

Turkey trot

The Plymouth Salvation Army, which serves Plymouth, Canton, Northville and Belleville, is in need of some 400 turkeys to help meet the demand for its 2011 Thanksgiving distribution.

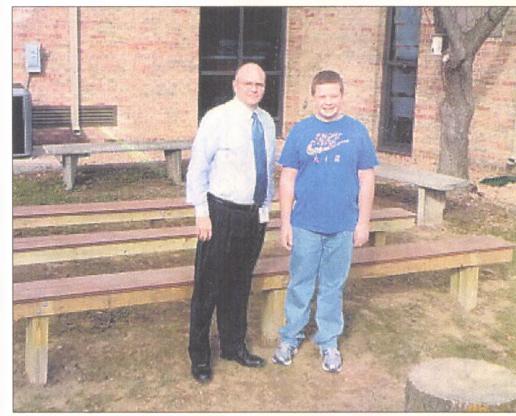
The turkeys (averaging 15 pounds and frozen) are included in meals provided for families in need throughout the Salvation Army's coverage area. In addition to the turkeys, the Salvation Army also needs other "Thanksgiving" type food — mashed potatoes, yams (or sweet potatoes) and jello/pudding.

The donations will help immensely, Salvation Army officials said, as the need in the area continues to climb in the midst of a stagnant economy.

Turkeys can be donated from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Nov. 14-21 at the Salvation Army corps, 9451 S. Main (just south of Ann Arbor Road) in Plymouth. For more information, call (734) 453-5464.

U-M tickets

All you Michigan Wolverine fans who always wanted to see a game at the Big House but couldn't get tickets now have your chance. Our website, Hometownlife.com, is giving away two prime tickets to the Nov. 19 game against the Nebraska Cornhuskers through a special Facebook promotion. To enter, visit us on Facebook and click on the sweepstakes tab, or go to Hometownlife. com, and click on the Wolverine helmet in our Don't Miss module. The contest winner will be selected at random Nov. 14.



Eagle Scout candidate Steven Cadwell, right, with Ted Younglas, the assistant principal at Pioneer Middle School, after Steven's spruce-up of a courtyard at Pioneer. Steven, a sophomore at Salem High School, attended Pioneer.

On Eagles' wings Nine locals in line for Scouting's top rank

By Matt Jachman Observer Staff Writer

At the 100th anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America's top rank, an unusually high number of senior Scouts at a Plymouth Township troop are on the brink



Plymouth stops to honor vets

TUESDAY, NOV. 8

OUR VIEWS, A8

CHECK OUT A RECAP OF OUR CANDIDATE ENDORSEMENTS

By Matt Jachman Observer Staff Writer

Friday marks the 93rd anniversary of the end of World War I, and people will gather in Plymouth for a brief ceremony to honor all U.S. veterans.

The event begins at 11 a.m. Friday at Plymouth Community Veterans Memorial Park, which is at Church and Main streets, just outside Central Middle School.

The ceremony, sponsored by four local veterans organizations, will include remarks by veterans, a rifle salute, a performance of *Taps* on the bugle and singing by CMS students. Participants are then invited to Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6695, 1426 South Mill, for a luncheon of chili and hot dogs.

Veterans Day, originally called Armistice Day, began as an observance of the end of World War I on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. The last U.S. veteran of that war, Frank Buckles, died in February at age 110.

Flag ceremony

VFW Post 6695 will also host a flag-retirement ceremony beginning at 2 p.m. Saturday, and the public is invited. Some 300 flags will be properly retired, said Gary Kubik, the building manager, and the ceremony will include narration about the different parts of the flag and the meaning and symbolism behind them.

"We like to get the public involved,' said Kubik. Volunteers to help with the ceremony are needed, he said, and the event provides opportunities for those involved in youth scouting to fulfil badge requirements.

Emergency alert

FEMA and the FCC will test the Emergency Alert System using the Presidential message code, Emergency Activation Notification at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 9. According to local Public Safety officials, the EAN code has never been tested before.

All radio, television, cable and satellite operators will air the test at exactly the same time. of achieving the honor. Nine boys from Troop

1537, based at Plymouth First United Methodist Church, are in line to become Eagle Scouts, with all either having completed or scheduled their required service projects within a nine-month period, Scoutmaster Nick Berlanga said.

"It's very unusual," Berlanga said Thursday. "Typically for a troop, if you have one or two Eagles for a year, that'd be considered a very productive year."

But in Troop 1537, he said, six Scouts have finished their service projects since June and a seventh project was scheduled for Saturday. The last two are scheduled for the coming weeks.

"They've kind of paced each other," said Berlanga, whose son Zane is in the troop and among those who've completed an Eagle project.

If the Eagle candidates win their final approvals, Boy Scout courts of honor, ceremonies at which the rank is awarded, will be scheduled for next year. From left, Doug Linsenmann, Paul Bingham, Phil Pairitz and Barry Bridges work on installing one of three 12-foot benches in a courtyard at Pioneer Middle School. Boy Scout Steven Cadwell enlisted help from around 40 people, some 30 fellow scouts and around 10 parents, to give the courtyard a facelift on Oct. 29; the project was one of the steps required as Steven works toward an Eagle Scout rank.

Spruce-up at Pioneer

Steven Cadwell of Canton Township, a sophomore at Salem High School, was among the latest to finish his service project. Steven led about 30 fellow Scouts and 10 adults Oct. 29 in sprucing up the largest courtyard at Pioneer Middle School on Ann Arbor Road.

Working with donations of money and materials, the group cleaned up the yard, spread four tons of new landscaping rocks on its border, replaced a walkway of aging payers and replaced broken downspout splash bocks with new ones. They also installed three new 12-foot benches, made earlier in the month, with the idea that the rehabbed courtyard should be able to accommodate an entire class.

"It's something I'm really proud of," said Steven, 15, a Boy Scout since he was in first grade.

He had scheduled the work for most of the day, but with the help he received, the project was wrapped up in just over four hours, Steven said.

"I anticipated it being way longer than what it was, but since I had so much help it flew by," he said.

Steven began planning the project last spring

Please see SCOUTS, A6

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth stops to honor its veterans with a brief ceremony at 11 a.m. Friday in the Veterans Memorial Park in front of Central Middle School, at the corner of Main and Church in downtown Plymouth.

Clerks foresee low voter turnout Tuesday

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Home Delivery: (866) 887-2737 Return Address: 41304 Concept Dr. Plymouth MI 48170 By Matt Jachman Observer Staff Writer

A crowded field in the local school board race, and the exceptional amount of attention that race has attracted, won't necessarily translate into increased voter participation in Tuesday's election.

That's the assessment of the clerks in Plymouth and Plymouth Township, which are among the communities where voters will decide Tuesday among 14 active candidates for the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Board of Education. Only four people will be elected to the school board. "I don't think it's going to help (turnout) that much," township Clerk Joe Bridgman said of the hotly contested school race. "It's really somewhat sad."

Part of the problem is there aren't any contests in either community beyond the school board. Plymouth Township has no township-only issues or candidates on the ballot, and, in Plymouth, the four candidates for the City Commission are almost guaranteed winners, as there are four open slots.

But voters frequently don't respond to local elections anyhow, Bridgman said.

He predicted voter participation in the township of around 15 percent to 20 percent. In 2009, during the last school board-only election in the township, some 3,445 voters, 16 percent of those eligible, cast ballots, he said.

"I'd like to see that double and triple, but reality is what it is," Bridgman said.

As of late Friday morning, the township had issued just over 3,000 absentee ballots, and about 65 percent had been returned, Bridgman said. Well over half the voters in Tuesday's election are expected to be absentees. The township has nearly 22,000 registered voters.

In Plymouth, Clerk Linda Langmesser predicted a voter participation rate of between 10 percent and 15 percent.

"This one might be a little higher," Langmesser said, because of the board race.

"It's unfortunate that voters don't vote like they should," she added. Plymouth has just over 7,000 registered voters.

There were 708 absentee ballots sent for this election as of Friday morning, and about 68 percent had been returned, Langmesser said.

Voters who hadn't planned to vote absentee but are now eligible to do so because, for example, a last-minute business trip will have them out of town Tues-

Please see ELECTION, A10

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online at hometownlife.com

Canton's Taj announces U.S. House bid

By Darrell Clem Observer Staff Writer

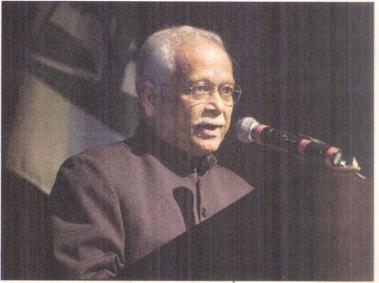
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Vowing to help create jobs and protect Medicare and Social Security, Canton Township Trustee Dr. Syed Taj has announced he will campaign as a Democratic candidate in 2012 in hopes of unseating U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter, R-Livonia, in the new 11th District.

Taj, chief of medicine for Dearborn-based Oakwood Hospital and a third-year Canton trustee, said his longtime career as a doctor and his elected position have prepared him to serve in Washington, D.C.

"I don't want to see our country going down the path it is going right now," Taj told the *Observer* on Friday. "It has been really frustrating to see people suffering and losing their houses and jobs — and nobody is doing anything in Congress."



Canton Township Trustee Dr. Syed Taj, speaking during a recent Mohandas Gandhi celebration at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill, plans to challenge U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter, R-Livonia.

Taj criticized Congress as "dysfunctional" and said he wants to help change it. "Nobody wants to lose their Medicare, and Congress is trying to change it," he said. "Irrespective of political party, nobody wants to give up Medicare. It's something people have paid into from a very young age, and they expect to have it once they reach retirement age."

Taj, 65, plans to retire from Oakwood Hospital in late March, though he pledged to finish the fourth year of his township board term in 2012 even as he campaigns for Congress.

"People have given me a job to do, and I need to complete my job," he said.

Taj has named as his campaign manager Natalie Mosher, who lost her challenge against McCotter in the last 11th District election. McCotter's district includes 28 communities such as Canton, Livonia, Plymouth, Plymouth Township, Northville, Northville Township, Novi and South Lyon.

McCotter also is facing a challenge within his own party from candidates such as state Sen. Mike Kowall, R-White Lake.

Taj, in his sixth year as Oakwood's chief of medicine, has said he has shown he can work in a bipartisan approach as the only Democrat on the seven-member Canton Township Board of Trustees. He also serves on the Canton Community Foundation's board of directors and has been involved in Wayne County Senior Alliance.

