right to get there."

NICOLE MERGET, Sr. MH, Salem: One of the best volleyball players to ever play for Salem, the Division 1-bound Merget finished strong for the 30-9-3 Rocks.

The fourth-year varsity player totaled 541 kills and 95 blocks (19 solo) to lead the team in both categories. She added 48 aces and 212 digs.



Maddy Doyle
Mercy



Cory Urbats
Churchill



Kara Kempinski
Churchill



Katy Rooney
Ladywood



Halie Baker
John Glenn



Katie Horton
Wayne



Jenny Rhodes
Ladywood



Emily Norscia
Churchill



Brooke Zywick
John Glenn



Lindsey Lerg
Mercy



Kaitlyn Krause
North
Farmington



Nicole Merget
Salem



Kristin Malcolm
Plymouth
Christian



Kristen Muir
Canton



Brooke Ruffolo
Mercy



Brittany Bejma
Garden City



Kayla Bridge
Plymouth



Kelly Blackney
Plymouth
Christian coach

**2010 ALL-OBSERVER
GIRLS VOLLEYBALL
FIRST TEAM**

Maddy Doyle, Jr. OH, Farm. Hills Mercy
 Cory Urbats, Sr. S, Liv. Churchill
 Kara Kempinski, Sr. Libero, Liv. Churchill
 Katy Rooney, Sr. MH, Liv. Ladywood
 Halie Baker, Sr. OH, Westland Glenn
 Katie Horton, Soph. MH, Wayne
 Jenny Rhodes, Sr. OH-Libero, Ladywood
 Emily Norscia, Soph. MH, Liv. Churchill
 Brooke Zywick, Sr. Libero, Westland Glenn
 Lindsey Lerg, Jr. OH, Farm. Hills Mercy
 Kaitlyn Krause, Sr. Setter, N. Farmington
 Nicole Merget, Sr. MH, Salem
 Kristin Malcolm, Jr. MB, Ply. Christian
 Kristen Muir, Jr. OH, Canton
 Brooke Ruffolo, Sr. Libero, F.H. Mercy
 Brittany Bejma, Sr. Setter, Garden City
 Kayla Bridge, Sr. OH, Plymouth

SECOND TEAM

Kelli Young, Jr. OH, Farmington
 Reina Tyl, Sr. OH, Liv. Stevenson
 Kerry MacDonald, Sr. Setter, Salem
 Alaina Turner, Jr. MB, Canton
 Kenzie Kettner, Jr. OH, Liv. Ladywood
 Samantha Zaleski, Sr. MB, Garden City
 Andrea Phillips, Sr. MH, Farm. Harrison
 Monika Rudis, Sr. OH, Liv. Stevenson

THIRD TEAM

Chelsea Williams, Sr. OH, Liv. Franklin
 Jillian Sommerville, Sr. MH, Salem
 Natalie Petrella, Sr. Setter, Farmington
 Mariah Tesarz, Sr. Libero, Plymouth
 Elena Lamping, Jr. MH, F.H. Mercy
 Ashley Williams, Sr. OH, Farmington
 Kaitlyn Schoepner, Soph. MH, N. Farm.
 Erica DenBoer, Soph. OH, Canton

FOURTH TEAM

Keri Horton, Jr. MH, Wayne
 Ryan Elequin, Sr. Setter, Redford Union
 Brianna Harris, Sr. Setter, Ply. Christian
 Ashley Murphy, Soph. OH, Clarenceville
 Leah Miller, Sr. OH, Huron Valley Lutheran
 Amanda Terranella, Jr. MH, Luth. Westland
 Julie Plummer, Sr. OH, N. Farmington
 Danielle Risi, Sr. OH, Plymouth
 Jamie Coleman, Soph. OH, Farm. Harrison

COACH OF THE YEAR

Kelly Blackney, Plymouth Christian
HONORABLE MENTION
 Churchill: Erin Menard, Nicole Kempinski, Krystyn Niescier; Franklin: Nicole Williamson; Stevenson: Jordan York, Katie Tomasic, Kristen Balhorn, Catherine Licata, Lauren Corbelli; John Glenn: Jordyn Coniam, Claire Truskowski, Sarah Headrick; Wayne: Shelby Hooper; Ladywood: Cheyenne Woodall, Caitlin McClorey, Kristie Aurdand, Alex Hines; Clarenceville: Joanna Buring, Ayanna Buckley, Kellie Ankiel, Tony Vernier; Lutheran Westland: Marisa Hahn, Taylor Wiemer; Huron Valley Lutheran: Allie Dest, Megan Kubinski; Salem: Kerstin Johnson, Lauren Aschermann, Madeline Vala, Abigail Dworzancin; Canton: Maggie Deloy, Jackie Waite, Lauren Martin; Plymouth: Alex Roberts; Plymouth Christian: Amy Zinn, Abby Bartes, Folake Olojo, Jessica Rich; Farmington: Melanie Guyette, Haley Schneider, Sarah Gutknecht; Harrison: Lauren Williams, Mallory Peters, Lisa McFarland, Maya Menlo; Mercy: Annie Bodien, Alexis Schultz, Meghan Cleary; North Farmington: Emily Weiss, Alyssa Hart, Makenzie Coulter, Katy Severson; Redford Thurston: Rachel Pebbles, Sarah Schulz; Garden City: Cayla Bone, Minta Whitaker; Redford Union: Lauren Brenner, Ryan Elequin, Jordan Hebnor.

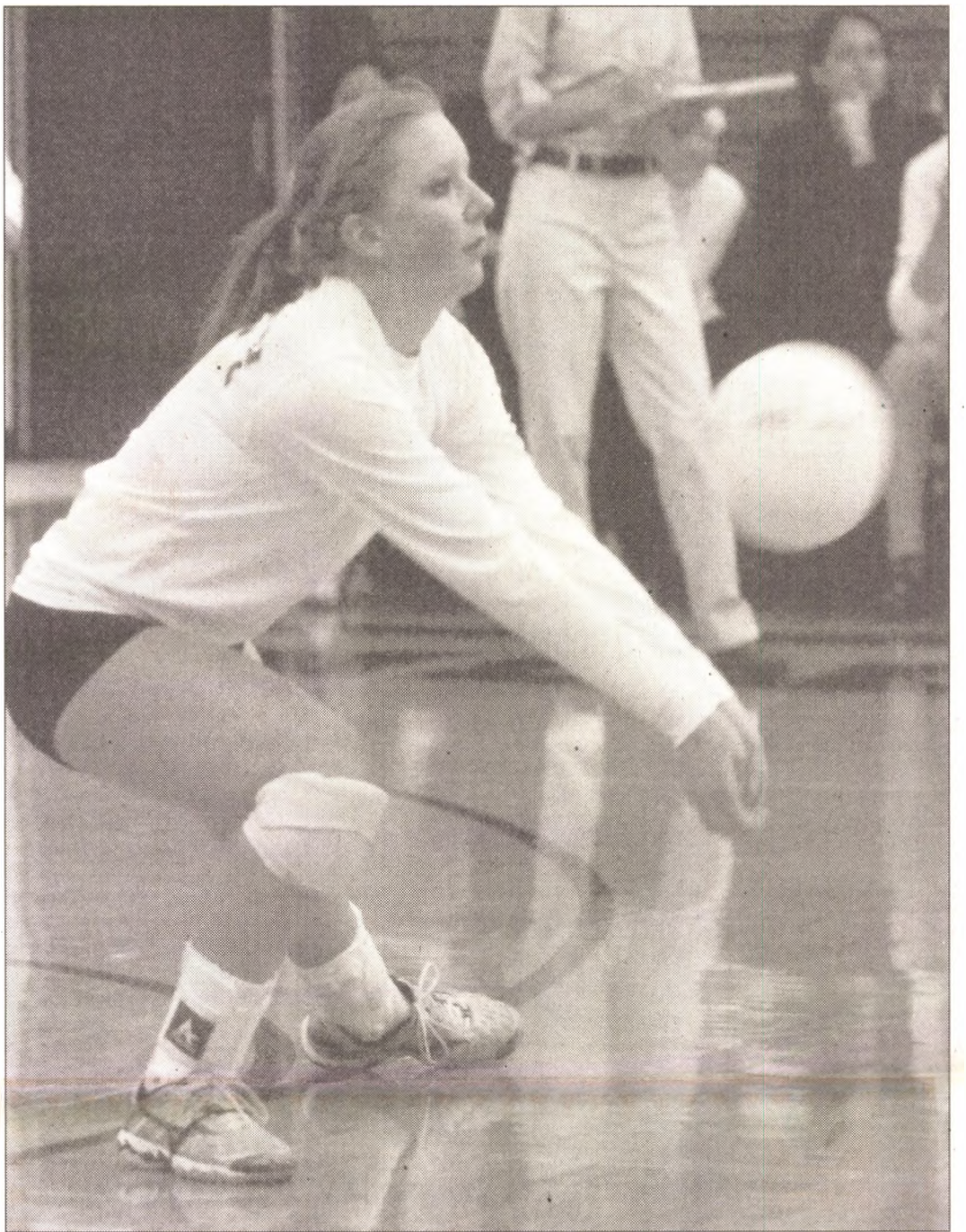
Merget was named to the All-KLAA, all-region and all-state teams while also being on the all-tourney team for the prestigious "Beast of the East" tourney.

"Nicole had the most kills on our team and blocks," Salem head coach Amanda Nies said. "It goes to show not only can she play offense well she also is a great defensive player." "She is so explosive at the net and has really been a big leader for us this year."

Merget will play volleyball at D1 Jacksonville State in Alabama.

KRISTIN MALCOLM, Jr. MB, Ply. Christian: The junior's all-around excellence keyed Plymouth Christian's march all the way to the Class D finals.

Malcolm led the Eagles with



JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Senior libero Brooke Ruffolo is one of three Mercy players on the all-area volleyball first team.

436 kills and 75 blocks and helped the cause with 217 digs and 39 service aces.

Her coach, Kelly Blackney, said the third-year player really has emerged as a confident, dominant team leader who sets the tone for the rest of the squad.

"Our team's talent ran pretty deep this year," Blackney said. "But Kristin played a vital role in leading the team to the state finals."

"She was a major threat on offense as well as defense, and because of her leadership as captain, her teammates followed in her work ethic and passion for the sport."

KRISTEN MUIR, Jr. OH, Canton: The consistently clutch, hard-hitting junior was a catalyst for many Canton rallies, connecting to the tune of 390 kills for the 29-11-3 Chiefs.

Muir also was solid on defense (639 kills) and at the service stripe, where she tallied 62 aces. In serve-receive, she was successful on 440 of 459 attempts (96 percent).

For her efforts, she was named to the All-KLAA and all-region teams.

"Kristen was someone that everyone looked to and was always a spark of energy on the court," said Chiefs' head coach Mary Kryska. "Kristen is an amazing player both offensively and defensively. She was one of our strongest players and had great leadership."

BROOKE RUFFOLO, Sr. Libero, F.H. Mercy: During a regional tournament match in November, the mother of an opposing player said of the Mercy defense: "They get to everything; they're all over the floor!" The Marlins often frustrated the other team's offense, and Ruffolo was a major reason why. A two-year starter at libero, she was the leader of "the most tenacious defense in the state," according to the Mercy program. Ruffolo led the undersized but highly

effective Mercy defense with 764 digs. She also had 29 aces.

BRITTANY BEJMA, Sr. Setter, Garden City: A three-year starter in head coach John Pace's lineup, Bejma was the heart and soul of a Cougars squad that swept through league play with a perfect 10-0 ledger and registered 18 victories overall. A setter, Bejma, who battled through injuries all year, averaged nine assists per set, was good on 96 percent of her serve attempts and compiled a 4.38 ace-to-error ratio. She finished with 57 aces on the season, 799 assists, 186 kills and 224 digs in 88 games.

"She's a fabulous volleyball player and a great leader and great captain," Pace said. "Her best skill is her volleyball theory. She always knew what to do with the ball. If the middle blocker went one way, she knew she could go the other way. She always knew her way out."

"She was the epitome of a great teammate. She wanted to win more than anything else and did an outstanding job of that all three years."

KAYLA BRIDGE, Sr. OH, Plymouth: The senior was a strong, reliable performer throughout her high school career and 2010 was no exception.

Bridge amassed 265 kills, 436 digs, 25 blocks and led the 21-13-4 Wildcats in serving (97-percent success rate).

For her efforts, the third-year varsity player was named to the All-KLAA and all-region teams.

"I have been most impressed by the way in which her all-around game has improved," said Plymouth head coach Kelly McCausland. "She could always hit, but I am proud of her improvements in the backcourt."

McCausland added that Bridge's high level of play and leadership qualities did not go unnoticed by teammates, who

voted her the team's MVP.

COACH OF THE YEAR
KELLY BLACKNEY, Plymouth Christian: The little team that could. That's what Plymouth Christian Academy's Eagles have become under the guidance of third-year head coach Kelly Blackney.

Only 19 players tried out for the school's varsity and junior varsity teams combined, but Blackney assembled a solid roster featuring junior Kristin Malcolm that took care of business.

"We saw that although we are from a small school, ... we can compete with bigger schools," Blackney emphasized. "Unlike years past, we didn't view ourselves as the underdog, we walked in the gym with confidence and brought it out on the court."

"We took big risks, and that led to rewards that we could have only imagined before."

Anchored by their faith and team camaraderie, PCA (30-10-2) rolled through the MIAC and then defeated Lutheran Westland in the district finals. The team kept going through regionals and state quarterfinals, reaching the Final Four at Kellogg Arena in Battle Creek.

After a riveting five-set victory in the semis against Central Lake, the Eagles were ousted in the finals by Battle Creek St. Phillip to make the Tigers champs for the third straight year.

"Our team this year was so successful because they began the season with passion, enthusiasm and dedication and carried it out throughout the entire season," Blackney said. "Our athletic director (Rick Swilley) did a great job at scheduling us to play against tough competitors and that really helped develop our level of play."

"But more importantly, it helped develop our confidence in each other and in our team."

Salem starts with victories

The Salem bowling teams had a solid start to the season on Tuesday in a KLAAs crossover against Brighton.

In the varsity girls match, the Rocks prevailed 15.5-to-14.5. Sophomore Kristin Larkins tallied strong games of 206 and 184 with other top performers including senior Ashley Kretschmer (149-166-315) and sophomore Bridget Maul (169-169-338).

Salem's varsity boys tied 15-15 despite 200-plus scores from three bowlers. Senior Ryan Clark posted scores of 249 and 247 for an outstanding 496 series.

Junior David Nikkila (207-193-400) and freshman Steven Cadwell (261) also had excellent showings.

Meanwhile, the JV boys won 19-11, behind scores of 246 by sophomore Jimmy Bowling, 176 by senior Eli Engle and 160 by freshman Brandon Allison.

Wildcats roll wins

Eric Thompson's high game of 288 sparked visiting Plymouth's varsity boys team to a 24-6 season-opening win over Waterford on Tuesday night.

The Wildcats' girls also won, 22-8, while the Plymouth JV earned a 29-1 victory.

