

INSOITE INSOITE



SPECIAL SECTION INSIDE

Gift-shopping ideas for do-it-yourselfers

THURSDAY December 16, 2010

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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PIPELINE

Facebook winner

Reader Judy Postma of Plymouth won a pair of tickets to Emagine Theatres and a free Buddy's pizza just for "liking" our Facebook page for Hometownlife.com. The online home for the Observer and Eccentric Newspapers and Hometown Newspapers now has over 1,000 Facebook friends. To check it out, go to Hometownlife.com and click on the Facebook icon.

Holiday ornaments

The Plymouth Symphony has commissioned Detroit artist and Christmas ornament designer Curtis Posuniak to design a commemorative ornament to celebrate the 65th Season of the Plymouth Symphony.

Posuniak has created Christmas ornaments for orchestras around the country in addition to Michigan designs for the Detroit Opera House, Mackinac Island, The Grand Hotel, Bronners and Greenfield

The ornaments are designed by Posuniak and then a clay mold is created and sent to designers in Poland where the glass bulbs are hand-blown, lined with silver and hand-

Ornaments are available from the Symphony by calling (734)

Holiday photos

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

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 votegetter will receive tickets for two to Emagine Theater (Canton or Novi). The second- and thirdplace winners will receive a coupon for a free four-square cheese and one-topping Buddy's

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

Holiday challenge

Shoppers thinking "local" while purchasing holiday gifts, decorations, food, clothes, etc., can keep dollars working in the Plymouth community through a campaign challenging Michigan's residents to spend 75 percent of their holiday shopping dollars in Michigan's downtowns.

According to Plymouth chamber officials, there is a Facebook page for the campaign where people can post pictures and video of their favorite downtown stores. People who post pictures or video will be automatically entered into a random drawing to win an overnight stay at one of the following establishments: The Ramsdell Inn in downtown Manistee; the Doherty Hotel in downtown Clare; the National House Inn in downtown Marshall; the Water Street Inn in downtown Boyne City; or the Courtland Carriage House Bed & Breakfast in downtown Hart.

The campaign will run until Dec. 31. Go to www.contestrules. com for more information and to enter the drawing.



PLYMOUTH

BSFRVFR

Staffer Ashley Benton suggests some games to Anna Norman and Johanna Brown as the Plymouth Youth Advisory Commission makes toy purchases at Genuine Toy Co.

Youth group's toy-donation program keeps it local

BY MATT JACHMAN OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Talk about a shopping spree.

Young people from the area descended on a downtown Plymouth toy store Monday evening, dropping some \$2,100 on toys — discounted at 20 percent — in under an hour.

It was all part of the Plymouth Community Youth Advisory Commission's effort to provide Christmas presents to the area's lessfortunate children. Since its founding in 2002, the PCYAC has annually spent several hundred dollars on the project, relying on the Salvation Army to distribute gifts purchased from big-box stores.

This year, however, the PCYAC voted to keep it local, heading to the Genuine Toy Co. on Forest Avenue at the suggestion of Ed Hingelberg, the Plymouth City Commission's PCYAC liaison.

The group, made up of 10 young people in grades seven through 11, also voted to help the children of those in the U.S. military, or the children of veterans, an acknowledgement of the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan that continue to take a toll on service personnel and their families, especially at the holidays.

The project snowballed, with organizations from the Plymouth Police Officers Association to the restaurant E.G. Nick's chipping in, and Genuine Toy Co. owners Charles and Elle Dare offering a 20-percent discount, and before long the PCYAC was spending \$2,100.

"I don't think there could be anything better on a whole bunch of fronts," said Hingelberg Monday as he launched the event at the store. "Rather than go out and shop big box, we're shopping locally."

The shopping spree, on a bone-chilling



City Commissioner Ed Hingelberg, flanked by Youth Advisory Commission members Anna Norman and Emma Dwyer, talks about the toy project.

evening and after the store's regular closing time, turned into a party, with the parents of PCYAC members and city officials socializing and enjoying refreshments provided by Panera Bread, Sweets 21 and the Candy

"You feel good about yourself, that you're making a difference, helping other people," said PCYAC member John Halpin, a sopho-

Please see TOYS, A4

Township tightens its belt again with new budget

BY MATT JACHMAN OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

With tax revenue anticipated to fall by a half-million dollars, 2011 is shaping up to be another year of belt-tightening in Plymouth Township.

The township Board of Trustees, with a 5-1 vote Tuesday, approved a generalfund budget for the next fiscal year of nearly \$13.16 million, down more than \$400,000 from the current budget. The township's fiscal year begins Jan. 1, 2011.

"The dollars are coming in less every year," said Supervisor Richard Reaume. The new budget, he added, reflects township-wide cost-cutting and employee concessions in every area except the Plymouth Community Fire Department.

The budget also cuts into the township's £und balance by about \$446,000, bringing it to a projected \$1,8 million by the end of next year. As recently as 2008, the find balance was more than \$2.4 million.

Reaume said the township continues to be affected by the crisis in the housing market, which has lowered property values and cut into propertytax revenue. "We don't know where the bottom is," he said.

A bright spot, however, is in industrial districts, where companies are moving into buildings vacated during the recession. That stabilizes values and brings in personal property - business equipment like computers and machinery - that is also taxed, he said.

"We're starting to see a turnaround, not to the point where we can restore what we once had," Reaume told the board Tuesday.

Public safety — the police department, fire department and emergency dispatch - consumes 64 percent of the budget, or about \$8.48 million. That's down \$490,000 from the current year. General government, which includes the supervisor's, clerk's and treasurer's offices, assessing, maintenance and information services, is at nearly \$2.85 million, down more than \$150,000

from the current year.

Tuesday's meeting featured an argument between Firefighter Greg Mangan and township Treasurer Ron Edwards over what Mangan said were concessions offered by Local 1496 of the International Association of Fire Fighters, which represents the township firefighters. Mangan is the treasurer of Local 1496.

He said the firefighters proposed concessions in January that the township refused, but Edwards said the savings were illusory, as the cuts would've increased firefighter overtime because of minimum staffing provisions. The township laid off three firefighters in late January.

In November, Mangan said, the union proposed concessions that mirrored those taken by police officers and command officers, including pay and benefit cuts, which would result in annual savings of \$200,000.

"Those are real dollars we're asking the township to take, to no avail," he said.

But Edwards said the savings only amounted to about \$130,000 or \$140,000.

"You're not being truthful at the bargaining table as far as I'm concerned," he told Mangan.

The fire department provides both the township and the city of Plymouth with firefighting and emergency medical services, but city officials have put the township on notice that the city will withdraw from the agreement that governs the joint department after the end of 2011.

The city provides about 25 percent of the department's revenue, which totals \$3.95 million for 2011.

Voting for the budget were Reaume, Edwards and Trustees Kay Arnold, Bob Doroshewitz and Mike Kelly. Voting against it was Clerk Joe Bridgman, who could not be reached for comment on Wednesday. Trustee Steve Mann was absent.

mjachman@hometownlife.com (313) 222-2405

Vigil honors children gone too soon

BY BRAD KADRICH **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

Some 100 people braved the first real winter storm of the season Sunday and showed up in downtown Plymouth's Kellogg Park for the 14th annual candle-

light vigil to commemorate

Children's Memorial Day.

More coverage, Page A6

Sponsored by The Compassionate Friends-Livonia chapter, the vigil is a way for parents, friends, family and loved ones to remember children who've died

Please see VIGIL, A2



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Christmas trees held the names of deceased children.







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APARTMENTS C2 AUTOMOTIVE C4

INDEX

CAREER BUILDER C3

CROSSWORD PUZZLE C2 HOME & SERVICE C2 OBITUARIES.. 85

REAL ESTATE C2 STRICTLY BUSINESS A9

Boy agrees to remove religious dagger

BY BRAD KADRICH OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, December 16, 2010

A Bentley Elementary School fourth-grader and his family have agreed to remove a religious item normally required to be worn by their Sikh religion until Plymouth-Canton Community Schools officials can figure out the best way — legally and otherwise — to handle it.

The boy was found last week wearing a Kirpan, a dagger-like instrument meant to prevent violence and defend the defenseless, while playing with classmates during recess last week. The presence of the dagger was reported to school officials, and Bentley principal Jerry Meier examined the Kirpan. He determined the boy could continue wearing it after his examination revealed no sharp edges.

At least one classmate reported the incident to his parents, who raised

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PICNIC BASKET MARKETPLACE • 734-459-2227 LIMIT ONE - WITH COUPON Expires 1-31-11 'We're reaching out to religious experts and talking to our attorneys and determine the best way to handle the situation to satisfy everyone.'

FRANK RUGGIRELLO, director of community relations

the issue with school officials. After lengthy discussions between district officials and the family, the boy agreed not to wear the Kirpan until the issue was settled.

The boys' family told Meier that when someone is baptized into the Sikh religion, they're ordered to wear the Kirpan at all times as a showing of faith, not as a weapon. The boy was wearing it on a long chain around his neck, covered completely by his clothing, according to Frank Ruggirello, the

district's director of community rela-

According to the Sikh religion, the Kirpan is symbolic, and its meaning is to prevent violence and defend the defenseless.

"(Meier) examined it closely, and it has nothing sharp," said Frank Ruggirello, the district's director of community relations. "We're reaching out to religious experts and talking to our attorneys and determine the best way to handle the situation to satisfy everyone."

Canton resident Tina Barbee, whose son reported the presence of the Kirpan, was distressed the district was originally going to let the student continue wearing the Kirpan, which she considers a weapon.

"What if someone takes this away from this child and decides to hurt someone?" Barbee told WDIV Friday. "Who's to say that all Sikh children are stable? If there were just one style of kirpan, and it was small and blunt, and it was the only one that's available, I'd say let's consider making an exception to the rule.

"But when I went online and see the variety of Kirpans available, and I have a kid starting high school next year, and it scares me."

Ruggirello acknowledged the district has a zero-tolerance policy on bringing weapons to school. However, he said, officials don't recognize the Kirpan as a weapon and so the boy will be allowed to return to class wearing the Kirpan.

Ruggirello said that, while Barbee was the only parent to complain formally as of Saturday morning, the district would reach out to all parents in the district to apprise them of the situation.

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

FINDING COMPASSION

What: The Compassionate Friends-Livonia Chapter (dedicated to remembering children who died too soon)

Where: The group meets at St. Timothy's Church on Newburgh (south of Six Mile) in Livonia When: Meetings are the first Thursday of every month, 7-9

Who: Co-leaders are Kathy Rambo of Canton, Brenda Hernandez of Flat Rock and Rhonda Temple of Dearborn Phone | Website: (734) 778-0800 | www.tcflivonia.org

VIGIL FROM PAGE AT

too soon.

The storm, which dropped several inches of snow, made driving difficult and included frigid temperatures, may have discouraged many (the vigil routinely draws more than 400 people), but those who came out found the ceremony helpful.

"I can't tell you how many times my phone rang (Sunday) with people asking if it was still on," said Kathy Rambo of Canton, one of three co-leaders of The Compassionate Friends, who chuckled before adding, "If I wasn't the leader, I'm not sure I would have made it. But it went very well."

The ceremony included readings, music and the dedication of two Christmas trees filled with ornaments dedicated to children who've died too soon. The ceremony also included the reading of some 600 names of children to be honored. Ornaments honoring the children also adorned a pair of Christmas trees in Kellogg Park.

bkadrich@hometownlife.com (313) 222-8899

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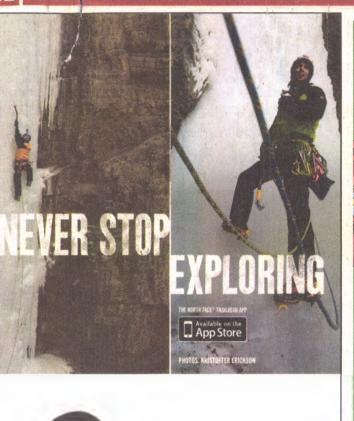


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BIVOUAC



"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.

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

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.

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

Blue Christmas

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



Musical moment

On Sunday, Dec. 12, the senior residents at Hope Nursing Center in Westland enjoyed a special Christmas concert performed by a group of young musicians from The Little Stars Foundation, including (from left) Alan Sun, Anna Sun, Daniel Li, Paul Shen and Austin Liu. It's the fifth consecutive year TLSF has toured nursing homes and senior centers, playing Christmas carols on their violins and passing out Christmas presents to residents. They have brought holiday joy to hundreds of seniors. TLSF will be performing holiday music at the Four Season Nursing Center in Westland on Saturday, Dec. 18, and Waltonwood at Cherry Hill in Canton on Sunday, Dec. 19.

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

Listen to Mitch

Fans of Mitch Ryder and the Detroit Wheels can catch the iconic '60s rock band in a performance at the Token Lounge, 28949 Joy, east of Middlebelt, in Westland Saturday, Dec. 18.

Doors will open at 8 p.m., and there's an at-the-door charge of \$20 per person. For more information, call (734) 513-5030.

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 informa-

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 appre-

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.

Nuns in charge

"Put the Nuns in Charge," a long-running comedy from the author of "Late Night Catechism." is coming to St.

Thomas a Becket Catholic Church in Canton 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 28.

Ticket prices range from \$20 for non-reserved seating and go up to \$75 for front row seats. All tickets include a dessert afterglow. All proceeds will go to two great causes - St. Pat's Food Pantry in Detroit and World Youth

Child care will be provided for a small donation. Tickets must be purchased in person with cash or check at St. Thomas a Becket, located at 555 S. Lilley Road in Canton, south of Cherry Hill Road. Contact the church at (734) 981-1333 for further informa-

Seeking vets

The American Legion Beasley-Zalesny Post 112, located at 344 Elizabeth St. in downtown Plymouth at the corner of Ann Arbor Trail, is seeking veterans from all wars.

The post meets 7 p.m., the third Monday of each month, September through June. The active post, along with its Womens Auxiliary, works a number of programs both in Plymouth and at the VA Hospital in Ann Arbor. The post's efforts are geared toward doing all they can to take care of needy veterans.

For more information please call Joe Burman at (734) 459-

Host families

AYUSA International is a non-profit high school foreign exchange student organization which welcome teenagers from more than 65 countries worldwide and provides a host family placement and ongoing supervision for 5- and 10month academic programs.

These young people look forward to a warm bond of friendship with host families and a rewarding cultural exchange.

Host families are asked to provide meals and a bedroom either shared or private. Students pay for all other personal expenses while in the

For more information, call Sue McGrath, (313) 278-8424.

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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For the location nearest you, call 1-888-889-EYES

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, December 16, 2010

more at Plymouth High School.

John, in his third year on the PCYAC, had been assigned to shop for 8to 12-year-olds; he was picking up soft footballs, Madlibs (word-game books), puppets and toy cars and trucks.

"It's cool how many people - we're going to help a lot of kids," said Carolyn Stoddard, a first-year PCYAC member and also a PHS sophomore. Carolyn was shopping for smaller children, buying teddy bears, bathtub toys and dolls.

"We got to help the community more also" by patronizing a local independent store, she said.

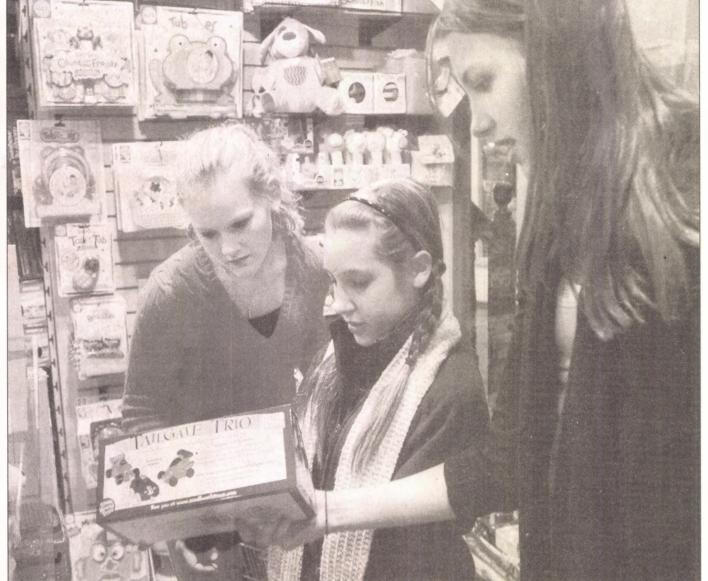
"We're happy to do it. It's a win-win for sure," said Charles Dare, who, with his wife, opened Genuine Toy Co. in the summer of 2009.

Participating PCYAC members were given store coupons that will give them 20 percent off a single item during a future visit.

The toys will be distributed by the members of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6695, which has been scouting for families in the Plymouth and Canton Township area that could use the help.

According to David Reeves, post commander, some of the toys may end up at the VFW National Home for Children in Eaton Rapids, which offers support for the families and children of both active military personnel and veterans,

mjachman@hometownlife.com (313) 222-2405

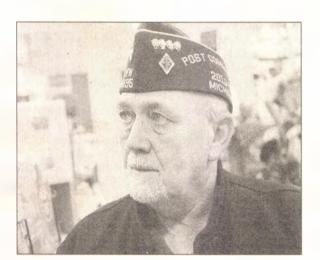


BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Emma Dwyer, Halle Mancuso and Carolyn Stoddard make decisions on toys.



Jon Cope and John Halpin compare interesting toys at the Genuine Toy Company.



David Reeves of VFW Post 6695 talks about the orphanage that the VFW supports.

Stolen minivan dumped in Livonia

A minivan stolen from the driveway of a house in Plymouth Township was recovered in Livonia on Friday morning.

Livonia officers discovered the 1997 Plymouth Voyager, running and unoccupied, on

West Chicago Friday morning and called township police after tracing the minivan's ownership, according to a Plymouth Township Police Department report.

The Voyager had been stolen from the driveway of a house on Bruce Avenue, in the area of Ann Arbor Road and Haggerty. A door lock had been punched and the ignition had been damaged, police

The theft occurred between about 11 p.m. Dec. 9 and shortly before 9 a.m. Friday.

The minivan was turned over at the scene to its owner, who later reported that two bench seats and a portable compact disc player had been stolen from it, police said.

Vehicle burglaries

Two vehicles were burglarized recently as they sat outside a house on Micol Drive, near Ann Arbor Trail and Haggerty, according to a police report.

Coins and a watch were reported stolen. The vehicles, a 1993 Pontiac Grand Am and a 2007 Cadillac STS, had been left unlocked.

The thefts occurred between Nov. 20 and Dec. 6, the victim told police.

In another reported vehicle burglary, a camera and a navigation device were reported stolen Sunday from a Chevrolet parked in the driveway of a house on Ball Street, near Ann Arbor Road and South Main.

The car had been left unlocked, police said; the burglary occurred between late Saturday night and just after 4 p.m. Sunday.

– By Matt Jachman



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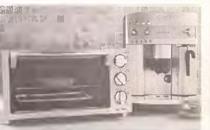
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holiday tableware



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Major township water main break leads to sinkhole

BY MATT JACHMAN **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

A Tuesday afternoon water-main break at Ann Arbor Road and Sheldon will have one traffic lane on each road closed at least until Monday.

The 12-inch underground pipe burst at about 3 p.m. Tuesday, sending water gushing to the surface and creating an ice slick in the area. It was just over an hour before the leak could be stopped, said Plymouth Township

Supervisor Richard Reaume. Homes and businesses in the area lost water pressure until it built back up, but no "boil-water" alert needed to be issued, officials said.

Repairs were delayed because of a part that had to be ordered, Reaume said, but the repairs were completed early Wednesday morning. Water to a limited number of buildings in the area had to be shut off during the repairs, he said.

Water crews' digging to find the leak, on top of erosion caused by the gushing water, caused a sinkhole in the road-

large enough to contain two cars. Near the intersection, the curb lanes of both northbound Sheldon and eastbound Ann Arbor Road had to be closed, he said.

Repairs to the road's subsurface, including to a storm sewer, were expected to be completed by the end of the day Wednesday, and crews were scheduled to install a temporary cement patch on Thursday, the supervisor said. The cement will need until Monday to cure, he said, meaning the closed lanes will not reopen until

The roads will get a more permanent fix next spring.