Taj made his announcement in the same week McCotter issued a statement bemoaning the national and state unemployment rate and criticizing President Barack Obama's handling of the economy.

Taj has rolled out his campaign website, www.tajforcongress.com. He was born and raised in India and moved to Michigan in 1982 with wife Sofia. They have a son, Asad.

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

OPEN HOUSE

Date/Time: Friday, Nov. 4, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday, Nov. 5, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Locations: Community Financial Credit Union, 500 S. Harvey in Plymouth; 6355 N. Canton Center in Canton.

Details: Are you tired of your current banking relationship and looking for something different? Community Financial Credit Union is hosting an open house to experience the credit union difference. Community Financial offers personalized service and financial solutions that meet specific needs.

Contact: For more information, visit www.cfcu.org.

SHOPPING EXTRAVAGANZA

Date/Time: Friday, Nov. 11, 6:30-9 p.m.

Location: Bentley Elementary School, 1100 S. Sheldon in Canton

Details: The Bentley Elementary School PTO is hosting their shopping extravaganza night. Over 25 vendors selling jewelry, books, kitchen items, home decor and much more. Door prizes given away throughout the evening. Admission is only \$1. Located at Bentley Elementary, 1100 S Sheldon Rd, Canton.

DAISY WALL RAFFLES

Date/Time: Every Tuesday through Nov. 15, 6-7 p.m. **Location:** Plymouth Roc, 1020 W. Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth **Details:** The PPN will be holding 50/50 raffles to raise funds for the Daisy Wall. Tickets are \$1 each, the more tickets sold, the bigger the jackpot. Ticket buyers don't need to be present to win

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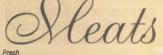
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Scholar honor

Student Recognized as National Achievement Scholarship Semifinalist

The Plymouth-Canton Board of Education recognized Plymouth High School senior Marcus Oden, who will advance in the National Achievement Scholarship program as a semifinalist.

Oden has been recognized by this national program because of his highscoring performance on the PSAT. The National Achievement Scholarship Program is an academic competition established in 1964 to provide recognition for outstanding Black American high school students.

Oden will be notified in January if he will advance as a finalist in the competition.

Math whizzes

Thirty-three students from Plymouth-Canton Educational Park qualified to advance in the Michigan Math Prize **Competition**. From approximately 10,000 participants in Part I across the state of Michigan, the top 1,000 students are invited to take Part II of the MMPC.

The next step requires students to work on five challenging problems and write their solutions providing full justification and proof of their claims. The competition will take place on Nov. 30 and the students with the top 100 scores will be honored at an awards program.

Approximately \$20,000



Plymouth-Canton Board of Education Secretary Adrienne Davis congratulates Plymouth High School senior Marcus Oden on his scholastic award.

in scholarships ranging from \$250 to \$2,500 will be awarded this year.

SCHOOL BRIEFS

Pact approved

The Plymouth-Canton Board of Education last week completed the process of extending the contract of interim Supt. Dr. Jeremy Hughes through June 30, 2013.

Hughes joined the District as Interim Superintendent in May of this year. His original contract with the district was to end on June 30, 2012.

Hughes has had a long and successful career in education, including serving as the Michigan Department of Education's Deputy Superintendent/Chief Academic Officer for five years. He spent 13 years as the Superintendent of the Dearborn Public Schools and also spent 10 years as the Superintendent of Haslett Public Schools near Lansing. Hughes is very familiar with P-CCS and served the District as a consultant two years ago to restructure the leadership model of its high school complex. the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park.

Poverty focus

Discovery Middle School Students Focus on Poverty presentations take place Wednesday, Nov. 9, in Discovery's Multi-Purpose Room.

Seventh-grade students have been learning about poverty in Africa and will now extend their learning with a capstone project on poverty in America. The culminating activity for the capstone is a Bead for Life fundraiser. Students will be presenting their Poverty in America capstone projects, enjoying African and American food and selling African jewelry.

Twenty percent of the proceeds from the sales will be donated to a charity in Canton.

Panel to study 'grinding' issue

By Brad Kadrich Observer Staff Writer

In the wake of what some parents called "lewd behavior" at last month's Plymouth High School homecoming dance, Plymouth-Canton school administrators have formed a committee to look into strengthening and enforcing district policy on student conduct.

Parents have been vocal in their complaints about the kind of dancing that occurred during the dance and came to the podium to express their concern at a recent board meeting. The objectionable dancing, called "grinding" will be addressed by the new committee.

Parents "are right" in their concerns," said Dr. Jeremy Hughes, the district's superintendent.

"There are people, including administrators, who share that concern," Hughes said. "We are going to be examining this.'

The committee will be made up of staff, parents and students, according to Frank Ruggirello, the district's director of community relations. Among the topics of discussion is student-behavior at school-sponsored activities, particularly

dances.

Ruggirello said the committee hopes to have guidelines in place before the district's next scheduled dance in March.

"There are going to be tighter rules," Ruggirello said. "That next dance (in March) will probably include a zero-tolerance policy for that type of behavior."

The committee, spearheaded by Plymouth High School associate principal Cheri Steckel, held its initial meeting this week, during which parents, teachers, students - decided to conduct on-line surveys. Residents will be notified when the surveys are available on-line.

Another meeting is scheduled for Dec. 8, where plans will be finalized

Grinding is a style of dance parents say simulates sexual activity. It consists of groups of dancers rubbing against each other. Parents said such dancing at the homecoming dance included female students bent over, with their hands on the floor,

"grinding" against them. Ken Waldrep of Canton, the father of a sophomore, chaperoned the dance and said

he considers the dancing "obscene." He said some adults at the dance, including administrators, looked the other way and shrugged the behavior off as a "teen thing."

"(School) should be a place that is safe and healthy," Waldrep said. "Our teens should not be subjected to behavior that has no place outside the bedroom, let alone in the halls of our schools."

It was behavior that shocked Molle Kabodian of Plymouth, who also chaperoned the dance. She called the grinding "horrific."

"It's sexual simulation on the dance floor," Kabodian said at a recent school board meeting. "What's sad is these are still children. Kids need to be taught right from wrong."

District officials agree children need to know right from wrong, and contend they already do. That's why, according to Ruggirello, students are being included on the committee.

"These are high school kids, and they know what's right and what's wrong," Ruggirello said. "Kids have to be part of the solution, or they don't learn anything."

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(CP) A5

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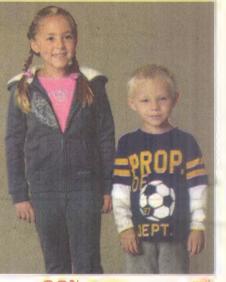
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.A.R. COME TO THE RIGHT PLACE

SCOUTS

A6

(P)

Continued from page A1

with then-Principal Philip Freeman. The Home Depot on Ford Road in Canton donated the lumber and the Trex board, a wood alternative that was used for the seating portion of the benches, as well as design help.

"We were just so grateful, 'cause we knew the expense," said Steven's father, Kevin Cadwell.

Steven raised money to pay for other materials by soliciting prizes from local businesses, prizes that were raffled off at an Oct. 22 bowling event. Panera Bread and Pepperoni Express, both in Canton, donated refreshments to feed the workers on project day

"The whole family is very proud of him," Kevin Cadwell said. "To be this close to getting his



Three new 12-foot benches sit among smaller benches after the spruce-up of a courtyard at Pioneer Middle School on Oct. 29. The idea behind the project, organized by Eagle Scout candidate Steven Cadwell, was to make the courtyard suitable for outdoor classes.

Eagle badge, I think, is phenomenal."

Leadership roles

In addition to a major service project, eligibility for the Eagle Scout rank requires other tests of leadership and Scouting skills, and community involve-

ment. Prospective Eagle Scouts must have a minimum of 21 merit badges, and typically help each other on their service projects. Steven is a troop guide, helping other Scouts earn their merit badges and advance in the ranks. "I like being with my

friends and being a leader and helping out the younger Scouts," he said.

"He's really good at mentoring the younger Scouts," Berlanga said. "That's kind of been his expertise.'

The Scoutmaster of Troop 1537 for three

years, Berlanga said the troop is experiencing a revival, with membership at just over 100, up from just 14 boys five years ago. "A lot of it has to do with these young men," who actively recruit new Scouts and return to their former Cub Scout packs to talk up the benefits of Scouting, he said.

The Eagle Scout rank was introduced by the Boy Scouts of America in 1911; since then, more than 2 million Scouts have earned the rank, out of the more than 110 million boys who have been involved in Boy Scouting since the BSA was founded in 1910.

Other Troop 1537 boys who have completed their **Eagle Scout projects** since June are:

 Kyle Zander, who led a project of cleaning, landscaping and building shelves for Angel House.

 Jacob Tufts, whose project involved landscaping and gardening at Smith Elementary. • Mohammad Ghannam, whose project involved replaced split-rail fencing along Sheldon Road north of Ann Arbor Road

• James Anderson, who installed a flagpole at **Plymouth First United** Methodist Church.

• Zane Berlanga, who removed old playground equipment and did landscaping, also at the church.

In addition, Scouts Nolan Bridges and Nelson Watkins have projects this month. Nolan's was to be Saturday at Miller Woods, where he and other volunteers were to clean up and repair benches. Nelson is organizing a clothing and food drive scheduled for later in the month.

Also, Scout Ben Davis is planning a January project at Angel House.

mjachman@hometownlife.com (313) 222-2405

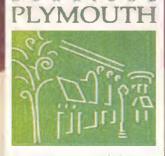


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Dragging case could spur new charge

By Darrell Clem Observer Staff Writer

A Westland driver accused of hitting another man and dragging him as a crowd gathered outside a Canton house could face a new, higher charge of assault with intent to murder, authorities have confirmed.

The defendant, 20-yearold Rodney Manning, already had been ordered to stand trial in Wayne **County Circuit Court on** charges of operating a vehicle while intoxicated causing serious injury, felonious assault and reckless driving causing serious injury.

However, Wayne County authorities have remanded the case to 35th District Court for a new hearing to consider an attempted murder charge against Manning. He is charged in a horrific incident July 2 that police say occurred when a motorist drove off Beck Road near Woodlong Drive and struck an 18-year-old victim, who became trapped under the car and was dragged toward Saltz Road.

The victim, also a Westland man, suffered severe injuries and spent just over two months in a hospital, Canton Detective Tim Wright has said.

Manning appeared Friday before 35th District

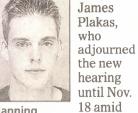
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Judge

claims

Manning

by prosecuting attorney Kenneth Simon that there are "reluctant witnesses" in the case.