BASKETBALL

FROM PAGE B1

Jenny Malcolm, who each tallied nine points and nine rebounds.

"I was very pleased that we stepped up defensively as a team," PCA head coach Carol Gerulis said. "I was also glad the kids played through the third quarter while Brianna was out of the game. Brianna is a senior and a leader but the other players just played as if she was still on the court."



Silver Flyers

The Canton Victory Honda Squirt house hockey team, the Canton Flyers, recently garnered a silver medal at the Motown Cup Hockey Tournament in Brownstown. Members of the team include: (back row, from left) assistant coach Pat Dowd, head coach Dean Garber, assistant coach James Organ; (middle row, from left) Michael St. Jean, Maxwell Craggs, Brandon Garber, Kurt Faerber, Ethan Sena; (front row, from left), William Skaggs, Josh Organ, Devin Dowd, Kaleb Brabbs, Jacob Dowd, Andy Skomra, Matt McLeod; (sitting) Rami Itni and Josh Montroy.



Mighty Mites!

The Canton Victory Honda Mite A '03 team swept their 4-game division and went on to beat the Livingston Lightning team in the finals to win the championship with a score of 3-2. The tournament was the 2010 Eddie Edgar LHA Thanksgiving Challenge in Livonia. The team ranges in age from 6-7 years old.

RIVALRY

FROM PAGE B1

with 9:05 left in the first on a power-play goal, a slapper from the middle of the blue line that beat Canton junior netminder Spencer Craig (17 saves).

But the Chiefs found an answer before the end of the opening period when senior forward Phil Baciak roofed a rebound past Plymouth senior netminder Michael Justus (19 saves).

At 2:49 of the middle period, Canton took a 2-1 lead thanks to an excellent individual play by senior forward and co-captain Jordan Smith.

He rushed down the left boards and cut in toward the Plymouth net, sending a crisp feed to the on-rushing Taylor Baker. The junior forward made no mistake with it.

Back-to-back Canton penalties helped set up a two-man advantage for the Wildcats and they tied it up at 2-2 as a result.

Junior forward Sean Smiatcz dished the puck over to senior blueliner Tyler Lazorka, who took a couple of strides inside the blue line and whipped a wrist shot that eluded the apparently screened Craig.

Both teams had chances for the game-winning goal in the third, to no avail.

A hard shot by Bauer glanced off Craig's trapper and fluttered over the crossbar,



Fighting for a loose puck Friday night are Plymouth's Mitch Claggett (No. 10) and Canton's Josh Dickson (No. 23).

with about 11 minutes to go. Then Canton senior forward AJ Rosales' one-timer from the slot was blocked by Justus. Plymouth enjoyed a late power play, but were unable to get any clear-cut chances.

"It was trickling by the net the whole time," Bauer said. "We just couldn't put it in."

HARRISON 3, CANTON 2: On Wednesday at Arctic Edge, goals by seniors AJ Rosales and Jimmy LaFontaine were not enough to get past Farmington Hills Harrison in this non-conference game.

LaFontaine also had an assist, as did juniors Zack

McArdle and Taylor Baker. **PLYMOUTH 3, CHURCHILL 2:** Brilliant goalkeeping from Plymouth senior Michael Justus enabled the visiting Wildcats to nip Livonia Churchill at Eddie Edgar Arena.

Justus stopped 38 of 40 shots, and his teammates came through with enough offense for the KLAAs South victory.

Scoring twice for the Wildcats was Tyler Sanders, with Nick Schultz also finding the mark.

tsmith@hometownlife.com

Nadratowski sparks 'Cats with 21 points

Plymouth senior Mike Nadratowski scored 21 points to pace a 62-46 win over Ann Arbor Skyline on Friday night.

The Wildcats (2-1) went on an 18-7 tear in the third quarter, which went a long way toward clinching the win.

Other Plymouth standouts

included seniors Brennen Beyer (15 points, 11 rebounds) and Pat Salo (10 points, five boards).

Plymouth varsity boys basketball head coach Mike Soukup also credited the hustle from Zach Yokom and Jake Morris, "who contributed multiple second-chance

opportunities and hustle plays which don't show up on the scoresheet.

Chiefs fall

Host Canton fell to 0-2 on the young season, losing by a 66-55 score to Detroit King in a non-conference matchup.

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Oh thrifty tree, oh thrifty tree

Decorate the Christmas evergreen with second-hand treasures



Decorated Christmas trees and wreaths are among the holiday items for sale at the Society of St. Vincent de Paul thrift store in Westland.

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

Christmas tree decorating on the cheap?

It's possible and fun — you just have to think outside the (ornament) box.

"Piece of cake," said Michael Saine, manager of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul thrift shop in Westland. "Our prices are very reasonable. You really can make sure you stretch your dollars.

"Here's ribbon, anywhere from 99 cents to 49 cents. You can coordinate those with your bulbs. They're a buck to \$1.99 a box. The older vintage bulbs go a little higher — three bucks."

In addition to bolts of unopened and unused ribbon, the store carries Christmas stockings, lights, ceramic figurines, wreaths, soft ornaments and stuffed animals, candles, window decals, and more in its seasonal aisles. But as Saine points out, just about anything that fits on a branch can become a holiday trim with a little ingenuity.

"We've had good luck with these," he said, showing off a Santa-shaped pepper shaker. Thread an ornament hook or paper clip through two of the holes at the top of any empty salt or pepper shaker and you're ready to create a theme tree.

"Salt and pepper shakers. Now you've got a plethora of ornaments. This can actually remind you of a special time or event."



Michael Saine of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul says small stuffed animals and toys, like the kind he's holding, can be used as tree decorations.



Ceramic salt shakers can double as Christmas tree ornaments.

Use light, small soft toys that can be threaded and hung or nestled in branches, as an homage to childhood or pets. Keep them on higher branches away from small hands or paws.

FROM TABLE TO TREE

"Just about anything can be incorporated into your tree. Something I've seen successfully done is little baby gift boxes, the ones you wrap little presents in, jewelry boxes. You wrap those and they make exceptional ornaments.

"You could theme your tree to just about anything. Just personalize it to you. It gives you a chance to show who you are. You'd be surprised how many conversations start with what's on your tree and you'd be surprised how many things evoke memories in other people."

Saine started selling fully-trimmed trees at the thrift store

four years ago, realizing that some individuals simply don't have the time to treasure hunt for ornaments or trim their own trees.

He figures the store has decorated and sold 45 trees this year. Some were used to create a path that led approximately 65 youngsters to Santa's throne earlier this month. The children got a chance to talk with him and pose for a free photo.

About a dozen trees were trimmed and ready for new homes last Monday. Store employee Barbara Flood of Redford will continue to trim until every bough is decorated.

She creates a theme or color scheme for every tree at the store as she does for her own tree at home.

"My tree this year is purple and silver. It's never the same tree twice," said Flood, who previously worked at a store that sold Christmas trims. "I made a red, white and blue tree about seven years ago at home. That was the most unusual."

LOTS OF LIGHTS

At the store, Flood has decorated trees with natural trimmings, Disney-inspired items, and in college colors, to name a few. One tree, outfitted all in gold ornaments sold the same day she trimmed it. She spends from one to three hours on each tree and

Please see **DECORATE, B7**

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Needy families can get pet food

Tail Wagger's 1990 of Livonia aims to help the family dog and cat have a happy holiday season by assisting needy families who can't afford pet food.

Its Pet Food Assistance Program gives assistance to animals in need so that they can stay with the family they have grown to love.

"The goal of the Pet Food Assistance program is to eliminate additional financial stress on the family during the holidays," said Laura Zain, Tail Wagger's 1990 founder. She hopes it will reduce the number of animals being surrendered to shelters for financial reasons.

Local businesses that become a collection point for the Pet Food Assistance Program will receive a sign, collection bin and exposure on the Tail Wagger's Web site. The

public may drop off donations at these sites. Currently, cat and kitten food and litter are running low.

Families that need assistance can call the Tail Wagger's office at (734) 560-4660 or e-mail to tailwaggers.1990@yahoo.com. All requests must include a name, phone number, and kind of animals that need assistance. All calls are kept confidential and arrangements will be made on an individual basis for pick-up- or delivery of food.

Here's a list of local and nearby collection sites:
 Pet Food & More, 15399 Merriman, Livonia
 Wags To Wiskers, 44707 Five Mile, Plymouth
 Drake's Lanes, 35000 Grand River Ave., Farmington
 Woodland Lanes, 33775 Plymouth Road, Livonia
 Norton's Flowers, 2900



Washtenaw, Ypsilanti
 Wags To Wiskers, 2425 W. Stadium, Ann Arbor
 Norton's Flowers, 2577 Jackson Road, Ann Arbor

DON'T LET THEM FREEZE

The weather calls for a plunge in temperatures this week and that means dogs and cats left outdoors are in danger of dying from the cold.

The Michigan Humane Society (MHS) urges pet owners to let their dogs stay inside during extreme weather. It also says that according to Michigan law, pets that do stay outside during harsh weather must have adequate food, water and shelter.

"Every winter, our cruelty investigators respond to hundreds of complaints about pets that are left outdoors without adequate shelter," stated Mark Ramos, MHS senior cruelty investigator. "We urge everyone to bring pets indoors, at minimum during the frigid winter months, to protect their pets and prevent needless suffering."

Clean, dry straw should be provided for bedding rather than towels, rugs or blankets, which absorb moisture and are freeze in frigid temperatures.

Inadequate shelter includes an unheated garage or shed, a dog house that is too large or lacks straw, or dogs simply tied out to a porch, fence or deck with no shelter at all.

What should you do if you see an animal left outdoors in an inadequate dog house or tethered in the cold? Don't hesitate to report it to your city's animal control department.

Failing to give pets proper food, water and shelter is a misdemeanor. Animal cruelty violations carry a penalty of up to 93 days and jail and up to a \$1,000 fine, community service and loss of pet ownership.



Rusty is about 2 years old and gets along well with other dogs.

ADOPTABLE GREYHOUNDS

Rusty and Chica are the two featured Greyhounds this week at Greyheart Greyhound Rescue and Adoption of Michigan.

Rusty is a fawn-colored dog with a mild-mannered personality. He is about 2 years old and gets along well with other dogs.

Chica is about 3 1/2 years old. She has a black shiny coat and a joyful spirit. She's a happy, playful girl.

To find out more about Rusty and Chica, call Greyheart Greyhound Rescue and Adoption at (866) 438-4739 or visit its Web site at www.greyheart.org.



Chica is a happy, playful girl.

In Loving Memory ...at the Holidays

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. 19th
 ...in the Eccentric Newspapers
Thursday, Dec. 23rd
 ...in the Observer Newspapers and Hometown Weekly Newspapers

Deadline for both issues...Monday, Dec. 13th

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WINTER & ARTHRITIS

Just as the house adjusts to winter with storm doors, double pane windows and fresh weather stripping, so should a person with arthritis make preparations to adapt his or her condition to the time.

If one has rheumatoid arthritis then gloves or mittens need special attention so that impaired hands can receive a complete covering and that the gloves or mittens are readily put and taken off. Foot gear needs to combine a boot/shoe that is waterproof, as light as possible and with lacing that is thick and long enough for impaired hands. If possible get winter boots that use Velcro straps. Winter coats with linings are usually lighter than regular winter coats, and while putting the lining in or removing it on warmer days often requires help from others, the linings usually are simple to maneuver.

If a person has lupus arthritis, the main threat is the cold. Cold brings on Raynauds, the condition where the small arteries to the fingers clamp down causing the hand to turn white and feel numb and tingling. The key to preventing an attack of Raynauds is to keep the hands warm. A person with Lupus may need to wear gloves even when retrieving the newspaper from the front lawn. Winter means taking time and using unusual care to protect the hands even with short exposure to outside weather.

For the person with gout, keeping the feet warm is of most importance. Cold precipitates a gout attack. Extra socks and a warm felt or flannel lined winter boots are as necessary as a hat and gloves. Also wear socks to bed at night as the bedroom tends to be the coldest and draftiest place in the house.

Learn ways to cope with loss

A Christmas Memorial candle lighting service will be held at 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 13 at the Neely-Turowski Funeral Home, 30200 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Merriman, in Livonia.

The funeral home has invited families it has served this year at the Livonia location and at the L.A. Turowski and Son Funeral Home in Canton. The service also is open to anyone in the public who lost a loved one last year.

Participants will learn ways to cope during Christmas with the loss of a loved one. The service will last about 45 minutes. RSVP to (734) 525-9020 by 3 p.m. Monday, Dec. 13.

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Perhaps it is the quiet gentleness of the heavenly maidens that reminds us of a better time and a better world. Perhaps it is the conviction of warriors dashing across the plains that tells us that good always defeats evil in the end. Or maybe it's just the timeless stories of courage and compassion, kindness and kinship.

Whatever it is, Shen Yun has touched the hearts of millions. "I cried a few times," one audience member confessed. "What I saw was power, honesty, and integrity—I am grateful for that." The show has graced some of the most prestigious stages in the world, from the Royal Festival Hall in London to the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. Shen Yun is more than just the world's premier classical Chinese performing arts company—it is an experience you won't want to miss.

A PERFORMANCE 5,000 YEARS IN THE MAKING

A performance by Shen Yun is traditional Chinese culture as it was meant to be: a study in grace, wisdom, and all the virtues distilled from millennia of Chinese civilization. The classically trained dancers, musicians, and singers of Shen Yun Performing Arts share a vision: to revive and restore Chinese culture to its former, glorious state.

Based in New York, Shen Yun Performing Arts is distinguished by its conscious effort to remain independent of China's communist regime, which has abused and impoverished the arts for decades. In fact, a show like Shen Yun's can no longer be found in China today. As one well-traveled New Yorker noted: "I've seen China before with my eyes, but this show had me experience China with my soul."

No other art form in the world boasts such strong expressive qualities and diversity of technique as classical Chinese dance. It takes years of rigorous training to master the many leaps, flips, and delicate gestures. Dancers must also be versed in Chinese culture to achieve the bearing needed to bring ancient legends and heroic figures to life.

In addition to the classical forms, Shen Yun features the distinctive colors and styles of ethnic and folk dance. Choreographers draw upon over 20 dynasties and 50 ethnic groups to create pieces that range from the northern steppes of Mongolia to the lush forests of Yunnan. Among the most impressive elements of any Shen Yun show are the large-scale ensemble pieces in which dozens of dancers appear to move as one body across the stage.

Shen Yun has also created its very own brand of story-based dance, which often deals with universal, thought-provoking themes. As one distinguished ballet dancer noted, "There's a lot of depth and meaning. It's a new realm of dance."

TWO GREAT CLASSICAL MUSIC TRADITIONS — ONE FRESH, UNEXPECTED SOUND

Some remarkable instruments such as the *pipa* or *erhu* date back more than 3,500 years, but the reality is very few Chinese instruments have made it to the world stage. To remedy this, the composers of Shen Yun bathe the distinctly Chinese sounds in a rich sea of Western strings, percussion, woodwinds, and brass. The result? A new and mesmerizing sound.