There were also two breaks of smaller water mains in Plymouth during the cold snap, the first at about 9:30 p.m. Sunday in the area of Holbrook and Union Streets and the second shortly before midnight Tuesday in the area of Caster and Mill streets, said City Manager Paul Sincock. Both breaks were repaired within a few hours, he said.

mjachman@hometownlife.com

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along with O&E editors will select one overall winner each month (through 2011) to enjoy a special meal at Buddy's.

"Sometimes just reading a good news story can simply inspire and make you remember that it's the little things in life that are still important," said Brontman, of Buddy's public relations and special promotions.

E-mail your good news story (include a photograph) to: goodnews@hometownlife.com.

Tell us your story in 150 words or less (attach photos in a jpg format as large as possible and be sure to identify everyone in the photo). Include a phone number where we can reach during business hours.

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WE WILL NOT BE UNDERSOLD

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, December 16, 2010



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Gail Lafferty of Livonia reads the names of children lost to their families during The Compassionate Friends candlelight vigil Sunday in Plymouth's Kellogg Park.

Candles in the snow

Crowd braves winter to pay tribute to their children

BY BRAD KADRICH OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Kathy Rambo figured her phone might not stop ringing

The harder it snowed, the more the phone seemed to ring, with people wanting to ask the Compassionate Friends-Livonia chapter co-leader if the group's annual candlelight vigil, honoring children who died too young, was a go.

Rambo assured anyone willing to brave the snow, the cold, the ice and the wintry road conditions the show would go on, no matter what Mother Nature threw their way.

Rambo, who lost her son, Jason, in a traffic accident 10 years ago, knows by the ache in her own heart how important the annual vigil has become.

"I think people feel it's something they do for their children," Rambo, a Canton resident who lived in Plymouth for 25 years, said of the 100 or so people who braved the elements. "It's our Christmas now. Christmas will never be the same for us. We're like a family. We've all gone through the same pain. Nobody knows what it's like unless they've been through it."

Sponsored annually in conjunction with Children's Memorial Day, the vigil is held in time zones throughout the world, the idea being that, as candles burn down in one time zone, they're lit in another, creating a 24-hour memorial.

The Plymouth ceremony included readings, music and the dedication of two Christmas trees filled with ornaments dedicated to children who've died too soon.

The most touching part of the ceremony is the reading of the names, either called in or e-mailed to The Compassionate Friends. Rambo said some 600 names were read Sunday.

Many of the people in the crowd have taken part in the ceremony before. One such woman, who'd lost a child a few years ago, recommended the ceremony to Willa Butler of Redford, who lost her daughter to complications of Lupus and diabetes in October. The friend told Butler the ceremony would help. She was right.

"It's been very hard for me to deal with, and it's part of a healing process for me," said Butler, whose daughter was just 39 when she died. "It was a beautiful ceremony. It gave me something to focus on. It's hard to deal with the loss of your child. You think, 'She's lost to the world.'

"It meant the world to me," Butler added. "I will participate in the future, because it gave meaning to my having my daughter. The most important thing is, she's not forgotten."

Rambo knows how she feels. When Jason died, Rambo said she used his clothing to make teddy bears for friends and family members as a way to keep Jason's spirit alive. She said it took her a few months to find out about The Compassionate Friends. And she might not have, had it not been for her mother.

"My mom came across it, because I was in no condition to think about things like this," said Rambo, now the co-leader of the group to which she turned in her grief. "It helped get me through the worst time of my life. Now, it's my turn to give back to others. (The Compassionate Friends) is my life now."

Not surprisingly, the 100 or so people who turned out turned Mother Nature's fury into a positive.

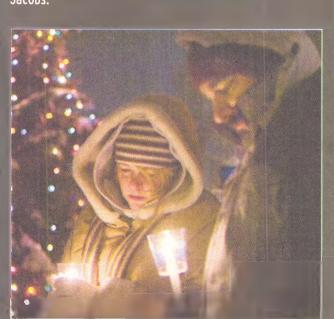
"It was a maller than usual." Rembe said of the garange.

"It was smaller than usual," Rambo said of the ceremony, which usually draws some 400 people. "(But) it was beautiful, with the snow coming down and everything."

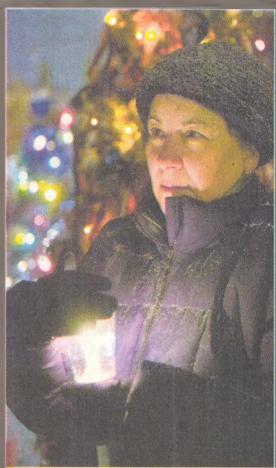
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Marion Rozum of Canton holds a candle in memory of Ryan Owen at The Compassionate Friends candlelight vigil Sunday in Kellogg Park in Plymouth. Jan Jacobs of Plymouth and Kathy Wiacek of Northville were there to remember David



Robert and Leslie Cisco remember their son Brad. They are from Brownstown Township.



Hope Gross of Westland remembers her son, Howie.



Three-year-old Najazma Mitchell holds a candle for LaVeda Ayers. She attended the ceremony with family Tobias Mitchell, Willa Butler, Orlando Ayers, Carthell Williams and Leshon Terrance. They are residents of Redford Township.

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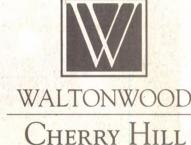
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Michigan Snowsports Industries Association Ski card is great value

The Michigan Snowsports Industries Association has produced a card that allows. the holder to ski at 29 different Michigan ski areas this winter for just \$189. Called the MSIA White Gold Card, purchasers are entitled to ski one time at each of the participating ski areas during the 2010-11 ski season. Also included is one free ski tuneup (edge sharpen and wax) at participating MSIA ski retailers.

"The White Gold Card is an exceptional value," said Steve Kershner, chairman of the MSIA and director of skiing for Shanty Creek Resorts in

"If you paid for a lift ticket at each of these ski areas and brought your skis in for a tuneup, you would be spending over \$960," said Kershner.

The card looks like a credit card, divided into squares.

Each ski area is assigned to a square and one square is designated for the ski tuneup.

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday December 16, 2010

White Gold Card skiers are allowed to ski one time at each ski area, midweek or weekend. The card is valid for the entire ski season, except for Dec. 24, through Jan. 2, 2011. The cards are nonrefundable and nontransferable. To get the tuneup, White Gold Card purchasers take their skis or boards to one of the over 40 participating ski shops.

MSIA developed the White Gold Card as a fund-raising endeavor and limits its production to 400 cards.

"We've found from past years' sales that they go quickly," said Kershner.

To add a little excitement, MSIA has also created a challenge for White Gold Card participants.

"The first person to use



The Michigan Snowsports Industries Association has produced a card that allows the holder to ski at 29 different Michigan ski areas this winter for just \$189.

Photo courtesy goskimichigan

the White Gold Card at all 29 Michigan ski areas will win a card for the 2011-12 ski season," Kershner said. He added that MSIA is hosting the challenge to encourage skiers to try all the great slopes in Michigan. To win, White

Gold Card holders must ski at all the ski areas and then send MSIA their punched-out White Gold Card accompanied by a used lift ticket from each of the ski areas.

Participating ski areas include: Alpine Valley in

White Lake; Apple Mountain in Freeland; Big Powderhorn Mountain of Bessemer; Bittersweet in Otsego; Blackjack Resort in Bessemer; Boyne Highlands in Harbor Springs; Boyne Mountain in Boyne Falls; Caberfae Peaks in Cadillac; Cannonsburg Ski Area in Cannonsburg; Cross-Country Ski Headquarters in Roscommon; Crystal Mountain in Thompsonville; Hanson Hills in Grayling; Indianhead Mountain in Wakefield; Marquette Mountain in Marquette; Mont Ripley in Houghton; Mt. Bohemia in the Keweenaw Peninsula; Mt. Brighton in Brighton; Mt. Holly in Holly; Mt. Zion in Ironwood; Norway Mountain in Norway; Nubs Nob in Harbor Springs; Pine Knob in Clarkston; Pine Mountain in Iron Mountain;

Shanty Creek in Bellaire;

Snow Snake in Harrison; Swiss Valley Ski Area in Jones; The Homestead in Glen Arbor; Timber Ridge Ski Area in Gobles and Treetops Resort in Gaylord.

White Gold Cards will be sold at participating MSIA ski shops throughout the state through December, while supplies last. MSIA local shops offering the cards and the ski/snowboard tuneups are: Boyne Country Sports in Bloomfield Hills, Novi and Traverse City; Don Thomas Sporthaus in Birmingham; Nichol's Ski & Patio in Dearborn and Waterford; Sun & Snow Sports in Plymouth and Ann Arbor.

The White Gold Cards can also be purchased online at www.goskimichigan.com. For more information, visit www. goskimichigan.com or call MSIA at (248) 620-4448.





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STRICTLY BUSINESS

Thursday, December 16, 2010

hometownlife

HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Contact Editor, Brad Kadrich

Voice Mail: (313) 222-8899

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IT'S YOUR BUSINESS Q&A

Doctor takes bite out of dental problems

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

Gary Feucht: We offer a complete line of general dentistry; crowns and bridges, root canals, cosmetic dentistry, veneers, bleaching, dentures, periodontal treatment, children's dentistry and emergency dental needs.

Observer: How did you first decide to open your

Gary Feucht: After college and receiving both my undergraduate and graduate degrees and armed with my dental license I went to work with other dentists and it was just a matter of time before I decided to open my own business and put into practice the skills that I had developed. It was a dream, owning my own business and working with patients who I could develop lifetime relationships with.

Observer: Why did you choose Plymouth?

Gary Feucht: My first practice out of college was in Westland and when I made the decision to open my own practice it just made sense to open in a community in which many of my patients lived and clearly enjoyed because they talked about all the wonderful things happening in a community on the grow. I wanted to be a part of that growth.

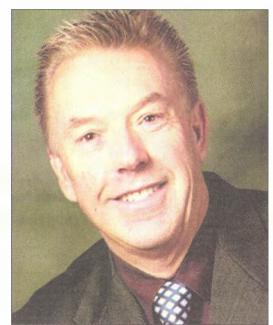
Observer: What makes your business unique?

Gary Feucht: All of us at Plymouth Dentistry work as a team, staying up on the latest technology with training, having all the most current equipment like our new x-ray capabilities that reduces the amount of radiation exposure for our patients – not to mention the reduction in time, minutes, to get a full set of pictures to review with the patient. Our team has been together a long time – and that makes us unique. Observer: Do you have a funny tidbit or story to share with our readers?

Gary Feucht: Two years ago we had our 30th Anniversary Party and invited all our former and current patients to come celebrate with us. My first patient from my first practice was there. Today I am scheduled to see a woman, now a flight attendant, who started coming to the office when she was 8 years old. She is now 40. That is what makes it so worthwhile, to have patients still with you after all these years. We strive for that personal relationship.

Observer: How has the recent economy affected your

Gary Feucht: We mostly see the effect of companies eliminating dental insurance. Fortunately we have build up personal relationships over the years which has helped with referrals and patients realizing how dental care now and actually save money in the long



Dr. Gary Feucht

DR. GARY FEUCHT, DDS, PC

Business name and address: Dr. Gary Feucht DDS PC, 40400 Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth Your name and title: Dr. Gary Feucht Business opened: 1983 Number of employees: 6 Hours of operation: Monday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Wednesday, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Thursday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Your business specialty: General Family Dentistry Business phone | website: (734) 459-7110 www.plymouthdentistry.com

run. But it is tough for most dentists that do not have the strong patient base that we have.

Observer: Any advice for other business owners?
Gary Feucht: Simple, be open to change and always remember that you are in the business to please your customer while doing what is right for them.

Observer: What's in store for the future of your business?

Gary Feucht: Expansion into more hours to be available for our communities dental needs, and digital impressions for crowns. And to keep enjoying Plymouth and Canton with our wonderful patients.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Feet and ankles

Wayne State University
Physician Group Department
of Orthopedic Surgery is proud
to announce the welcoming
of foot and ankle specialist
Dr. Richard Needleman of

Plymouth.
Needleman
is an
Orthopaedic
surgeon who
specializes in
foot and ankle
problems in
adult and
pediatrics. His

Needleman

primary areas of expertise include bunions, flat feet disorders, fractures, heel pain, reconstruction and sports medicine.

Office locations include 5958 N. Canton Center, Suite 700 in Canton, and 18100 Oakwood Blvd., Suite 300 in Dearborn.

Needleman received his medical degree from University of Vermont College of Medicine in Burlington, Vt. He served his residency training at George Washington University in Washington, D.C. His fellowship was completed at Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee, Wisc.

Needleman is board-certified by the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery. In addition, he is a reviewer for Foot and Ankle International, the journal of the American Orthopaedic Foot and Ankle Society. His research interests include flat feet and ankle fractures.

To schedule an appointment or for more information, call the Dearborn office location at (313) 429-7977 or the Canton office location: 734-254-9500.

Celebrating excellence

It was a celebration of excellence, indeed. Wayne County honored exceptional employees last week at its annual Wayne County Employee Achievement Awards held at the Guardian Building.

Employees were recognized for, among other things, excellence in leadership, humanitarian acts, community activism and excellence in performance. Some 279 awards were handed out.

"It is an honor and a pleasure to serve at the helm of an organization comprised of so many dedicated and determined employees," Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano said.

Among the award-winners were:

• 2010 Anthony C. Wayne Award winner — Tadarial Sturdivant of Plymouth, Director of Children and Family Services. Wayne County Anthony C. Wayne Award is given to only one person in the county each year. It is for excellence in leadership. The person nominated showed outstanding leadership qualities over a considerable period of time.

• 2010 Outstanding Award winners — Among the winners were Edward Pozan and Gurpreet Samra of Canton. Wayne County Outstanding Award winners have shown sustained performance over a considerable period of time and/or participated in project of major significance to the county.

Pizza giveaway

Lou Toarmina, founder of Toarmina's Pizza, home of the "24-inch Pizza," will give away free pizzas from his stores for 12 days in honor of The Salvation Army's 2010 Red Kettle Campaign. Calls are being made to the public at random across metro Detroit.

"With this giveaway,
Toarmina's Pizza is spreading
much-needed generosity to the
community," said Major John
Turner, general secretary for
The Salvation Army of Metro
Detroit. "As residents pick up
their pizzas, they are welcome
to make a donation to The
Salvation Army to carry on the
kindness."

"We are dedicated to this worthy cause, and encourage those receiving free pizzas to consider making a donation to The Salvation Army as a gesture of continued generosity," said Lou Toarmina, founder of Toarmina's Pizza.

In 2009, The Salvation
Army of Metro Detroit was
involved in providing 3,181,865
million meals and 724,134
nights of shelter for the homeless. The Salvation Army uses
85 cents of every dollar raised
to provide direct services to
people in need each and every
day of the year.

CHAMBER CHAT

Holiday classics

The Penn Theatre in downtown Plymouth will be showing a variety of holiday classics starting this weekend. The schedule:

"Polar Express," Dec. 17-19"A Muppet Christmas Carol,"Dec. 23, Dec. 26

All tickets are \$3. Go to www. penntheatre.com for showtimes.

Promoting Plymouth

December is a great time for the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce to promote the Plymouth area as a holiday destination. The following are ways the chamber is spreading the word about our community's many holiday activities:

 Updated the calendar of events on its website to reflect the community activities during the season (www.plymouthmich. org/events).

• Host the annual Santas House (with Santa on weekends) and Walk of Trees in Kellogg Park. Santa was greeted by hundreds of people the day after Thanksgiving at his annual welcome celebration.

• Handing out bags to the parents of young visitors to Santas House filled with information and coupons from 35 member companies throughout the community.

• Teamed with the Downtown Development Authority to promote a gingerbread house display in 49 downtown business locations. To see a web page set up to promote the display, go to www. plymouthmich.org/events.

• Updated the front page of the chamber website to reflect winter in Plymouth, Holiday events, Santa's hours in Kellogg Park and the Gingerbread Houses on Parade. (www.plymouthmich.org). The site receives over 1,700 unique visitors each month.

• The front window of the



Santa visits

There are still three more chances for kids of all ages in the Plymouth community to meet with Santa, get a photo taken and let the Jolly Ol' Elf know what they want for Christmas. Santa will accept visitors at his house, located just outside Kellogg Park along Main Street in downtown Plymouth, 5:30-8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 17, and again noon to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 18-19. Photos with Santa are \$6.

chamber office has been decorated in an attractive manor to reflect the charm of the community and draw attention to the many posters displayed about local Holiday events.

• Posting frequent Facebook and Twitter updates to some 8,500 followers.

• Selling hundreds of Plymouth Gift Certificates during the holiday season, that are good at 85 local merchants.

Top website

To help members see other websites in the community and get ideas they could use for their own sites, the chamber features a different member's site each week. This week the featured website is from Lotus Art Gallery: www.lotusartsgallery.com.

Organic meats

Natural Local Food Express brought organic meat to

Plymouth.

Located at 1192 Ann Arbor Road, Natural Local Food Express specializes in providing high quality organic meats. They have bison, grass fed beef, poultry and other items, like organic milk.

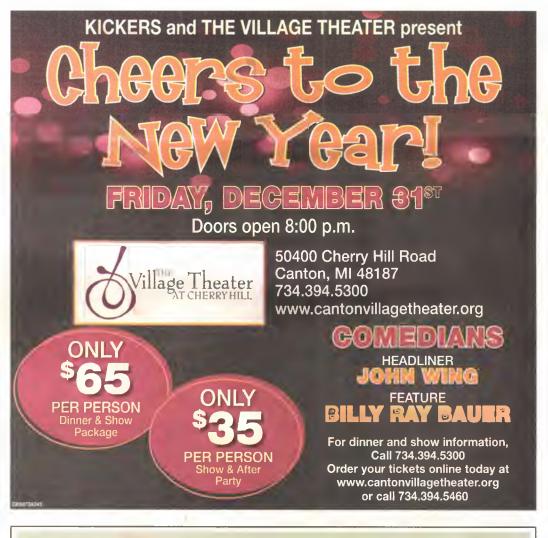
For more information see their web site at www.naturallocalfd. com.

Dine-Out Delivery

Looking for food from one of your favorite Plymouth restaurants? Dine-Out Delivery will deliver food from 5 local restaurants to your doorstep. They also will have an expanding selection of restaurants over the next few months.

Additionally, the company has another branch of the company that provides marketing services. For more information on their services call 734-709-7804 or check out their web site at www. dineoutdeliveryonline.com.

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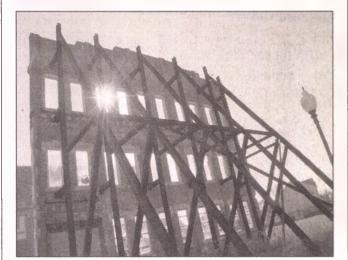
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OUR VIEWS



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Daisy wall is the last standing remnant of the factory where Daisy Air Rifles were built from the 1880s to the 1950s.

Daisy Wall

Preserve the memory, tear down the facade

When it comes to the question of what to do with the so-called "Daisy Wall," the last remnant of an icon that helped define Plymouth for some 70 years, the question becomes this: Does Plymouth want to keep one foot in the 1880s, or step firmly into the 21st century?

We think, at long last, it's finally time to bring both feet into 2010 and raze the wall.

We were in favor of the proposal to keep the wall when officials at Joseph Freed & Associates came before the Plymouth City Commission in 2003 with their proposal for the Daisy Square condominium project. Freed assured commissioners and residents the wall would be incorporated into the development. Talk at the time was the wall would actually be used as a facade to part of a building, though it became clear fairly quickly that wasn't a viable option.

Skeptics at the time doubted Freed's sincerity about

using the wall, and their pessimism has been reward-

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.

ed with Freed's continued failure to do anything but prop the crumbling wall up with braces. Freed has insisted all along the wall would play a role in the development, which, of course, has been stalled for years now.

The wall has deteriorated to the point now where something should be done with it, and done soon. The

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

We love the work Mark Oppat and Wendy Harless do to preserve the historic nature of Plymouth, and we commend their efforts. They've been the loudest voices in the effort to keep the wall, and can be counted on to lead the charge in coming up with a plan that still incorporates the wall into whatever project comes out of it, be it a park or a memorial or

some other function. 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 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 for-

Some planning 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 is one of the ones who wants to save it, and even she acknowledged it's time to come up with a plan.