Simon's allegations prompted Plakas to warn that he will jail any witnesses who refuse to cooperate.

Plakas also issued a warning that anyone involved in the case could find themselves in legal trouble, if they attempt to threaten or harass others. That warning came amid allegations by a defense attorney that threats have been made against Manning on Facebook and that vehicles have been driving past his house late at night since the incident, possibly in an attempt to harass him.

Manning is charged in an incident that Canton Detective Sgt. Dave Schreiner has said occurred during "a large gathering of young adults and teens."

No details have yet emerged to indicate what may have triggered the incident.

Teen is PAWS for Applause winner

Brady Allen Wenson, a Livonia teen who coaches a children's special needs hockey team, is a winner of the PAWS for Applause contest sponsored by The Observer & Eccentric and Hometown Newspapers.

ets to a Detroit Tigers game, an autographed picture of Tiger Brandon Inge, gift certificates for Little Caesars and recognition at the game.

Brady's grandmother, Bonnie Allen, nominated him for the contest, which honors young people who go above and beyond to make their neighborhood, school, community or

One winner a month

Below is an excerpt from her nomination:

nia Churchill High School Brady had become acquainted with knew he was a hockey player and asked him if he was interested in helping coach a kids' special needs hockey team. He said he would love to come and check it out.

"It just took one practice and he was hooked.

He received four tick-

family better.

was selected from among the submitted essays during baseball season.

"A counselor at Livo-



Brady Allen Wenson was honored at the Detroit Tigers game Sept. 1.

He didn't even need to set his alarm clock to get up at 8:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings to get to the rink and help the team get their equipment on. He was always up and ready to go. The players are all ages, sizes and have a variety of special needs and Brady loves coaching each and every player.

"Watching him be a coach at his age and have a smile on his face every time he can provide assistance or direction to a child who may need a little extra support is a true joy.

"He will drop to his knees and look his players in the eye when they fall and encourage or help them up. On occasion he will swoop them up and carry them to the bench when they need a rest or an extra helping hand.

"The team was invited to an international Special Hockey Tournament in Boston and Brady was thrilled to have an opportunity to be a part of the tournament. He worked extra hours waiting on tables to earn the mon-

ey for his ticket. He was so excited to come home and share all of the joy he experienced and that the boy named Tyler who holds an extra special place in heart scored a goal on a breakaway.

(P)

A7

"Brady was a bit torn as any teenager would be that while he was away he would be missing a school dance his girlfriend had planned. He knew she would be disappointed but would understand he needed to be there for his team and he had made a commitment to the Stars."



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Here are our choices in school board election

Paton

Voters have a lot of choices **OUR VIEW** Tuesday when they go to the polls to elect four trustees to the Plymouth-Canton Board of Education.

We recommend Sheila Paton, John Barrett, Nancy Eggenberger and Steven Sneideman.

Paton, of Plymouth, is cofounder of the Legislative Action Network, the grassroots group that has paid close attention to developments in Lansing, particularly as they pertain to public education funding. She has served as senior financial analyst for the University of Michigan Health System, so her background in finance will serve the board well. She's an independent thinker who will bring a valuable business acumen as tough economic times continue.

Barrett, also of Plymouth, gave up a potential re-election bid to the Plymouth City Commission to

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, November 6, 2011

run for the Board of Education. He'll bring a unique skill-set to the board. He spent 40 years as an educator, and was recognized by both Time and Newsweek magazines as innovative.

Incumbent Eggenberger has worked on a variety of committees, and has chaired the curriculum and development committees. She has a strong working knowledge of the district and an interest in seeing it continue to thrive. She understands the district still has difficult decisions to make, and is willing to consider the tough choices.

Sneideman is a former board president who, like Eggenberger, has been an effective board member. He's pushed for stronger use of technology, has fought to protect class sizes and has been instrumental in the attempt to



Eggenberger

help the district connect with its alumni. His experience will come in handy as the district wrestles with continuing budget problems and the search for a new superintendent. Sneideman is tenacious and while he fought strongly and smartly (and we believe rightly so) for former Supt. Craig Fiegel, the vote was taken and the district has moved on.

When voters go to the polls Nov. 8, they have many good choices and some difficult decisions to





Sneideman

make. It's amazing and encouraging to us that so many people - 15 in all — stepped forward to show their concern for the future of the children and their willingness to work toward bettering it. Having said that, voters can only choose four. We have met the candidates, followed the issues and we believe Sheila Paton, John Barrett, Nancy Eggenberger and Steven Sneideman are the best choices for the Plymouth-Canton Board of Education.

Backing Barrett

The citizens of the Plymouth and Canton communities face an important decision Nov. 8 - the selection of four individuals to strengthen the team on our local school board. The future of quality education for our youth is at stake. We write to recommend John Barrett.

For the past two years, John has served with us on the Plymouth City Commission. He has been an outstanding member of our team, consistently proving his ability to act in the best interest of our residents on the many difficult decisions we make.

All public bodies in Michigan have had to deal with dwindling resources while continuing to provide critical services. Painful decisions have had to be made at every level affecting the livelihoods of staff and residents alike. Downsizing, rightsizing and shared service pacts are now commonplace tactics.

When adding the vital element of the education of our school board candidates, has been restored to the tune of \$10 million.

Dr. Jeremy Hughes, the unanimous choice by the current board as "interim" superintendent, has offered to stay on in the position — a proposal that was met with enthusiastic support from the board. We doubt Dr. Hughes would have offered to extend his stay were progress not being made, or if he felt he could not continue to work in collaboration with the current school board.

Despite what you may be hearing, these are positive achievements. Leading the way on these, as well as other key initiatives, is current school board President John Jackson. We have known John for a very long time. Among the many good qualities he possesses, we have always found him to be ethical, collaborative and hardworking. He devotes countless hours of his time to research issues. He listens to others and is not afraid to exchange dialogue in debate over matters that are

Vote for Barrett

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Recently there have been fliers distributed and robocalls made stating John Barrett is part of a board that has hired a teacher who has brought a gun to school and that he has spent millions of dollars from a district reserve fund. These are untrue statements. He has never done this because he has never been a member of any school board. I have come to expect this attacking negativity on a national level, but I didn't expect it when our kids' futures were at stake. I decided that rather than play the "gotcha" game, I would present a positive statement as to why I think he would be an outstanding candidate for the Plymouth-Canton school board.

First, he has three advanced degrees in education, one of which is a doctorate. Second, in his career he has been a teacher, student council adviser, coach, K-12 curriculum cocoordinator, assistant principal and principal. He has served on countless school evaluation and other school improvement educational committees. Third, as principal he was responsible for a very large budget, which was always in the black When the district could not afford to make necessary improvements to his school, he and a group of parents founded a society, which raised thousands of dollars over many years to support building improvements. Parents were also involved in both indoor and outdoor beautification, as was a local nursery. In his school, he knew and respected every employee from the maintenance staff to his fellow administrators; he knew not only all of his employees, but their families and what was going on in their lives. He also knew hundreds of students by name He constantly championed school improvement with an emphasis on advanced placement and curricular innovation. He still reads about every newspaper, magazine and book he can get his hands on that deals with education. He will tell you, whether you want to hear it or not, what the average school day is like in India and how these students will be in competition with American students for global jobs. Once he made students in detention read an article from The World is Flat, so they could see that they really didn't have time to skip class or goof around if they expect to succeed as adults. In the last analysis, one can earn many laurels and recommendations, but if one cannot get people working together, one will fail, especially in such an affective environment as education. From his earliest days he has been a positive educational presence. Perhaps the best endorsement he could get was from our now 33-yearold daughter, who was then

about 16. We had guests for dinner who were very good friends whom she liked very much. After they left, I inquired as to why she and her sister were so quiet; her reply: "You guys never talk about anything except school." Enough said.

Carla Barrett Plymouth

Best for board

With the election of four PCCS Board of Education members rapidly coming up Nov. 8, I am proud to offer endorsements to Steven Sneideman, Nancy Eggenberger, Stephanie Goecke and Sheila Paton.

While we have a slate of candidates that have good intentions and I appreciate their willingness to serve this great district, I am disappointed in how some of the partisan politics has played in this campaign. The BOE is not who is Democratic, Republican, Tea Party, Green Party, but who is willing to serve the best interest of our students and

dollars in the classrooms. With many of the fundraisers the EEF has done for our students, Stephanie has been a great advocate for helping with the extra funding to go directly to our students.

> **John Nichols** Canton

End irresponsibility

It is fitting that we have P-CCS board candidates who recognize the irresponsibility and detrimental policies of the current and recent past boards. While issues such as the superintendent hiring fiasco have clearly demonstrated the dysfunctionality of the current board, there are other, equally compelling reasons for the current board to be swept from office.

While the P-C Community Schools have some of the highest student participation fees, the board has, and continues to, demonstrate fiscal irrespor sibility. A number of years ago, the P-CCS board donated a parcel of land in front of Central Middle School for use as the Plymouth Veterans Memorial Park. Recently the board donated another parcel of the Central Middle School property to be used as a park. P-CCS property belongs to all of the taxpayers in the district, not just the city of Plymouth. Central Middle School should have been closed and sold years ago. It is an aged, deteriorating facility into which tens of millions of dollars have been dumped over the years. Millions that could have been used to offset the current P-CCS debt. And for what reason? Keeping Central Middle School open provides a very well-equipped low-cost park for the city of Plymouth. Equally as financially egregious is keeping the Miller Woods property in the P-CCS inventory. The value of this property, at the northeast corner of Powell and Ridge, was further damaged when former Supt. Jim Ryan, at the direction of the P-CCS board, placed a deed restriction on 10 of the 40 acres. Miller Woods was bought many years ago as a potential school site. However, the state of Michigan advised the PCCS board years ago that due to demographics, a school on this property would not be approved. So why has a valuedamaging deed restriction been placed on this property and it not sold? Because it provides a very nice property value enhancing greenbelt for a few dozen property owners in Plymouth Township What has to be done? Remove the deed restriction and sell Miller Woods before the P-CCS board donates it to Plymouth Township. Sell the Central Middle School property before the P-CCS board donates it to the city of Plymouth.

youth, the steady and experienced hand of a professional who knows how to work in a volatile environment is essential. As a city commissioner, John has displayed his ability to listen to and understand diverse opinions while working toward decisions that serve our residents' needs. He values a team approach to decision making, recognizing that a variety of input accepted in an open and transparent way leads to better decisions and improved acceptance by those affected.

As a 40-year educator, most of it as a principal, John would bring tremendous real world experience to this role. Add to that his work as an elected public servant in Plymouth who is respected by his peers (even those who sometimes disagree with him) makes him uniquely qualified for service on our school board.