Each season, the composers create over 20 original scores. They work closely with the choreographers to ensure a seamless blending of the music with each and every dance.

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Barbara Flood of Redford decorates a tree at the Society of St. Vincent de Paul thrift store in Westland.

Making trim, finding trim

Time to think outside the glass bulb box.

Here are a few thrifty do-it-yourself ideas for tree trimmings:

- Tiny toy food boxes and cans that kids use for playing supermarket or pretend dinner. Puncture each piece with an ornament hook or hot glue on a loop of ribbon for hanging. Add a dash of sparkle at the top of each toy with a bit of thin garland.

- Bells and bows. Find bells in thrift shops and trim stores in all sizes and several colors. Tie tops with ribbon for hanging or string — spacing the bells out with knots along the ribbon — and use as garland. Bow can be of any shape, style or color. Barbara Flood, who decorates trees at the St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store, uses wire-edged ribbon to create a twisting cascade on three or four sides of a tree. Tie one end of the ribbon at the top of the tree. Take the other end and roll the ribbon all the way back to the top of the tree. Then gently turn the rolled ribbon sideways, pull out from its center and allow it to drop, twisting as it goes, along the length of the tree.

- Saint cards you collected in catechism class so long ago make nifty ornaments

for branches that tend to bend with heavier pieces. So do old trading cards. Add glitter selectively if you really want to get crafty. Punch a hole at the top and hang with ribbon. Use Christmas cards saved from previous years for a more traditional statement.

- Chess, checker and player pieces from board games can evoke childhood memories or give your tree a black, white and red color scheme. Hot glue loops of yarn or ribbon on each piece to hang.

- Nativity figurines in assorted sizes that don't quite fit into one scene anymore can come together nicely on the tree. Hot glue gun on a ribbon for hanging.

In addition to St. Vincent de Paul, look for used treasures and trims at these stores:

- Disabled American Veterans Thrift Store, 8050 N. Middlebelt, Westland; (734)513-6020

- Value World, 35300 Central City Parkway, Westland; (734)728-4610

- The Salvation Army Thrift Store, 27170 Grand River Ave., Redford; (313)255-0777

- The Salvation Army Thrift Store, 33600 Plymouth Road, Livonia; (734)425-7573

DECORATE

FROM PAGE B5

scours each batch of donated items for unique trims. She knows exactly what she has on hand and formulates a plan before decorating. Lots of lights are a must. She even adds lights to pre-lit trees to make them appear fuller.

"I have about 2,000 lights on my tree at home and it's a small tree. But it looks so full."

The decorated trees sell for \$29.99 to \$39.99 on average. A few exceptionally large trees can cost \$30 or \$40 more.

But Saine said even those are a bargain compared to

buying a new tree and trimmings from a retail outlet.

"Your artificial trees are going to be anywhere from \$29-\$79 and that's just for the tree. By the time you put the ornaments on you can easily tie \$250 into that tree."

Customers can take home a decorated tree either full-sized and wrapped or disassembled and placed in a box along with the trims.

Proceeds from sales at the shop benefit a soup kitchen, food depots, summer camps and other works of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. The store is located at 6613 Wayne Road, Westland. (734)729-3088



An eclectic mix of Christmas items, all at bargain prices, await shoppers at the Society of St. Vincent de Paul thrift store in Westland.

Report gives pediatricians tips on spotting eating disorders

A new report released by the American Academy of Pediatrics aims to help primary care physicians recognize and treat eating disorders sooner in young children.

"We want health care providers and family members to be tuned in to the possibility that eating disorders can occur much earlier than they might think," stated report lead author Dr. David S. Rosen, a professor of pediatrics and communicable diseases, internal medicine and psychiatry at the University of Michigan.

In the past decade, research has shown a growing number of young children diagnosed with eating disorders, but not all primary care physicians have been aware of these latest findings.

The report by Rosen and his team recommends that health care providers screen annually for disorders.

"There is new research regarding treatment and prognosis that we wanted primary care providers to have. We want to give them the tools they need to do the very best job," stated Rosen, who previously served on the American Academy of Pediatrics' Committee on Adolescence.

Eating disorders are on the rise among children younger than 12 years, males and minorities, according to previous studies. It is estimated that 0.5 percent of adolescent girls in the United States have anorexia nervosa, and 1 percent to 2 percent meet criteria for bulimia nervosa.

Medical complications of eating disorders can affect any organ system, so it's important for pediatricians to identify eating disorders as soon as possible.

The report, titled "Identification and Management of Eating Disorders in Children and Adolescents," appears in the December 2010 issue of the journal Pediatrics.



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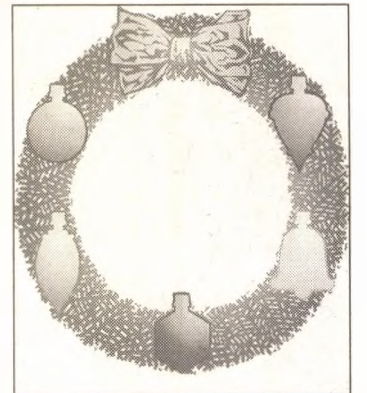
Ceramic vases in a variety of sizes and shapes by Audrey DiMarco-Terry of Hartland, and pillows in seasonal colors by Beverly Johnston of Livonia and Nancy Giannotta of Westland are among the unique art gift items at Visual Arts Association of Livonia's (VAAL) Holiday Shoppe. It runs 10 a.m.-6 p.m. through Dec. 17 and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Dec. 18. Thirty artists are selling their works at the shop, located at 37653 Five Mile, in the New Five Village Shopping Center at the southeast corner of Five Mile and Newburgh, in Livonia. (734) 838-1204

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

DINE WITH SANTA

At the zoo - A buffet-style waffle breakfast will include costumed characters, arts and crafts, holiday movies and one-one visits with Santa Claus, 8-10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 18, in the Wildlife Interpretive Gallery at the Detroit Zoo, located at 10 Mile and Woodward in Royal Oak. The cost, which includes Zoo admission and parking, is \$30 for adults, ages 15 and older, and \$25 for children, ages 14 and younger. The cost for Detroit Zoological Society members is \$25 for adults and \$20 for children. Tickets must be purchased for all children regardless of age. Reservations are required. Call (248) 541-5717 and press #3.

At Schoolcraft College - Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society sponsors the event, which includes a pancake and sausage breakfast, served family style, and lots of games and prizes. Each child will also have the opportunity to visit with Santa, have a photo taken and receive a special surprise gift. It runs 10 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Dec. 18 on campus, located on Haggerty between Six and Seven Mile Roads, in Livonia. Tickets are \$20 for children and \$15 for adults and must be purchased in advance by calling (734) 462-4422 or by visiting the Student Activities Office located in Lower Waterman on the college's main campus in Livonia.



"Freddy Cole Christmas" 8 p.m., Dec. 17-18 at Music Hall, 350 Madison. Tickets are \$27, available at www.ticketmaster.com; (313) 887-8500.

The Manhattan Transfer Christmas is at 8 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 14, at Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward Avenue. Tickets are \$15-\$68 available by calling (313) 576-5111 or by visiting www.detroitssymphony.com.

The Detroit Symphony Orchestra's "Home for the Holidays" concerts are 10:45 a.m. and 8 p.m. Dec. 16, 8:30 p.m. Dec. 17 3 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. Dec. 18 and 3 p.m., Dec. 19, at Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward Avenue. Tickets range from \$19-\$52. Call (313) 576-5111 or visit www.detroitssymphony.com.

Farmington - The Farmington Community Chorus will perform its 31st Annual Holiday Concert, "The Happiest Season of All," at 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 17 and Saturday, Dec. 18, at Mercy High School, Please see **HAPPENINGS, B9**

HOLIDAY CONCERTS

Detroit - Jazz Cafe presents

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Notice is hereby given that on 12/17/2010, at 10:00 a.m., Mayflower Auto Transport, 1179 Starkweather, Plymouth, MI 48170, a public auction of the following:

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Publish: December 12, 2010

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH

To all residents and other interested parties: Agenda's and Minutes for the Charter Township of Plymouth Board of Trustees Meetings are available for review under the Reference Desk Page of the Township Website: www.plymouthtwp.org. They are also posted in the Clerk's Office at Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Road Plymouth, Michigan for public perusal.

Meeting dates: July 20, August 17, September 14 & 28, October 12 & 26, November 16, and December 14

The public is invited and encouraged to attend the Board of Trustees Meetings.

JOE BRIDGMAN, MMC
Township Clerk

Publish: July 18, August 15, September 12, September 26, October 10, October 24, November 14, and December 12, 2010

OE08703431-2x2.5

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Plymouth District Library Board will hold its regular meeting December 21, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. at the Friends Room on the main level of the Library at 223 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI 48170.

The Plymouth District Library will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing upon seven (7) days notice to the Plymouth District Library. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Plymouth District Library by writing or calling the following:

Barbara Kraft, Library Secretary
Plymouth District Library
223 S. Main Street
Plymouth, MI 48170
734-453-0750
X217

Publish: December 12, 2010

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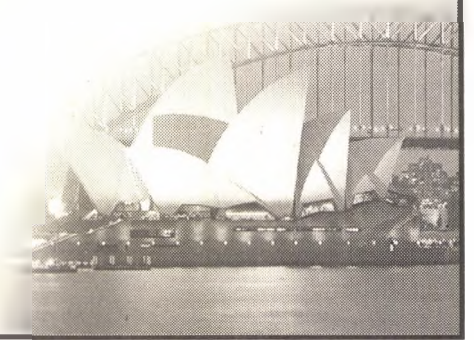
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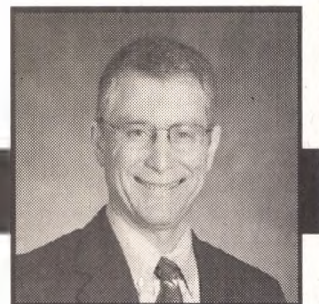
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HAPPENINGS

FROM PAGE B8

29300 West 11 Mile, Farmington Hills. Steve SeGraves directs the choir of more than 70 voices, which is accompanied by assistant director, Susan Garr. Tickets are \$12 in advance, available at www.farmingtonchorus.com, the Costick Center, 28600 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills or by calling (248) 682-6562. Tickets will also be available at the door for \$15.

Livonia - The St. Aidan Adult Choir, along with the St. Aidan Children's Choir, and St. Aidan Contemporary Ensemble, directed by Ray Schmidt, will present its 29th annual Christmas concert, 4 p.m. Dec. 12, at St. Aidan Church, 17500 Farmington Road, north of Six Mile. Admission is \$5 and two non-perishable food items. (734) 425-5950

Plymouth - Plymouth Symphony presents "Home for the Holidays" Christmas concert, 6 p.m. family concert and 8 p.m. traditional concert, at the Penn Theatre, 760 Penniman Ave., Plymouth; (734) 451-2112. www.penn-theatre.com. At the family concert, members of the Celebration Youth Orchestra will join the symphony for a musical number and the orchestra's trumpet section will be featured at the 8 p.m. performance for "Bugler's Holiday" and a Vivaldi Concerto

LIGHT DISPLAY

Wayne County - Four miles of displays and more than a million lights along Hines Drive make this the biggest holiday light show in southeastern Michigan. Lightfest runs 7-9 p.m. through Dec. 31 and is closed on Christmas Day, Dec. 25. Admission is \$5 per car. Entrance is off Merriman Road, between Ann Arbor Trail and Warren Ave., in Westland.

Detroit Shriners - The drive-through presentation includes more than 300 light displays



The Plymouth Symphony Christmas Concert will feature the trumpet section during a performance of "Bugler's Holiday." The concert is Dec. 16 at the Penn Theatre in downtown Plymouth.

along a one-mile route through Jan. 2, 2011 at Hazel Park Raceway, 1650 E. 10 Mile, at Dequindre, Hazel Park. Hours are 6-9 p.m. Sunday and 6-10 p.m. Friday-Saturday. Admission is \$10 per car. Detroit Shriners will donate \$1 from each vehicle admission to local non-profits and community projects such as Covenant House Michigan, Mittens for Detroit, Hazel Park Promise Zone Authority, Gleaner's Community Food Bank, DTE THAW (The Heat & Warmth Fund), Detroit Public Schools and Toys for Tots.

MOVIES

Penn Theatre - *The Polar Express* runs at 7 p.m. Dec. 17-19 and 5 p.m. Dec. 17-18. Round out holiday viewing with *The Muppet Christmas*, 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. Dec. 23 and 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Dec. 26. All seats are \$3. The theatre is

located at 760 Penniman, in downtown Plymouth; (734) 453-0870

Redford Theatre - Watch the Bing Crosby classic, *White Christmas* at 8 p.m. Dec. 17-18 and 2 p.m. Dec. 18. All tickets are \$4. The theater is located at 17360 Lahser, Detroit; (313) 537-2560.

THEATER

Spotlight on Youth - The youth theater at Spotlight Players will present *In the Nick of Time: A Red Mistletoe Mystery*, through Dec. 12 at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill, in Canton. The play is designed for children and families. Tickets are \$10 and available by phone at (734) 394-5300 or (734) 394-5460 or online at www.canton-mi.org/village theater.

Send holiday event items to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com



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Welcome Boys and Girls!

This month's contest features celebrations. Share with us how you celebrate the holidays!

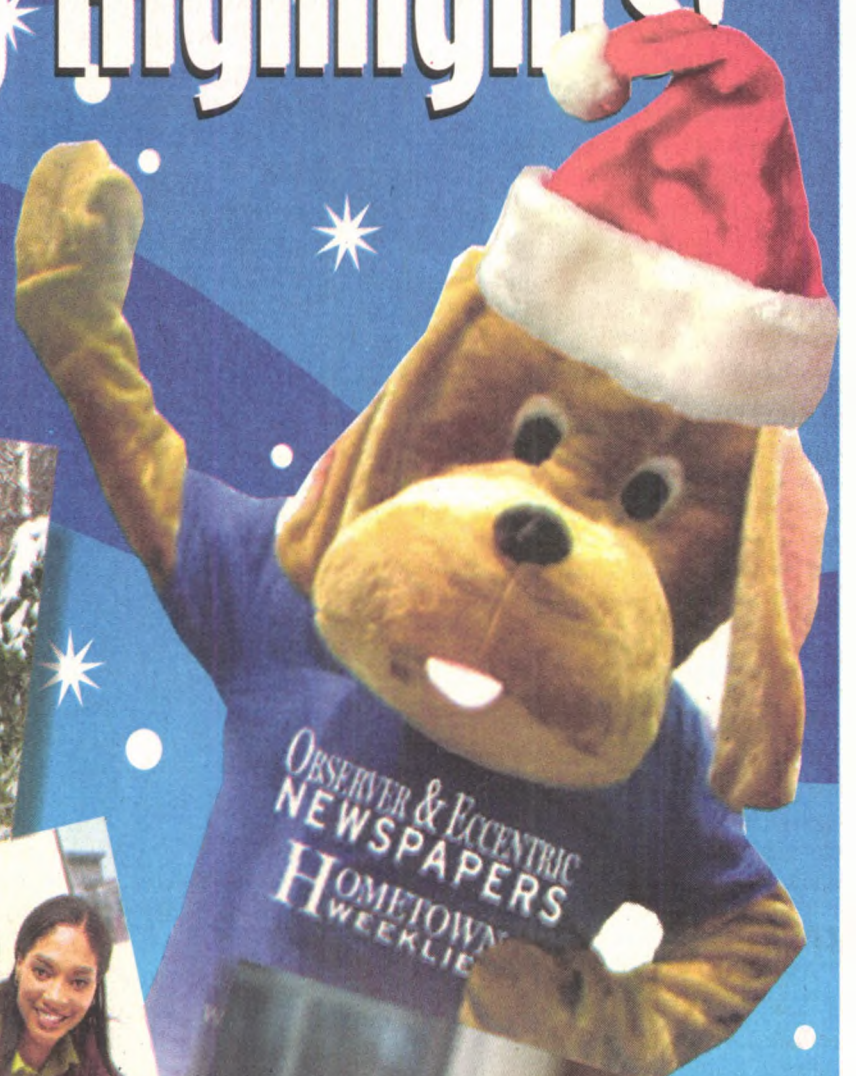
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Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights!