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

City commissioners should hold Freed to its agreement to do something to incorporate the wall into the development. Whether it be a park or some other function, a piece of the factory - which represents such a large part of Plymouth's history - should be preserved in some form. And perhaps commissioners should demand, as part of the new deal, that Freed complete that portion before they're allowed to finish the development.

It's easy to conclude, considering they've had seven years to deal with it, that Freed never had any intention of saving the wall in the first place. We stop short of saying that, preferring to agree with Planning Commissioner Christopher Harden, who drew a few chuckles when he said, "If they were that malicious, somebody would have accidentally driven a backhoe into it by now."

Freed has had more than enough time, and so have the preservationists. Like the factory itself, the time to develop a solution has long since come.

And gone.

COMMUNITY VOICE

How are you keeping warm in this cold weather?

We asked this question at the Plymouth Coffeee Bean Co. in downtown Plymouth.



"A lot of coffee and not going out too much."

Alex Fesili Canton Township



"I have about seven blankets on my bed right now. ... I wear, like, three layers of pants."

Kate Graves Plymouth



"I've been going to sleep with all my clothes on."

Ken Pletzer Canton Township



"I'm fine. Just turn the temperature up, because I don't pay utilities. ... (Outside) I usually walk everywhere, so I just do double layers."

Laura Caruso Plymouth

LETTERS

No healing yet

The two school board members who led the underhanded and disrespectful motion to publicly demean not our only our superintendent, but also their fellow board members, are now being quoted as saying the healing has begun and our board is moving forward.

I was one of the few people who sat through the entire board workshop where this "healing" happened, and that was certainly not my impression. Three of the Gang of Four (the "G4") attended the workshop. These three took a very interesting approach to explaining their secret meetings and bully behavior: They blamed the other board members. I couldn't help but think of the cliche of the abusive spouse - "Why did you make me hit you?" I have to admire the restraint shown by those under attack; I don't know if I could have remained as composed as they did.

The G4 suggest that they had no choice but to resort to secret meetings because the others would not approve of going to closed session. I would like to thank the three who refused and demanded that business be conducted the way the law requires. Many of us have sensed for a long time that something was amiss. By taking a stand for transparency, you disarmed the machine. The public got a glance into what is really going on, and people are responding with the disgust the situation deserves.

The workshop was revealing, and the irony was thick. The G4 seem to believe that anything other than conforming to the party line is irresponsible leadership. The same board member who claims to speak for "the silent majority" ridiculed another member for suggesting "the community" is upset (she can channel the will of the silent, but to site actual conversations is somehow misrepresentative). She even went so far as to lament that she didn't know how she could ever trust the other three again. What? Did I hear that correctly? Unfortunately, I did.

Their disrespect covers much more geography than staff and other board members, and rumors are being milled at an alarming rate. If the public is upset, it is because we have been "riled up" by the three board members who choose to honor the Open Meetings Act - "We the people" seem to lack the ability to think for

Objectors are motivated by some secret, back-door promise of personal gain. My own conversation with a member of the G4 left me so offended by the innuendo and outright (bleep) that I was driven to speak publicly and look for ways to become involved for the sake of my own conscience.

The G4 say it is time for healing and moving forward. How disingenuous. Healing occurs when people take responsibility for their actions. Until then, there will be no trust, either between board members or by the public toward the G4. This entire process has been tainted from the start. The members of the G4 must either reverse what they have fraudulently set in motion months ago, or resign. They created this mess and only they can fix it. If they really want healing, they know what they have to do.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

We welcome your Letter to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content. Submit letters via the following formats.

E-mail: bkadrich@hometownlife.com.



Read or comment online: www.hometownlife.com

Deadline: Letters must be received by 10 a.m. Monday to be published in the Thursday edition.

Blog: You may also let your opinions be heard with your own blog at www.hometownlife.com.

Stephanie Goecke

Plymouth

TSA screenings

Ever since Sept. 11, America has adopted numerous security measures that have proven to be effective, but the Transportation Security Administration's new full-body scanners and full-body pat downs cross the line. These new procedures are not only virtual strip searches and an invasion of privacy, but may not even be all that effective.

The argument is for national security, but quite frankly where is the line we don't cross? Obviously, no matter what you do, terrorists will always be able to find some new method or place of attack. A year or two down the road, the administration will not be satisfied with our current security measures and will implement new methods that invade our privacy. This will happen because our philosophy on security is the ends justify the means, no matter what.

Instead, let's learn from Israel's effective airport security, where highly trained officials ask a few questions of each air passenger to detect potential threats.

> **Andrew Montgomery** Plymouth

No Kirpan

I have two children who attend the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools. Last Wednesday (Dec. 8), my 10-year-old son informed his father and me of a child at school with a knife. When questioned further, my son explained this child had been sent to the principal's office but came back to class with this knife. I was perplexed to say the least (and) thought I would give the school some time to notify the parents if there had been an incident. This administration has always been very prompt at sending home notifications, i.e., illness in class or "stranger danger." So I waited.

The next day, my son informed us that the child continues to bring the knife to school. No

On Friday morning, I contact the principal, Jerry Meier, who at that time explained to me the child in question is of the Sikh religion and the knife he is carrying is called a "Kirpan." It is a dagger that is symbolic for the Sikh religion.

The principal went on to explain that when a person of Sikh faith is baptized into the Sikh religion they are required to carry the Kirpan at all times.

Mr. Meier explained that because this Kirpan was not sharp he didn't feel it was an immediate danger to the students and he was seeking further consultation from the school board regarding this issue. Let me just add at this point, a Kirpan is not allowed on an aircraft. This item must be checked in luggage. I took the liberty of educating myself on the Kirpan by doing an image search on Google. I was in disbelief!

I contacted my local news station, which reported the story on the 11 o'clock news Friday evening. On Sunday, I discovered through an article in our local paper (the Canton Observer) the following:

"A Bentley Elementary School fourth-grader will be allowed to continue wearing a religious emblem, despite its resemblance to a weapon, while Plymouth-Canton Community Schools administrators determine an appropriate course of action, probably later this week."

This is not a Catholic school, this is not a Lutheran or Baptist school. This is also not a Sikh school. This school enforces very strict zero tolerance rules prohibiting weapons of any kind. I do not understand how these rules can be disregarded for the sake of one's religion. I find it irresponsible and discriminating that Plymouth-Canton Community Schools would make an exception to the zero tolerance rule and allow this weapon (that just happens to be a religious symbol) into my child's classroom.

It is not my intention to diminish the importance of any religion, in this case specifically the Sikh religious beliefs. I value my freedom of religion. But, I will not stand for an exception to American laws and values for the sake of anyone's religion including my own. As an American, I have a right to demand a safe and secure learning environment for my children. There are religions that allow the occasional beating of one's wife ... do we turn our heads when watching them practice this?

Tina Barbee Canton

Questions need answers

I have to commend the letter to the editor by retired Chief Maycock. It was well written.

What I would like the Observer to do is some investigative reporting. Go to the nearby communities and ask questions. What do they charge for transports? How much money comes back to the cities? Will they be willing to send resources to the City of Plymouth for mutual aid when the City cannot reciprocate? On EMS runs how many does it take to run a • code, CPR, properly? How many does it take to carry a 600-pound person? How will search and rescue be accomplished during a fire when so few Public Safety Officers will be on duty?

These are real questions and just a few of many that need real answers before the city pulls out of the Plymouth Community Fire Department. Please ask, there are lives and properties at stake.

> **Arthur Scott** Plymouth

All aglow for the holidays



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

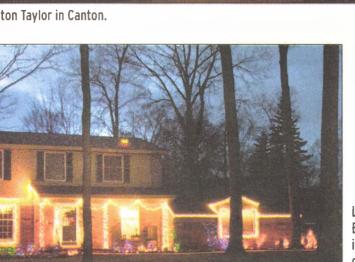


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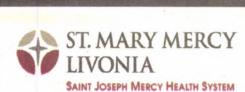
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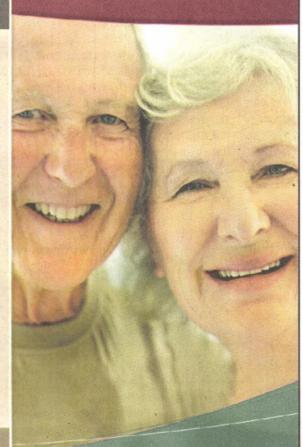
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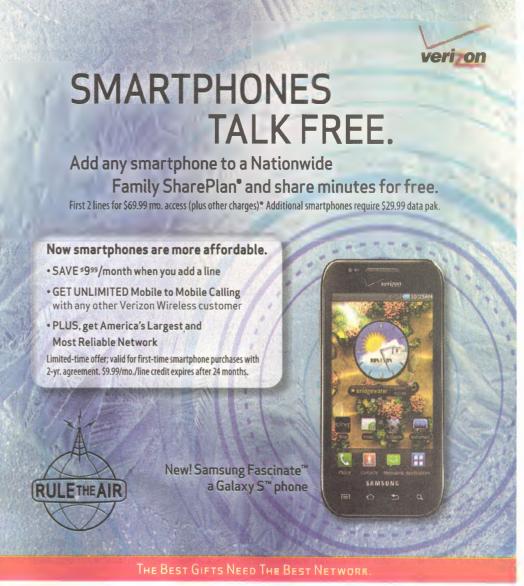
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Be wary of scam artists, guard your finances

ver since the financial crisis began, more and more financial Ponzi schemes have come to light. Ponzi schemes are a type of investment scam where existing investors are paid with money from new investors. The most famous Ponzi culprit

is Bernard Madoff, whose house of cards came tumbling down two years ago. A recent

Rick Bloom

stated the Money Matters U.S. Justice Department brought criminal and civil cases against

more than 500 people for fraud. These cases involve more than \$10 billion in inves-

To keep a Ponzi scheme going new money is constantly needed to pay off existing investors. When new money can't be raised (as in the Madoff situation), the fraud blows up.

Investors seem to think that only the rich are subject to Ponzi schemes, but that is not the case. Every type of investor has suffered from these types of frauds and that is why all investors need to keep their guard up.

I wish I could reveal the one thing to look for to avoid these frauds. I can't. However, there are things that all investors need to consider.

It seems that many Ponzi schemes and frauds these days are committed by family and friends. These types of frauds have grown so much they are now referred to as affinity frauds. Scam artists like Madoff prey on people

Public invited to audition for Madonna

The public is invited to audition for Madonna University's spring musical, Children of Eden, a frank, heartfelt and often humorous examination of the age-old conflict between parents and children based loosely on the Bible story of Genesis.

There are many roles available for men and women, and the public and students are encouraged to try out for a part.

The auditions are 5:30 to 8 p.m. Friday at Madonna University's Kresge Hall, 36600 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia.

Audition materials and requirements are available online at www.mytinyurl. com/eden or email bwiltsie@ madonna.edu to have information emailed to you.

The production dates of Children of Eden are April 2-3.





they know or who have similar interests. Madoff, being Jewish, scammed a disproportionate amount of investors who were Jewish. We have also witnessed a scam artist who was a pilot taking advantage of other pilots. It happens in every religion and every type of social or professional setting. The bottom line for

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, December 16, 2010

investors: Don't let your guard

The key is to do your homework before getting involved. The fact that someone belongs to the same church as you or your children play on the same sporting team is meaningless. Due diligence is crucial. Check out the investment independently. If you can't,

don't be afraid to walk away. Also, check out the person who wants you to invest. Do a Google search and check with state regulators. You would be surprised how a little bit of homework can save you from being involved with scam artists and crooks.

Scam artists like Madoff know that people will let their

guard down when they are dealing with someone with a shared interest. Don't let that

On a personal note I want to wish my dad, Mitch Bloom, a happy birthday. My dad celebrates his 90th birthday this week! It is my dad who taught me that when all is said and done, anyone who measures

wealth in dollars and cents is a loser. True wealth is measured in family and friends. Happy Birthday, Dad!

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

www.bloomassetmanagement.com.



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SPORTS

THURSDAY, December 16, 2010

hometownlife **m**com

ALCOHOL-FREE COCKTAILS, B11



Divine Child 'D' stymies Salem

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The scoreboard doesn't reveal how much early season non-conference games such as Tuesday against Dearborn Divine Child are helping Salem's relatively inexperienced girls basketball team.

Oh sure, the senior-laden Falcons (4-0) pretty much led wire-to-wire in their 41-27 victory over the host Rocks.

But Salem head coach Fred Thomann complimented his team (1-3) for how it competed despite the L in the win-loss ledger

"I told our girls we played very well tonight," Thomann said. "They were bigger, they had really good players (but) we competed every step of the way."

Salem senior guard and captain Heidi Schmidt was outstanding, especially in the first half. She tallied 14 points for the night (10 before halftime)

and collected seven rebounds.

"Heidi is our senior leader,"
Thomann said. "She's been a
three-year varsity player and
she's a solid, solid player that
makes shots, plays defense and
figures stuff out."

Please see HOOPS, B3



OHN KEMSI

Watching for a rebound Tuesday are Dearborn Divine Child's Rachel Kerry (No. 31), Morgan Blair (No. 21) and Salem's Katelyn Krause (No. 5).

BOYS SWIMMING & DIVING PREVIEW



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHE

One of the swimmers looking to again make an impact for Plymouth is senior Ethan Christenson, shown competing in the 100 butterfly during a dual

Relays good early test for 'Cats

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Doug Schade is still trying to figure out who can do what for his 2010-11 Plymouth varsity boys swimming and diving team.

But the coach will get more of an idea Friday evening at the annual Wildcat Holiday Relays. The event is set for 6:30 p.m. at Salem's natatorium.

"I think it's a good chance just to see what you have because you really don't know until you put it (the team) in the water," Schade said. "It's definitely more exciting than practice. And really, it's just kind of a fun meet and I think kids get really excited about it."

The annual
Wildcat Holiday
Relays event is
set for 6:30 p.m.
Friday at Salem's
natatorium.

Plymouth, Canton,
Redford Union and
six other schools will
compete. Varsity and
junior varsity swimmers will participate
in up to 10 scheduled
relays.
"We've been doing

this for three or four years and every year we've been adding teams," said Schade, about what is building into one of the biggest relay events in southeastern

Michigan. "I'd like to get as many teams as we can get in there and make it a really big deal."

Friday will be a departure from the

110111

CHANCE FOR EVERYBODY

There will be some events that teams do not swim in during regular dual meets, such as relays for the 200 fly, 200 back, 200 breast and 400-meter IM. Add to that a 500-meter crescendo relay.

"We're definitely going to swim all our kids, as will everybody else," Schade said. "Everybody for each event will have a varsity relay that's scoring points and everybody will be allowed to have a JV to swim for fun. So you get all your kids in the meet that way."

According to Schade, most of the

Please see SWIM, B3

Chiefs' veterans to lead the way

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Last year, the Canton varsity boys swimming and diving team grabbed half of the KLAA South Division crown with Plymouth.

The 2010-11 version will be somewhat experienced. But, Chiefs head coach Dave Le has an outstanding nucleus in place.

"Two thirds of our team this year are freshmen and sophomores," Le explained. "We have three seniors on the team and all three are captains.

"Chris Krebs, Jacob Dillon and Evan

Champine are all very good leaders and

team."
Three more reasons for optimism:
Canton also has Victor Zhang, Jay Jin
and Mike Carlson returning from last

I am excited to watch them lead this



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Senior returnee Jacob Dillon is one of Canton's leaders entering the new season.

year's Division 1 state qualifying team.
According to Le, what could make this a particularly worthwhile season is seeing the kind of progress others are able

'Two thirds of our team this year are freshmen and sophomores. We have three seniors on the team and all three are captains.'

DAVE LE, Canton swim coach

to make.

"We have had a few of the guys working in the off-season with some of the local club teams," said Le, then citing the names of Adrian Simion, Michael Wilyard, Sovik Roy and Drew Wade.

Other Canton contributors will include divers Ryan Kilgore, Wayne Roberts and Alex Sogge.

"All of them got some good experience last year," Le said. "It will be interesting to see how far they can go."

tsmith@hometownlife.com

SIDELINES

Big win for PCA girls

In a Tuesday night matchup of MIAC girls basketball teams, visiting Plymouth Christian Academy parlayed slick defense into a big halftime lead (28-10) and never looked back.

PCA (4-0, 1-0) pressed Lutheran Westland all over the floor, especially in the first half, said Eagles head coach Carol Gerulis.

That led to 25 Lutheran Westland turnovers – and plenty of buckets for the Eagles.

Leading Plymouth Christian was senior Brianna Harris with 12 points, five assists and four steals.

Jenna Abraham (eight points, four steals), Jennifer Malcolm (seven points, seven rebounds) and Emily Gerulis (four points, five boards) all made significant contributions to the victory.

The Eagles are idle until Jan. 10 due to the holiday

But Gerulis said the break comes at a good time, especially for Harris, Malcolm and Mary Anleitner. All three played for PCA's Class D state finalist volleyball team.

"They never really got any down time," Gerulis said. "It gives them a chance to kind of rejuvenate a little bit and we have a lot of work to do. So there's a lot of teaching time."

Conscientious Cards

Over the past five years the 14-Under Canton Cardinals travel baseball team has always worked hard in the offseason.

This season they are working a little harder not only to get ready for their last campaign before entering high school, but to help the community by teaming with the Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign to help those in need during this holiday season.

"Since we began this team back at the 9-U level we have always had, as part of our philosophy, a commitment to represent the community of Canton on and off the field in a positive way," Cards coach Jim Ragwan said. "It is gratifying to see both current players and parents along with the Cardinals alumni that we've coached over the past five years come together for a good cause."

The team in previous years made donations to needy

Please see **SIDELINES**, **B3**

Whalers' unusual tally: one penalty, two points

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A late goal by Stefan Noesen enabled the Plymouth Whalers to defeat Kingston 4-3 Saturday night in one of the strangest OHL games seen recently at Compuware Arena.

For starters, there was only one penalty all night — by the Whalers for having too

OHL HOCKEY

many men on the ice. If not for that, the crowd

of 1,915 would have witnessed the first penalty-free game by the Whalers since February 2003 in a game at Brampton.

"It was kind of a weird game, not too much emotion," Plymouth head coach Mike Vellucci said. "There was only one penalty. But I'm just happy we got our two points."

Asked what could have led to the lack of emotion, Vellucci emphasized that the Frontenacs were shorthanded and playing with just four defensemen.

"There was no yapping back and forth and they're in the other conference," he said. "We're done playing them for this year."

On the winning goal, with just 2:55 left in the third period, Noesen one-timed a centering pass from Garrett Meurs under the crossbar for his 14th goal of the season.



WALT DMOCH

Plymouth forward James Livingston sparked the Whalers Saturday night with his all-out hustle.

"Garrett was in the corner and picked that defenseman pretty well and I just happened to grab it right off the stick and roofed one," Noesen said.

Kingston then tried to even the contest up again in the final minute, pulling goalie Franky Palazzese (39 saves), but the Whalers controlled the play to close out the victory.

ut the victory. Balanced scoring helped the Whalers (17-10-1-1) notch their second win in two nights.

In the first period, winger Jamie
Devane finished a nifty, three-way passing play by burying a shot into the wide open Kingston net.

Defenseman Dario Trutmann sent the disc to hard-working right wing James Livingston who threaded it over to Devane.

Kingston tied the game before the end of the period, but the Whalers went back up 2-1 at 4:51 of the second period on center Robbie Czarnik's 12th goal of the year (from Farmington Hills native Alex Aleardi).

Just three minutes into the third, right

wing Rickard Rakell netted his 13th. It was another well-executed, odd-man rush with wingers Meurs and Noesen assisting.

"The balance is the key to our team," Vellucci said. "Everybody looks at all the other teams and they have top leading scorers.

"But any one of our guys can score, any of our top three lines, even our fourth line has been chipping in with goals too. It's been a nice little roll."

ALL OVER THE ICE

One of the peskiest Plymouth lines fea-

Please see WHALERS, B2

TYLER LAZORKA

Captain's CORNER

Who: Tyler Lazorka, senior cocaptain of Plymouth varsity boys hockey team. Miscellany: The 17-year-old Lazorka has played in 79 games so far in his high school career and is working toward being career leader in that category among Park hockey players. His parents are Tom and Laurie, who have instilled his work ethic and value system. Captain's job: "Only half of our team is returning this year and the other half is new and we have to help them to develop into a well-oiled machine. The other two captains (Tyler Sanders and Justin Bauer) and myself will be frequently

seeking the advise of the other

key players on our team. It is

our motto this year to lead by

example."