We urge all to vote for John Barrett.

> Mayor Dan Dwyer Mayor Pro Tem Mike Wright city of Plymouth

School vote matters

Most would likely agree that the upcoming vote for school board candidates is of paramount importance. As such, we hope you'll exercise your right to cast your vote for the candidate(s) you think are bestequipped to administer to the needs of our school district.

To no surprise, this year's election has been hotly contested. The current school board, over the past several months, has contended with a host of significant issues.

So, where are we now? We have a budget in place for the 2011-12 school year. The budget deficit, once a looming figure, has been dramatically reduced from \$12 million to \$1.7 million. The general fund, despite the message from some important to the success of our district.

As our district, like so many others, continues to grapple with key fiscal and operational challenges that lie ahead, we urge you to cast your vote for a strong leader, John Jackson.

Gerry Olexsey, Mark Stamper, Scott Ragland and Dennis Carnevale Canton

Supports Goecke

I believe I am typical of the voters in the Plymouth-Canton school district who look forward to electing a new start for the Plymouth-Canton school board.

Although it may be a clever campaign tactic, I am wary of electing another "gang of four," the first of which have gotten us into the present unfortunate situation. As I research the candidates, I am looking for those who have a vested interest (i.e., children) in the school system, who have the necessary business and legal credentials to manage the budget, who are not politicians looking for a landing spot nor a stepping stone to a further elected office, are collaborative decision-makers — unlike the present board — and, above all, have an understanding of the core business of educating our students and looking at every decision and expenditure

through that lens only. While I have yet to decide on an entire slate, my first vote will be for Stephanie Goecke. I have been privileged to work with her on the Plymouth Township Board of Review, and have all the confidence that she exemplifies the type of individual that is needed to deal with the challenges and make the necessary decisions that will benefit the school system, and the school system only. I urge others to join me in supporting her election.

> **Randy Jost** Plymouth

taxpayers

I agree with some of all the candidates' responses that I am not endorsing and how they debated each other. For so long, we had a split board and I am afraid the party politics would continue the same as all the candidates have some very good opinions and suggestions.

Steven and Nancy have demonstrated during their term to ask tough questions, work with other BOE members through the good and bad times. Not too long ago, there were two very controversial issues, the non-renewal of Dr. Fiegel's contract and the proposed closing of an elementary school. Both Nancy and Steven fought for a valid public explanation of these very important issues.

With the discussions on closing Fiegel Elementary, the proposal was laid out months before it was made public. Again, both Nancy and Steven asked the tough questions and voted to keep our school open. I, however, question the secrecy of these meetings, and I think the public has the right to participate and attend all meetings regarding any issue in this district.

Both Nancy and Steven have demonstrated their commitment to keeping class sizes small, fairness for our students and staff in the district, they have also demonstrated their willingness to open an honest discussions on all topics.

Shelia Paton has done a lot for this district. Recently she received the VIPS award for her work for this district. She has gone to Lansing to fight for increased school funding, cochair of the Legislative Action Network and has tirelessly met with all of our local elected leaders to fight for our kids.

Stephanie Goecke has been involved with the EEF for many vears now and has helped bring a lot of extra needed

Thomas P. Gamache Canton

10

OPINION

Reader panel recommends six candidates in school race

The Observer's Reader Panel, commissioned to evaluate candidates in Tuesday's Plymouth-Canton Board of Education election, had many discussions on how to best advise the community on the candidates of choice. With 14 candidates running for four positions, the Reader Panel decided to recommend six candidates for the four openings.

We felt more than four candidates will bring strong qualifications, experience and ideas to the PCCS Board of Education. Additionally, we preferred to endorse a pool of candidates that we feel will represent the community well, as opposed to recommending only four candidates for the available positions.

Here are the Observer Reader Election Endorsement Panel's recommendations

 Sheila Paton's background will allow her to be able to address the increasingly complex fiscal and budget challenges facing our district head-on.

 Stephanie Goecke has also served our community and district in a variety of volunteer positions. She scored high marks from our panel due to her obvious passion and enthusiasm for the



Eggenberger

kids in our district. As an attorney, we believe she can help address the more complicated district challenges. She has a straight-forward approach for addressing the financial matters and that is to live within the means of the budget.

Paton

 Steve Sneideman, an incumbent, maintained his composure and acted in a professional manner throughout the recent turmoil on the board. We believe the hard lessons learned on the board have helped strengthen his resolve to ensure that the Board act in the best interests of PCCS as a whole.

Nancy Eggenberger's vast knowl-



school board.

responsibility.

edge of how the district runs, combined

with her wide network of community

en dedication, experience, and famil-

iarity with the district's administration

• John Barrett has an unparalleled

knowledge of public school education

with over 40 years of experience as a

teacher, curriculum coordinator and

administrator. His focus is on academ-

ic excellence, and he understands the

necessity for accountability and fiscal

are reasons enough to re-elect her to the

members and organizations, make her

an asset worth having around. Her prov-



Sneideman

Goecke



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Horvath

 Mark Horvath brings ready-made experience to the board based on his previous stint as a school board member and president. He has a wealth of board experience and is very vocal with regard to the board's need for transparency, which some believe has been lacking over the past year or so.

As a panel, we are proud of the high quality of men and women from the Plymouth-Canton community who have committed to run for the PCCS Board of Education. We are indeed lucky to have so many that are interested in dedicating themselves, as volunteers, to such a vitally important task.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

innovation in order to keep pace with current economic

dysfunction has hampered the district's ability to move

the schools forward academically or make any progress

Stephanie is a fiscal conservative and champion of

teachers. In addition to being an active parent vol-

energetic member of several citizen committees and

a dedicated band booster, Stephanie has spent more

than a decade raising hundreds of thousands of dollars

exclusively for teachers, as a member and officer of the

Educational Excellence Foundation. Through her activi-

local business leaders, teachers and administrators who

Do not miss out on this opportunity to bring much

needed change to the school board. Vote for Stephanie

ties on the EEF, Stephanie has earned the respect of

are among the many supporting her candidacy.

unteer in her children's schools, a thoughtful and

kids. But she does believe that schools must embrace

realities and competition from across the globe.

fixing the district's structural budget deficit.

In this regard, she feels that the current board's

Supporting Nancy, Steven

Being a school board member is community service at its finest. During these times, it is important to appoint community members who have no agenda and make independent decisions with the clarity of avoiding micromanagement.

Nancy Eggenberger and Steven Sneideman are active parents, community members and current school board members who deserve re-election.

As you process your election decision, be mindful that the union's choices for election come with strings attached. Also be mindful that the district has chased away an unprecedented three superintendents in a relatively short period. There is a current board member and two former trustees who are running who have been in the shadows of all three. They will not withstand the same microscope that they have placed others under at the expense of our community

The election process should eliminate those who want to be served instead of serving the community. Nancy and Steven will continue to lead in an effective way, ask respectful questions and remember the community that elected them.

Darwin Watts Plymouth

Politics has no place in our school district. Vote for candidates who actually care about our children. 9 Many thanks to Rachel Goldberg and Bill Lembesis for

voicing their disgust at the spam of literature from the M&M candidates for PCCS school board. The mailed disinformation has darkened our mailboxes, and the unwelcome phone call spam has practically worn out the hangup button on my remote phone.

All the activity of the so-called M&M candidates prompts me to reissue my basic election questions:

 Why would anyone spend that amount of money just to get a job that pays so little? (Ah ha! Someone told me that it was not their own money.)

 OK, then why would someone give them that amount of money just so they could get a job that pays so little? (Uh oh! I'll bet that the giver of the money expects to get something bigger in return.)

This process and conspiracy is clearly confirmed by the origin of the mailings. The 11th Congressional District of the Republican Party, based in Livonia, is not even a part of our P-CCS district.

If you believe (as I do) that our school board should consist of members whose only interest is in providing the best possible public school education for our children, then please vote for candidates other than the M&M slate. Our school board should not be a stepping-stone for building political careers and it certainly should not be affiliated with any political party

Don and Elaine Bain Plymouth

On fuesday, Nov. 8, please exercise your right to vote. This year, there are four seats open on the Plymouth-Canton school board so you have a unique opportunity to usher in change that will impact the district for years

Usher in change

BRIAN L. JOHNSON, Attorney,

Goecke on Nov. 8.

to come

But don't vote for just anyone or default to a candidate's incumbent or political party status. Do your research.

There is one candidate who is not an incumbent and is running a decidedly non-partisan race. Her name is Stephanie Goecke and she has managed to bridge all of the divides. Her election committee is composed of both staunch Republicans and staunch Democrats. which speaks to her collaborative style and ability to give every side fair consideration.

She doesn't believe the entire education system is broken or that the teachers are wholesale failing our

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Politics has no place

STATE OF MICHIGAN, PROBATE COURT, COUNTY OF WAYNE, File No. 2011-770862-DE NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Decedent's Estate of WILBERT Estate of WILBERT E. ACKERMAN, Deceased, Date of Estate

Birth: February 26, 1920. NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Wilbert E. Ackerman, who lived at 44645 Gov. Bradford, Plymouth, Michigan died July 26, 2011.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Christine Ackerman Bryson, named persona personal representative or proposed personal representative, or to both the probate court at 1307 Coleman A. Young Muni. Center, 2 Woodward Ave., Detroit, MI and the named/proposed personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice

notice. Personal Representative: Christine Ackerman Bryson, 13623 Apache Plume NE, Albuquerque, NM 87111. Telephone No.: (505) 822-0888.

Attorney: Brian L. Johnson, P. 55134, 100 Park Street, Traverse City, MI 49684. Telephone No.: (231) 929-0500. Publish: November 6, 2011

SOCIAL SECURI

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

Nancy Conzelman

Plymouth

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



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

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

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

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

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

www.ssdfighter.com

Jack Demmer Ford

is pleased to announce the arrival of

Eric Walton

Eric comes to us with years of experience and would like to invite all of his clients to see him at his new home.



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Let silhouette artist Joyce Redman

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Letting God drive

Last message sends longtime pastor into retirement

By Brad Kadrich Observer Staff Writer

When Jerry and Pam Yarnell went out to dinner following a recent Saturday evening service at St. Michael Lutheran Church in Canton, it marked the first time they'd done something like that in years.

And they're hoping it sets a trend, what with the extra time they'll have on their hands now.

Yarnell, for 33 years the senior pastor at St. Michael, is delivering his final sermon today (Sunday) before heading into retirement.

And if Yarnell knows anything, he knows it's time, even at the relatively young age of 62.