Send us a picture or a story of how you celebrate the holidays.



Hey kids!

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- Ages: 7 - 8
- Ages: 9 - 10
- Ages: 11 - 13

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Deadline for submissions: 12/31/10

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Send your entries for the Holiday Celebration Contest to:
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Share your Holiday Celebrations with Scoop!

Youth Name: _____

Youth Age: _____

Youth Community: _____

Parent's information to contact winning entry:
(Phone, email, home address)

Entries sent in will be published in the newspaper including your name, age and hometown.

RELIGION CALENDAR

Send calendar items to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com. Feel free to include relevant photos as attached jpgs. Or mail items to Sharon Dargay, The Observer, 615 Lafayette, level 2, Detroit, MI 48226. Submit items at least a week before expected publication date. Be sure to include a contact telephone number for readers, as well as any ticket prices for an event.

DEC. 12-15

Blue Christmas service

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 15
Location: St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, located on Five Mile, one block west of Inkster Road, in Livonia
Details: This service is designed for people who struggle with the holidays, including those who may be grieving, dealing with the loss of a loved one, loss of a job or struggle with the holidays in general. A coffee reception with care ministers will follow the service.
Contact: (734) 422-1470

Concert

Time/Date: 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 12
Location: Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Road, north of I-96, in Livonia
Details: The annual Christmas concert will feature the Festival Choir, Jubellation Handbell Choir, children's choir, the Cantate Choir, the Brass Ensemble and solo and ensemble groups. The concert is free, but a free-will offering will be taken
Contact: (734) 522-6830

Concert

Time/Date: 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 12
Location: Trinity Church, 34500 Six Mile, Livonia
Details: "A Christmas Tapestry" concert will feature an eclectic blend of musicians and vocalists from the church with a variety of Christmas favorites, from standards to modern pieces. Tickets are a suggested \$10 at the door
Contact: (734) 425-2800

Concert

Time/Date: 4 p.m. Dec. 12
Location: 17500 Farmington Road, north of Six Mile, Livonia
Details: The St. Aidan Adult Choir, along with the St. Aidan Children's Choir, and St. Aidan Contemporary Ensemble, directed by Ray Schmidt, will present its 29th annual Christmas concert. Admission is \$5 and two non-perishable food items.
Contact: (734) 425-5950

DEC. 16-22

Blue Christmas Service

Time/Date: 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 19
Location: St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 S. Sheldon Road in Plymouth
Details: An alternative Christmas service for people who are for any reason uncomfortable attending traditional Christmas Eve and Day celebrations. St. John's offers this service as a way to help people find peace and solace, and as a way to bring healing to those who are hurting because of

loss or crisis. The service includes readings from poetry and scripture, prayer, and a special candlelighting litany, during which attendees are given the opportunity to light a candle in remembrance of their own special prayers. Holy Communion is offered, and music will include not only quiet Christmas carols, but also songs from the Taizé tradition
Contact: (734) 453-0190

Breakfast and Santa

Time/Date: 8:30 am-noon, Sunday, Dec. 19
Location: St. Theodore Social Hall, 8200 N. Wayne Road, Westland
Details: All you can eat pancakes, French toast, applesauce, ham, sausage, scrambled eggs, tea, coffee, milk and juice. Cost is \$3 for adults and \$1.50 children, ages 2-10. Includes a visit from Santa Claus
Contact: (734) 425-4421

Concert

Time/Date: 11 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 19
Location: Mount Vernon Baptist Church, 8828 Wormer, Redford
Details: A Christmas cantata, "Silent, Holy Night"
Contact: (313) 537-7480

Concert

Time/Date: 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 18
Location: The Antiochian Orthodox Basilica of St. Mary, 18200 Merriman, between Six and Seven Mile Roads, Livonia
Details: Holy Land Christmas Concert features Diana Al Barchini with Arabic carols, Rassem El Massih with seminary chunter, St. Mary's Choir with hymns of the Nativity, a violin trio and guest vocalists singing classical and traditional songs. A free-will offering will be accepted and will benefit the International Orthodox Christian Charities
Contact: (734) 422-0010; www.saintmarylivonia.com

Concert

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Dec. 16
Location: First Presbyterian Church, 200 E. Main in Northville
Details: Men of Grace from the Grace Centers of Hope in Pontiac will sing original compositions as well as contemporary, spiritual and gospel and blues music. Dessert will be served after the concert. A \$5 donation is requested.
Contact: (248) 349-0911

Longest night

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Dec. 21
Location: First United Methodist Church, 1589 W. Maple, Birmingham
Details: This worship service is a place to bring the grief, anxiety, and pain that often surfaces during the holidays. Worship is held on the longest night of the year in recognition that sometimes the holidays bring sadness in the midst of celebration because of missed loved ones, struggles with financial stress, and the thought of happier days. Child care will be available for children up to age 4
Contact: Call (248) 646-6407 Ext. 3141 by Dec. 18 to reserve child care; for more information about the service call (248) 646-1200

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Area hospitals earn top ranks for safety, quality

The Leapfrog Group, a national organization that rates hospitals, has given top honors for patient quality and safety to Detroit Receiving Hospital, Harper University/Hutzel Women's Hospital, Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital and the University of Michigan Health System.

The Leapfrog Group's national rankings are based on a survey conducted at nearly 1,200 hospitals across the country. The survey, which launched in 2001, focuses on four critical

areas of patient safety: the use of computer physician order entry (CPOE) to prevent medication errors; standards for doing high-risk procedures such as heart surgery; protocols and policies to reduce medical errors and other safe practices recommended by the National Quality Forum; and adequate nurse and physician staffing. In addition, hospitals are measured on their progress in preventing infections and other hospital-acquired conditions and adopting policies on the handling of serious medical

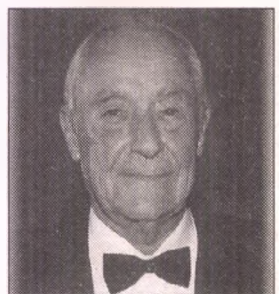
errors, among other things.

This is the fourth consecutive year that DMC Harper University Hospital and the third consecutive year that DMC Detroit Receiving Hospital were selected as Leapfrog Top Hospitals based on their quality and safety scores. Last year, they were the only hospitals in Michigan to receive the recognition.

For more on the 2010 Leapfrog Hospital Quality and Safety ratings and methodology visit www.leapfroggroup.org.



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WALKER MORRIS BAGBY

Age 86, of Bloomfield Hills; died Sunday November 28th, 2010 at William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak after a short illness. Born December 23, 1923 in Detroit, he graduated from Baldwin High School in Birmingham where he was on the track team. Upon graduation he enrolled at Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio. After his first semester he was drafted into the U. S. Army Corps. He was stationed at the Wendover, Utah base where he was a technical analyst in the building of the "Fat Boy" atomic bomb. After the war he returned to Kenyon College. He was a member of the Beta Theta Phi fraternity. He graduated in 1949 with a B.A. in Economics. He worked for the family's commercial building and restoration company, Western Waterproofing Co., in Cleveland for 2 years before joining his brother John in their home office in Detroit. Mr. Bagby was predeceased by his wife of 34 years, Joanne Sexton Bagby. Joanne died on March 17, 2005. Joanne was born in Detroit and raised in Highland Park, Michigan. She attended Highland Park High School and Michigan State University. Joanne loved to swim, bike and play bridge. Her passion was working in the garden at home. She was a member of the Junior League Garden Club, The Bloomfield Hills Garden Club and the Village Women's Club. Walker and Joanne are survived by their loving daughter Nancy and son Walker (Debbie) Bagby. They are the grandparents of Walker and Katie Bagby. Mr. Bagby was predeceased by his brother John Bagby. Contributions in memory of Walker and Joanne Bagby may be made to the Little Traverse Conservancy, 3264 Powell Road, Harbor Springs, MI 49740 or on line at <http://landtrust.org/Donations/memorialpaychoiceTABLE.htm>



SHIRLEY A. CRILLEY

December 10, 2010, Age 83. Longtime resident of Birmingham and Bloomfield. Born in Cleveland, Ohio to Ava and Charles A. Tallinger, Sr. Loving wife of the late Dan. Beloved mother of Mark, Brian (Sharon) and Patrick (Elaine). Dear grandmother of Lauren, Kristina, Danielle and Shannon. Family will receive friends Sunday 4-7 p.m. at A.J. Desmond & Sons Funeral Home, 2600 Crooks Road (between Maple & Big Beaver). Funeral Service Monday 1:00 p.m. at Kirk in the Hills, 1340 West Long Lake Road, Bloomfield. Visitation at church begins 12:30 p.m. Memorial tributes to Alzheimer's Association. View obituary and share memories at: www.DesmondFuneralHome.com

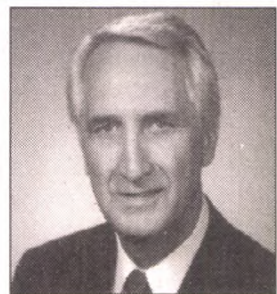


BETSY GOLDSMITH
(nee. Moors)

November 23, 2010. Age 91 of Bloomfield Hills. Beloved wife of the late Maj. James E. Goldsmith, US Army. Dear mother of James E. Goldsmith, Jr. and William K. M. Goldsmith (Shelley). Loving grandmother of Marisa Kate Goldsmith, Jake D. Gale and Genevieve M. Gale. Sister of the late Maj. William Key Moors, US Army. Services have been held. In lieu of flowers family suggests memorial tributes to Cranbrooke House and Gardens Auxiliary, 380 Lone Pine Rd., P.O. 801, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48303 or the Village Woman's Club Foundation, P.O. Box 186, 190 E. Long Lake Rd., Bloomfield Hills, MI 48303. A.J. Desmond & Sons 248-549-0500. View obituary and share memories at: www.DesmondFuneralHome.com

RHUE D. DATCHER

December 6, 2010 age 104. Beloved wife of the late Homer A. Datcher. Mother of the late Merlin Datcher and Rita J. McClumpha. Grandmother of Hurd McClumpha, Dynese McClumpha, Amy Glenn and Natalie Finley. Also leaves 13 great grandchildren. Memorial Services have been held. Contributions suggested to the Plymouth Rotary Foundation. Share your special thoughts and memories at www.schrader-howell.com



ARTHUR GERISH

Age 82 of Northville, December 4, 2010. Beloved husband of the Janet. Loving father of Bruce (Bridget), Susan, David and Amy (Steve) Katz. Dear brother of Evan C. (Susan). Dear brother-in-law of Edwin (Leni) Hancock and Joan (Donald) Clark. Proud grandfather of Kristin, Katelin, Evan, Kayla, Colin, Brianna and Hannah. Also survived by several nieces and nephews. Founder and President of Gerish Building Co. Mr. Gerish was awarded the 2004 Developer of the Year Award by the SE Michigan Builders Assn. Long time youth baseball and basketball coach in the Plymouth/Canton community. Member of the Alma College Board of Trustees. Arrangements by Vermeulen Funeral Home, Plymouth. Interment at Rural Hill Cemetery. Memorials may be made to Alma College Baseball Endowment Fund or the charity/church of your choice. To share a memory, please visit vermeulenfuneralhome.com.

MICHAEL "MIKE" MATTSON

48, of Calumet, Mich., a former resident of Garden City, died Thursday, December 2, 2010, at his home. Mike worked as a cook, carpet installer and at Calumet Electronics. Mike loved his Rottweiler dogs, football, the seasons of fall and winter in the Upper Peninsula. Mike is survived by his mother, Laurel Johnson of Calumet; his four children, Michael, Jr. (April), Brandon, Dustin and Holly Noel; aunts, Carole (Lynn) Beerbower, Ella (Jim) Landini, Linda (Mike) Goszinski, and Kaye Mattson; uncles, Dennis (Sue) Mattson, Glen (Ann) Mattson, Clyde (Judy) Mattson, Dale (Linda) Mattson and Chris Mattson; cousins, friends and Cassie Johnson. A private family service will be held at a later date for all those who loved Mike. Arrangements were handled by the Jukuri-Antila Funeral Home of Hancock. Online condolences may be expressed to the family at antiafuneral.com.

CHARLENE H. OWINGS

Age 71. December 9, 2010. Cherished wife of Dale for 44 years. Loving mother of Kevin of Canton, MI, Kimberly (Keith) Sandum of Harrisonburg, VA and Keith E. (Joanne) of Wassenaar Netherlands. Beloved grandmother of Ian Sandum. Visitation Monday 4:30pm-8:30pm at Harry J. Will Funeral Home, 37000 Six Mile, Livonia, MI. Instate Tuesday 11am until time of service noon at Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church, 9601 Hubbard St., Livonia, MI. Private interment. Please share a message with the family at www.harryjwillfuneralhome.com

EILEEN WARD

Peacefully on 12/4/10, age 86. Beloved wife of the late Frederic for 37 years. Dearest mother of Connie (Jim) Kennedy and Fred (Jenee) Ward, Jr. Grandmother of Katie and Jamie Kennedy, great-grandmother of Dan and Chaz. A graduate of Wayne State, Eileen was an elementary school teacher for 35 years in Detroit and South Redford. Eileen will be deeply missed by many long-time friends, especially Betty, Nina, Dottie, Ruth and Bernita. Eileen's family thanks the wonderful staff members at Oakmont-Livonia and Angela Hospice. A celebration of Eileen's life will be held later. Contributions to Salvation Army or Michigan Humane Society will be greatly appreciated by her family.

Shop class is missing in Michigan

I recently found a story on the Internet that reminds me of days gone by. It comes from the eastern part of the country where they eat a lot of fish, making them very intelligent. In simple terms, they've got it and we don't.