Leadershin

Leadership style: "You do not get respect by demanding it, you earn it by being an example. This year I plan to be that type of captain. I will work hard to support and assist our team to have a great season."

Why him? "When asked why my teammates chose me as a captain of the Plymouth Wildcats varsity hockey team, I think the answer might be as simple as that I am a role model for them."

Ferguson (AP), 1:30; 3rd: Danny Filippelli (Canton) p. Kyle Karrar (GI), 4:05; **5th:** Brian Spehar (GC) dec. R.J. Amine (Woodhaven), 6-0. 140: Zach Marsh (Canton) dec. Jeff

Czajka (Riv.), 4-1; 3rd: Josh Hall (RU) dec. Jake Mydloski (Carlson), 4:05; **5th:** Yeyia

Taleb (DF) dec. Sean Ellison (GI), 8-2. 145: Adnan Berisha (DHA) p. Mathew Rossi (Riv.), 2:23; 3rd: Vic Lindsey (DF) dec. Chris Tromley (GI), 8-4; 5th: Julia

dec. Chris Fromley (61), 6-4, 5th; Julia Salata (Canton) won by major dec. over Coy Sillanpaa (C'ville), 15-6. 152: Mike Carnavon (Riv.) dec. William Snider (GI), 10-6; 3rd: Aaron Bibik (C'ville) dec. Patrick Murphy (Canton), 4-2; 5th; Tony Dunlap (AP) p. Sheehab Natour (DF), 4-57

160: Ali Harp (DF) won by major dec. John Davis (NF), 10-2; 3rd: Nate Labonte (Carlson) won by major dec. Roderick Howard (RU), 11-1; 5tn: Mike Church (GI) p.

Howard (KU), 11-1; **stn:** Mike Church (G) p. Brendan Groves (C'ville), 4:44.

171: Kevin Miller (NF) won by major dec. over Collin Rankin (RU), 14-5; **3rd:** Zack Kephart (Carlson) dec. Martin Kemp (LW), 6-1; **5th:** Hunter McCoy (DHA) dec. Travaun Reaves (Berkley), 7-0.

Reaves (Berkley), 7-0.

189: Anthony Abro (Canton) won by major dec. over Courtney Drew (NF), 23-9; 3rd: Jake Martin (Riv.) p. Desmond Livingston (Ink.), 3:47; 5th: Mo Soukar (DF) dec. Dylan Brown (DHA), 5-2.

215: Robby Lincoln (Canton) dec. Houston Garcia (DHA), 2-1; 3rd: Adam Drucz (GC) p. Ali Bazzi (DF), 1:25; 5th: Justin Shelton (NF) dec. Daven Gardiner (RU), 14-13.

285: Ben Poirier (Canton) pinned

285: Ben Poirier (Canton) pinned

3:38; **5th:** Rupert Miller (AP) p. Quintin Ruddell (Woodhaven), 1:20.

Christian Colon (RU), 0:12; **3rd:** Majd Mokbel (NF) p. Joe Lennis-Saunders (DHA),

PREP WRESTLING RESULTS

46th annual
GARDEN CITY INVITATIONAL
WRESTLING TOURNAMENT

Dec. 11 at Garden City TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Canton, 280.5 points; 2. North Farmington, 156.5; 3. Riverview, 149.5; 4. Fordson, 120; 5.

(tie) Allen Park and Dearborn Heights Annapolis, 115.5 each; 7. Grosse He, 114.5; 8. Redford Union, 110; 9. Gibraltar Carlson, 66.5; 10. Garden City, 63; 11. Livonia Churchill (B), 52; 12. Livonia Clarenceville, 49; 13. Berkley, 45; 14. Woodhaven (B), 38; 15. Lutheran High Westland, 33; 16. Inkster, 20

CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS 103 pounds: Ben Griffin (Canton) won major decision over Mike Farkas (AP),

17-3; **3rd:** Brandon Washington (Carlson) dec. Jared Redmer (NF), 5-3; **5th:** Zach

112: Richard DeMarois (Canton) p. Jake Polenkiewicz (AP), 3:54; **3rd:** Aaron Par-Besemer (Berkley) dec. Eli Cabellaro (G1), 7-2; **5th**; Zach Francis (LW) dec. Dain

Brandon Hernandez (Riv.), 3-2; **3rd:** Jordan Russell (NF) dec. Alex Karrar (GI),

6-4; **5th:** Mike Weiss (C'ville) won by major dec. over Rami Merhi (DF), 10-0.

125: Keshav Patel (Canton) dec. Chris Carroll (Riv.), 7-4; 3rd: Steve Knox (RU) dec. Mike Williams (NF), 8-3; 5th: Imad Soucar (DF) dec. Nick Doane (GC), 7-6.

130: Alex Eimers (Canton) won technical fall over Adel Yaffai (Churchill)

135: Keegan Cummins (DHA) p. Brad

16-0; **3rd:** Danny Okun (Berkley) dec. Britton Borlace (GC), 5-4; **5th:** Joe Benjamin (NF) dec. Chucky Wright (GI),

Runyan (Riv.), 5-2. 119: Alec Pantaleo (Canton) dec.

Bohn (Churchill) pinned Devin McClain

tured center Mitchell Heard between wingers Devane and Livingston.

"They shut down their top line, that was their role tonight and they did a great job," Vellucci said. "They've done that the last couple games."

But the Whalers could not put away the Frontenacs (16-10-2-2), partly because of bad luck. Winger Tom Wilson and defenseman Beau Schmitz each clanked shots off the goal

Kingston then cut the deficit to 3-2 with just 1.3 seconds to go in the second period when Ryan Spooner redirected a sharp-angle shot from the right circle by Sean Jones past Plymouth goalie Scott Wedgewood (29 saves).

On Kingston's tying goal midway through the third, the puck eluded a Plymouth defenseman at the Frontenacs' blue line and triggered a rush the other way.

Center Michael Fine fed a pass to winger Mitch Lebar whose first try was denied by Wedgewood. But Lebar followed up his own shot and tucked in the rebound.

Kingston had a glorious chance to take the lead three minutes later, following a Plymouth turnover. Nathan



WALT DMOCH

Finishing his check against a Kingston player Saturday night is Plymouth Whalers' defenseman Beau Schmitz.

Moon broke in only to have his shot sticked aside by Wedgewood.

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, December 16, 2010

Plymouth winger Tyler Brown said going down to the wire for a victory is nothing new this season.

"Every win doesn't come easy," Brown said. "So we got a young team and we know we got to grind it out and we'll take whatever we can get."

Although the Whalers veered from the game plan

enough to let Kingston back into it, Brown stressed that they got back on track in time for the victory.

"We just tried to get pucks in deep," Brown said. "We knew they only had four defensemen tonight, so we tried to get them really tired and we just keep forechecking."

SAGINAW 4. PLYMOUTH 2: On Sunday afternoon in Saginaw, the Whalers kicked off a four-game

The only thing he knows about flooring is which aisle it's in.

road trip with this defeat.

The Spirit scored twice in the second to break a 1-1 tie and goaltender Mavrio Parks (30 saves) stopped 11 of 12 shots in the third period, enough to keep Plymouth from netting the equalizer.

Scoring for Plymouth (17-11-1-1) were Robbie Czarnik and Beau Schmitz. Victimized for four goals on 23 shots was goalie Scott Wedgewood.

tsmith@hometownlife.com

PREP BOWLING

PLYMOUTH (BOYS) 24 W.L. NORTHERN 6 Dec. 10 at Wonderland Bowl Plymouth scorers: Evan Grimme, 272-194-466; Eric Thompson, 190-217-407; Rob Korstjens, 199-183-382; Brandon Congdon, 188-192-380; Justin Thompson, 171; Joe

Langell, 154 Team totals: Plymouth, 1,020-940-

1940 (18 points); Walled Lake Northern, 810-897-1,707 (2 points).

Baker games: Plymouth, 175-224-399 (6 points); Northern, 181-152-333 (4

PLYMOUTH (GIRLS) 16 W.L. NORTHERN 14

Dec. 10 at Wonderland Bowl Plymouth scorers: MacKenzie Carlson, 144-175-319; Tiffani Patterson, 131-169-300; Caitlyn Webb, 149-146-295; Emily Fraser,

162-132-294; Allyson Gibbs, 141. **Team totals:** Plymouth, 676-763-1,439 (6 points); Northern, 689-785-1,474 (14

Baker games: Plymouth, 157-142-299 (10 points); Northern, 107-115-222 (0

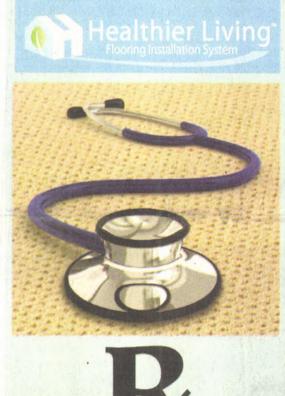
W.L. NORTHERN (JV BOYS) 23 PLYMOUTH 7
Dec. 10 at Wonderland Bowl
Plymouth scorers: Sean Silagy, 154169-323; Tyler Lattgo, 158-144-302; Burhan
Yaish, 166; Matt Bracey, 160; Zack Behr,

Team totals: Plymouth, 757-808-1,565 (3 points); Northern, 846-935-1,681 (17

Baker games: Plymouth, 150-141-291 (4 points); Northern, 175-135-310 (6 points).







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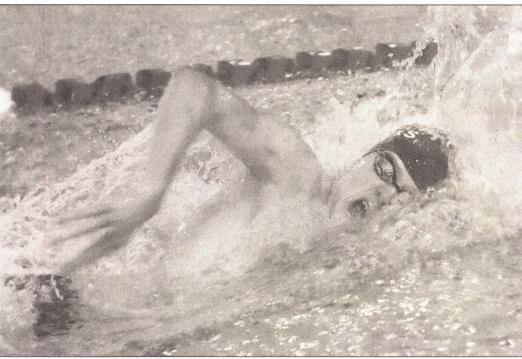
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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Salem senior co-captain Matt Collingwood races during the 100 free during a 2009-10 dual meet.

Salem tankers eye big season

BY TIM SMITH **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

Salem's varsity boys swimming and diving team has already made a splash to open the 2010-11 season, winning Saturday's Eastern Michigan University Relays.

And Rocks' veteran coach Chuck Olson has high hopes for how his team — and the versatile athletes on it — can

Senior co-captains Matt Collingwood, Max Mills and Adam Seroka "can swim any event with the talent to score at the D-1 state finals," Olson said.

In between, Salem should pose plenty of problems for opponents in the KLAA Central Division and Kensington Conference and

PREVIEW

greatly improve upon last season's record (2-3 in the conference, 1-3 in the Central).

"It should be a real exciting season for Salem swimming, Olson noted.

There is plenty of experience, spearheaded by the trio of Collingwood, Mills and Seroka.

Also expected to score their share of points will be the team's remaining seniors, Akshay Bhaktawara (breaststroke), Scott Carpenter (freestyle), Steve Clagg (freestyle), Aaron Micek (freestyle), Joey Udelic (diving) and Greg Rupp (freestyle).

Salem also has versatility among its junior ranks. Both Patrick Huls and Calvin Kahler are capable to race in

all events.

Other juniors are Nick Griwicki (diving), Jeremy Horvath (freestyle), Will Long (freestyle), Noah Santer (freestyle and butterfly) and Jeremy Wellman (butterfly and backstroke).

Helping out the upperclassmen will be sophomores Jerry Bai (freestyle), Samaran Bhaktawara (breaststroke and IM), Dan Lynch (freestyle). Turner Solterman (breaststroke and IM) and Jason Zang (all strokes).

Freshman Charlie Dillon is another diver for the Rocks to employ, while Matt Pairitz (freestyle) and Eric Li (all strokes) are two other ninth graders Olson will be calling

tsmith@hometownlife.com

The first half featured plenty of missed shots and turnovers by both teams. Divine Child managed leads of 12-8 after one stanza and 22-16 at the break.

Salem could not take advantage of several chances to at least pull even during the second quarter. And, unfortunately for the home team, that served as a reason for Falcons head coach Mary Laney to sound the alarm.

"We picked up our defensive intensity in the second half," Laney, said. "The energy and intensity in general picked up and we needed to do that."

A sign that the Falcons were listening came in the opening seconds of the third when junior guard Cara Miller (13 points, four steals) buried a triple from beyond the top of the arc to make it 25-16.

"That definitely lifted us up, the halftime talk worked," Laney said.

Miller followed up with a layup and another trey to give Divine Child a 30-16 edge just over two minutes into the quarter.

Salem junior guard Bri Berberet (10 points, five steals) answered with a pair of treys of her own, from opposite corners, to slice the Divine Child lead to 30-22.

SHUTDOWN MODE

In the fourth quarter, however, all the Rocks could muster was a jumper by Schmidt and a free throw by freshman Hannah Nowaske.

For the final 5:20, Salem could not find the mark. The Falcons were all over the Rocks, who could not consistently get open looks worth

"Every play that we did they would switch their defense," Schmidt said. "We couldn't get our offense started."

One usually tough inside player for the Rocks, 5-11 sophomore forward Breanne Beaver, was held without a point. But she did lead Salem with eight rebounds.

"We knew we had to shut her (Beaver) down but then I didn't know we had to shut (Schmidt) down," Laney said. "She had a great shooting night and she hurt us in the first half. "Morgan Blair really took her responsibility

JOHN KEMSKI Salem senior guard Heidi Schmidt (left) looks to dribble past Dearborn Divine Child's Morgan Blair (No. 21) during Tuesday night's non-conference girls basketball game.

seriously and shut her down in the second half." Also scoring 13 points for the Falcons was junior guard Rosanna Reynolds, who Thomann said gave his team fits.

"She (Reynolds) challenged our guards and gave them all they wanted plus some," he noted.

Next up for the Rocks is a big campus match-

up, 7 p.m. Thursday at Plymouth. It will give Thomann a chance to square off against Wildcats' first-year coach Bob deBear, whose daughter Brett was an all-conference

player in 2009-10, her senior year at Salem. "That will be a good game for us," Thomann

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swims are 50 or 100 yards, so that will enable more kids to compete and be evaluated in a low-pressure environment.

"You can see how your newer swimmers swim and they don't have to go a lot of distance," he continued. Plus there also will be a festive theme - lightening things up on the eve of a two-week holiday hiatus.

"We have a holiday theme, we give candy canes out to the heat winners," Schade said. "The boys like that, they think that's fun." There also will be trophies and medals, by the

Also anticipating the relays is Canton head

coach Dave Le, because the many freshmen and sophomores on the squad will be looking to gain extra experience. "Friday's meet is a good meet to start the

season off with because we have a very young

team," Le said. "It gives everyone an opportunity to compete.'

In addition to the Wildcats, Chiefs and Panthers, other teams at the relays include Howell, Tecumseh, South Lyon, Woodhaven, Dearborn Edsel Ford and Monroe.

EXPECTATIONS FOR '10-11

As for the '10-11 season, the Wildcats have 25 swimmers and Schade said they should again be competitive in the KLAA South Division - which they won a share of last season with

Top returnees include seniors Ethan Christenson, Alex Juney and Zach Koch; juniors Adam Liakos, Todd Maslyk; and sophomores Cameron Earls, Nick Weber and diver Connor McManus.

'All our swimmers are expected to swim all events," Schade stressed. "We really don't categorize swimmers. This helps us match up in dual meets in a close competition."

tsmith@hometownlife.com

Holiday runners

Plymouth Christian cross country runners Jimmy Parks, Trevor Baloga and 2010 team captain Robert Fergan ran with their coach, Jennifer Lemieux, at the Thanksgiving Day Detroit Turkey Trot. Lemieux, the female masters champion with a time of 22:28, said Fergan paced him in the race. Parks and Baloga each reached the Division 4 state meet this season. Pictured are (from left) Parks, Baloga, Lemieux and Fergan.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Combine training

Combine training for high school football to prepare for the 2011 season will be Sundays, beginning Jan. 20, at the Auburn Hills Sports Dome. Players will be taught drills

and techniques used to prepare college seniors for the NFL Combine and use SPARQ, Michigan Preps and NUC testing protocols.

To register, visit www.coachjacksonspeed.com; or call coach Jaime Jackson at (248) 535-7404.

MU softball camps

Madonna University women's softball coach Al White and his staff will hold two sessions of winter camps, specializing in individual instruction, including:

Fundamental Camp No. 1

Jan. 8, 15, 22 and 29, at the MU Activities Center, 36600 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia;

Fundamental Camp No. 2 - noon-2:30 p.m. Sundays, Feb. 6, 13, 22 and 27, at the MU Activities Center.

The cost is \$150 for each camp.

For more information, call White at (734) 432-5783; or assistant coach Steve Gentilia at (734) 776-1716. You can also e-mail awhite@madonna.edu.

Baseball coaches wanted

• University of Detroit Jesuit High School needs a varsity baseball coach for the 2011 season.

If interested, fax or e-mail U-D High athletic director at (313) 862-3299; mickey.barrett@uofdjesuit.org.

• The 13-Under Great Lakes

- 9 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Saturdays,

Cardinals (formerly the Canton Cardinals) are looking for an experienced travel baseball player for the 2011 season.

The team competes in seven tournaments as well as league play, totaling more than 50 games for the season.

Those interested in playing should contact head coach Dan Hejka, Sr. via e-mail at cardscoach13@ymail.com.

organizations. This year, "we decided, as a team, to put in the physical work with the Salvation Army," Radwan

"We have an excellent group of kids on the team and the great response we had from the boys to help people who have had an 'unfair' life makes me proud," head coach Jim Hejka said.

This year's Cardinals includes: Tyler Harnos, Aaron Huggins, Kevin Anthony, Jake Skillman, Scott Bazner, Andrew Jossey, Aaron Miller, Ryan Radwan, Robert Guajardo, Josh Hejka, head coach Hejka, coach Radwan, coach Bob Bazner.

1st Pitch banquet

Detroit Lions broadcaster and Fox 2 Sports Director Dan Miller will be the featured speaker at the Madonna University baseball program's second annual First Pitch banquet, Sunday, Jan. 23, at the Italian American Club in

The event begins at noon with a social hour were fans can meet and get autographs from the 2011 Crusader players. The meal and program follow at 1 p.m.

Individual tickets are \$60 (tables for 10 are \$600). Proceeds from the event will help defray costs for the MU

Contact this newspaper or

Michigan Press Association.

baseball program including travel, uniforms and other needed amenities.

There will also be a silent auction where attendees can bid on sports memorabilia items, along with vacation and golf packages, sporting event tickets and more.

Last year's featured speaker, former University of Detroit baseball coach and Philadelphia Phillies Whiz Kid pitcher Bob Miller will also be in attendance.

Last year MU posted a school-record 48 wins and advanced to the NAIA National Tourney for the second straight year.

Ranked No. 11 in the NAIA Preseason Coaches Poll, MU opens its season Feb. 18 at the Tennessee Valley Invitational.

For First Pitch banquet ticket information or sponsorship opportunities, call Linda Hall at the MU Advancement Office at (734) 432-5603.

Fox airs finals

The MHSAA Fall Super Show on FOX Sports Detroit will premiere at 10 p.m. (not 11:30 a.m. as announced last week) on Saturday, Dec. 18)

The show is a recap of MHSAA fall championships in cross country and tennis in both peninsulas, and lower peninsula girls golf.

The show will also air at the following times: 9 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 19; 2 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 22; 9 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 25; and noon Sunday, Jan. 2 and 30.



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VOICES & VIEWS: COMMENT ONLINE

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. 16-22

Breakfast and Santa

Time/Date: 8:30 am-noon, Sunday,

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 seminarian chanter, 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

Contact: (734) 422-0010; www.saintmarylivonia.com

Concert

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, December 16, 2010

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

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

DEC. 23-29

38th Annual Old Moravian Love Feast

Metropolitan United Methodist Church

invites you to an Old Moravian Love Feast.

Bring the whole family to celebrate the birth

of Christ through scripture, beautiful music,

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Sunday, December 19, 2010 • 7:00 p.m.