"It's not how old the car is, it's how many miles you've got on it," Yarnell said with a smile. "God has good plans for St. Michael. They need someone with more energy than I have left to give."

Yarnell has been giving his energy to St. Michael since joining the onebuilding church in rural Canton in 1978. When he stepped to the pulpit the first time in the church's single sanctuary all those years ago, he preached to 41 adults, including five from one family alone.

Oh, how times have changed. When he stepped to the front of the sanctuary Sunday, he expected to find some 700-800 people in the pews.

"God brought about all this expansion," Yarnell



The Rev. Jerry Yarnell, working with the youngsters of St. Michael Lutheran Church in Canton, retires Sunday after 33 years as that church's senior pastor.

said of the church, which now boasts three sanctuaries and added classroom space. "When I started, I wanted a small church out in the country, and that's pretty much what I got. Now I have this big church in an area surrounded by suburbia."

Yarnell has spent his time teaching — "I spend a lot of time teaching the word of God," he said and presiding over an expanding outreach ministry that reaches past Canton's borders to

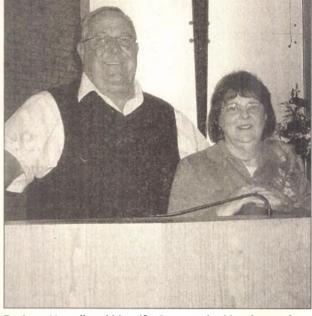
neighboring communities, food banks and even other countries.

The church's outreach stretches to local ministries such as Lutheran Food Services of Michigan, the Plymouth-Canton chapter of Young Life and **Open Door Ministries.** It also gives to International Lutheran Renewal Center and Peace Makers International, as well as to ministries in faraway places such as Congo, India, North Africa and France.

More than 21 percent of the church's revenue — more than \$242,500 last year — is donated to benevolence ministries.

"The first check we write is to the Lord," Yarnell said. "The book says you put God first and He takes care of the rest."

Pam Yarnell said her daughter noticed the difference on that Saturday evening out to eat. Like her husband. Pam has been very involved in church activities, from helping with the Sunday



Dr. Jerry Yarnell and his wife, Pam, are looking forward to spending some quality time together now that he's retiring after 33 years as senior pastor at Canton's St. Michael Lutheran Church.

School and Vacation Bible School programs to running the church's Bell Choir.

She said she hopes her husband's retirement gives the couple "more time for us.'

"He's given his life to this church, and he deserves some time for him," Pam Yarnell said. "We haven't had a lot of time for us. I'm looking forward to more of that."

The audience of some 700-800 people Sunday will include a number of families who've been here much of Yarnell's tenure. Karen Peoples, who also works in the church office, has been a member of St. Michael since 1996. She said Yarnell will be missed.

"If you ever need

advice on anything, you go to him and he sets you straight," Peoples said. "He's been such a great spiritual leader. I'm going to miss him a lot."

Maybe not that much, though, because Yarnell plans on staying in Canton and staying involved.

"I'm not leaving the Kingdom of God," he said with a smile. "I'm retiring from full-time work, but I'm not leaving. It's amazing to see what God has done. From the tiny little building at the far end to this complex ... it's amazing.

"It wasn't me," Yarnell added. "We let God drive, and we just did what he said."

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

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH

LEGAL NOTICE NOTICE OF **PUBLIC HEARING**

ELECTION Continued from page A1

day, can still obtain an

es of medical emergen-cies or for a voter who has become unexpectedly homebound. Polling places in both

board are incumbents John Jackson, Nancy Eggenberger and Steven Sneideman, plus Mike Andro, Matt Dame, Mark Hor vath, Mike Maloney, Sheila Paton, Angie Williams-Chehmani, John Barrett, Abdul Muhiuddin, Stephanie Goecke, Michael Redman and Clifton Nealy. The race has attracted attention because of Republican Party and Michigan Education Association involvement.

John Nichols is on the ballot, but has not active-

Tuesday, November 15, 2011

DADCO, Inc.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE: that a Public Hearing will be held on Tuesday, November 15, 2011, during a regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Plymouth. To consider the request of DADCO, Inc. for an Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate for machinery, equipment, furniture, and fixtures located at 43850 Plymouth Oaks Blvd., Plymouth Oaks Business Park, Plymouth Township, Wayne County, Michigan.

The request of DADCO, Inc. is on file in the Clerk's Office at Plymouth Township Hall where it is available for public perusal from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. During the public hearing any resident of Plymouth Township or members of the Legislative Board of any affected taxing unit in the Township shall have the right to appear and be heard. Written comments addressed to the Clerk will be considered.

The public hearing, commencing at 7:00 p.m., will be held in the Town Hall at Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N Haggerty Rd, Plymouth, Michigan 48170, on Tuesday, March 8, 2011. Phone Number 734-354-3224. Following the public hearing, the Board may decide on the request by resolution.

> Joe Bridgman, MMC Township Clerk Charter Township of Plymouth

Publish: November 6, 2011

absentee ballot until 4 p.m. Monday with a visit to their clerk's office. But those ballots must be voted on site and left with the clerk's office. Langmesser said her office will also issue absentee ballots Tuesday in cas-

communities will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday. All four of Plymouth's voting precincts are at the Cultural Center, while the township has 12 different polling places, one for each voting precinct. Running for the school

ly campaigned.

The four candidates for four spots on the City Commission are incumbents Mike Wright and Ed Hingelberg, plus Meg Dooley and Diane Bogenrieder.

mjachman@hometownlife.com (313) 222-2405

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Plymouth District Library Board will hold its regular meeting November 15, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. at the Friends Room on the main level of the Library at 223 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI 48170.

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

> Sandy Young, Library Secretary Plymouth District Library 223 S. Main Street Plymouth, MI 48170 734-453-0750 X217

Publish: November 6, 2011

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the Holida

Charter Township of Plymouth Notice of Budget Public Hearing November 15, 2011

The Charter Township of Plymouth Board of Trustees will hold a public hearing on the proposed township budget for the fiscal year of 2012 at the Charter Township of Plymouth offices located at 9955 N Haggerty Road, Plymouth, MI 48170 on November 15, 2011 at 7:00 PM.

A copy of the budget is available for public inspection at the Charter Township of Plymouth, Clerks Office, 9955 N Haggerty Road, Plymouth, MI 48170 during normal business hours 8:00 am to 4:30 pm

The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.

Publish: November 6, 2011



Remember your loved ones that you've lost by placing a special holiday remembrance tribute for the holidays. The Observer and Eccentric /Hometown Weekly Newspapers will be publishing a special "In Remembrance" page for the holidays. Here's the perfect opportunity to honor the memory and celebrate the life of loved ones who hold a special place in your heart.

> Prices start at \$15* *1x2 remembrance ad (Larger remembrance may be purchased)

Publications Sunday, December 25th Observer & Eccentric Newspapers:

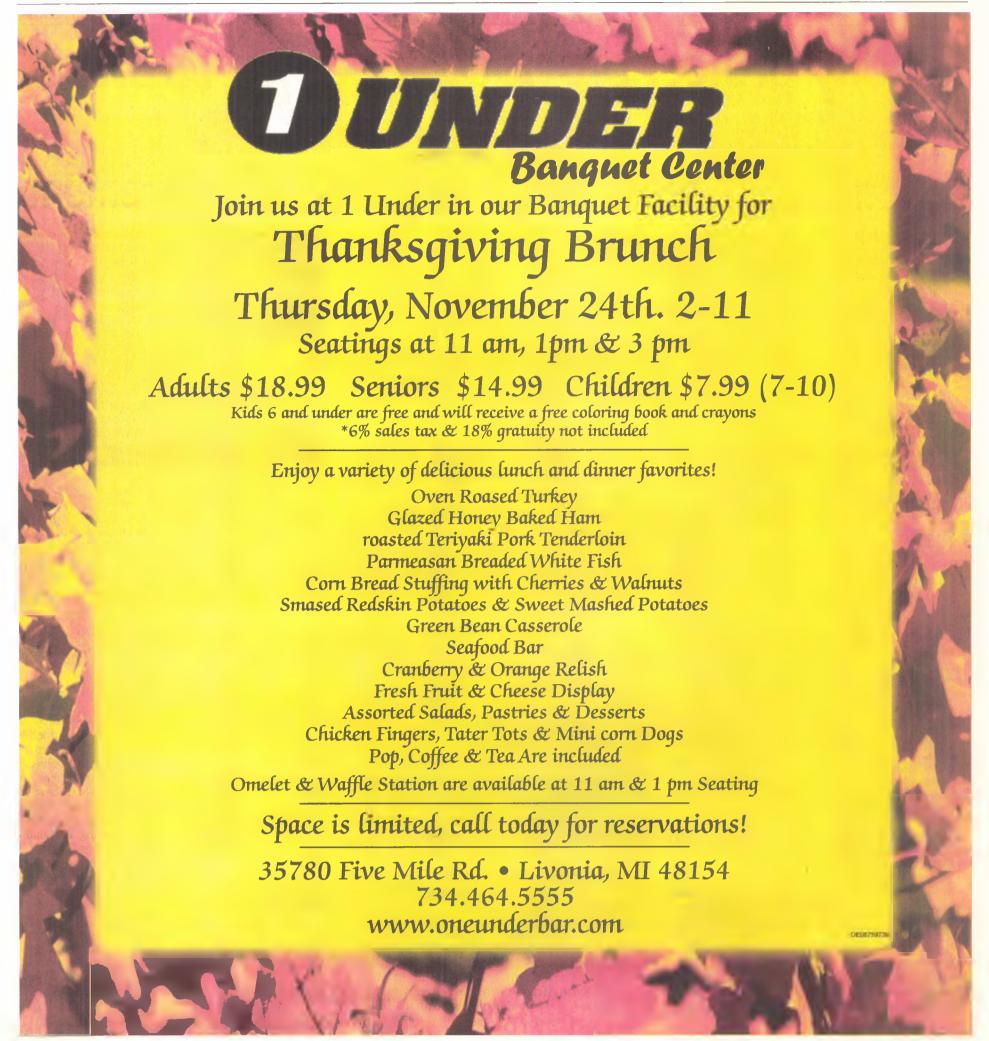
Thursday, December 22nd Hometown Weekly Newspapers: (Milford, Northville, Novi and South Lyon)

> Deadline Monday, December 12th For all publications

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

hometownlife.com **Observer & Eccentric** HOMETOWN

1



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www.Waltonwood.com

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, November 6, 2011

Holiday project provides cheer for veterans

By Sue Mason Observer Staff Writer

It started out as project for adults and children at St. John's Lutheran Church and School in Westland to provide holiday packages for veterans at the VA Hospital in Ann Arbor. Armed with \$780 in cash and donations, they made inpatient boxes that they delivered to the hospital where they visited with veterans and sang songs.