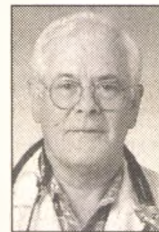
Fourteen students at Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School have earned national certification as service technicians in major appliance repair. The students, one senior and 13 juniors, are majoring in HVAC-R/appliance technology at GNB Voc-Tech. To earn national certification, the students needed to pass eight different comprehensive examinations, which measure their skills in consumer relations, diagnostic techniques and repair ability for all types of domestic major appliances. The students took the exams late last spring and got the results over the summer.

The students are among a select group of major appliance service technicians in the United States to be certified as certified appliance professionals with a graduate technician rating. The graduate technician rating is the highest available level of recognition for technical expertise given by the major home appliance industry to high school students. Certification is strictly voluntary and only those who possess extraordinary skills in the field of appliance repair will attempt the rigorous testing procedure. Teachers Stephen Ellis and Robert Enos are certified as master technicians. The Professional Service

Association, (PSA) the group that offers the certification, is a not-for-profit trade association representing independent appliance and electronic service centers. The certification programs developed by PSA are designed to encourage excellence and pride in the industry. Diagnosing and repairing sophisticated appliances requires special skills and constant training to keep abreast of changing technologies. Technicians that make the effort to maintain the high level excellence necessary to become a certified appliance professional are proud of their skills and deserve to be recognized by their profession. The students' two-year graduate certificate may be upgraded to a master technician rating after two years, providing the individual has obtained at least two years of field experience.

When I wrote something like this just a few years ago there was a need in the United States for some 10,000 qualified appliance repair technicians. That number has not diminished because the industry has so little educational opportunities offered anywhere. From what I read and hear, the school system in Michigan falls far short of what is required, in many respects. It would be a tremendous boost for the city of Detroit to implement such a program for students. They could be guaranteed a job anywhere in this country, taken off the streets, and have goals that are within their fingertips. There has to be someone out there that can make this happen. Stay tuned.

Joe Gagnon can be heard at 8 a.m., Saturdays on WAAM 1600 and Sundays at 2 p.m. on WDTK 1400. You can e-mail your problems and questions on appliances to appldr@twmi.rr.com



Appliance Doctor

Joe Gagnon

MILESTONES



Aria Giovanna Masters

TWINS BORN

Twins Emory Agosto Masters and Aria Giovanna were born Nov. 1, 2010 at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, in Livonia.

Emory and Aria join their parents, Che and April Masters, and older sister, Alyson, 20 months, at home in Westland.



Emory Agosto Masters

DECEMBER WEDDING



Twins, Lily Mae and Sawyer Christopher Boran

BORAN TWINS

Lily Mae and Sawyer Christopher Boran were born Aug. 31, 2010 at Northwestern Memorial Hospital - Prentice Women's Hospital, in Chicago, Ill.

Proud parents are Heather and Christopher Boran of Chicago. Grandparents are Steve and Carol Bruce of Farmington Hills and Jerry and Colleen Boran of Forest City, Iowa.

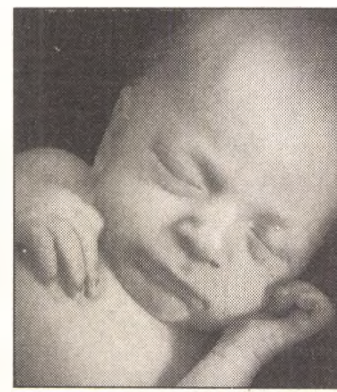
Great-grandparents are Paul and Genevieve Kramarz of Hartland, Doris Davis of Orange, Calif. and Ronald Bruce of Fullerton, Calif.

CONNER LIAM BATTLE

Conner Liam Battle was born Sept. 23, 2010 Clarian North Hospital, Carmel, Ind.

He joins his parents, Bob and Ginger Battle, and siblings, Delaney, 9 and Collin, 4, at home in Westfield, Ind.

Proud grandparents are Bob and Peg Battle of Livonia, and Pat and John Krawczynski of Lansing.



Conner Liam Battle

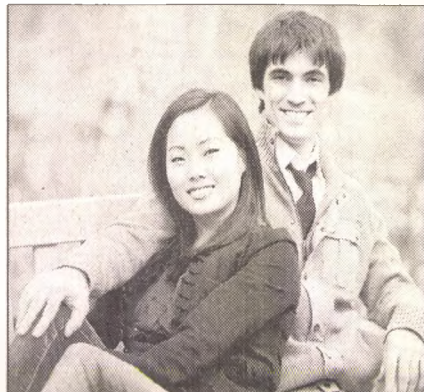
AUGUST 2011 WEDDING

Grace Shin and Andrew Varilone announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be is the daughter of Hyoung Bok and Robert Kalmanir of Livonia. She is a graduate of Albion College and is a graduate student in the physician's assistant program at the University of Detroit Mercy.

Her fiancé, son of Kathy and Jeff Varilone, graduated from the University of Michigan - Dearborn and is an electrical engineer at an architectural engineering firm in Detroit.

The couple will wed in August 2011 in Ann Arbor.



Shin-Varilone

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Sunday, December 12, 2010

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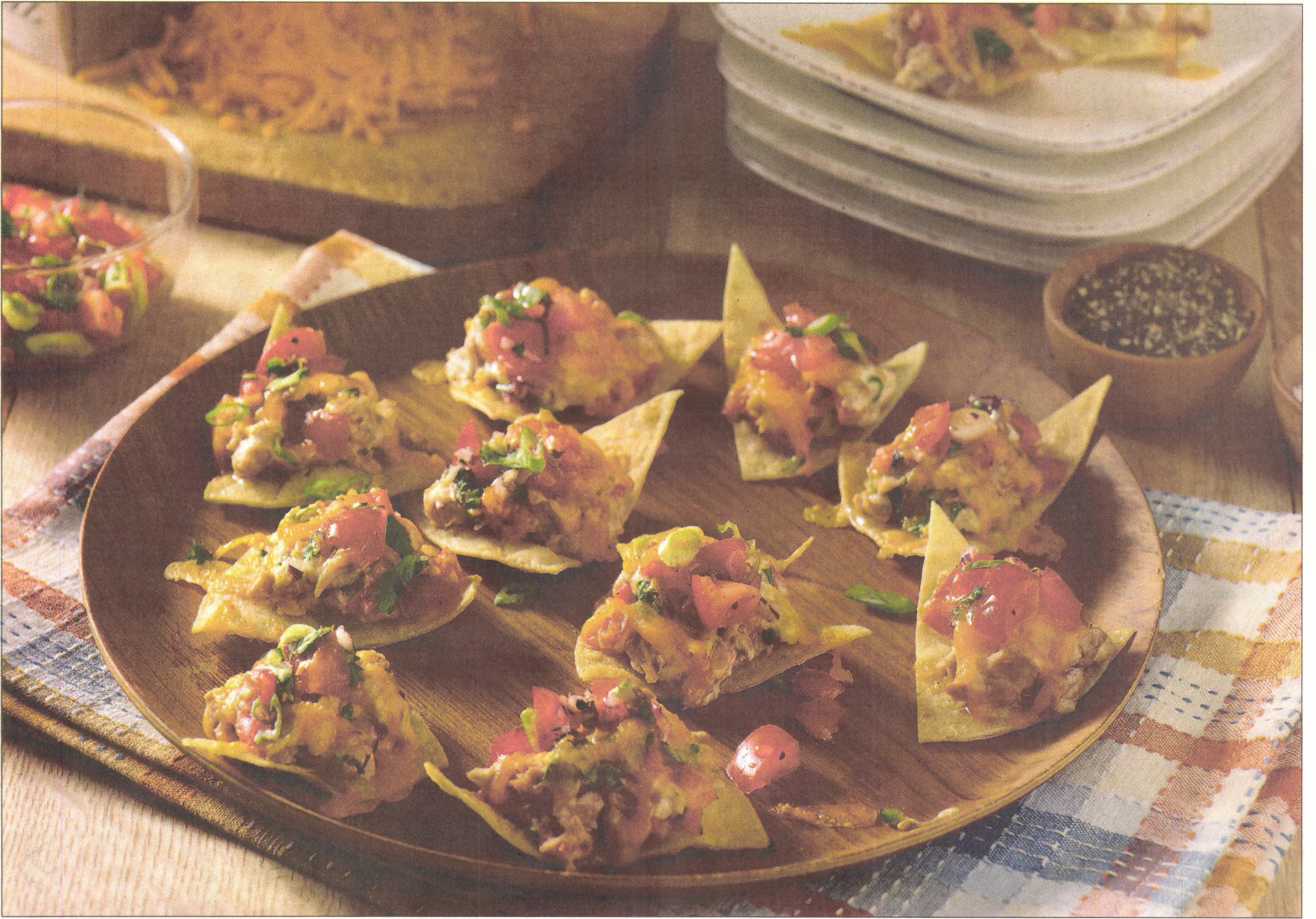
HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Contact Editor, Sharon Dargay

Voice Mail: (313) 222-8883

E-mail: sdargay@hometownlife.com

Comment online at hometownlife.com



Easy family meals

From packing lunches, to after-school snacks to dinnertime, many parents face obstacles in getting their families to eat food made with real simple ingredients that everyone can enjoy.

According to a recent survey commissioned by Hellmann's®, nearly half of all moms surveyed say they make a family meal every day and more than a third of moms surveyed say cooking dinner takes too much time.

Chef Bobby Flay has teamed up with Hellmann's and Best Foods Mayonnaise to provide tasty, convenient recipes and tips to serving great family meals even during the active school season.

"Many parents I know agree that at the end of a busy day, the thought of spending an hour cooking is not so appealing," said Flay. "I've created some recipes that please even the picky palates in your family. The recipes are easy to prepare and incorporate bold flavors with real, simple ingredients, like Hellmann's or Best Foods Mayonnaise — made with eggs, oil and vinegar."

For videos, tips and recipes go to www.Hellmanns.com or www.BestFoods.com.



MINI FISH TACOS

A Bobby Flay Recipe

2 servings

Prep Time: 10 minutes

Cook Time: 4 minutes

1/2 cup Hellmann's or Best Foods Real Mayonnaise

1/2 cup prepared salsa

1 tablespoon lime juice

1 can (6 ounces) tuna, drained and flaked

1 large green onion, thinly sliced

12 large corn tortilla chips

3/4 cup shredded cheddar cheese (about 3 ounces)

Combine mayonnaise, salsa and lime juice in medium bowl; reserve 1/2 cup. Stir tuna and green onion into remaining mayonnaise mixture just until combined. Season, if desired, with salt and pepper.

Arrange chips on baking pan. Top with tuna mixture, then sprinkle with cheese. Broil 1 minute or until cheese is melted. Dollop with reserved mayonnaise mixture. Garnish, if desired, with additional green onions.

Also terrific served in individual scoops for a great hand-held snack.

CHICKEN OR TURKEY GYROS

A Bobby Flay Recipe

4 servings

Prep Time: 15 minutes

Chill Time: 30 minutes

1/4 cup coarsely grated seedless cucumber

3/4 cup Hellmann's or Best Foods Light Mayonnaise

2 cloves garlic, finely chopped

1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice

1 teaspoon fresh grated lemon peel

4 whole wheat pita breads, split

Fresh spinach leaves, rinsed and patted dry

8 cherry tomatoes, halved

1 pound sliced rotisserie or grilled chicken or turkey

Place grated cucumber on paper towel and gently squeeze dry. (Do not skip this step or you will have a watery dressing.) Combine drained cucumbers, mayonnaise, garlic, lemon juice and peel in small bowl. Season, if desired, with salt and black pepper. Cover and refrigerate at least 30 minutes.

Spread a few tablespoons dressing inside each pita; add spinach leaves, tomatoes and chicken, then drizzle with additional dressing.

EGG AND SHRIMP SALAD WITH POPPY SEEDS

A Bobby Flay Recipe

4 servings

Prep Time: 15 minutes

1/2 cup Hellmann's or Best Foods Real Mayonnaise

2 medium green onions

Juice of 1 lemon

3 tablespoons snipped fresh dill

2 tablespoons poppy seeds

1 tablespoon Dijon mustard

8 medium hard-cooked eggs, peeled and coarsely chopped

6 ounces cooked large shrimp or crabmeat

Combine mayonnaise, green onions, lemon juice, dill, poppy seeds and mustard in large bowl with wire whisk. Stir in eggs. Gently fold in shrimp. Season, if desired, with salt and black pepper. Serve, if desired, over salad greens or on English muffins.

NOTE: If serving over greens, toss greens with fresh lemon juice, a drizzle of extra virgin olive oil and season with salt and pepper. If serving on bread, serve as an open-faced sandwich. Mound some salad on top of toasted bread and garnish with more fresh dill and sliced green onions.



HEALTH

Sunday, December 12, 2010

hometownlife.com

HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Contact Editor, Sharon Dargay
 Voice Mail: (313) 222-8883
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Make healthy food choices during the holiday season

For many people, the holiday season brings more than joy – it also can bring unwanted pounds. Whether it's your mom's eggnog or Aunt Judy's signature holiday cookies, it can be tough to pass up those favorite holiday foods you only taste once a year.

But before you reach for that next gingerbread cookie, think about this: Extra pounds can affect more than your ability to fit into your holiday party apparel. Being overweight also can increase your risk for cancer and other diseases.

The American Cancer Society recommends you make your health a holiday priority. That includes maintaining a healthy weight and staying active with at least 30 minutes of moderate to vigorous activity on five or more days of the week, eating a healthy diet emphasizing fruits and vegetables, and limiting the amount of alcohol you drink.

Making healthy choices doesn't have to make you the Grinch of holiday parties. Keep in mind these tips from the American Cancer Society:

- Get off to a good start. Don't go to a party hungry. Snack on healthy, filling foods before you leave the house. You'll be less tempted by high-calorie options if your stomach isn't growling. Good pre-party bets include a handful of nuts, an apple, or a half a turkey sandwich.
- Once you arrive, ask for a glass of water to help you feel full and avoid overindulging. And don't head straight for the

food – make a point of greeting friends or introducing yourself to new people.

- Think small. When it does come time to indulge, use a small, appetizer- or dessert-sized plate and fill it first with healthy choices such as fresh fruit and veggies (go easy on the dip). Leave just a little space for a small sample of whatever decadent treat you're craving, but eat that last, after you've filled up on the more nutritious offerings.
- Position yourself for success. If you're standing by the buffet table or facing the food while seated, you'll be tempted to "graze." Turn your back to the table, and focus on having fun, not having food.
- Avoid alcohol. Not only are alcoholic beverages loaded with calories, but drinking them tends to weaken your resolve to eat better. However, if you decide to indulge, avoid heavy holiday drinks and stick with light beer or a glass of wine instead.

In addition to making healthy eating choices this season, don't forget to make time to exercise regularly. The flip side of eating more or indulging at parties is that, to avoid weight gain, you need to move more to burn those extra calories.

For more tips on making healthy food choices, staying active year-round, and reducing your risk for cancer, visit ChooseYou.com or call (800) 227-2345.