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For more information call...313-875-7407

or www.metroumc.org

call (248) 646-1200

Christmas Eve Time/Date: Friday, Dec. 24 **Location**: Orchard United Methodist Church, 30450 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills

Details: 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. family services; 10 p.m. traditional candlelight

Contact: (248) 626-3620

Christmas Eve

Time/Date: 7 p.m. and 11 p.m. Dec. 24 Location: Christ the King Evangelical Lutheran Church, 9300 Farmington Road, Livonia

Details: Worship service Contact: (734) 421-0749

Christmas Eve/Day

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Dec. 24 and 10 a.m. Dec. 25

Location: Lola Park Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford

Details: Worship services Contact: (313) 532-8655 or (734) 986-

ONGOING

Time/Date: 6:30-8 p.m., Wednesdays Location: Faith Bible Church, 23414 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills Details: AWANA program for children from kindergarten-fifth grade Contact: (248) 426-0096

Classes/study **Emmanuel Lutheran Church** Time/Date: 7-8 p.m., second Monday of

the month **Location**: 34567 Seven Mile, between Farmington and Newburgh roads, Livonia

Details: Open Arms Bible class for adults with developmental disabilities and special needs. Includes songs, Bible lessons, crafts and activities, prayer, snacks and fun.

Contact: Judy Cook at Emmanuel, (248) 442-8822 or e-mail to jcook59@ att.net.

Livonia Unity

Time/Date: Monday movement Qigong, 7-8:30 p.m.; Thursday Qigong meditation, 10-11:15 a.m., and Friday Therapeutic Qigong, 7-8:30 p.m.

Location: 28660 Five Mile, Livonia **Details**: Learn Qigong, the ancient form of Chinese energetic medicine - rid the body of toxic pathogens and painful emotions

Contact: (810) 813-4073 or gary@energeticarts.org.

Men's Bible study

Time/Date: Breakfast at 7 a.m. and study at 8 a.m. **Location**: Kirby's Coney Island, 21200

Haggerty, Northville Township Contact: John Shulenberger at (734)

New Life Community Church Time/Date: Jobs seminar, 8-9 am., Fridays; reading program for students in grades K-12 and martial arts instruction, both at 10 a.m., Sundays Location: 42200 Tyler, Belleville Contact: (734) 846-4615 for informa-

Nicole's Revival

Time/Date: 10:30 a.m., Monday-Friday Location: YWCA Northwest Branch, 25940 Grand River, west of Beech Daly, Redford

Details: KJV Scripture Reading, Communion and Prayer Contact: (313) 531-1234 Our Lady of Loretto

Time/Date: 6:30-7:30 p.m. Monday Location: Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford

Details: Scripture study Contact: (313) 534-9000 **Ward Presbyterian**

Time/Date: 7 p.m., Mondays Location: Room A101, 40000 W. Six Mile, Northville

Details: Learner's Bible study is held Contact: (248) 374-5920

Clothing bank **Canton Christian Fellowship** Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., fourth

Saturday and 5-6:30 p.m., second Wednesday Location: 41711 Joy, between Lilley and Haggerty

Details: Canton Christian Fellowship Clothing Bank offers free clothing (men, women and children) for those in need Contact: (734) 404-2480, visit www. CantonCF.org or send e-mail to info@ cantoncf.org

Fellowship dinner St. James Presbyterian

Time/Date: 6 p.m., the first Thursday of

Location: 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford Details: Cost is \$8 and includes dinner, beverage and dessert. The Cookie Lady, Susan Navarro, provides the meals Contact: (313) 268-7780. The church phone number is (313) 534-7730

Food Bank **New Hope Church**

Time/Date: 5-7 p.m., every Friday by appointment only

Location: is 44815 Cherry Hill, Canton **Contact**: Call pastor Ranay Brown to schedule an appointment at (734) 270-2528.

Moms

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church Time/Date: 9:30-11:30 a.m., second Tuesday, MOPS; 7-8:30 p.m., first and third Thursday, MOPSnext. Both programs run through May

Location: 14175 Farmington Road,

Details: Mothers of Preschoolers is aimed at mothers of infants through kindergartners; MOPSnext supports mothers of school-aged children. The theme will be "Momology - The Art & Science of Mothering" for MOPS and "Boundaries" for MOPSnext Contact: Rebekah Creeden at 734) 524-

0283 for MOPS and Susan Magner at (248) 478-3643 for MOPS

Dunning Park Bible Chapel Time/Date: 9:30-11:30 a.m., first and third Tuesdays

Location: 24800 West Chicago Road, Redford

Details: MOPS is a place where moms can build friendships, receive mothering support, practical help and spiritual

Contact: Amy at (313) 937-3084 or Kristen at (734) 542-0767

Pet-friendly service Time/Date: 1 p.m., Sunday

Location: Dunk N Dogs, 27911 Five Mile, **Details**: All Creatures ULC sponsors

the service which is conducted in an informal setting. Pet blessings are available after the service. All Creatures ULC describes the gathering as nondenominational and Christian. Water is available for dogs Contact: (313) 563-0162

Nardin Park United Methodist Church

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Wednesday Location: 29887 W. 11 Mile, Farmington

Details: Participate in an open time of praying silently and aloud together as well as responding to personal requests Contact: (248) 476-8860

St. Edith Church

(734) 464-8906

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday Location: 15089 Newburgh, Livonia. Enter through the back of the church Details: Music, singing, prayer Contact: Grace at (734) 464-1896, Shirley at (734) 464-3656, or Geri at

St. Michael's Church of Livonia Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. third

Wednesday **Location**: Corner of Plymouth and Hubbard roads, Livonia

Details: Parish prayer and Eucharistic Adoration. Benediction service follows. (734) 261-1455

Senior citizens Riverside Park Church of God Time/Date: 11:30 a.m., third Thursdays

Location: 11771 Newburgh, Livonia Details: Senior adults, age 50 and over, enjoy social interaction and food **Contact**: (734) 464-0990

First Presbyterian Church Time/Date: Thursdays 7:30-7:45 p.m. for social time, 7:45-8 p.m. opening, 8-9

Location: 200 E. Main St., Northville

Details: Single Place Ministry meets;

Contact: (248) 349-0911 or visit www. singleplace.org

Steve's Family Restaurant Time/Date: 9 a.m. second and fourth Thursday

Location: 15800 Middlebelt, 1/4 mile north of Five Mile, Livonia **Details:** Widowed men of all ages may attend the Widowed Friends Men's breakfast. This is an informal "peer"

group where men have an opportunity to meet with others who are ready to help cope or become involved in the other social activities offered by Widowed Friends.

Contact: (313) 534-0399

Ward Evangelical Presbyterian

Time/Date: 11:30 a.m., Sunday Location: 40000 Six Mile, Northville **Details:** Single Point Ministries, for 30 and up, offers fellowship. Coffee, dough-

Contact: (248) 374-5920

Sona Circle

nuts, conversation

Congregation Beth Ahm Time/Date: Noon to 12:30 p.m., every Shabbat

Location: 5075 W. Maple, West Bloomfield

Details: Sing zemirot (traditional Shabbat songs) and celebrate Kiddush following morning services. Lyrics are provided in transliteration as well as the original Hebrew.

Contact: (248) 737-1931 or e-mail nancyellen879@att.net.

Support **Detroit World Outreach**

Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesday Location: 23800 W. Chicago, Redford; room 202

Details: Addiction No More offers support for addictive behavior problems, drugs, alcohol, overeating, gambling Contact: (313) 255-2222, Ext. 244 Farmington Hills Baptist Church

of the month except January, July and **Location**: 28301 Middlebelt, between 12

Time/Date: 7-9 p.m., second Tuesday

Mile and 13 Mile **Details:** Western Oakland Parkinson Support Group

Contact: (248) 433-1011 Merriman Road Baptist Church Time/Date: 1-3 p.m., second and fourth

Thursday Location: 2055 Merriman, Garden City **Details**: Metro Fibro-Myalgia support group meets; no dues, but donations are accepted

Contact: www.metrofibrogroup.com; or call Lucy with questions at (734) 462-1768

Sunday School/Bible Class

Early Childhood Center

Phone 734-513-8413

Please see CALENDAR, B5

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NATIVITY OF THE VIRGIN MARY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH 39851 West Five Mile, Plymouth Twp., MI Sunday Services Matins 8:30 am, Divine Liturgy 10:00 am Rev. Fr. Demetrios Sean Govostes. Parish Office 734-420-0131 Office Hours M-F 10:00 am - 2:00 pm www.natlvitygochurch.org

PRESBYTERIAN

Fellowship Presbyterian Church **Adult Sunday School:** 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. • **Worship:** 10:30 a.m. Childrens Sunday School: 10:30 a.m. Pastor: Dr. Jimmy McGuire Services held at: Saint Andrews Episcopal Church 16360 Hubbard Road in Livonia • South of Six Mile Road

Nursery provided • www.fellowship-presbyterian.org

For Information regarding this Directory, please call Donna Hart at 248-437-2011, Ext. 247

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Churches offer services for those feeling blue

BY SHARON DARGAY O&E STAFF WRITER

If you feel sad or troubled this Christmas season, you might find relief at a church service meant to ease the pain of loss.

St. Genevieve Catholic Church will hold a "Longest Night" worship service at 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 20, at 29015 Jamison, off Middlebelt between Five Mile and Schoolcraft in Livonia. The quiet, meditative gathering is an alternative for those who don't feel comfortable celebrating the holiday in a traditional Christmas Eve or morning service.

"The mood we're shooting for is relaxing, comforting, quiet. It will be dim, with candles. We want people to be able to rest and lay their burdens down and be comforted," said Diane Montes, youth minister coordinator. "We're going to gear it down. Instead of speaking from the altar, we'll bring a lectern down to make it feel more intimate.

"We do invite the whole community. You don't have to be Catholic to be blessed by this."

Montes based the service on one she had attended four years ago at a church in Birmingham. At the time she was grieving the loss of her 22-year-old son, who had died in June that year.

STORIES OF LOSS

She'll be among the speakers at the special service who will talk briefly about their personal experiences. She'll reflect on the loss of a loved one. Others will focus on job loss, illness and hope. A short prayer, reflection time and lighting of an advent candle will follow each

"Grief is a physical manifestation that knocks you off your feet. It's so hard to recover, especially at Christmas," she said. "That first Christmas I couldn't put up decorations. I couldn't imagine celebrating. It does get better. Every day it's a little easier.

"But there are so many other kinds of loss. There may be people who can't continue the traditions their family is used to. They aren't bringing in the same income. They see others shopping and buying and they are just trying to pay the bills. Or they aren't sure what will happen to their job the first of the year or they

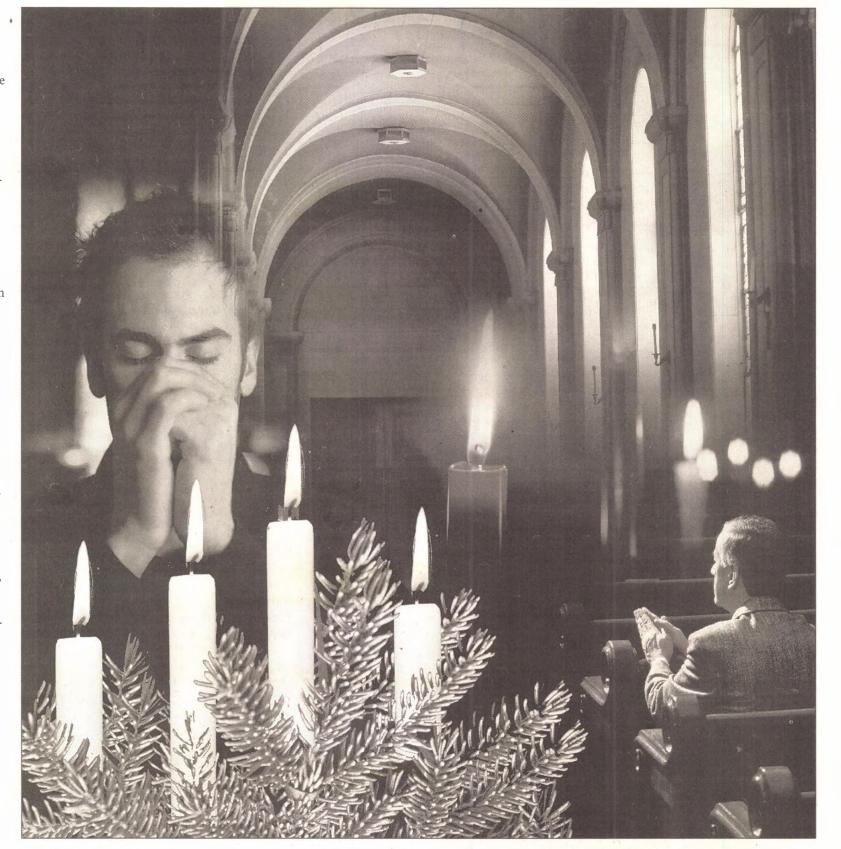
EMPATHY

She said her own loss made her more aware of the burdens that other individuals carry.

"When people are aware of what you've suffered, they feel free to share about their own suffering."

The service will wrap up with a blessing and opportunity for each individual to light a

Longest Night services are held on or near the first day of winter when sunset comes early, days are short and spirits may sink in the growing darkness.



Here's a sampling of other alternative Christmas services:

• St. John's Episcopal Church, 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 19, 574 S. Sheldon, Plymouth. The "Blue Christmas Service" is designed to help people who are hurting because of loss or crisis, find peace and solace. The service includes readings from poetry and scripture, prayer, and a special candle lighting litany. Holy Communion is offered, and music will include not only quiet Christmas carols, but also songs from the Taize tradition. (734) 453-0190

 First United Methodist Church, 7 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 21, in the sanctuary, 1589 W.

Maple, Birmingham. The place "to bring the grief, anxiety and pain that often surfaces during the holidays," the Longest Night worship service will include peaceful music, personal prayer, stories of hope, communion and a candle lighting. Cookies and punch will be served in the fellowship hall after the service; (248) 646-1200.

Riverside Park Church of God Time/Date: 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday-Friday

Location: 11771 Newburgh, Livonia **Details**: Riverside Park Adult Day Ministry offers an adult daytime care program with a specialty in dementia

Contact: (734) 367-4220; www.river-

sideparkchurch.org St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Time/Date: 10 a.m. to noon Saturday morning

Location: 16360 Hubbard, Livonia Details: A weekly drop-in Food Cupboard (nonperishable items) is available. There are no requirements, this a service the church wants the community to be aware of and use if needed. Donations of nonperishable items also accepted for the cupboard.

Contact: (734) 421-8451. St. John's Episcopal Church Time/Date: 10 a.m., the first and third

Friday **Location**: 574 S. Sheldon, Plymouth **Details**: St. John's Support Group for the Caregiver's of Alzheimer's patients or patients with other forms of dementia meets. Respite care is provided. The group is authorized by the Alzheimer's Association

Contact: Connie McNutt at (734) 895-

Thomas a' Becket Church Time/Date: Weigh-in is 6:15-6:55 p.m.; support group meeting starts at 7 p.m.,

Thursday

Location: 555 S. Lilley, Canton **Details**: Take Off Pounds Sensibly encourages members of the organization to lose weight and keep it off for good

Contact: Margaret at (734) 838-0322 Unity of Livonia

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday **Location**: 28660 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster, Livonia **Details**: Overeaters Anonymous Contact: (313) 387-9797. www.oa.org **Ward Evangelical Presbyterian**

Church Time/Date: 6 p.m. dinner (optional); 7 p.m. praise/worship; 8 p.m. small group discussion; 9 p.m. Solid Rock Cafe (optional coffee/desserts) **Location**: 40000 Six Mile, Northville **Details**: Celebrate Recovery helps men and women find freedom from hurts, habits and hang-ups (addictive and compulsive behaviors); child care is free Contact: Child care, call (248) 374-7400. Visit www.celebraterecovery.com and www.wardchurch.org/celebrate

Thrift store St. James Presbyterian

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday Location: 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford Contact: (313) 534-7730

Way of Life Christian Church Time/Date: 2-3:30 p.m., third Saturday from October through May Location: 9401 General Drive, Lilley Executive Plaza, Suite 100, Plymouth Details: Women's fellowship is designed for women with a question to know God

more in their lives Contact: (734) 637-7618

Tree sale Time/Date: Through 2010 **Location**: Oakland Baptist Church, on Beck Road just south of 10 Mile in Novi **Details**: The church is selling trees for \$200. Trees will be planted on the church property. Purchasers can dedicate what they buy in honor of someone they know, of a member of the church or former member. Dedication plaques are available for each tree **Contact**: The Rev. Tim Whyte, after 5 p.m., at (248) 882-4041 or Roxie Sinclair

at (248) 437-0832

Adat Shalom Synagogue Time/Date: 6 p.m. Friday, 9 a.m. and 9 p.m., Saturday, 7:30 a.m., 8:30 a.m., Sunday and 6 p.m., week days Location: 29901 Middlebelt, Farmington

Contact: (248) 851-5100 Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church Time/Date: 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. services; 9:45 a.m. Sunday school and youth and adult Bible classes Location: 14175 Farmington Road, just north of I-96, Livonia Contact: (734) 522-6830

Congregation Bet Chaverim

Time/Date: Services are held 7 p.m., the third Friday of the month Location: At the shared facilities of Cherry Hill United Methodist Church, 321 S. Ridge, Canton

Details: Reformed Jewish Congregation Contact: Roberta Malkowski, president/ treasurer at (248) 231-6280

Due Season Christian Church

Time/Date: 10 a.m. Sunday, with 7:15 p.m., Tuesday Bible study **Location**: Stevenson High School on Six Mile, west of Farmington Road, in

Details: Nondenominational, multicultural, full gospel church services Contact: (248) 960-8063 or visit www. DueSeason.org.

Faith Lutheran Church Time/Date: 10 a.m. Sunday: learning

hour is at 9 a.m. for all ages **Location**: 30000 Five Mile, west of Middlebelt, Livonia

Contact: Visit www.livonfaith.org Garden City Presbyterian Church Time/Date: 10 a.m. Sunday worship service with traditional hymns, scripture readings and choral music; 10 a.m., youth Sunday school and nursery care; 8:30 a.m. adult Sunday school; 6 p.m., informal gathering with scriptures and

discussion every Sunday Location: Middlebelt one block south of Ford Road

Contact: (734) 421-7620 **Good Hope Lutheran Church** Time/Date: 9:30 a.m. Sunday school followed by 10:30 a.m. worship service with communion each Sunday; Bible study 10 a.m. Wednesdays **Location**: 28680 Cherry Hill, Garden

Contact: (734) 427-3660

Grace Lutheran Church

Time/Date: 8 a.m. traditional Sunday service, and 10:30 a.m., contemporary; Sunday school and adult Bible study at 9:15 a.m.