Five years later, they're still making the boxes, but the effort has expand-

ed to include the inpatients boxes, food and clothing for homeless veterans and boxes for military personnel in combat overseas. "It's just blossomed,

it's huge," said Kendra Schaffer.

Schaffer got the idea to do the packages for the veterans from her son who worked at the hospital. He told her the patients don't get a lot of visitors and have limited toiletries.

The first year, they prepared 100 boxes for patients. The second year,

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they collected \$1,900 in cash and donations and prepared 101 boxes for the patients and 115 boxes of food for homeless veterans. With each passing year the donations have increased and more people and churches have got involved. Students at Huron Valley Lutheran High School

in Westland are helping out as is St. John's sisters churches - St. Paul's and Peace Lutheran in Livonia, Our Savior in Westland and Trinity Lutheran in Saline. Even Thrivant **Financial for Lutherans** has contributed \$1,000 to

> this year's effort. "When you go out there and see these veterans ... they're the reason we have our freedom, but they look so lonely," said Schaffer. "It's so moving because here are these huge men who fought in wars with tears in their eyes, saying thank you."

"I took my seven-yearold son last year and



Marine Cpl. William C. Danic III and Gunnery Sqt. Jody Nelson and Army Sgt. First Class Jose Vital show off the Christmas packages they received from the St. John's Veterans Project while they were stationed in Afghanistan last year.

they we so excited to see them," added Trisha Boryszczuk. "They taught him how to shake hands properly.

In 2010, the group received \$3,126 in cash and donations. They made 142 inpatient boxes, 140 boxes for the homeless and added 38 individual boxes for troops serving in Afghanistan.

Sunset Hills

newly developed 75-acre

Cemetery

That, according to the two women, was "truly awesome." The children made Christmas cards and drew pictures that were included in the individual boxes. Members of the congregation also wrote Christmas cards.

"These guys were waiting for these boxes because they had run out of soap," Boryszczuk said.

This year they've adopted another 35 soldiers serving in Afghanistan and are preparing 260 boxes. After some brainstorming, they expanded to included clothing.

With the help of coupons, Schaffer was able to get 50 coats from the DAV Thrift Store "pretty much for free." She went back and got another 27 for 50 percent off. The Laundry Stop on Wayne Road helped in cleaning them.

"I wanted at least 100 hats, coats, scarves and gloves coats and I'm at 135," said Schaffer. "The grade school did a glove drive and a lady at the church made 200 fleece scarves.'

Kmart on Wayne Road has "been great" in with its buy one, get one free on sweat pants and Meijer has provided gift cards that are used to purchase items for the boxes. Schaffer even bought up every T-shirt the CVS had on sale for 25 cents each, much to the dismay of other shoppers.

They're also collecting gently used men's, women's and children's clothing, shoes and boots for a veterans homeless shelter. Items can be dropped off at the Laundry Stop or at the school on Wayne Road just north of Glenwood. Canned good should open with pull tabs.

The St. John's Veterans Project is a 501(c)3 charity. Contributions are 100 percent tax deductible and 100 percent of the donations go to the project.

More information also can be found on the project's Facebook page at facebook.com/stjohnsvet-

40%

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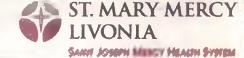
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- Center for Joint Replacement Seminar Guest speaker Ryan Molli, DO Thursday, November 10, 6 p.m. Call 734-655-2345 to register or for more information.
- Stress Free Holidays Guest speaker Cynthia Rochon, RN, PMHN, MBA Wednesday, November 16, 7 p.m. Call 734-655-8950 to register or for more information.
- Women's Health Series: Healthy Living, Healthy Woman, Speakers from Gynecology and Urogynecology Thursday, November 17, 6-8 p.m. Call 734-655-2281 to register or for more information.
- Center for Joint Replacement Seminar Guest speaker Jeffrey Mendelson, MD Wednesday, November 30, 6 p.m. Call 734-655-2345 to register or for more information.
- Michigan Bariatric Institute Seminar Guest speaker Tallal Zeni, MD Thursday, December 1, 6 p.m. Call 877-WHY-WEIGHT to register or for more information.

Fall Prevention

Guest speaker Kevin Moore, OTR, WCC, MSA Wednesday, December 7, 7 p.m. Call 734-655-8950 to register or for more information.

REGISTER NOW!

Presentations are free, but registration is required. Visit stmarymercy.org and click on Classes & Events or call designated number above.

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Avoid commissions to achieve best possible investments

By Rick Bloom Guest Columnist

Q: Dear Rick: | have followed your career for many years and you are the first person I know in the financial world that talked about fees and costs. I bought my first no-load fund based upon your recommendation and since then I have never bought anything but commission-free mutual funds. My daughter was recently married and her husband asked for my advice when it comes to investing. He is 35 years old and has about



Rick Bloom

401(k) plan which he is funding and, therefore, he doesn't want to invest more money for retirement such as in an IRA. Because he is a novice investor, I want to make it as easy as possible for him. Can you recommend some Vanguard funds for him? He is

a conservative investor.

A: It is great that you're taking your son-in-law under your wings and helping him set up an investment portfolio. Before he begins investing, I would recommend that he learns a little bit about investing. Vanguard has some excellent materials on its website that he should look at. I've always been a believer that the more an investor knows, the better investor they will be. There are also some excellent materials to help him learn about investing on my website

(bloomassetmanagement. com) under the Bloom University tab.

I agree that Vanguard is a great company. It is very investor friendly and very easy to deal with. It believes, as do I, that lowcost investing is one of the keys to success.

In looking at your sonin-law's situation and considering the fact that he is a long-term investor, I would recommend that he takes the \$20,000 and divide it equally within the following Vanguard funds:

1. Vanguard Equity Income

2. Vanguard S & P 500 3. Vanguard International Growth

4. Vanguard Wellesley Income

5. Vanguard Total Bond Market

I know some people would say that with a total of \$20,000 to invest, this is too many funds. My answer to them is, so what? The goal is to help someone achieve their goals and objectives. Whether that takes one fund or 50 funds is really not the issue. The issue is how best to divide the money to have a well-balanced and diversified

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portfolio.

My philosophy has always been that money looks better in your pockets than it does anywhere else. Therefore, if you agree with me and you want to keep more money in your pocket, one great way to do that is to avoid commission to products. Good luck!

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

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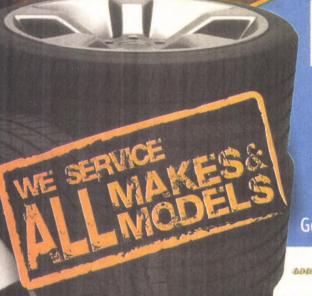


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Kroger floral clerk blooms to 'fame' in national ads



JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Betty Swanson, a breast cancer survivor, was selected as the only Michigan Kroger employee to appear in an advertising campaign called Giving Hope a Hand.

By Stacy Jenkins Observer Staff Writer

If Betty Swanson thinks it's strange to see her photo on the front page of the Farmington Observer today, she'll be even more shocked to see her face on products one of these days at the Kroger grocery store, where's she's worked for 16 years.

Swanson, of West Bloomfield, is a quiet, unassuming woman, but she's been on quite an adventure since being selected to participate in Kroger's Giving Hope a Hand campaign to raise awareness about breast cancer screening and early detection.

Swanson is among 56 courageous Kroger associates who are breast cancer survivors and fea-



tured in Kroger's Giving Hope a Hand campaign, which raises \$3 million each year to support breast cancer programs serving local communities. The program has generated \$20 million since its inception in 2006 to support breast cancer education, services, treatment and research in locations served by Kroger stores. Swanson, the only Mich-

igan Kroger employee selected for the campaign, travelled to New York City for a photo shoot, where she met NFL stars Eli Manning and Mark Sanchez. They did one full day of photos, Swanson said. It

was quite a thrill for her. "They are just the nicest young men you'd ever want to meet," she said.



O A VERY HAROLD & KUMAR 3D CHRISTMAS (R)

\$2.50 PREMIUM Fen su Inate 12:40, 2:50, 5:00, 7:15, 9:20 FRI/SAT LS 11:40 **O TOWER HEIST** (PG-13) 11:50, 2:10, 4:40, 7:05, 9:30 FRI/SAT LS 11:45

\$2.50 PREMIUM PER 3D TICKET

4:40, 7:05, 9:30 FRI/SAT L **O IN TIME** (PG-13) 11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:10, 9:35

12:20, 2:30, 4:50, 6:55, 9:00 FRI/SAT LS 11:15 O3D PUSS IN BOOTS (PG)

2.50 PREMIUM PER 30 TOCKET 11:00, 1:05, 3:10, 5:15, 7:20, 9:25 FRI/SAT LS 11:30 PRARAORMAL ACTIVITY 3 (R) 12:30, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 9:50 EDI/SAT LS 12:00

FRI/SAT LS 12:00 **REAL STEEL** (PG-13) FRI/SUN/MON/TH 11:00, 1:40, 4:20,

SAT 7:00, 9:40 TUE/WED 11:00, 1:40, 4:20

FRI/SAT LS 12:00 OPUSS IN BOOTS (PG)

7:00. 9:40

think much about it when she filled out a survey for the ad campaign selection. The ads featuring Swanson and other

Kroger associates have already started to appear on custom packages of national and Kroger brand items at Kroger stores. Photos can also be viewed at www.sharingcourage.com.

Swanson admits she's going to be quite surprised when she walks into work one day to see her photo on products in the grocery aisles. The store management isn't sure when that will happen, or which products may feature Swanson's photo.

"They're just very down

She traveled to New

York with her nephew,

Michael Adams, of Roy-

Swanson, who is the

lead floral clerk at the 12

Mile Kroger in Farming-

ton Hills, said she didn't

to earth young men."

al Oak.

She's already taken some teasing from her friends and co-workers over her newfound "fame."

"They're all getting a kick out of it," she said, smiling. "They call me the celebrity."

Her message

Swanson, who has three adult children, said she's "very reserved" and she likes to keep to herself, so the attention that comes with the ad campaign is not really comfortable for her, but she said she's

honored to be a part of something that could help others.

"I hope through all of this, that it helps someone," she said. "My main goal is to tell people to go out there and get that mammogram."

Swanson was diagnosed with breast cancer between stage 1 and stage 2 — at age 58, in February 2009. She had skipped getting her mammogram six years in a row.