Alzheimer's Association

The Greater Michigan Chapter provides a welcoming and secure environment for families and individuals experiencing the early stages of Younger Onset Memory Loss. Participants can take part in ongoing discussions that focus on issues that affect those with memory loss under age 65. Meetings are 5:30-7 p.m., the third Tuesday of the month, at Bloomfield Township Senior Services, 4315 Andover, Bloomfield Hills. To register call The Harry L. Nelson Helpline at (800) 272-3900.

Aquatic classes

The YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit and the Arthritis Foundation have partnered to offer aquatic classes designed to ease the pain of arthritis. Classes are held 10-11 a.m., Tuesday and Thursday at the Farmington branch; 1-1:45 p.m. Monday and Wednesday at the Livonia branch; and 2-3 p.m. Wednesday and Friday, at the Birmingham branch. All classes are offered to members and non-members of every age and participants do not need to know how to swim to participate. To join, interested individuals can contact their local YMCA branch or visit www.ymcadowetroit.org.

Fitness classes

Exercise classes for men and women continue through April at the Metropolitan Seventh-Day Adventist School, 15585 Haggerty, north of Five Mile. Jeanie Weaver is a certified personal fitness trainer with 30 years of teaching/training experience. The sessions infuse Pilates, functional strength training, balance work, flexibility and motivational techniques in a 90-day fitness plan. Call (248) 446-9176 or (313) 300-0957. E-mail jeanieweaver@charter.net.

Food Addicts

Food Addicts in Recovery Anonymous (FA) is a recovery program for people having trouble controlling the way they eat. Based on the 12 steps of AA. Open to all and free. Weekly meetings are held 9-10:30 a.m. Wednesday, at Geneva Presbyterian Church, 5835 Sheldon, Canton. (866) 914-3663; www.foodaddicts.org

Hearing Loss Association

The Western Wayne Chapter provides information, education and support for those with hearing loss, their families and friends. Meetings are 6:30 p.m. the second Wednesday of the month at Garden City Hospital, 6245 Inkster, Garden City. Contact afcrack@comcast.net or (734) 664-3297.

Incest Survivors

"LIVE," a self-help group for women who were victims of incest as children, meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month from 7-9 p.m. at St. Paul of the Cross, 2333 Schoolcraft, Redford. Call Antoinette at (313) 971-4747 or Cheri at (586) 489-1785.

Overeaters Anonymous

Meet 7 p.m. Thursdays in the Courtyard Room at Unity of Livonia Church, 28660 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster roads, Livonia; and 7 p.m. Sundays at the Marion Professional Building at St. Mary's Hospital, 14555 Levan at Five Mile, Livonia, in Classroom 1. Call (313) 387-9797. Anyone who wants to stop eating compulsively is welcome. For more Greater Detroit Overeaters Anonymous information, call (248) 559-7722 or visit www.aa.org.

Breast cancer support group

Meets 6:30-8 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month in the Atrium of Our Lady of Hope Cancer Center, St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile (use south entrance off Levan Road), Livonia. Call (734) 655-1100, or visit www.stmarymercy.org.

Caregivers support group

St. John's Support Group for the Caregivers of Alzheimer's Patients or patients with other forms of dementia meet the first and third Friday of each month at 10 a.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 South Sheldon, Plymouth. Respite care for your loved one will be provided. Call Connie McNutt at (734) 895-1426 for information. Authorized by the Alzheimer's Association.

Metro Fibromyalgia

Meets the second and fourth Thursday of the month at 2055 Merriman, Garden City. For more information, call Lucy at (734) 462-1768.

Wayne metro caregiver support

Are you a caregiver of an aging parent, spouse or relative? Wayne Metro's Caregiver Support Groups offer assistance to those struggling to find or give quality care to loved ones. Meetings are held the third Tuesday of the month, 10 a.m.-noon, at the Kay Beard Building on Michigan Ave., Westland. Meetings are also held at the Village of Redford on Six Mile. The morning group meets 10 a.m. to noon on the second Thursday of the month; the evening group meets the fourth Thursday of the month from 6-8 p.m. Adult care

may also be available. Call Nancy Coman at (313) 843-2550, Ext. 233.

Parkinson Support

Western Oakland Parkinson Support Group meets 7-9 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month except January, July and August, at Farmington Hills Baptist Church, 28301 Middlebelt, between 12 Mile and 13 Mile. Enter at rear of church. For information, call (248) 433-1011.

CPR classes

Classes range from basic CPR for people who wish to know how to help save a life to certification for those who need CPR for work and state licensure, at DMC Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, 1 William Carls Dr., Commerce. First aid classes also available. Classes offered weekday evenings and Saturday mornings. Price varies. Pre-registration required at www.hvsh.org/hvsh/calendar or call (248) 937-3314.

Arthritis support group

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

Tai Chi classes

At 165 E. Square Lake, Bloomfield Hills (7 p.m. Monday and Wednesday), and 38121 Ann Arbor Road (11 a.m. Wednesday, and 7 p.m. Monday-Thursday). Presented by nonprofit Michigan Tai Chi Association in Livonia. For details, call (734) 591-3530.

Recovery, Inc.

The support group meets at 10 a.m., Wednesdays at Prince of Peace Church, Walnut Lake Road and Green, West Bloomfield. Recovery, Inc. is an international, non-profit, self-help, community-based organization that helps people with nervous and emotional disorders reduce their suffering and improve quality of life. Call Martha Paul at (248) 682-9362 or e-mail marthapaul@sbccglobal.net. Self-help meetings in Livonia run 7:30 p.m. Mondays, St. Matthew's Methodist Church, 30900 W. Six Mile; 1:15 p.m. Thursdays, Mt. Hope Congregational Church, 30330 Schoolcraft; and 2:30 p.m. Sundays at Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church, 9601 Hubbard. Call (313) 561-2521 or visit www.recovery-inc.org. No charge, contributions collected.

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Dr. Cassius Drake, ER Medical Director, Henry Ford Center for Health Services

Charles Dunn is always looking for ways to improve the quality of care at Four Seasons Rehabilitation and Nursing. As owner, he recently brought in Dr. Cassius Drake to speak with staff about compassion as the core of service.

Drake is medical director of the emergency department, Henry Ford Center for Health Services, Brownstown. He believes compassion plays a major role in physical healing. Drake is currently writing a book about his spiritual journey. During 10 years in the ER, the MD discovered how stress can trigger headaches, back and abdominal pain, depression, and alcohol and drug abuse.

"I was terrible at holding hands when I began treating patients," admitted Drake. That changed when he began thinking about the spiritual side of healing and vowed to start each day by saying, "Today I am here to serve, to listen and care. There's a magic that can happen when you decide to serve. Sometimes all it takes is a compassionate ear."

"... compassion is the core of service ... our staff helps people heal every day. Just taking one extra step can make the difference ... that's what people remember ..."

Compassion is at the heart of caring for patients at Four Seasons. Delores Stinson, an activity aide, told the story of a patient who was actively dying.

"We filled the room with everything important in her life, played her favorite music," said Stinson. "It makes a difference in how you pass. She looked at peace."

Dunn applauded his staff for listening and acting with a compassionate heart.

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Sunday, December 12, 2010

I'm Experiencing Job-search Burnout

How to handle the frustration of a long-term job hunt
Anthony Balderrama, CareerBuilder Writer

If life were a movie and you had just been laid off, you would buy a one-way ticket to some serene location and spend weeks or even months relaxing. You would unwind and examine your personal goals and return when you want. You might spend your days eating, praying and loving.

For most of us, getting laid off or quitting a job is immediately followed by a fast-paced job hunt. Even workers who are fortunate enough to have savings accounts to live off of for a while don't have enough money to pretend like unemployment is a vacation. Instead, most jobs seekers attack their job searches aggressively and don't relent until they hear the words, "We'd like to offer you the position."

The problem with such a steadfast approach is that you can grow frustrated quickly. After a few weeks of constantly browsing job postings, writing cover letters, sending them off, and repeating, your don't have the energy to keep going. You can't stop, however, because you do need a job. So how do you avoid getting burnt out? And if you realize you're in the midst of a job-search burnout, how should you get over it?

We asked people who have been there themselves or who have helped others get through it. Here's how they suggest job seekers handle burnout:

"Rejection is humbling and much of our self-worth has been defined by our income. To avoid burnout:

- Date your next job application and interview. See it as distinct and different from all the rest, a new opportunity. You only need one job success.
- Keep up energy levels with exercise.

You will shed stress and release endorphins. Your focus will improve.

- Socialize with friends and talk about other things. Have fun and laugh!
- Learn from failed interviews to tweak your resume, presentation and skills. Hone up on what you are lacking."

-Debbie Mandel, author of "Addicted to Stress"

"Burnout is subtle, and can strike at lots of stages of the job hunt. Here are a few ways I advise my clients to avoid that low down burnout experience:

1. Regard your job hunt as a job and organize your job hunt day like any other business. Set a goal of the number of calls you'll make, and resumes you'll send out each day, and be sure to reach that.
2. Create a job hunt team or group with whom you keep in contact on a regular basis. This can help in many ways to give encouragement, and even job leads.
3. Make sure to network through alumni, colleagues, professional associations, online groups, and even relative and friends.
4. Be sure to maintain a routine of physical fitness and exercise. At least a brisk walk every day can supply exercise and sunshine necessary to keep your mood elevated.
5. Get up, get dressed and go to your office every day, just like you would if you were employed. - Sandra Lamb, career,

lifestyle and etiquette expert

"I always say you get more than you give with volunteering and job seekers definitely do. This is a great way to keep your skills sharp (think teamwork, client relations, fundraising, etc) and your mind energized. I have to remind all job seekers

that volunteering is a fun and easy way to network which makes it a win-win-win. You're networking, helping out an organization and avoiding burn-out."

-Adriana Llamas, author of "Career Sudoku: 9 Ways to Win the Job Search Game"

"I've been looking for a job since about February or March.

I just landed a part-time, telecommuting job, and as busy as I've been I know I'm not as fast or productive as I once was because of how long it took me to find a job. I was sending our resumes, interviewing, networking, applying online to the high heavens. Sitting at home while everyone else was finding a job I started feeling unproductive, and, frankly, like a loser. But things are looking up, and to anyone who starts to feel the same way I did, I'd tell them to just pull through it. Sometimes just taking a walk or a day at the park can help your mood a lot."

-Akua Harris

"There are several things we suggest when a person has stayed active in a job search, and nothing seems to be happening:

1. Take a few days off. Think of something you enjoy doing that doesn't

cost any money and go and enjoy. Sometimes just a few days off is enough to refresh a person.

2. Get physical: When a person exercises for at least 20 minutes, endorphins are released that make the person feel good. Exercise several times in a day if possible. If [you are] a runner, then run for 30 minutes longer than usual. Do something physical -- paint a room, wash the car, clean the garage. Then energy can return.

3. Our experience is people get burned out when all they are doing is answering want ads or Internet listings. We project a 2-4 percent response on mailing out resumes or following up on Internet postings -- that's not a very good response. Instead, we ask our job-seeking clients to take a more pro-active approach: Contact the decision-maker (usually the person who supervises the position, not HR) and ask what the job involves and be ready to talk about one's experiences and accomplishment, [and] research the organization to see if it's one a person would like to work in. Continue researching the position; if you want the job contact the decision-maker again and say, "I've thought a lot about what we've talked about, and what you need doing involves some of the things I do best -- and I want to be your top candidate." (You don't want to be anything other than their top candidate, do you?) Ask the decision-maker what you can bring to her or him to help the person make a decision. And then do it."

-Richard S. Deems, co-author of "Make Job Loss Work For You," with Terri A. Deems
Anthony Balderrama is a writer and blogger for CareerBuilder.com and its job blog, The Work Buzz. He researches and writes about job search strategy, career management, hiring trends and workplace issues.



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For large Dearborn Heights area apt. community. Maintenance management experience preferred. Great opportunity for right person. Please fax resume to: 248-473-5480.

LOOKING FOR EXTRA INCOME?
If you can sell, you could be the perfect person to represent our company in Western Wayne and Southwest Oakland counties. We're looking for sales people that have a flexible schedule to sell the Observer & Eccentric and Hometown Newspapers, at special events and local merchants. Ideal for college students or individuals looking to supplement their income. Earnings are based on commissions for each sale you generate. We provide the training and incentives to sell our newspapers. For more info contact: CCS at 586-247-5843

POKER DEALERS WANTED
Must be a avid poker player! No exp. necessary, will train! Call Ed 734-556-2160

TEACHER & TEACHERS' ASSISTANT- Exp. Necessary
The Children's Hour Day Care Now Hiring. Call Mon-Fri before 6pm. 734-459-9920

TELEMARKETER
Needed for heating & cooling co., exp'd only 313-937-2886. Call btwn the hours of 9-4pm.

VALET at Troy Mall.
\$10/hr. w/tips. Must be 18+. Must drive a manual stick. Please call: 248-670-2085

Warehouse Leader Full Time \$18-20/hr & Benefits Gen.
Whse training & must be able to lead a team E1 \$185 J#182 CALL(313)292-9300

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For all the best Classifieds in your area. 1-800-579-SELL

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AW Transmission Engineering (AWTEC), located in PLYMOUTH, is an award winning, industry leader in remanufacturing of automotive transmissions, with a commitment to quality and equipment standards that is unsurpassed in the automotive industry.

Due to increased sales and an expansion of the business, AWTEC seeks team-oriented, dependable individuals who would like to enjoy:
•\$10.50/hr; raise after 90 days
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AWTEC-HR 14920 Keel St. Plymouth, MI 48170
Fax: 734-454-1091 Email: kcorright@awtec.com EOE

WE'RE LOOKING FOR AN ADULT TO RECRUIT AND MOTIVATE TEENS
To sell the OBSERVER AND ECCENTRIC NEWSPAPERS door to door in Western Wayne and South Oakland counties. Must have dependable transportation, valid driver's license and insured. You're an independent contractor with unlimited earning potential based on your ability to build a strong sales team. Must be available evening and weekends. Call CCS at 586-247-5843 for more information.

Help Wanted-Office Clerical \$600

>ADMIN Business Office< CALL (313)292-9300 \$-18/hr & Benefits
Front Office: Fax, File, & Mail E1 \$185J23 FULL TIME Days

DENTAL ASSISTANT
Call our office! Challenging, stimulating position for intelligent, experienced assistant with take-charge personality. Excellent work environment and salary. (248) 357-3100

DENTAL ASSISTANT
Full-Time. Experienced. Needed for Southfield dental office. Fax resume to: (248) 304-1387

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Dental Surgical Assistant
Our multi-office Oral Surgery practice in the Plymouth, MI area is looking for a full time surgical assistant. Dental office exp. preferred. Oral Surgery exp. required. Travel between offices is required. Benefits available. Qualified candidates please email your cover letter with salary requirements and resume Attn: Rachel to: potsinmi@yahoo.com

Help Wanted-Medical \$600

MEDICAL RECEPTIONIST
Novi, Full-Time. Benefits 1 yr. exp a must. Email resume: theglidma@yahoo.com

PHLEBOTOMY TRAINING
Now Enrolling for Winter & Spring Classes! Garden City, Wyandotte & Southgate. \$925. Credit Card Accepted. 313-382-3857

PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSISTANT
For very busy office. Ultrasound experience a plus. Negotiable on Hrs & Salary Resume to: simont66@hotmail.com

RN
Insurance Service firm providing Medical Assessments (IME's and Reviews) seeking RN to perform Quality Review on med assessments for Disability. Good benefits/Competitive pay hr_mis@yahoo.com Or fax (248) 356-6757

WAIT STAFF EXP'D ONLY
Apply at: Starting Gate 135 N. Center St., Northville

Help Wanted-Sales \$120

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
We're looking for customer-centric, energetic, aggressive account executives who can follow a solutions-based strategy of sales with clients, have a proven ability to close sales and can think big to take their place as part of our Advertising team!