Location: 46001 Warren, between Canton Center and Beck, Canton Township

Contact: (734) 637-8160 His Church Anglican

Time/Date: 7:45 a.m. at Trinity and 10 a.m., at Madonna

Location: Trinity Church, 34500 Six Mile, Livonia and Kresge Hall on the Madonna University Campus, 36600 Schoolcraft,

Contact: www.HisChurchAnglican.org; (248) 442-0HCA

Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran

Time/Date: 8 a.m. and 10 a.m., Sunday, 9 a.m., Faith Forum, 10 a.m. Sunday School, 7:30 p.m., Wednesday worship in the chapel

Location: 30650 Six Mile, Livonia Contact: (734) 427-1414 New Beginnings United Methodist

Time/Date: 10:30 a.m., Sunday **Location**: 16175 Delaware at Puritan,

Redford Contact: (313) 255-6330

New Life Community Church Time/Date: 11 a.m., Sunday Location: 42200 Tyler, Belleville Contact: (734) 846-4615 or www.newlifecommunitychurch4u.com

Plymouth Baptist Church Time/Date: 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m., Sunday

Location: 42021 Ann Arbor Trail, west of Haggerty

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both services Contact: (734) 453-5534

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church Time/Date: 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sundays with an education hour from 9:30-10:40 a.m. Social hour follows each service

Location: 37775 Palmer, Westland Contact: (734) 722-1735 **Riverside Park Church of God**

Time/Date: 5 p.m., every second and fourth Sunday

Location: 11771 Newburgh, Livonia Details: "Sunday Night Lights" service designed for younger families; other services are 10 a.m. Sunday and 7 p.m., Wednesday Contact: (734) 464-0990

St. John Lutheran Church Time/Date: 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Sunday;

traditional worship at 9 a.m., Sunday, and contemporary service at 11:15 a.m. Sunday. Beginning Oct. 11, one 10 a.m. service on Sunday

Location: 23225 Gill Road, Farmington

Contact: (248) 474-0584 St. Matthew's United Methodist Church

Time/Date: contemporary service, 11:30 a.m., fourth Sunday of the month Location: 30900 Six Mile, Livonia Contact: (734) 422-6038



ANNETTE BEGLEY Age 72, December 12, 2010. Loving

wife of Earl. Dear mother of Robert Obourn, Keith (Kristie) Obourn, Kevin (Kristy) Obourn and the late Larry Obourn. Step-mother to Dawn (Richard) Yax, Steve (Jennifer) Begley, Lisa (Pete) Baca, Mark Begley and the late Ted Begley. Grandmother of 18. Great-grandmother of 3. Dear sister of Marlene (Julius) Ace. Services were at the Santeiu & Son Funeral Home, 734-427-3800. Memorials suggested to Angela Hospice. www.santeiufuneralhome.com

JOHN R. JONES Age 90, of Farmington, MI, passed

December Arrangements by: Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington.



ment. She was a Master Gardner and member of gardening clubs. She loved mushrooming and traveling. Ruth is survived by her devoted partner of 25 years, Irwin (Ernie) Goodman; her loving son, Eric (Pia) Retko, granddaughter Belle of North Carolina; Ernie's daughter, Judy (Paul) Lipson; their children Brian (Marie-Christine, and daughter Stella), Rachel, Stacey; numerous friends and family. Ruth is

Age 84, of Farmington Hills, died

December 11, 2010 at Henry Ford

Hospital, W. Bloomfield. Ruth worked

for Troy Schools' business depart-

the daughter of the late Marion and Milton Hager. In the final years of her Alzheimers. Ruth was lovingly cared for by Ernie, and caregivers April, averne, Marquetta, Michelle and Florie. Ruth's body is being donated to the Wayne State University Medical School where her legacy for giving and learning continues. Donations are suggested the Alzheimers to Association of Michigan, the Brown Memory Center at the W. Bloomfield JCC, or a charity of your choice. A memorial service for Ruth will be held at a future time.

Welcome **Boys and Girls!**

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

BSERVER & ECCENT

www.hometownlife.com

Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights Send us a picture or a story of

how you celebrate the holidays.



Hey kids!

Youth ages 7 - 13 are invited to send a photo or story of how you celebrate the holidays. Scoop will pick two winners in each age category:

Ages: 7 - 8

Ages: 9 - 10

Ages: 11 - 13

Winners will receive a voucher for a Free Buddy's 4 Square Cheese Pizza with One Topping!

Deadline for submissions: 12/31/10

Everyone who enters will receive a letter from Scoop and a small gift!

Send your entries for the **Holiday Celebration Contest to:**

Scoop the Newshound c/o: Michele Austin **41304 Concept Drive** Plymouth, MI 48170

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.

ENTERTAINMENT

Thursday, December 16, 2010

hometownlife

HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Contact Editor, Sharon Dargay Voice Mail: (313) 222-8883 E-mail: sdargay@hometownlife.com Comment online at hometownlife.com



Dave Bennett and his septet

Local clarinetist pays tribute to Benny Goodman

Dave Bennett, a Michigan native and a leading jazz virtuoso, and his band will play many of the late Benny Goodman's best-loved swing jazz classics at 4 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 9, 2011 at the First Presbyterian Church of Farmington.

The "Remembering Benny" concert is a part of an on-going concert series at the church.

Bennett is a self-taught prodigy who began playing at age 10 on a clarinet given to him by his grandfather. Although now only in his mid-20s, Bennett's performing career goes back to age 12, when trumpet legend Doc Cheatham invited him to the bandstand of New York City's celebrated Sweet Basil Jazz Club. At 14, Bennett began frequent tours on the "traditional jazz" circuit with a Saginawbased Dixieland band. At 17, he won — over more than 600 entrants — a guest solo spot with the Count Basie Orchestra.

Bennett has created both written and "head" arrangements of many of Benny Goodman's elassics, including Moonglow, Stompin' at the Savoy, Airmail Special, Let's Dance, and the signature piece from the historic Carnegie Hall concert, Sing Sing Sing Along with the members of his septet, Bennett has meticulously worked out the complicated harmonies, improvised riffs, and tightly woven ensemble parts from the big band and smaller combo recordings that made Goodman the "King of Swing" in the 1930s and



Dave Bennett will play a tribute to Benny Goodman at the First Presbyterian Church, Farmington.

Bennett has recorded with three of the Goodman band's most famous musical alumni: pianist Dick Hyman, vibraphonist Peter Appleyard, and guitarist Bucky Pizzarelli. They've called "Remembering Benny" the closest thing to an actual Benny Goodman con-

First Presbyterian Church is located at 26165 Farmington Road, at 11 Mile, in Farmington Hills. Free parking is available on-site, and the entire facility is barrier-free and handicap accessible. There is no charge for this event, but donations will be collected to fund the musicians. Suggested donation is \$10 per person and \$25 per family. For more information, visit www.farmington-pres.org or call (248) 474-6170, exten-



BY SHARON DARGAY O&E STAFF WRITER

Bob Nelson hasn't missed a Plymouth Oratorio Society concert in 24 years.

"It took some dedication and work," said the Canton resident and one of the choral group's original members. "Last year the concert came on the last day of a show I was in with the Spotlight Players. They knew that when I had signed up. We made a deal." At intermission

Nelson took off his cowboy costume and left the Players' final show of Oklahoma! to take his place among the

bass singers at the Plymouth Oratorio Society's only show of the season.

That kind of dedication is typical among Society members.

"This is a group that takes music seriously. We have fun, but people are not there to pass the time. People are there to sing works that you can't do any where else," Nelson said.

Those works have tion of Handel's Messiah, Bach's Passion According to St. John, Requiems by Mozart, Brahms and Rutter, and Stravinsky's

Symphony of Psalms. In celebration of its

Rick Ingram directs the Plymouth Oratorio Society.

25th anniversary, the Society will take a step back in time when it kicks off its four-month schedule of weekly rehearsals on Jan. 3, 2011. Singers, led by director Rick Ingram, will tackle major portions of Mendelssohn's Elijah, an oratorio they sang during the group's second season.

CHALLENGING MUSIC

"The first year we sang the Easter portion of Messiah. Then we sang part one of Elijah the second year," said Don Pratt, Society business manager and a tenor with the group. "Elijah is a major work of choral repertoire. It's not as commonly known as the Messiah. People don't have as much experience with it. That makes it more of a challenge.'

Membership in the Society is open to anyone interested in taking on that challenge. Singers join without auditioning, but must be able to sing complex, demanding classical works.

PAYING TO SING

Rehearsals run from 7:30 to about 9 p.m. every Monday beginning next month and running through April at First United Methodist Church, 45201 N. Territorial, Plymouth. They culminate in one concert, generally held the first Sunday of May. Although the concert is free to the public, Society members pay a \$10 fee for a musical score and \$20 for facilities rental and insurance when they join the group in January. Donations from the Plymouth Rotary Foundation and grants from the Michigan Council for the Arts enable the group to hire the Michigan Sinfonietta to play at the annual spring concert.

"For 30 bucks you're ready to rock and roll if you're an experienced singer and can sing the music," Pratt said. "It's pretty rare that we have to weed someone out. People know this is a group that does music of the masters and we do it with a professional orchestra. It's a self-audition because of the quality of music we do."

CREATIVE OUTLET

Pratt said many members have gained experience in church choirs before joining the group. He sings with the choir at St. John Neumann Catholic Church in Canton and his father, the late Robert Pratt, was the founding conductor of the Plymouth Oratorio Society.

Nelson also sings in the choir at his church, First United Methodist Church in Plymouth. A mathematician by training and CFO of Airflow Sciences Corporation in Livonia, Nelson finds a creative outlet in the Plymouth Oratorio

He likes the idea that Society concerts are free to the public, making it affordable for families to expose their children to quality classical music.

"If you look at what is happening to music in our schools, our youth has less exposure to the quality music that makes up a good bit of our heritage," Nelson said. "You don't have to pay \$35 for a ticket. If they get fidgety, you can afford to leave halfway through the con cert."

No RSVP is necessary to join the group next month. Pratt said prospective singers simply need to attend the first rehearsal on Jan. 3, 2011. Those with questions can call him at (734) 455-8353.

Motorcycle show rides into Novi

Hundreds of the latest motorcycles will pack the Rock Financial Showplace Friday-Sunday, Jan. 7-9, 2011 at the all-new Progressive International Motorcycle Shows nationwide tour.

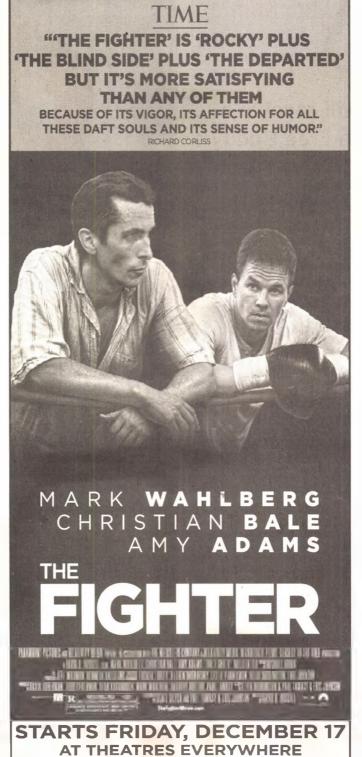
The show will include a custom motorcycle builder competition, a stunt show, a virtual open road bike experience, giveaways, speakers on motorcycling, seminars led by industry experts, highlights of famous motorcycle films, and information for new riders. The Women's Motorcycling Foundation also will be on hand with gear and tips for women.

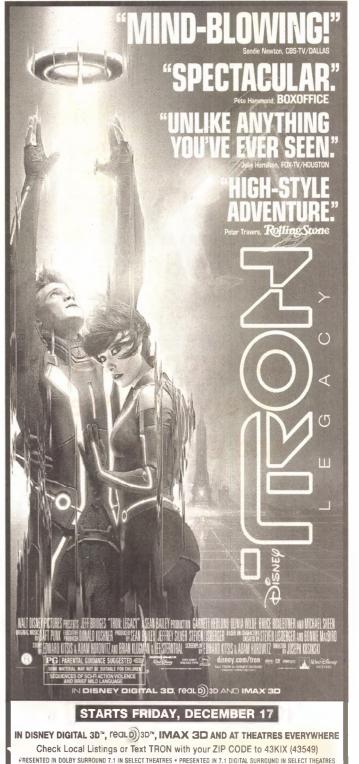
Free parking will be available for those who ride their motorcycles to the show. Riders will be able to check their helmets, jackets and other gear at the show's main entrance.

Show hours are 4-9 p.m. Jan. 7, 2011, 9:30 a.m.-8 p.m. Jan. 8, 2011 and 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Jan. 9, at 46100 Grand River Avenue, in Novi. Admission is \$15 adults and \$6 for children, 6-11. Children 5 and under are admitted free. On Family Day, Sunday, January 9, all children 12 and under are free when accompanied by a paying adult. (800) 331-5706 or visit www.motorcycleshows.



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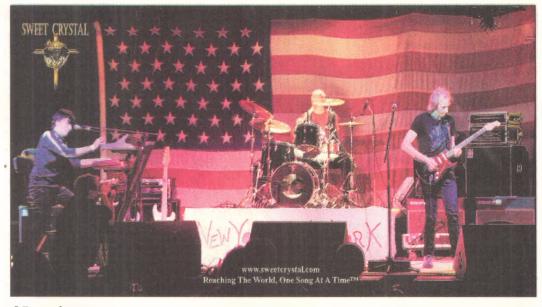
www.showroomofelegance.com

Store Hours:

Tues-Fri: 9:30-6 Sat: 9:30-4 Closed Sun & Mon

Holiday Hours:

Begin Dec.12 Mon-Sat: 9:30-8 Sun: Noon-5



CD release

Sweet Crystal plays numerous benefit concerts and is a mainstay at Michigan Vet Fest, held annually in Dearborn. The group will perform at a charity CD release party, 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 17 at the Token Lounge, 28949 Joy, Westland; (734) 513-5030. Admission is \$10, \$3 of which will go to the Detroit Rescue Mission. CD sales also will benefit the charity. First 100 paid admissions get free digital downloads. WCSX's Doug "Doc of Roc" Podell is guest host.

Deadline set in second annual film festival

Get those camcorders ready and head to South Lyon. The 3 Minutes in Lyon Film Festival is accepting entries for next year's screening and awards night in June 2011.

The inaugural festival in May unveiled 16 original and locally produced videos from more than 25 producers. The festival is open to anyone regardless of residence, although films and videos must be shot in South Lyon, Lyon Township, Kensington Metropark or Island Lake recreation Area.

Students, video enthusiasts, non-profit organizations, families and anyone else with a desire to display their visual

and storytelling creativity may participate in the festival by creating their own threeminute video and submitting it on DVD. Entry deadline is Monday, June 13, 2011.

The festival will begin with Free Screening Night, an outdoor viewing of all submitted videos. Audience members will select the Audience Choice Award by voting on the best overall entry.

A new festival activity, the Producer's Roundtable, will invite all producers to discuss their projects, multimedia creation and filming ideas. The festival will end with an awards night at the Lyon theatre in South Lyon, where top

films will be recognized.

"The response to the inaugural festival was better than expected. I was impressed with the range of video concepts and the wide age range of participants. Producers submitting videos ranged in age from 11 to 55," stated founder Richard Perry. "Seeing a wide variety of images from the community and businesses on the big screen was very exciting. But even more impressive was to see the level of creativity in every submission resulting in very entertaining videos."

Festival details entry form, entry rules and instructions are available at www.lyonfilmfestival.org.

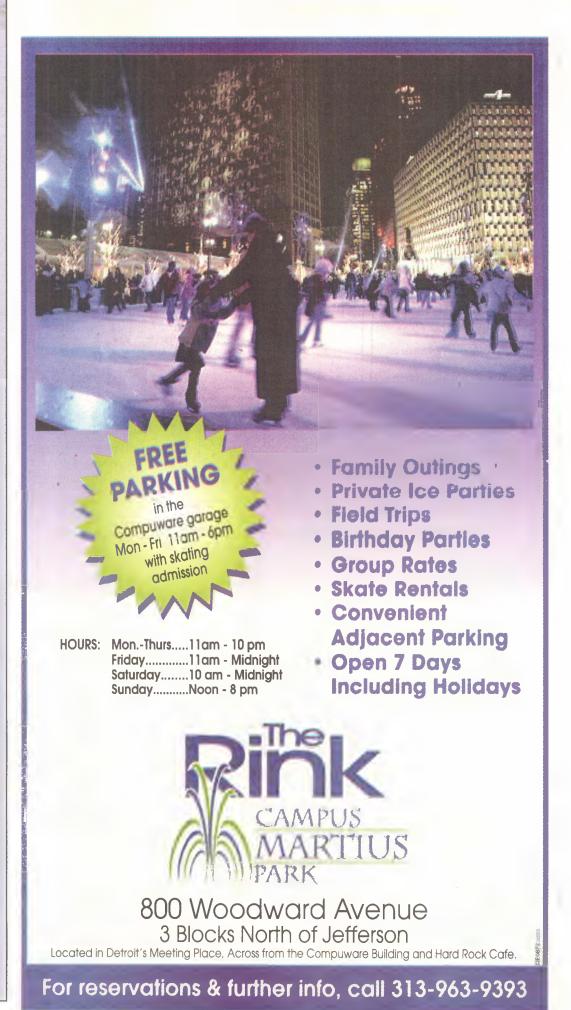
Michigan ElivsFest 2011 planning for 12th year

Ticket sales will get underway Jan. 1, 2011 for Michigan ElvisFest, which will take place July 8-9, 2011 at Riverside Park in Ypsilanti.

The family-friendly event draws Elvis Presley fans to watch tribute concerts to the "King of Rock 'n Roll." Last year's program included a car show, gospel music hour and candlelight vigil, along with such children's activities as crafts, a puppet show, face-painting and student performances.

Organizers for the 2011 event are working on the format and the entertainment. They plan to bring Elvis tribute artists, as well as other performers, together from across the country. Expect a few new events next year, too.

The Michigan ElvisFest is looking for sponsors for the 12th annual festival. Potential sponsors can e-mail to michiganelvisfest@gmail. com. Check www.mielvisfest.org for tickets next



Art & Ideas Time/Date: Saturdays, 1-7 p.m., through Jan. 29, 2011

Location: 15095 Northville Road, Plymouth Township, between eastbound and westbound 5 Mile intersections

Details: "Time Tells All" holidayseason art exhibition, a multi-artist retrospective of 2010 exhibitions. Artwork on display through Jan. 29, 2011; free

Lecture: Creativity coach Shaqe Kalaj leads a discussion for adults and teens considering career decisions, 4-5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 19. She'll reference the book "A Whole New Mind" by Daniel Pink and will explain how society is moving from the "information age" to the "conceptual age." She'll talk about six specific actions that will help the next generation of "creative doers" succeed. RSVP to the gallery **Contact**: (734) 420-0775 or visit www.artandideasgallery.com

Detroit Artist Market

Time/Date: 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, through Dec. 23 Location: 4719 Woodward Ave.,

Details: Annual Art for the Holiday Show includes jewelry, glass, metal, ceramic, photography, accessories, paintings, drawings, sculpture. books, cards, framed prints and more for sale. Admission to the preview party are \$10 for Detroit Artist Market members and \$20 for non-members

Contact: (313) 832-8540

Northville Art House

Time/Date: Jan. 7-29, 2011; artist reception 6-9 p.m. Jan. 7 Location: 215 W. Cady in downtown Northville

Details: Erik Olson shows oil portraits of homes and structures in various stages of repair in a show called "An Outside View"

Contact: (248) 344-0497 The Gallery@VT

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday-Friday, through Jan. 2, 2011 Location: 50400 Cherry Hill,

Details: Photos, including black and white still life and flower images, by Jason Nichols Contact: (734) 394-5300



"Peony" and other works by Jason Nichols are on display through Jan. 2, 2011 at the Village Theatre at Cherry Hill in Canton.

COMEDY

Go Comedy!