She was calm and immediately determined to fight upon receiving the diagnosis.

"I wasn't afraid. I didn't cry. I just said I have a battle in front of me and I had to get myself together and get ready for that battle," she said.

Suzanne Arn, Kroger store manager, said she's inspired by Swanson.

"I think she's great. I admire her," she said. "I think it is a great opportunity to have someone as a role model right in the workplace."

Swanson has advice for others who may be faced with similar news as she received in 2009.

"I try to tell everybody not to be afraid; keep your spirits up and have faith — you're going to be fine," she said. "I'm not saying it's easy, but you'll get through it.'

She said she thanks her friends, family and coworkers at Kroger for helping her to do just that.

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Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, November 6, 2011



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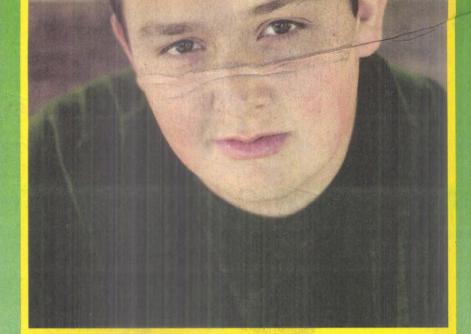
Santa's Grand Arrival



Santa will be arriving by helicopter on Saturday, November 12th at 10am! Greet

Meet and Greet Noah Munck

who plays Gibby on icary in East Court at 11 am



Be sure to mark your calendar and join us for some other exclusive holiday fun... Ride Santa's Polar Express Train Have Breakfast With Santa

See www.westlandcenter.com for more details, dates, and times.

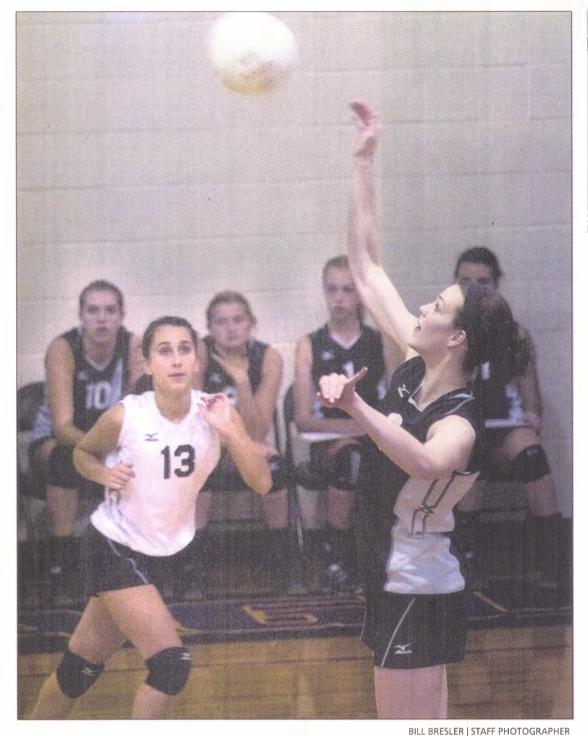
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SHOPPING CENTE

INSIDE: ALL-AREA BOYS TENNIS, B2

SECTION B . (CP) SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2011 OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC HOMETOWNLIFE.COM SPORTS

TIM SMITH, EDITOR tsmith@hometownlife.com (734) 718-5306



Punching the ball for Plymouth Christian during a recent contest is Kristin Malcolm (right) while libero Jessica Rich (No. 13) watches. Both are senior co-captains.

Eagles set to fly

Plymouth Christian senior spikers eye return trip to D4 final

By Tim Smith Observer Staff Writer

Kristin Malcolm smiles when

sity starter. "We all love each other, there's no tension or arguing whatsoever. We all are a really close team." my best friend and an awesome setter. I love spending every practice and every game with her."

Canton rallies for first district crown

By Tim Smith Observer Staff Writer

With Novi fans cheering wildly in their own gym Friday night, Canton senior Maggie Deloy stepped up to the line to keep her team's season alive.

The Wildcats led 2-1 in the Class A district final and had an 18-17 lead when Deloy sent her first serve over the net.

Senior teammate Jordan Tubaro secured the Canton point at the other end of that play to make it 18-18 and Deloy went on to serve up six more points — paving the way for a 25-20 win to even the rollercoaster ride of a match.

"I just wanted to get it over," Deloy said later. "My coach (Mary Kryska) was giving me places to serve. I was trying my best to get them there. I just wanted to get the serve over."

That momentum shift carried over into the clinching set, which the Chiefs won 15-9 to take the match 3-2 and win their first-ever district championship.

Canton now will face White Lake Lakeland in a Class A regional opener set for 5 p.m. Tuesday at Brighton.

Grabbing momentum

"We always talk about being mentally tough," Kryska said. "And that's when we became, mentally tough that fourth game

"We battled point for point, until the end, going into a Game 5. It's scary because it's a quick 15 points. ... We got a 7-1 lead and had momentum on our side."

Canton (40-9) broke out in the clincher thanks to the serving of junior Becca Middleton and senior setter Lauren Martin (54 assists, 16 digs).

Taking care of matters at the business end of those serves with floor-pounding hits were senior front-row players Kristen Muir, Alaina Turner and junior Erica den Boer.

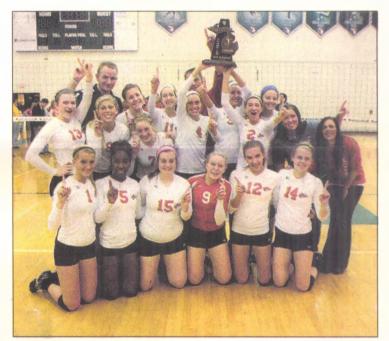
Novi (41-6-1) could not get closer than three points after that with the game and match point coming on a Martin-to-Turner set-and-kill.

"I really don't think it was anything Canton did," Novi head coach Ginette Parlsey said about the way the match turned around. "They played a great game and obviously they came out on top tonight.

"But I feel like we didn't play our style, which is aggressive. When we put the ball on the floor, no one can compete and we didn't do that."

When the match began, it looked as though Novi would cruise to the championship. Junior outside hitter Kacey Sheldon served up five points in a row (including two aces)

Please see CHIEFS, B2



talking about her team returning to the Kellogg Center for another crack at a Class D girls volleyball title.

But she smiles even wider when talking about the family feeling she has with her teammates on No. 2-ranked Plymouth Christian Academy.

"I think our team unity is a huge thing for us," said Malcolm, a standout senior co-captain in her fourth year as a varWith a laugh, the 6-0 middle blocker added that PCA head coach Kelly Blackney is "like a mom to us. I mean, she's a good coach. But we have so much fun with her and it's like a family."

Malcolm actually *has* family on the team, namely sophomore setter Jenny Malcolm.

"That's my favorite thing about volleyball this year," Kristin Malcolm said. "She's If all goes well for the Eagles, both Malcolms will have a couple more weeks to enjoy each other's company on the court.

That's because Plymouth Christian is keen on getting back to the Kellogg Center in Battle Creek, where they competed in the 2010 D4 semifinal and final (the latter a loss to

Please see EAGLES, B3

JOHN KEMSKI

The Canton volleyball team celebrates winning its first-ever district title on Friday night.



STEVE KAHRS

Canton's Tyler Winningham (No. 6) shadows Warren DeLaSalle's Mike Leone on Wednesday night in front of Canton goalkeeper Steven Murphy (partially hidden). Back to help out for the Chiefs are Connor Furgason (No. 11) and Nate Bergeson (No. 10).

Chiefs down top-ranked Pilots in D1 semifinal

By Tim Smith Observer Staff Writer

With less than a minute left in regulation Wednesday, Canton still needed to thwart a lastminute corner kick by Warren DeLaSalle to reach the Division 1 boys soccer state final.

"We had everyone back and (senior) co-captain Mitch Posuniak just came back and he shouted, 'Boys, not now, we don't give it up now," Canton senior goalkeeper Steven Murphy said. "And we got the ball out."

As was the case throughout the contest, it was Connor Furgason to emphatically deny the No. 1ranked Pilots.

The senior defender stepped into the scrum in

front of Murphy and headed the ball to safety. That allowed the Chiefs to finish off a 1-0 win in the D1 semifinal Wednesday at Farmington High School.

Solid 'D'

"It was very nerve-racking, them getting in our box," Furgason said. "But I had confidence in our team the whole time that we were going to win.

"Everyone got back, everyone defended first, and that's what you got to do."

Canton (23-1-2) also needed some offense in order to move on to Saturday's D1 final (against Grand Haven, 18-1-3).

Please see SOCCER, B2



Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, November 6, 2011

LOCAL SPORTS

online at hometownlife.com

Raiders lead All-Area tennis team

FIRST-TEAM SINGLES Stephen Payne, Sr., Liv. Franklin: The No. 1 singles player for the Patriots finished 31-3 as a senior en route to a berth in the MHSAA Division 1 quarterfinals and a KLAA Kensington Conference consolation bracket champ (where he defeated Division 2 state champion Kevin Renehan of South Lyon East)

B2

(CP)

Payne owns a career-record of 108-15 and is a three-time regional champ at No. 1 singles, along with winning the No. 2 singles title as a freshman.

He is a three-time Livonia City champion, as well as earning No. 1 singles titles at the Warrior, Olson, Noland and Monroe classics (2009, 2010, 2011).

The team captain also captured the LG Patriot Classic this season.

"One of Stephen's most impressive characteristics, in my opinion, is regardless of whether he is winning or losing, he plays with integrity and honor, always giving his opponents the respect they deserve" Franklin coach Dawn Fallu said.

Payne has narrowed his choice between Western Michigan or the University of Detroit Mercy

"Whichever college Stephen ends up playing tennis for is not only getting a very talented tennis player, but an asset to their team," Fallu said. "He is the epitome of pride and respect for the sport of tennis.'

Jacob Scott, Jr., Salem: The junior completed his second outstanding season as the No. 1 singles player for the Rocks and head coach Bill Nelson.

What Scott can achieve in his senior year is something that Nelson can't help but smile about

In addition to his game, Scott will be team captain for a second straight year and "is a leader both on and off the court" not to mention having a 3.91 grade-point average.

"He works continually on improving his game, both (with) power and accuracy," Nelson said.

Scott also racked up a 19-6 record, which Nelson said is good considering the high quality of No. 1 singles players in the KLAA.



Stephen Payne Franklin



Griffin Mertz N. Farmington



Tarun Giridhar Ryan Wolok **N. Farmington N. Farmington**

improve and peak at the state tournament.