• College degree or equivalent work experience in field sales.
• Proven sales track record.
• Have impeccable communication skills.
• Outstanding computer skills.

We offer base + commission and benefits in a work environment that is stimulating and fast-paced along with opportunities for career growth with Gannett Co. Inc.
Email resumes to: employment@dnps.com Fax to 313-496-4793 Attn: Sales EEOC

OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC NEWSPAPERS HOMETOWN WEEKLIES

FIND IT ONLINE HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Residential Housekeeper, Gardener/Handyman, Cook
Male or Female, 3 positions. Non-smoking. 800-436-2193

Education/Instruction \$600

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Divorce Services \$911
DIVORCE \$75.00
www.CSRdisability.com CS&R 734-425-1074

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(and not spend a lot of money!)
Check the garage sale listings in your Observer & Eccentric Newspaper!

Garage Sales

Garage Sales

Garage Sales

REAL ESTATE

HOMETOWNlife.com

3000-3890
Real Estate For Sale

Homes **3000**

Short Sale Division of Century 21 Row
We work directly with your Lender Proudly announces our designated.

Certified Distressed Property Experts
Call today for a FREE private Consultation. Are you having trouble making your mortgage every month? Call one us today, we can help.
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Debbie Sarata
Dave Reault
Kandace Carter
Karen Camilleri
Sandy Taylor
Terry Randall

(734) 464-7111

Farmington Hills 3145
FARMINGTON HILLS 31176 Country Way
Superb! Contemporary townhouse, neutral decor, NEW wood/laminate floors, carpet, paint, natural fireplace, finished bsmt, gated patio, cozy, clean, sunlight, 2 bed/1.5 bath. Asking \$99,500. (for full specifications, go to: www.progreerealty.com)
Christina Lombra
248-915-5416
PROGREEN Realty

West Bloomfield 3440
WEST BLOOMFIELD - 7449 Pebble Pt.
Picture perfect completely updated condo in gated Pebble Creek community. 3 bed/2.5 baths, over 2100 sq. ft., cozy fireplace, natural light, 2 car garage, private patio, pool, clubhouse and more. Asking \$145,500. (for full specifications, go to: www.progreerealty.com)
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Real Estate Services 3840
AMAZING BUT TRUE PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
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Manufactured Homes 3740
Most homes have been remodeled
Save up to 50% on previously banked owned homes!
We finance with approved down payment!
Percentages based on original retail prices.
Call Steve @ (734) 414-9760 in Plymouth Hills

There is something for everyone in our Classifieds!
CANTON HOMES FOR SALE - \$9,900
Payments as low as \$674, includes lot rent! 10% down with 12.5% APR includes lot rent warranty and insurance.

SUN HOMES
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academywestpoint.com
1-888-658-5659
Some restrictions apply. Expires 12/31/10. EHO
These financing terms are for example purposes only and are not an offer to extend credit. For details on available financing terms, please ask for a licensed MLO or contact Sun Homes Services, Inc. 2777 Franklin Rd., Suite 200, Southfield, MI 48034 248-208-2500 x2522
CE08723691

Manufactured Homes 3740
LIVE IN PLYMOUTH w/ONLY \$3,000 DOWN!!!
3 Br, 2 bath for less than \$525 a month!!!
Steven @ AJR Homes Sales 734-414-9760

Call to place your ad at 1-800-579-SELL (7355)

TOP \$\$ FOR YOUR MOBILE HOME!
Call Steve at 734-414-9760

WESTLAND
Own Your Own Home \$550 A Month
With Zero Move In Fee's.
Please give community manager Greg Potter a call at: 734-513-4108
Or stop by and visit: 28495 Joy Rd. Westland MI 48185


Northern Property 3750
By Owner
Home For Sale By Owner In "Lake Country"
Near Torch Lake, 3 bdrm, 3 bath, garage, solid maple interior, must see to appreciate. Ready for occupancy! \$134,900
Info: 231-331-4444 or write Paul PO. BOX 151, Alden, MI 49612. pcfoster@hotmail.com

Resort & Vacation Property 3950
By Owner
Home For Sale By Owner In "Lake Country"
Near Torch Lake, 3 bdrm, 3 bath, garage, solid maple interior, must see to appreciate. Ready for occupancy! \$134,900
Info: 231-331-4444 or write Paul PO. BOX 151, Alden, MI 49612. pcfoster@hotmail.com

Lease/Option To Buy 3840
FARMINGTON HILLS - FOR SALE OR LEASE 27971 Rollcrest #13
Charming condo, 2 bed/2 bath, NEW floors, carpet, paint, light fixtures, kitchen appliances, washer/dryer, patio, alarm, cozy, clean, great location, walk to schools, parks, shopping. Asking \$69,900. (for full specifications, go to: www.progreerealty.com)
Christina Lombra
248-915-5416
PROGREEN Realty

Cemetery Lots 3840
CADILLAC MEMORIAL, Westland - 2 side by side lots in the Garden of Everlasting. \$5000/mo. 734-535-8375
CEMETERY LOTS: Parkview Memorial, 2 lots in Good Shepherd Plot. 1 - \$1200, 2 - \$2000. Call: (734) 753-3294
hometownlife.com

Business Opportunities 3900
GROWING BUSINESS FOR SALE
Small, clean, and quaint party store for sale nestled in historical old Village of Plymouth with numerous repeat customers. Perfect start up or retirement opportunity. Avg wkly sales of \$7500 and lot of \$1700. Sales are up 10% in past quarter.
Please call 248-684-1460

See what really counts....

HOMETOWN and OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC NEWSPAPERS classifieds
www.hometownlife.com
1-800-579-SELL

NEWSPAPER POLICY
All advertising published in this Newspaper is subject to the conditions stated in the applicable rate card. (Copies are available from the advertising department, Observer and Eccentric Newspapers, 41304 Concept Drive, Plymouth, MI 48170 866-887-2737. We reserve the right not to accept an advertiser's order. Our sales representatives have no authority to bind this newspaper and only publication of an advertisement shall constitute final acceptance of the advertiser's order. When more than one insertion of the same advertisement is ordered, no credit will be given unless notice of typographical or other errors are given in time for correction before the second insertion. Not responsible for omissions. Publisher's Notice: All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 which states that it is illegal to advertise "any preference limitation, or discrimination". This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal housing opportunity basis. (FR Doc, 724983 3-31-72) Classified ads may be placed according to the deadlines. Advertisers are responsible for reading their ads! The first time it appears and reporting any errors immediately. The Newspaper will not issue credit for errors in ads after THE FIRST INCORRECT INSERTION. Equal Housing Opportunity Statement: We are pledged to the letter and spirit of U.S. policy for the achievement of equal housing opportunity throughout the nation. We encourage and support an affirmative advertising and marketing program in which there are no barriers to obtaining housing because of race, color, religion or national origin. Equal Housing Opportunity slogan: "Equal Housing Opportunity". Table III - Illustration of Publisher's Notice.
OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC HOMETOWN NEWSPAPERS WEEKLIES
CE08045612


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Look in your CLASSIFIEDS
...It's all about results!
To Place An Ad Call: 800-579-SELL
www.hometownlife.com

Your Search Ends Here!
No matter what you're looking for, a new home, a new job, a new car, or maybe a contractor to work on that new home...your search ends here in your Classifieds!

800-579-SELL (7355)

APARTMENTS

HOMETOWNlife.com

4000-4980
Real Estate For Lease

Apartments/Unfurnished **4000**

FARMINGTON HILLS ANGGIE APTS.
NO APPLICATION FEE
FREE HEAT! 1 bedroom \$505. 9 Mile/ Middlebelt
248-478-7489

FARMINGTON HILLS FREEDOM VILLAGE APTS.
\$300 Move-In Special For Qualified Applicants.
Luxury 1 bdrms avail.
Laundry in unit. Water incl. No Pets. 586-254-9511

Apartment/Unfurnished 4000
GARDEN CITY: 1 & 2 bdrm. apts, heat & water included. \$550 & \$650/mo. + Deposit. Mint cond. (313) 645-0348

GARDEN CITY -
Apts from only \$469!
Hurry - Limited supply!
New Management
Bentley Square
(734) 367-1087, EHO

PLYMOUTH: 1 bdrm, 1st floor unit w/new carpet, air, blinds. Avail ASAP. \$490 mo. (734) 454-0056.

When seeking out the best deal check out the Observer & Eccentric Classifieds!
1-800-579-7355

PLYMOUTH
1 Bedroom, \$627 per mo. New carpet, attic storage Full size washer/dryer
\$400 MOVES YOU IN*
734-459-6640 EHO
www.cormorantco.com
*call for details

PLYMOUTH: Prime location. 1 bdrm. available. \$580/mo. Near downtown. Incl. heat. No dogs. 734-455-2635

PLYMOUTH: Quiet adult complex, downtown, 1 bdrm, laundry & heat/water incl. \$565 + sec. No pets. 734-453-4622

Apartment/Unfurnished 4000
Plymouth Rent Starting at \$539
FREE HEAT
Free Rent until 12/31/10 on 1 bdrms only!
1 & 2 Bedroom Apt's.
Plymouth Manor Plymouth House
734-455-3880
www.yorkcommunities.com

PLYMOUTH-SHELDON PARK
Spacious 1 & 2 bdrms, C/A, pool, carport, from \$525. \$300 sec dep. 50% off 1st 3 months rent w/ good credit.
Call: (734) 455-6570

WESTLAND
1 bdrm w/appliances, private entrance, off street parking. \$475/mo. (248) 892-0262

"We Work For You!"
hometownlife.com

Westland \$300 MOVES YOU IN*
1 bdrm private entry
Walk-in closet
Convenient laundry
Very large
734-721-6699 EHO
*call for details
www.cormorantco.com

Westland Estates "WOW"
1 Bdrms, \$475
2 Bdrms, \$635
No fine print in this ad!
-Heat/Water included
-\$10.00 Application Fee
-\$200 Deposit w/ Credit
New Resident's Only 734-722-4700
Mon.-Fri. 9am-7pm
Sat.-Sun. 10am-4pm

"It's All About Results"
Observer & Eccentric
1-800-579-SELL

Apartment/Unfurnished 4000
WESTLAND Hickory Woods Apts.
\$224 MOVE IN!
1st Month Rent Free (for qualified applicants)
1 Bdrm-\$550
2 Bdrm-\$650
FREE GAS AND WATER (734) 729-6520
*Short term leases avail.

Westland Park Apts.
LOOK
FREE RENT
2 Bdrm, 1.5 Bath, \$565, 936 Sq. Ft.
1 Bdrm, \$490, 728 Sq. Ft.
\$200 Security Deposit Heat and Water Incl
(New residents only) with approved credit
No Pets, C/A, Vertical Blinds, Intercom.
Appliances include dishwasher.
Very clean Apartments
Excellent Maintenance
(734) 729-6636

Westland 2396 Ackley.
2 bdrm, 1 bath, c/a, bsmt, updated carpet & paint. 650 sq. ft., \$650/mo. 734-564-8280

Call to place your ad at 1-800-579-SELL (7355)

Condos/Townhouses 4000
CANTON: 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath, appliances, a/c, \$775/mo. + Security Dep. (734) 751-7623

Farmington Hills - Prestigious area. Lg 2 bdrm, 2 bath. Family rm, appls, fireplace. 2 car att gar \$1175/mo. 248-921-5214

LYON TWP
2 Bedroom, 1.5 baths, Immediate Occupancy.
Call: 248-290-5300 ext 333

MELVINDALE/DEARBORN
2 bdrm, like new, fireplace, all appls, att gar. Bad credit may be ok. 248-224-6696

PLYMOUTH: 2 bdrm condo, pool, carport, laundry, storage, heat & water incl. Immed Occ. \$695. 734-522-8957

Call to place your ad at 1-800-579-SELL (7355)

REDFORD: 1 bdrm, 1 bath, 2nd floor, courtyard. Close to I-96. Ideal for single professional. \$595. (734) 716-7771

Duplexes 4030
WESTLAND: 1 bdrm efficiency, C/A, washer/dryer & water included. Quiet neighborhood. \$400/mo. 734-239-1695

Duplexes 4030
WESTLAND
2 bdrm, remodeled kitchen, all appl, washer, dryer. \$775/mo. + Security. 734-568-2347

WESTLAND 2 Bdrms, bath, central air, basement. Clean and ready to move in!
Washer, Dryer hook ups. \$750 Security deposit. \$750/month. 248-761-2149

WESTLAND: 2396 Ackley.
2 bdrm, 1 bath, c/a, bsmt, updated carpet & paint. 650 sq. ft., \$650/mo. 734-564-8280

Call to place your ad at 1-800-579-SELL (7355)

WESTLAND: Duplex, 2 bdrms.
Fenced yard, new flooring, no pets. \$550-1 mo. sec. dep Immed. Occu. 734-459-3177

Flats 4040
Garden City: Cozy 1-2 bdrm upper in quiet neighborhood. Appl incl. \$575 + sec. No pets 734-377-2796, 734-255-5909

Homes For Rent 4050
FARMINGTON HILLS - 3 bdrm brick colonial 1.5 bath, gar, bsmt, c/a, fenced yard, appls, no pets. \$1100. 248-763-1294

Homes For Rent 4050
GARDEN CITY: 3 bdrm brick ranch, dining room, central air, bsmt, 2 car garage. Option \$850. (248) 788-1823

Homes For Rent 4050
Manufactured Homes for Rent
No rent until 2/1/2011
3 Bedrooms, 2 Baths
AcademyWestpoint.com
1-888-272-3099

www.hometownlife.com

APARTMENTS AVAILABLE

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO APARTMENT LIVING

REDFORD
\$99 MOVE IN SPECIAL!
1 BDRMS START AT \$525 & up
2 BDRMS START AT \$625 & up
Quiet, clean, water & parking, laundry facilities & extra storage available.
24715 Five Mile between Telegraph and Beech Daly.
Call: 313-945-0524
Mon-Sat 11am-5pm

FARMINGTON/LIVONIA
COME SEE WHAT'S NEW!
• NEW CABINETS • FREE HEAT & WATER
• NEW APPLIANCES • NEW CARPET
• MIRRORED DINING ROOM WALL
SPECIALS 1 Bedroom ... \$649
Merriman Rd., S. of 8 Mile
APPLE RIDGE APTS.
248-471-0001