Time/Date: Various show times Wednesdays thru Sundays Location: 261 E. Nine Mile, Ferndale **Details**: Improv most nights. Open mic/jam session show for improvisers is 10 p.m. Wednesdays Contact: (248) 327-0575; www. gocomedy.net

JD's House of Comedy

Time/Date: Various show times Wednesday-Saturday evenings Location: 25333 W. 12 Mile, inside Star Theatre complex, Southfield **Details**: Stand-up shows, 8 p.m. Thursday and 8 p.m., 10:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday; Apollo amateur night, 8 p.m. Wednesday Contact: (248) 348-2420 or www. ticketmaster.com

Joey's Comedy Club of Livonia Time/Date: 8 p.m. Mondays, open Mic; 8 p.m. Tuesdays, Local Legends; 8 p.m. shows Wednesdays, Thursdays; 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays

Location: 36071 Plymouth Road,

Details: Roz G., through Dec. 18; Billy Ray Bauer, Dec. 22-23; Steve Bills, Dec. 29-30 and Jan. 1; Tom Segura, Dec. 31; Steve Bills, Jan. 1, 2011; Dan Cummings, Jan. 5-8, 2011; Steve White, Jan. 12-15, 2011; Kurt Metzger, Jan. 19-22, 2011; John Roy, Jan. 26-29, 2011

Contact: (734) 261-0555, www.kick-

erscomplex.com Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle Time/Date: David Dyer, Dec. 16-18; Dan Grueter, Dec. 30-31; Jay Black, Jan. 6-8, 2011; Tom Simmons, Jan. 13-15, 2011; Tom Segura, Jan. 20-22, 2011; Ken Rogerson, Jan. 27-29, 2011;

Louis Ramey, Feb. 3-5, 2011 Location: 269 E. Fourth, Royal Oak Contact: (248) 542-9900, www. comedycastle.com

CONCERTS

Time/Date: Trinidad Tripoli Steel Band, Dec. 16; Crossroads Ceili, Dec. 17-18; Riders in the Sky, Dec. 19; Fred Eaglesmith, Dec. 31 Location: 316 South Main. Ann

Contact: (734) 763-8587; www. theark.org

Baseline Folk Society Time/Date: Third Saturday of the month

Location: The JWH Center for the Arts, Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth Details: Eight "Open-Mic" performances plus a featured group perform. This month's featured performers are "Alex and Maggie Zakem" with seasonal sounds. Kathy Nieman hosts the show. Sign up for open mic from 6:15-6:45 p.m.; show starts at 7 p.m. Individual membership is \$25 and includes monthly concerts from September through May. Otherwise, admission to each concert is \$5 at the door. Family memberships are \$50 and include monthly concerts

Contact: (248) 719-3464 or mjm-

mullen@yahoo.com Jazz @ The Elks

Time/Date: 7-10:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 28

Location: Plymouth Elks Lodge #1780 at 41700 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth

Details: Just Jazz Trio with Jerry McKenzie on drums, Matt Michaels on piano and Dan Jordan on bass; no cover, but donations accepted Contact: (734) 453-1780 www. PlymouthElks1780.com

Jazz Cafe Time/Date: 8 p.m. Dec. 17-18 Location: Music Hall, 350 Madison, Detroit Details: Freddy Cole Christmas,

tickets \$27 Contact: www.ticketmaster.com; (313) 887-8500

Mama's Coffeehouse

Time/Date: 7 p.m. doors open, 7:15 p.m. open mic, 8 p.m. show begins

Location: Birmingham Unitarian Church, 38651 North Woodward at Lone Pine, Birmingham Details: Grand Rapids-based singer-songwriter, Drew Nelson is

the featured performer; Jen Cass opens the show. General admission is \$12, seniors, 62 and over and teens, 13-18, pay \$10. Children, 12 and under are admitted for free Contact: www.mamascoffeehouse.org or call (248) 569-0965

Penn Theatre

Time/Date: 6 p.m. family concert and 8 p.m. traditional concert Thursday, Dec. 16

Location: 760 Penniman Ave., Plymouth **Details:** The Plymouth Symphony

presents "Home for the Holidays" Christmas concert. 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 spectacular Vivaldi Concerto

Contact: (734) 451-2112 Seligman Performing Arts Center

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan.

Location: On the campus of Detroit Country Day School,

22305 W. 13 Mile, Beverly Hills **Details**: Chamber Music Society of Detroit presents The Emerson String Quartet. Tickets cost \$43-\$75; students pay \$25 Contact: (248) 855-6070 or visit www.ComeHearCMSD.org

Trinity House Theatre Time/Date: Chris Trapper, Jan. 7, 2011; Ruth and Max Bloomquist, Jan. 8, 2011; Dave Boutette and the Folk Brothers, Jan. 14, 2011; Jay Stielstra Trio, Jan. 15, 2011; Sheila Landis featuring Rick Matle and Blues in the Night, Jan. 21, 2011; Billy Bynum and Company with Billy Brandt and Sarana Verlin, Jan. 22, 2011 Location: 38840 W. Six Mile,

Livonia Contact: (734) 464-6302, www. trinityhouse.org

Bakers Keyboard Lounge Time/Dates: 2-5 p.m. Sundays **Details**: Jazz for Kids Program Location: 20510 Livernois Ave., Detroit

Contact: (313) 345-6300, www. bakerskeyboardlounge.com







University of Toledo Rockets Mid-Am Conf.

TICKETS: CLUB LEVEL \$60, LOWER LEVEL \$45. END ZONE ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT \$45, END ZONE \$30

Purchase tickets in person by visiting the Ford Field ticket office To order tickets by phone call Ticketmaster 800-745-3000 www.ticketmaster.com or visit littlecaesarspizzabowl.com/tickets

TREAT YOURSELF TO AN EARLY HOLIDAY GIFT

SHEN YUN PERFORMING ARTS

Classical Chinese Dance & Music in an Unforgettable Production



A GIFT FROM A DIVINE LAND

THERE WAS A TIME long, long ago when China was known as Shen Zhou-The Land of the Divine. The arts and the culture there were considered so exquisite and so vibrant that they could only have been bestowed by the heavens. And thus the people of the land strove to hold themselves to a higher standard so as to be worthy of such gifts. Today, Shen Yun brings these gifts

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 Fes-

tival 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

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."

For those who find all things Chinese a little foreign, never fear. The show is based on Chinese culture, but the values it portrays belong to all of humanity.

ONE OF THE MOST DEMAND-ING ART FORMS IN THE WORLD

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 fig-

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, UNEX-PECTED 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.

EXTRAORDINARY ARTISTS

"There's just something about them," audience members often remark.

At a time when the influence of Taoism, Buddhism, and Confucianism was strong in the Middle Kingdom, art was a means to explore the connection between mankind and the higher universe. Poets and artists cultivated virtue and engaged in study and meditation because they believed that to create true art worthy of the heavens, there must first be inner beauty and purity.

Today, the artists of Shen Yun follow in that noble tradition. Their training regimen requires focus and a mindful lifestyle. Many draw inspiration from traditional cultivation practices such as Falun Dafa, which teaches truthfulness, compassion, and forbearance.

Among the company's artists are many winners of international competitions in dance, music, and singing, as well as accomplished choreographers and composers. No other Chinese performing arts group in the world can boast such a remarkable body of tal-

A BRAND NEW **PRODUCTION FOR 2011**

Months of training and preparation culminate each winter when Shen Yun debuts a spectacular original production with all new dances, costumes, and

Experience the extraordinary.



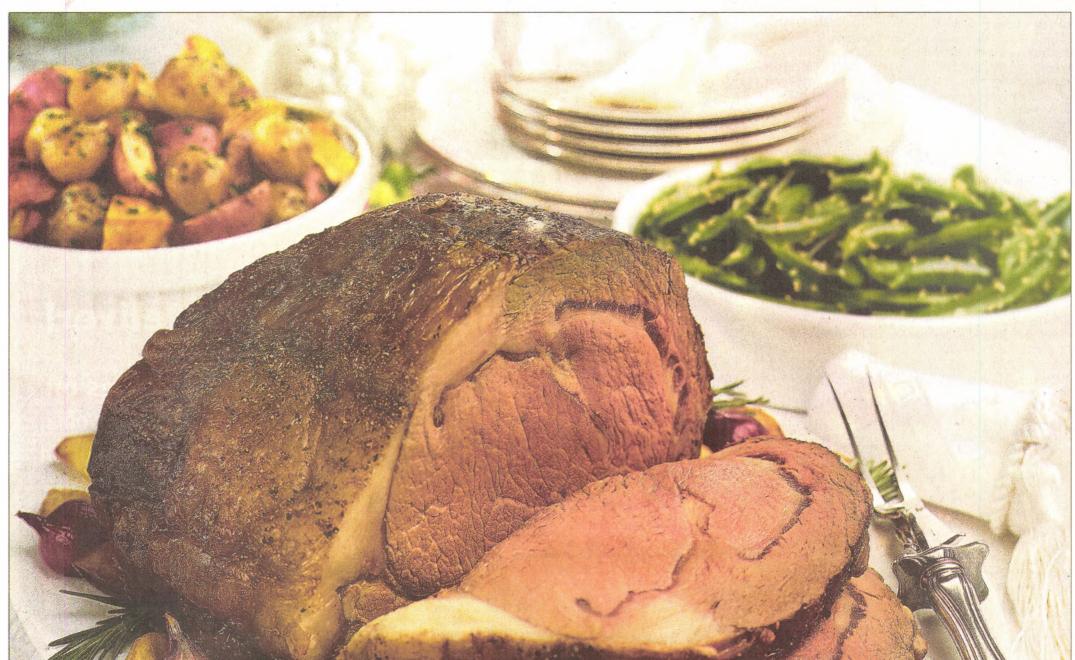
FOOD

Thursday, December 16, 2010 hometownlife mcom



HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Contact Editor, Sharon Dargay Voice Mail: (313) 222-8883 E-mail: sdargay@hometownlife.com Comment online at hometownlife.com



A TOAST TO THE Holiday Roast

hen it comes to holiday entertaining, there is nothing more elegant or easy — than serving a beautiful roast. The elegance factor we can all understand, but easy? It's true. There is no need to be intimidated by a roast ever again.

Tender roasts are always cooked uncovered using dry heat methods, which results in producing the flavorful, deep brown crusty exterior. It's also important to allow the roast to rest before carving to ensure that the juices in the center have time to redistribute for maximum flavor and tenderness.

By following a few simple guidelines, you can easily prepare and serve a holiday roast that will receive rave reviews from all your guests.

For a free "Great Gathering Guide and Cookbook" filled with delicious recipes from Omaha Steaks, call 1-800-228-9055, or visit www.OmahaSteaks.com.

ROAST BUYER'S GUIDE

Use this rule of thumb to determine how much meat you need to purchase per serving: • Boneless Roast: 1/2

pound, uncooked

 Bone-In Roast: 1 pound, uncooked

· Standing Rib Roast, also known as a Prime Rib Roast: allow 2 servings per

ROASTED BABY RED POTATOES

2 pounds baby red potatoes 2 tablespoons olive oil

1 tablespoon garlic, chopped

I teaspoon rosemary, chopped

1 teaspoon oregano, chopped ½ cup Romano cheese, grated

2 teaspoons kosher salt

½ teaspoon black pepper, ground

Preheat oven to 250°F.

Wash and quarter potatoes. Add potatoes to a bowl and mix with remaining ingredients.

Place potatoes on a foil lined sheet pan. Bake for 45 minutes. Stir potatoes well, being sure to flip them all over.

Increase oven temperature to 400°F. Bake potatoes an additional 30 minutes or until brown.

BLUE CHEESE AND CABERNET SAUVIGNON DEMI GLACE

Serves 4 to 6

½ teaspoon olive oil

2 tablespoons shallots, finely chopped

1 teaspoon garlic, finely chopped

½ cup Cabernet Sauvignon

1 cup Demi Glace*

2 ounces Maytag Blue Cheese, crumbled

In a sauce pan heat olive oil. Saute shallots and garlic until transparent.

Add Cabernet Sauvignon to pan and reduce by half. Add Demi Glace to pan and slowly bring to a boil.

Stir in blue cheese.

Serve with Beef Roast or Steak.

*Demi Glace can be made from scratch or purchased from a specialty food

HOLIDAY GREEN BEANS

Serves 4 to 6

1 pound green beans, trimmed

1 lemon, cut in half

1 cup croutons, coarsely ground

6 slices bacon, cooked and coarsely chopped

2 tablespoons butter, thinly sliced

½ teaspoon kosher salt

Preheat oven to 350°F.

Blanch green beans in boiling water or steamer for 6 to 8 minutes until al dente. Cool in an ice bath and drain well.

Spread cooled green beans in a 9 x 13-inch casserole dish. Squeeze lemon juice evenly over green beans. Sprinkle top of green beans with ground croutons and bacon bits.

Place butter slices evenly throughout the dish. Sprinkle salt over the top. Bake for 15 to 20 minutes.

Prepare the casserole a day ahead of time and place in the refrigerator overnight. Bake as directed.

- Courtesy of Family Features

Roast Cooking Chart

The cooking times below are for fully thawed roasts.

Sear and Slow Roast Method - Preheat the oven to 250°F. Lightly oil and season roast. Sear roasts in an oven proof pan, with small amount of oil, or on the grill for 2-3 minutes on each side or until well browned. Place the roast on an elevated rack in a roasting pan. Refer to approximate cooking times below. Allow 15-20 minutes resting time before slicing and serving.

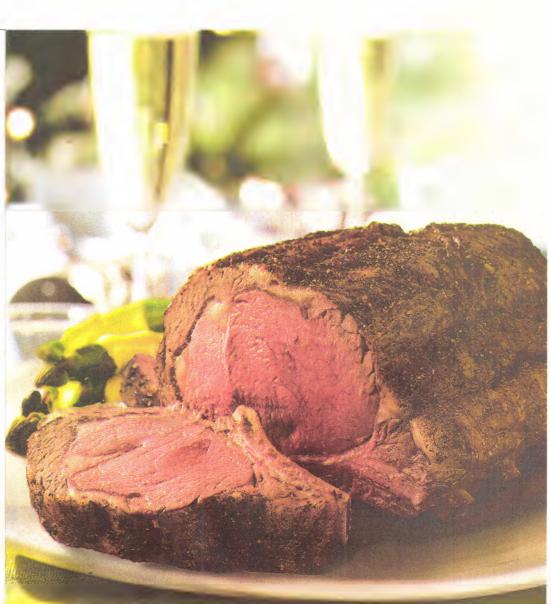
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	Weight	Rare 120°-130°F	Med Rare 130°-140°F	Medium 140°-150°F	Well 160°-170°F
Tenderloin Roast	3 lb	1-1 hr 10 min	1 hr 10 min- 1 hr 20 min	1 hr 20 min- 1 hr 30 min	1 hr 45 min- 1 hr 55 min
Rib Roast	4 lb	1 hr 10 min- 1 hr 20 min	2 hrs 25min- 2 hrs 35 min	2 hrs 45 min- 3 hrs	3 hrs 30 min- 4 hrs
Rib Roast, Bone In	6 lb	2 hrs 45 min- 3 hrs	3 hrs 30 min- 4 hrs	4 hrs- 4 hrs 30 min	5 hrs- 5 hrs 30 min
Sirloin Tri-Tip Roast	1.5 lb	40-50 min	55-60 min	1 hr 10 min- 1 hr 15 min	1 hr 35 min- 1 hr 45 min

Quick Roast Method* Preheat oven to 400°F. Lightly oil and season roast. Place on an elevated rack in a roasting pan. Roast uncovered, using times below. Allow 20-40 minutes resting

	Weight	Rare 120°-130°F	Med Rare 130°-140°F	Medium 140°-150°F	Well 160°-170° F	
Tenderloin Roast	3 lb	45-50 min	55-60 min	1 hr 5 min- 1 hr 10 min	1 hr 15 min- 1 hr 30 min	
Rib Roast	4 lb	1 hr 20 min- 1 hr 30 min	1 hr 30 min- 1 hr 40 min	1 hr 45 min- 2 hrs	2 hrs 15 min- 2 hrs 30 min	
Rib Roast, Bone In	6 lb	2 hrs- 2 hrs 15 min	2 hrs 15 min- 2 hrs 30 min	2 hrs 30 min- 2 hrs 45 min	3 hrs- 3 hrs 15 min	
Sirloin Tri-Tip Roast	1.5 lb	30-35 min	35-40 min	45-50 min	1 hr- 1 hr 15 min	

*Verify degrees of doneness by using a kitchen thermometer. Above times are approximate.

Recommendations courtesy Omaha Steaks



Standing Rib Roast

Party responsibly with these alcohol-free cocktails

AAA Michigan is encouraging motorists to remain drug and alcohol-free when they drive during the holidays.

Visitors to TakethePledge.AAA.com can sign a pledge to support a culture of "zero tolerance" for impaired driving and spread the word to family and friends via Facebook and Take the Pledge e-cards.

Nearly 9 of 10 drivers say that motorists who drive after drinking are a very serious threat to their personal safety, according to the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety. And 98 percent say they consider it unacceptable for a driver to get behind the wheel when they think they may have had too much to drink.

Each year, more than 11,000 individuals are killed in alcohol-related crashes, representing 32 percent of all motor vehicle accidents. More than a million individuals are arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol each year.

AAA Michigan offers these party tips to stay safe on the • Plan ahead and designate a non-drinking driver before

any holiday party or celebration begins. · Never get behind the wheel of a car when you've been

drinking - even after just one drink.

• Do not hesitate to take the keys from friends or family members who may be impaired.

· Be a real friend: Call a taxi for those in need.

• Be a responsible host in reminding guests to stay safe and offer alcohol-free beverages.

Here are a few recipes for nonalcoholic cocktails from AAA Michigan's newest edition of its annual Great Pretenders Party Guide. For more recipes, visit a AAA Michigan office or go online at www.aaa.com/Pretenders.



Submitted by Iridescence Motor City Casino ♂ Hotel

Detroit

Ingredients:

3 ounces pineapple juice 2 ounces passion fruit juice

1/3 ounce lemon juice

1/3 ounce grenadine Directions:

Shake ingredients with ice. Pour into glass. Garnish with lemon wedge and cherry.

CREAMELON

Submitted by Sixteen Trump International Hotel & Tower

Chicago, Ill Ingredients:

3 cups chopped seedless watermelon

1 cup chilled green tea

1 cup chilled cream soda

1/8 teaspoon ground cinnamon

1 teaspoon light brown sugar

Ice cubes Directions:

Blend everything on a low speed and serve in a tall glass. Garnish with big watermelon slice.



Homemade Kiwi Lemonade gets its fizz from a 7UP. Sprite or Sierra Mist soda

HOMEMADE KIWI LEMONADE

Submitted by Holiday Inn of Fargo

Fargo, ND Ingredients:

4 ounces sweet and sour mix

1 ounce simple syrup

1 ounce Monin kiwi syrup 4 ounces 7UP, Sierra Mist or Sprite

Directions:

Build in mixer/shaker with ice. Combine all ingredients and shake to a light froth. Strain and pour over ice. May garnish with lemon wedge and kiwi slice.

1913 ROOM INDULGENCE

Submitted by The 1913 Room Amway Grand Plaza Hotel

Grand Rapids

Ingredients:

1 cup pomegranate juice

11/2 cups alcohol-free red wine

1/2 cup orange juice

1/4 cup freshly squeezed lemon juice

1/2 cup club soda

4 dashes Tabasco Directions:

In a cocktail shaker, mix all ingredients with crushed ice, shaking vigorously. Serve in martini

glass and garnish with orange twist.

Green tea and watermelon combine to create Creamelon.

SPARKLING PINEAPPLE SUNSET

Submitted by The Grand Hotel

Mackinac Island Ingredients:

1 cup pineapple juice

1 cup Perrier

Splash grenadine

Cherry for garnish

Directions:

In a large glass filled halfway with ice, add equal parts pineapple juice and Perrier (or any sparkling water). Shake well. Add a splash of grenadine. Garnish with maraschino cherry.

Nonalcoholic Bellini

Submitted by The Saint Paul Hotel St. Paul, Minn.

Ingredients:

1 ounce fresh peach nectar

4 ounces nonalcoholic brut champagne

Pour nectar into glass. Slowly add champagne. Stir gently. May garnish with peach slice.

Statewide - Need a Slurpee fix but not sure where to find a 7-Eleven store while you're on the road? If you had the convenience store chain's new iPhone and Android application you'd have the directions at your fingertips. The frozen, carbonated drink now has its own application available for iPhone and Android through iTunes and Android marketplaces. It offers information on the nearest 7-Eleven stores and gives driving directions. Slurpee lovers can log which drink flavors they find at each 7-Eleven store they visit for other fans to view through the app. Users also can enter Slurpee Nation reward codes, browse and purchase items with one touch.

If you'd prefer something stronger than a Slurpee, check out the store's new line of Cherrywood Cellars wines. They cost \$7.99-\$8.99 a bottle and are available in three varietals - chardonnay, cabernet sauvignon and merlot.

South Lyon - Erwin Orchards and Cider Mill won third place in the 14th Annual Michigan Apple Cider Contest, sponsored by the Michigan Apple Committee. First place went to Engelsma's Apple Barn of Walker and second went to Westview Orchards and Cider Mill of Romeo. The contest was held earlier this month during the Great Lakes Fruit, Vegetable and Farm Market EXPO Conference in Grand Rapids.





REAL ESTATE

AUTOS

SECTION C (*) Thursday, December 16, 2010

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Julio Brown, editor, (213) 222-6755 icbrown@hometownlife.com

Don't

dismiss

standard

Q. I am retired and I live in

condominium project comprised mostly of senior citizens. I have

been hearing people talk lately

condominium projects to obtain FHA certification. Why would

about how important it is for

FTC works to rein in mortgage relief service scams

As the U.S. mortgage crisis continues to affect thousands of American homeowners, the Federal Trade Commission is working to cease numerous mortgage relief service scams that prey on consumers behind in their mortgage payments or facing foreclosure. Bogus operations falsely claim that, for a fee, they will negotiate with the consumer's mortgage lender or servicer to obtain a loan modification, a short sale or other relief from foreclosure. The Better Business Bureau Serving Eastern Michigan warns consumers who are struggling with the financial responsibilities of owning a home to take careful precautions with regards to mortgage relief services in order to avoid becoming a victim of the prevalent deceptive practices.