PLYMOUTH
Section 8 Apts.
55 and older
Starting at \$650/mo.
Includes all utilities.
734-756-7446

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2 bedrooms, 950 sq. ft.
Starting at \$699


- Fitness Center
- Clubhouse
- Swimming Pool
- Covered Parking
- Pet Friendly
- Close to parks
- Close to Twelve Oaks Mall
- Close to I-96 & I-275

Application fee only \$25 per applicant. We offer Sure Deposit.
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Woodland Glen Apartments
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Northville, MI 48167
248-349-6612
www.haymanapartments.com

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Starting from \$498/month
\$6145 + 1st mo moves you in
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Rents As Low As **\$436** (month)
Are Worth Snuggling Up To!
CALL TODAY! (734) 729-2900
Must be 62 or Older, Income Limits Apply, ASK ABOUT OUR AGE WAIVER!!
EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

CALL TODAY FOR A GREAT RATE ...
1-800-579-7355

APARTMENTS

Homes For Rent 4050

GARDEN CITY: 3 bdrm, bsmt & garage, new kitchen, carpet & paint, \$850 + sec. No pets. Call: (248) 910-3695

GARDEN CITY: 3 bdrm ranches, bsmt, fenced yard. Appliances. No section 8. \$800-\$850/mo. 248-661-9062

LIVONIA: 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath, basement, country setting. \$1100/mo. (734) 751-3519

LIVONIA: Clean, beautiful 2 bdrm ranch on wooded lot. Hardwood floors, appli, no pets. \$800/mo. 248-349-7482

LIVONIA: Schools, 3 bdrm, 2 car garage, c/a. Fully renovated, all new. No smoking/pets. \$1050/mo. 248-569-4751

NOVI: Homes from \$799/mo! Several communities in the area! 888-884-1339

PLYMOUTH: Charming house in country setting. 1 bdrm w/loft. Appli. \$575/mo. 734-459-5114

REDFORD: 1500 sq. ft. brick ranch, totally updated. 26075 Lyndon. Many Extras! \$1120/mo. (313) 279-4560

Homes For Rent 4050

REDFORD: 3 bdrm, 1 bath, C/A, bsmt, immediate occup. Farm house on 1 acre, appliances, washer/dryer hookup. \$850/mo. (313) 215-5606

REDFORD: 3 bdrm 1500 sq ft. bungalow Plymouth Rd & Inkster. Fin bsmt, 2.5 car gar. \$875. 734-945-6714

REDFORD: 3 bdrm bungalow, huge master bdrm, bsmt, great kitchen, option, \$750. (248) 788-1823

WAYNE: Remodeled 3 bdrm ranch, huge master bdrm, immed occup. sec 8, option avail. \$650. (248) 788-1823

WESTLAND: 3 bdrm brick ranch, 2 car. Livonia Schools, C/A, \$800; 2 bdrm ranch, \$550, option. (248) 788-1823

WESTLAND: 3 bdrm duplex, Venoy/Palmer area. Lg. kitchen, newer carpet, fenced yd. \$550+ Sec. 248-344-2822

WESTLAND: 3 bdrm duplex w/1.5 bath or 2 bdrm ranch. New carpets, fresh paint, near schools, \$650. 313-418-9905

Homes For Rent 4050

WESTLAND: Completely remodeled 3 bdrm, 1 bath ranch, sec 8 okay. \$850/mo. Hurry, won't last! (313) 424-9471

WESTLAND: Livonia Schools. 3 bdrm ranch, huge backyard, utility rm, newly remodeled, \$875 + utilities. 734-453-4622

Mobile Home Rentals 4070

LOOK
Manufactured Homes For Rent
\$248 Moves You In
Rent starting at \$599 and
Free Rent until Feb. 1, 2010
for qualified applicants!

College Park Estates
Apply at:
51074 Mott Road in Canton
Hurry won't last!
(734) 495-0012

Farmington Hills: 1-2 bdrm \$65/wk & up. Appl. Seniors welc'd! No pets. Dep. req. 734-591-0146, 248-473-5535

Call to place your ad at 1-800-579-SELL(7355)

Vacation Resort/Rentals 4110

MIKADO / OSCODA: Wooded hunting cabin. 40 acres 2 bdrm, sleeps 7, furnished, \$700/wk. 734-397-0692

Living Quarters To Share 4120

Farmington Hills: Professional roommate to share furnished, clean, convenient, safe, \$395 incl. utilities, cable, internet, cleaning. 813-205-9926

Rooms For Rent 4140

FARMINGTON HILLS: Park Motel, furnished rooms, efficiency & apts from \$150/week. No deposit. (248) 474-1324

LUXURY HOTEL: Special Rates for Efficiency extended stay Rooms. Wet bar, cabinets, hot breakfast, indoor pool, etc. Call (866) 330-5202 www.comfortsitesnovi.net

NORTHVILLE or PLYMOUTH: Downtown. 1st week with full deposit. Furnished sleeping rooms. Newly decorated. \$85/wkly. Security deposit. 734-355-6453, 248-305-9944

Call to place your ad at 1-800-579-SELL(7355)

Rooms For Rent 4140

SOUTHFIELD: Quiet, wooded area, room for rent, private entrance, close to X-ways, non-smoking. (248) 352-4528

Office/Retail Space For Rent/Lease 4220

Plymouth Downtown: Office suite, 930 sq. ft. Avail Jan. 1st, newly decorated. Ample parking. 734-306-8673

REDFORD TWP. OFFICE SUITES: Small suites avail. From 1 room & up. Great rates incl. utilities. CERTIFIED REALTY INC. (248) 471-7100

Commercial/Industrial For Rent/Lease 4230

WESTLAND/LIVONIA: 25x40 shop with 11x14 office, security system, \$525/mo. + utilities. 1/2 mo. free. 313-304-6697

Observer & Eccentric Classifieds!

Challenging fun for ALL ages Sunday PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- Dove shelter
- PC system
- By Jove! (2 wds.)
- Out — limb
- Diamond play
- Experiment
- Grassy field
- Short distance (2 wds.)
- London luv
- Worthless coin
- Pelt
- Name a knight
- Firm refusal
- And others (abbr.)
- Stockholm carrier
- Extinct bird
- Highly significant
- Formal wear, familiarly
- Romance

DOWN

- Young grizzly
- Disagreeable necessity
- Shade
- Laud
- Heart-wrenching
- Makes the most of
- Holds up
- Monty —
- String tie
- From the top
- Road-map org.
- Doze off
- Regretted deeply
- Not masc.
- Ms. Hagen
- British rule in India
- Vampire —
- Pledge
- Tokyo, formerly
- Milne
- marsupial
- Serf's master
- Dreamlike
- Fixes up
- IV squared
- Confused fight
- Put-downs
- Solar plexus
- Joie de vivre
- Coolidge or Gam
- Stamp backing
- Winter forecast
- Traipse about
- Author Rand

Answer to Previous Puzzle

B	A	S	T	L	L	A	F	A	R
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P	L	A	Y	M	E	L	A	F	T

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SUDOKU

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

Level: Beginner

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

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Word Search — Winter Wonderland

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

blizzard freeze ice skid warmth
coat gloves scarf slide wind
drift hat season snow winter

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

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

Word Search

Sudoku

Word Search

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If you can find a Vue, it's luxury on wheels

AdvertisingFeature

CAReport



The Vue was last redesigned two model years ago to make it wider, providing extra elbow room.



By Kevin Koloian
For Avanti NewsFeatures
and AllOpinionsAlltheTime.com

There are no more Saturn dealerships around to buy the Saturn Vue, but you can still find them on GM lots here and there.

Last redesigned in 2008, the Vue is an awesome set of wheels based on a European-designed model from Opel called the Antara.

As for the exterior, the Vue's front end is sleek and the roofline arcs downward slightly toward the rear. It has the aggressive look of an SUV and less resembles a minivan.

Saturn dropped the Vue's dent-proof and rustproof plastic body panels in favor of steel. The change makes for easier operation on the assembly line and allows the vehicle to be built along with other, metal-bodied GM cars.

This process also ensures smaller gaps between body panels because steel doesn't expand and contract with temperature changes as much as the plastic did.

The last Vue comes in three trim levels: base XE, XR and sporty Red Line. All can be had in either front- or all-wheel-drive.

The XE comes with 16-inch alloy wheels, air-conditioning, keyless entry, full power accessories, OnStar telematics, steering-wheel audio

controls, cruise control, a tilt steering wheel, a height-adjustable driver seat and a CD/MP3 stereo with satellite radio and an auxiliary jack.

The XR adds 17-inch alloy wheels, luggage rack rails, automatic climate control, a power driver seat, a leather-wrapped steering wheel, heated mirrors and lighted vanity mirrors.

The Red Line features a lowered, sport-tuned suspension, rear spoiler, chrome exhaust outlets, 18-inch alloy wheels, heated front sport seats, leather and suede upholstery and unique instrumentation.

Standalone options include a premium audio system and CD changer, a navigation system, rain-sensing wipers and a remote vehicle starter.

The Vue XE has a 2.4-liter inline-4 that puts out 164 horsepower and is mated to a four-speed automatic transmission. The XE is also available with a 3.5-liter V6 good for 215 hp and is tied to a six-speed automatic transmission. Both the XR and Red Line trims feature a powerful 257-horsepower 3.6-liter V6 mated to a six-speed automatic. A manual-shift feature, called "TAPshift" is standard on the Red Line and optional on the XR.

The Vue XE gets 19 miles per

gallon in the city and 26 mpg on the highway.

Fuel economy ratings for the 3.6-liter engine are 16 mpg city / 22 mpg highway, and are 15 city and 22 highway for the 3.5-liter engine.

On the road, the Vue's ride is firm and controlled. The steering is responsive and quick without much feedback.

The ride is quiet, too. Interior sound levels are at a minimum, with just a little wind and tire noise, both are maintained well.

With real metal trim on the inside door handles and steering wheel and fully-lined storage bins in the center console, the Vue's interior is classy.

The back seat provides plenty of leg room for tall passengers. Although Saturn is listing the Vue as a five-seater, fitting three people in the back would be too tight, unless they are small kids.

The reclining seatbacks allow for the front passenger seat to fold down to carry long cargo and the second row split-folds quickly and easily to accommodate long objects as well. There's also plenty of space behind the

second row of seats to store stuff.

A pair of adjustable cargo nets keep items in place. The Vue's maximum cargo capacity is just 56 cubic feet, which is small compared to some rivals that offer nearly 20 more cubes.

Standard safety features on all Vue models include anti-lock brakes, stability control, traction control, front seat side airbags, side curtain airbags and active head restraints.

Although there are a few weaknesses like less cargo space than its competitors, the Vue still has many positives, including sleek European styling, good cabin quality and refined handling. If you can find one, it's a good value.

Kevin Koloian writes about new cars for the Fracassa News Group.

Saturn Vue
Vehicle class: Crossover SUV.
Power: 4-cylinder and V6 engines.
Mileage: 19 city / 26 highway for 4 cylinder
Where built: Ramos Arizpe, Mexico.
As tested: \$24,515.

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<p>Auto Auctions \$145 PUBLIC VEHICLE AUCTION Fri., Dec. 17, 2010 10am. 21340 Telegraph Rd. Southfield, MI 48034 Ford Contour 1996 3FALP6537M121064 Ford Taurus 1999 1FAPF585XG258459 Daewoo Leganza 2001 KLAVA69291B2931301 Ford Mustang 1998 1FALP40497M221610 Chevy Cavalier 2001 1G1JC524417269516 Mercury Grand Marquis 1994 2MELM75W1RX640755 Ford Explorer 2001 1FMZU72E21Z33748 Mercury Mountaineer 1998 4MZZU55P4WU47349 Plymouth Breeze 1996 1P3EJ46C71N291051 Pontiac Grand AM 1994 1G2NE1434P629642</p>	<p>Mini-Vans \$240 CHEVY VENTURE 2003 Teal Tide, LT, rear DVD, and heated leather! Family fun! Just \$7,995! 888-372-9836 Lou LaRiche</p>	<p>DODGE CARAVAN 2002 Dark blue, sharp. \$15,995 BOB JEANNOTTE PONT, BUICK, GMC (734) 453-2500</p>	<p>CHEVY SUBURBAN 2007 Bronze, DVD, XM and 4WD! Entertainment and safety! Call for price! 888-372-9836 Lou LaRiche</p>	<p>FORD ESCAPE 2008 Limited, \$22,995 BOB JEANNOTTE PONT, BUICK, GMC (734) 453-2500</p>	<p>GMC ACADIA 2007 SLT, Black. \$24,995 BOB JEANNOTTE PONT, BUICK, GMC (734) 453-2500</p>	<p>GMC YUKON XL 1999 Silver, 4x4. \$8,995 BOB JEANNOTTE PONT, BUICK, GMC (734) 453-2500</p>	<p>LINCOLN MKX ALL-WHEEL DRIVE 2007 Certified, navigation, hot and cold leather, THX, chrome. \$25,689 METROPOLITAN LINCOLN MERCURY (888) 808-9161</p>	<p>SATURN VUE 2009 AWD, black. \$20,995 BOB JEANNOTTE PONT, BUICK, GMC (734) 453-2500</p>
<p>Junk Cars Wanted \$200 \$200 MINIMUM For all unwanted vehicles. Family Owned & Operated. We appreciate your business. (248) 579-7488</p>	<p>METROPOLITAN LINCOLN MERCURY (888) 808-9161</p>	<p>DODGE RAM 1500 4X4 2008 Warranty, quad cab, 17k miles, chromes, tonneau and more. \$24,999</p>	<p>CHEVY TAHOE LTZ 2008 Dark Blue, loaded! \$36,995 BOB JEANNOTTE PONT, BUICK, GMC (734) 453-2500</p>	<p>FORD ESCAPE XLT 2008 Silver loaded, ford certified, one owner, extra clean. \$19,788 Stk.#10T1384A North Brothers Ford 734-402-8774</p>	<p>GMC DENALI XL 2007 Loaded, tan. \$31,995 BOB JEANNOTTE PONT, BUICK, GMC (734) 453-2500</p>	<p>GMC YUKON XL 2002 4x4, Silver. \$8,995 BOB JEANNOTTE PONT, BUICK, GMC (734) 453-2500</p>	<p>MERCURY MARINER PREMIER 2008 Loaded, one owner, low miles, must see. \$10,788 Stk.#10T1035A North Brothers Ford 734-402-8774</p>	<p>Is the stuff in your house piling up? Call Classifieds today! 1-800-579-7355</p>
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Below are the deadline times for Classified advertisements.

Edition of Sunday, Dec. 26th Auto & Real Estate Display Ads Classified Display Ads Classified Liners	Deadline Wednesday, Dec. 22 @ 5 pm Thursday, Dec. 23 @ 3 pm Thursday, Dec. 23 @ 5 pm
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