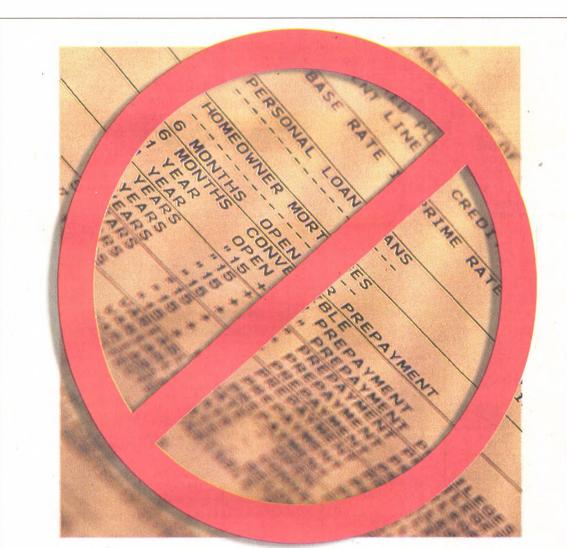
To illustrate the high demand for mortgage relief services, BBB reports that thousands of homeowners in distress from across the country have contacted BBB for information on a Maryland-based mortgage relief business called Residential Relief Foundation. However, BBB processed a total of 62 complaints about Residential Relief Foundation in the last year. The FTC announced Nov. 26 that a federal court has shut down the company's operations and seized its assets, ending what it alleges were deceptive practices designed to mock government mortgage assistance programs. A copy of the federal court order against the company can be found online through

To further protect distressed homeowners from the rising number of mortgage relief scams, the FTC also announced recently that it is issuing a new rule titled the Mortgage Assistance Relief Services (MARS) Rule. The new rule bans providers of mortgage foreclosure rescue and loan modification services from collecting fees until homeowners have a written offer from their lender or servicer that they decide is acceptable. The rule will go into effect on Dec. 29, 2010.

BBB offers the following tips for homeowners seeking mortgage relief service:

•Consider up-front fees as a red flag. The new FTC rule will ban up-front fees effective Dec. 29, 2010.

•Do not be fooled by clever marketing ploys or seals designed to make the company or its services



look like it is part of a government program.

•Try to work out a foreclosure rescue scenario yourself by talking directly with your lender. Explain your situation and ask for a revised repayment

•Do not sign away the title of your home and make

sure you have your own attorney review a contract before you sign.

·Before you endorse a contract to a mortgage rescue company, visit www.bbb.org for an indication about the company's history, record of performance and business practices.

9950 Tennyson Dr

a project such as mine need to obtain FHA certification when most of the units are mortgage free? A. The Fair Housing Administration is the only

insuring reverse mortgages, which are mortgages wherein a qualified senior may exchange

entity

Robert Meisner equity in their home for income. Consequently,

you may not be able to obtain a reverse mortgage or your options in that regard may be severely limited if the project is not FHA certified. An attorney knowledgeable in condominium law should be able to assist your condominium association's board of directors in determining whether your project is eligible to seek FHA certification.

Q. What are the requirements for a condominium project to obtain certification from the Fair Housing Administration, which I understand may make the units more marketable?

A. There are several

requirements a condominium project must meet in order to obtain FHA certification. For example, no more than 50 percent of the units can be rented at one time. No more than 15 percent of the units can be more than 30 days delinquent in payment of assessments. The overall number of condominium units with FHA-insured mortgages cannot exceed 30 percent. The association's budget must meet FHA adequacy standards. The association must have adequate insurance to cover certain risks. The condominium documents must be in compliance with HUD regulations and all other laws. No more than 25 percent of overall floor space of the project may be delineated for commercial use and the commercial use must be homogenous with residential use. The number of units owned by one person or entity may not exceed 10 percent of the total number of units. You should consult with a knowledgeable condominium attorney with regard to your condominium project.

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

HOMES SOLD-WAYNE

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Aug. 30 to Sept. 3, 2010, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

	Canton	
2232 Arcadia Dr		\$83,000
1972 Ashbourne Dr		\$350,000
2406 Brookfield St		\$125,000
740 Buchanan St		\$241,000
2029 E Franklin Dr		\$32,000
45509 Glengarry Blvd		\$263,000
2208 Hogan Way		\$170,000
7345 Irongate Rd		\$120,000
45912 Larchmont Dr		\$212,000
1202 Longfellow Dr		\$148,000
48497 Manhattan Cir		\$319,000
46401 Mornington Rd		\$220.000
4057 Palace Ave		\$150,000
7408 Provincial Rd		\$99,000
41442 Strawberry Ct		\$148,000
48010 Vistas Ct		\$234,000
40010 413193 CI	Garden City	3234,000
33422 Alvin St	Garden City	\$70,000
		\$79,000
31536 Cambridge St 652 Cardwell St		
***		\$59,000
31640 Donnelly St		\$73,000

31765 Sheridan St	\$92,000	100 11 1100101001101
33244 Sheridan St	\$98,000	18918 Bella Vista Ct
Livonia		18938 Bella Vista Ct
14430 Auburndale St	\$139,000	17062 Birchwood Dr
14651 Auburndale St	\$145,000	18160 Blue Heron Po
28701 Bayberry Park Dr	\$139,000	19554 Cardene Way
28573 Cleveland St	\$75,000	18357 Clairmont Cir
17254 Dolores St	\$120,000	16758 Dunswood Rd
15960 Doris St	\$110,000	16301 Forest Lake Dr
35041 Elmira St	\$125,000	113 High St
16388 Fairway St	\$160,000	43949 Medinah Ct
14076 Hix St	\$141,000	43988 Medinah Ct
14383 Houghton St	\$125,000	16064 Morningside
15081 Houghton St	\$110,000	49472 N Glacier
20436 Louise St	\$83,000	19587 Northridge Dr
18332 Melvin St	\$110,000	41685 Pon Meadow (
16591 Middlebelt Rd	\$16,000	41837 Rayburn Dr
16597 Middlebelt Rd	\$23,000	49046 Running Trou
34318 Munger St	\$127,000	49657 S Glacier
36876 Munger St	\$188,000	39641 Springwater I
28014 N Clements Cir	\$75,000	18850 Stonewater B
15159 Norman St	\$139,000	17228 Summit Dr
15509 Oporto St	\$100,000	
34450 Pinetree St	\$80,000	1450 Ann Arbor Rd W
36536 Rayburn St	\$184,000	9445 Brookline Ave
31153 Richland St	\$130,000	9264 Corinne St
20074 Southampton Dr	\$175,000	49277 Fox Dr S
15969 Stamford St	\$135,000	13381 Latheron Dr
18669 Stamford St	\$189,000	9252 Mayflower Dr
17512 Stamwich St	\$101,000	40137 Newport Dr
29600 Trancrest St	\$125,000	40518 Newport Dr

31755 Elmwood St

17062 Birchwood Dr	
18160 Blue Heron Pointe	Dr
19554 Cardene Way	
18357 Clairmont Cir W	
16758 Dunswood Rd	
16301 Forest Lake Dr	
113 High St	
43949 Medinah Ct	
43988 Medinah Ct	
16064 Morningside	
49472 N Glacier	
19587 Northridge Dr	
41685 Pon Meadow Ct	
41837 Rayburn Dr	
49046 Running Trout Ln	
49657 S Glacier	
39641 Springwater Dr	
18850 Stonewater Blvd	
17228 Summit Dr	
	Plymouth
1450 Ann Arbor Rd W	,
9445 Brookline Ave	

18547 Westbrook Dr

41837 R	ayburn Dr	\$184,000
49046 F	Running Trout Ln	\$385,000
	Glacier	\$328,000
39641 S	pringwater Dr	\$120,000
	tonewater Blvd	\$80,000
17228 S	ummit Dr	\$300.000
	Plyr	nouth
1450 An	n Arbor Rd W	\$20,000
9445 Br	ookline Ave	\$120,000
9264 Cd	orinne St	\$59,000
49277 F	ox Dr S	\$335,000
13381 La	atheron Dr	\$382,000
9252 Ma	ayflower Dr	\$188,000
40137 N	ewport Dr	\$69,000
40518 N	lewport Dr	\$57,000

Northville

\$160,000

\$425,000

47111 Timberwood Dr		\$385,00
	Redford	
15509 Centralia		\$65,00
15530 Centralia		\$24,00
12770 Columbia		\$55,00
14301 Dixie		\$50,00
11370 Hazelton		\$25,00
9052 Lenore		\$85,00
15995 Lexington		\$61,00
27015 Lyndon		\$103,00
12270 Nathaline		\$68,00
18503 Poinciana		\$28,00
14148 Winston		\$105,00
15810 Woodworth		\$38,00
	Westland	
541 Bedford Dr		\$129,00
31037 Birchwood St		\$105,00
33230 Creston St		\$80,00
30018 Gladys Ave		\$101,00
32720 Glen St		\$70,00
30523 Grandview Ave		\$77,00
33674 Melton St		\$68,00
35241 Melton St		\$25,00
823 N Wayne Rd		\$45,00
30608 Rustic Ln		\$44,00
549 S Hubbard St		\$104,00
1164 Shoemaker Dr		\$40,00
7590 Woodview St		\$16,00

HOMES SOLD-OAKLAND

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Aug. 30 to Sept. 3. 2010, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

Beverly Hills	
18961 Devonshire St	\$368,000
Bingham Farms	40.000
23770 Overlook Cir	\$260,000
Birmingham	
376 Baldwin Rd	\$365,000
644 Bird Ave	\$455,000
1641 Birmingham Blvd	\$265,000
588 Brookside Ave	\$485,000
2370 Buckingham Ave	\$570,000
1683 Cole St	\$243,000
1027 Emmons Ave	\$340,000
1404 Humphrey Ave	\$135,000
1898 Latham St	\$188,000
717 N Glenhurst Dr	\$448,000
1187 Northlawn Blvd	\$208,000
Bloomfield Hills	
110 Denbar Rd	\$460,000
1060 Stratford PI	\$198,000
1975 Tiverton Rd	\$438,000
4897 Old Post Ct	\$260,000
Bloomfield Township	
2765 Ayershire Dr	\$1.050.000

3086 Devon Brook Dr	\$16,000
1745 Heron Ridge Dr	\$3,900,000
302 Mariborough Dr	\$75,000
4136 Meadowlane Dr	\$165,000
1578 N Cranbrook Rd	\$950,000
4126 Nearbrook Rd	\$419,000
3975 Oakland Dr	\$1,200,000
1345 Oxford Rd	\$645,000
2945 Rambling Way	\$218,000
1741 S Hill Blvd	\$103,000
1820 S Hill Blvd	\$95,000
668 Sedgefield Dr	\$178,000
5770 Snowshoe Cir	\$960,000
4297 Sunningdale Dr	\$440,000
2152 Tottenham Rd	\$1,700,000
Commerce Township	
2125 Canal St	\$210,000
1622 Commerce Shrs	\$190,000
5493 Leafwood Dr	\$230,000
2155 Winston Dr	\$275,000
Farmington	
33988 Glenview Dr	\$79,000
32718 Grand River Ave	\$38,000
36630 Heatherton Dr	\$169,000
22906 Lakeway St	\$48,000
31918 Lamar Dr	\$123,000
22620 Power Rd	\$130,000
35973 Smithfield Rd	\$148,000
23016 Warner St	\$107,000
Farmington Hills	

28741 Aranel St	\$166,000
21433 Archwood Cir	\$125,000
37280 Aspen Dr	\$298,000
34625 Bridgeman St	\$70,000
32223 Farmersville Rd	\$175,000
29728 Foxgrove Rd	\$210,000
22411 Haynes Ave	\$2,000
29435 Laurel Dr	\$96,000
21665 Mayfield St	\$93,000
29747 Monterey Cir	\$155,000
28873 Oak Point Dr	\$270,000
30414 Orchard Lake Rd	\$40,000
37613 Russett Dr	\$142,000
29779 Sierra Point Cir	\$115,000
35190 Spring Hill Rd	\$220,000
37803 Turnberry Ct	\$405,000
30535 W 14 Mile Rd	\$31,000
34790 W Eight Mile Rd	\$47,000
31356 W Stonewood Ct	\$165,000
31918 Wayburn St	\$120,000
29892 Woodbrook St	\$190,000
Lathrup	Village
18825 Rainbow Dr	\$45,000
Mill	***
1015 Canal St	\$125,000
1995 Charles Ct	\$310,000
920 Hill Hollow Ln	\$425,000
971 Panorama Dr	\$116,000
777 Sweetbriar	\$121,000
645 Woodside Dr	\$108,000
No	ivi

22480 Alton Ct 30691 Ardmore Ct 24577 Bashian Dr	\$238,000 \$63,000 \$60,000
24532 Bramblewood Dr 23895 E Le Bost	\$272,000 \$80,000
45475 Irvine Dr 45583 Irvine Dr 22864 Mondavi Dr	\$315,000 \$395,000 \$382,000
47181 Northumberland St 24752 Olde Orchard St	\$575,000 \$34,000
24827 Reeds Pointe Dr 24560 Thatcher Dr 49609 Timber Trl	\$355,000 \$80,000 \$265,000
41040 W 10 Mile Rd 28316 Wolcott Dr	\$104,000 \$89,000
23502 Woodshire Ct 25230 Woodworth Dr	\$51,000 \$336,000
South Lyon	
54240 Birchwood Dr 762 Challenging Trl 54405 Indianwood	\$30,000 \$130,000 \$378,000
24008 Prescott Ct 23766 Spy Glass HI N	\$61,000 \$325,000
Southfield	
21196 Eight And Half Mile 21260 Mada Ave 29330 Southgate Dr	\$27,000 \$34,000 \$44,000
White Lake	344,000
520 Woodstone Ct	\$28,000

REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

New agents

Coldwell Banker Weir Manuel has recently welcomed a number of new agents to the company. They are: Richard Carter, Robert Gay, Michael Jones, Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti; Mark Cobb, Northville/Novi; Ronald Yurgo, Rochester.

"We are very pleased to welcome these agents to our team," said Kelly Sweeney, CBWM CEO. "They bring with them diverse business skills and experience, and will make great additions to our company."

Founded in 1950, Coldwell Banker Weir Manuel is a Birmingham, Mich.based real estate broker with 11 offices and more than 400 real estate agents in southeastern Michigan. For more information, visit www.cbweirmanuel.

Career Seminar

22641 Albion Ave

A Real Estate Career Seminar will be held 6:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 16, at Keller Williams Realty, 40600 Ann Arbor Road, Suite 100, Plymouth. To reserve a seat or for more information, call Lesley Aiello at (734) 459-4700 or laiello@kw.com.

Home photos

Visible Homes, a real estate brokerage, announced that all of their listings will be marketed with free professional

The goal of including professional photos is to improve the first impression amongst buyers and increase the number of showings and overall interest in the property.

Recent data shows that homes listed with professional photos sell for a much higher price than homes listed without. "Visible Homes constantly researches buyer characteristics, so it was no surprise to learn that homes marketed with professional photos sold for a higher price", said Wes McCaig, owner/broker of Visible Homes. "Over 90 percent of buyers search for homes online and 97 percent of these buyers rate photos amongst the most useful

features. We acknowledge that visibility and first impressions are the key ingredients to selling real estate in today's technology driven world."

Visible Homes listings are visible on many real estate websites. Sellers looking to begin the home selling process can go to http://www.visiblehomes.

com/sell. Visible Homes, LLC is a full service real estate brokerage which combines traditional real estate services along with today's most innovative technologies. Visible Homes is part of the National Association of Realtors, the Michigan Association of Realtors, and the Western Wayne Oakland County Association of Realtors.

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- 1 Babysitter's
- 4 noire
- 8 Dinner checks
- 12 Garcon's ves 13 Bakery must 14 He directed
- Marlon 15 - de plume
- 16 Weather factor
- 18 Whimper
- 20 Prefer charges 21 Maize unit
- 22 Get through to 26 Bits of fiber 28 Thick head of
- hair 31 College maj.
- 32 Take in
- nourishment
- 33 Religious branches
- 34 Dapper fellow?
- 35 Historian's word
- 36 Office-taker's promise

- 38 Violinist's aid
- 40 Shadowy 41 Funny
- Charlotte
- 43 Go to bed
- 46 Auto problem (2 wds.)
- 50 Badger 51 Little chirper
- 52 Sherbet flavor
- 53 Wanted-poster abbr.
- 54 Lodge 55 Brenner Pass
- locale 56 Pioneered

DOWN

- 1 Charged parti-
- 2 Subatomic par-3 Olive stuffers
- 4 Arbor
- Fiendish
- Decade
- 7 Concludes
- 9 Ms. MacGraw of films 10 Puppeteer 11 "Gal" of song

8 Giggle (hyph.)

Answer to Previous Puzzle

PULP

ISAY

TEST

STONESTHROW

LOOSOU

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REMRVS

REDHERRINGS

BETA

SEAL

12-14 @ 2010 United Feature Syndicate, Inc.

ONA

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SEWN

- greeting 25 Goose's call 26 Nonsense
 - 27 "Othello" plot-

17 Remedies

stomach

23 Of the

24 Breezy

19 Winery feature

- 28 Call --- cab 29 Drama section
- 30 Utmost degree 33 Fish finder
- 37 Set of tools 39 Wry humor
- 40 Fakes out, on the rink
- 42 La senorita 43 Sgt. Preston's
- group 44 Fall gardening tool
- 45 Mild rejoinder 46 German
- "bugs" 47 Easel display
- 48 Potpie veggie
- 49 Friction easer

Fun By The

Like puzzles?

sudoku. This

mind-bending

puzzle will have

you hooked from

the moment you

square off, so

sharpen your

your sudoku

pencil and put

savvy to the test!

Then you'll love

Numbers



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!

Word Search

S	L	Е	D	W	R	S	D	Ε	Р	Ν	L	D	С	Q
		0	Ε	Χ	Ν	R	G	D	M	Κ	T	R	X	M
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blanket blizzard boots

cold flakes frost

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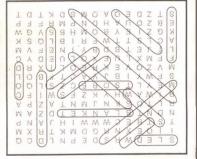
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snow snowblower wet

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

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CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE





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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

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By Owner

Home For Sale By Owner In "Lake Country"

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Wednesday, Dec. 22 @ 5 pm

Thursday, Dec. 23 @ 3 pm

Thursday, Dec. 23 @ 5 pm

Deadline

Wednesday, Dec. 29 @ 5 pm

Thursday, Dec. 30 @ 3 pm

Thursday, Dec. 30 @ 5 pm



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FREE RENT 2 Bdrm, 1.5 Bath. \$565, 936 Sq. Ft. 1 Bdrm, \$490, 728 Sq. Ft.

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area, Lg 2 bdrm, 2 bath, Family rm, appli, 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

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PLYMOUTH: 2 bdrm condo, pool, carport, laundry, storage, heat & water incl. Immed

Occ. \$695. **734-522-8957** REDEORD: 1 bdrm. 1 bath 2nd floor, courtyard. Close to I-96. Ideal for single professional. \$595. (734) 716-7771

2 bdrm, remodeled kitchen, all appl, washer, dryer. \$775/mo. + Security. 734-658-2347 WESTLAND: 2396 Ackley. 2 bdrm, 1 bath, c/a, bsmt, updated carpet & paint. 650

WESTLAND



sg.ft., \$650/mo.734-564-8280

734-377-2796, 734-255-5909 lomes For Rent

4050

2 bdrm bungalow, appli, lots of storage. \$690/mo. 248-328-0492, 248-760-8051 FARMINGTON HILLS 2 bdrm, family room, kitchen, laundry, garage. No pets. laundry, garage. No pets \$700/mo. 248-684-1764

FARMINGTON HILLS:

GARDEN CITY: 3 bdrm brick ranch, dining room, central air, bsmt, 2 car garage. Option. \$850. (248) 788-1823 GARDEN CITY: 3 bdrm, bsmt

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Apts.

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4850

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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

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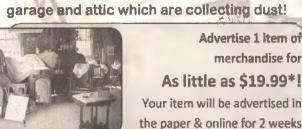
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