"He had a tough first round loss to Midland Dow's player, 6-4, 6-4. Although he lost that round, he played great tennis. I was very proud of him this entire season. He was one of my captains and did a great job leading the team on and off the court.'

Max Kohl, Sr., N. Farmington: Kohl is another veteran singles player for the Raiders. The senior compiled a 20-7 record this year at the No. 2 flight. He was a regional finalist and Division 2 state semifinalist.

"Max had a phenomenal season with some great wins," Wasielewski said. "He was cocaptain of our team and a great leader. Some good wins were against Groves, Andover, Troy, U-of-D and Lahser.

"He earned a fourth seed at the state tournament as a result of his great season and impressive record. He lost to Okemos in a close three-setter at state. Max was a huge asset to our team, being a consistent competitor, tough at every match both physically and mentally."



Max Kohl N. Farmington **N. Farmington**



Danny O'Neill **N. Farmington** N. Farmington

Colin Halow



Ryan Kay Jason Kraft N. Farmington

N. Farmington him in the future. He has a lot of time to mature and develop into an even stronger competi-

tor than he already is "Griffin also earned the fourth seed at the state tournament, losing to the eventual runner-up in a tough match. He is a very smart player and knows how to put points together and use a variety of shots to win points. He will definitely continue to be a threat in the future."

Jonathan Martin, Fr., Liv. Churchill: The talented freshman played No. 2 singles for the state qualifying and regional champion Chargers where he finished 19-3 overall.

Martin was regional champion and also captured the Livonia City Quad, where he won all three matches by 6-0, 6-0 scores, along with Adrian Invitational.

He was also runner-up in the Howell Tournament for a Cure and a semifinalist in the KLAA Kensington Conference winner's bracket.

"Coming in as a freshman, Jonathan was able to compete at a high level at the No. 2 singles position," Churchill coach John Webster said. "He looks forward to working hard in the off season and stepping up to the No. 1 singles position next year."

2011 ALL-OBSERVER BOYS TENNIS TEAM FIRST-TEAM SINGLES Stephen Payne, Sr., Liv. Franklin Jacob Scott, Jr., Salem Michael Mertz, Sr., N. Farm Max Kohl, Sr., N. Farm. Griffin Mertz, Fr., N. Farm. Jonathan Martin, Fr., Liv. Churchill **FIRST-TEAM DOUBLES** Colin Halow, Soph., N. Farm. Danny O'Neill, Soph., N. Farm Tarun Giridhar, Soph., N. Farm Ryan Wolok, Sr., N. Farm. Jason Kraft, Sr., N. Farm. Ryan Kay, Sr., N. Farm. SECOND-TEAM SINGLES Matt Cezat, Sr., Liv. Churchill Chad Northey, Soph., Liv. Stevenson Jacob Lipnik, Sr., N. Farm. Jacob Sealy, Soph., Salem Aaron Zhang, Sr., Plymouth Rohan Vhaishnav, Fr., Canton SECOND TEAM DOUBLES Andrew Murtland, Jr., N. Farm, Rob Chapekis, Soph., N. Farm. Brian Baumgartner, Sr., Churchill Mark Densteadt, Soph. Churchill Kaemen Holman-Rayos, Jr., Stevenson

Jeff Frederick, Sr., Stevenson **COACH OF THE YEAR** Whitney Wasielewski, N. Farm

HONORABLE MENTION Canton: James Dodge, Travis Michalak; Plymouth: Charlie Hou, Josh Heinze, Josh Postel; Salem: Nick Ortiz, Amol Caravalha; Churchill: Joe Mulka, Rishabh Arvikar, Tejas Soni, Mayuresh Iyer; Franklin: Con-nor Benson, Nick Munro; Stevenson: Marcus McCathney, Sam Tabor, Johnson Yang, Nick Marsh, Doug Giroux; Farmington: Joey Amis, Lokesh Pagadala, Akhilesh Siyakumar

and O'Neill were regional finalists.

"They played nine doubles on the JV team and moved all the way up to one doubles on varsity this year," Wasielewski said. "They competed very well at a very tough spot in the lineup. They have shown so much improvement and maturity throughout the season, and they proved to be very impressive as a No. 1 doubles team.

"They won some huge matches in which they held off match points several times. Their loss at the state tournament was to a very tough East Lansing team, 7-6(7), 6-4."

Tarun Giridhar, Soph.; Ryan Wolok, Sr., N. Farmington: The No. 2 doubles team peaked at the Division 2 state tournament in which Wolok and Giridhar were semifinalists. They posted a 17-11 record and also were regional runners-up.

"They played the best tennis I've ever seen them play at the state tournament," Wasielews-

Jason Kraft, Sr.; Ryan Kay, Sr., N. Farmington: The senior duo had an impressive season at No. 3 doubles; Kraft's record was 20-7 and Kay's 17-7. In addition to being regional finalists, they also won the Northville Invitational and had wins over Novi, Northville, Groves, Seaholm, West Bloomfield, Andover and Lahser.

"Our team had a lot of depth, and Jason and Rvan proved to be a very tough three doubles team, winning the majority of their matches with a very tough schedule," Wasielewski said. "They had several threeset wins, many of them after losing the first set.

"That proves they never give up and fight hard until the very end. This is part of what made them so successful and such a tough team to play against."

COACH OF THE YEAR Whitney Wasielewski, N. Farmington: The Raiders did well in every respect this year under Wasielewski's leadership. They were 5-2 in OAA Red Division dual meets and



10-3 overall. North Farmington tied for second place in the dual season and division tournament, and it placed third overall behind Troy and Ando-

ver. The Raid-

ers had dual

W. Wasielewski N. Farm. coach

wins over Andover, West Bloomfield and Groves, and they also won the Dexter Invitational.

North was second in a Division 2 regional (one point behind Andover), and it tied for sixth place at the state meet, finishing three points out of second. Wasielewski also was named Regional Coach of the Year and Division 2 Coach of the Year.

"The 2011 season was one of the most successful since I've been coaching at North Farmington, both on and off the court," Wasielewski said. "I was privileged enough to have a great group of players, wonderful captains, an amazing coaching staff and supportive parents who helped make this season so successful.

"This group of boys proved

Martin Churchill

Jonathan

Salem

Michael Mertz, Sr., N. Farmington: Mertz played No. 1 singles and posted an 11-10 record against quality competition in the Oakland Activities Association's top division (Red). The senior was a four-year varsity singles player for the Raiders.

"Despite a very tough league and no easy matches this season, Michael was still able to finish the season with a record over .500," coach Whitney Wasielewski said. "He started the season with some injuries, and he battled back to

Griffin Mertz, Fr., N. Farmington: The freshman had an impressive first season of varsity tennis, posting a 19-8 record at No. 3 singles and winning a Division 2 regional championship. Mertz was an OAA Red finalist and a state quarterfinalist.

"Griffin had some great wins over Groves, Seaholm, Adams, Lahser and Andover throughout the season," Wasielewski said. "He did a great job at three singles, and I'm looking forward to great things from

FIRST-TEAM DOUBLES Colin Halow, Soph.; Danny O'Neill, Soph., N. Farmington: The all-sophomore first doubles team finished with a 14-11 record that included quality wins over fellow Oakland County powers Seaholm, West Bloomfield, Stoney Creek, Andover and Lahser. Halow

ki said. "They lost to Midland Dow, the eventual winners of the tournament in the semifinals, 4-6, 6-4, 4-6. (Dow) won in the finals in straight sets. Dow's coach even said to our team after the match it was the toughest any team had played them all year.

"That statement just proves that Tarun and Ryan were one of the best No. 2 doubles teams in the state. They also had good wins over Groves, West Bloomfield, U-of-D, Andover and Lahser during the season."

they were hard workers and tough competitors. We lost 11 seniors last season and finished higher this season at all levels, with the majority of our team being new to the varsity. Only four players in the starting regional lineup played varsity last year.

"They were a unified team and all worked toward the same team goals that we chose in the beginning of the season. I am so proud of my team and all of the effort they put in this entire season."

SOCCER

Continued from page B1

It was posted Thursday on the MHSAA Web site that the Canton-Grand Haven contest was slated for noon Saturday, at East Kentwood Crestwood Middle School in Kentwood, a suburb of Grand Rapids.

The Chiefs put plenty of pressure on DeLaSalle senior goalie Nick Orlando in the first half. They hit the crossbar twice, including a rocket from 20 yards out by senior midfielder Brian Berinti.

Orlando also made several spectacular stops to keep the Pilots from falling behind.

All they needed

But at 3:32 of the second half, the Chiefs got all the scoring they would need thanks to a beautifully executed play by a pair of sophomore midfielders.

Ken Krolicki rushed up the middle of the field and threaded a pass to Griffin Parks, surging into the box. Parks then ripped a low shot past Orlando into the middle of the net.

"Ken Krolicki did a great job," Canton head coach George Tomasso said. "He's been one of the players with great vision throughout the season. He saw his teammate making a run, and Griffin did a great job



getting inside of his defender. All he needed was that one shot and he buried it.'

For the final 36:28, the Chiefs did not retreat. They kept the offensive heat turned up. But they also were everywhere on defense.

"Our boys were on their toes," Tomasso said. "They did a great job to play desperate in the box and win those 50/50 balls and eliminate their opportunities."

First final since '94

It helped that Murphy was always there when called upon to make clutch stops or scramble out to beat opponents to the ball. "He's been a solid back-

bone for our team," Tomas-

so said. "And tonight he made every save with no rebounds, he did a great job.'

The Chiefs will now look to win their first title since 1994, when Tomasso was the goalkeeper. That year was the most recent appearance in the final by Canton.

According to Pilots head coach Thaier Mukhtar, looking to steer his team into the D1 final for the first time since winning it in 2005, Canton pushed the ball and was the better team.

"All it took was one mistake, but to be honest with you, Canton was better today," Mukhtar said. "I still thought we had

chances to put

a ball in the net and tie. "I think the biggest difference in the game was their movement off the ball was better than ours tonight."

He also tipped his cap to Canton for defensively shutting down his team on the last-ditch corner kick.

"You still got to get somebody running into the box hard and bury a ball," Mukhtar said. "That's the pressure we need to apply and ultimately it wasn't there.

"Give them credit, they did what they had to do to win."

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CHIEFS

Continued from page B1

as the Wildcats built a quick 7-1 edge. Novi went on to a stress-free 25-16 win in the opener.

That didn't work

After Game 1, Kryska made a lineup change by moving Muir from libero to her usual front-row spot as an outside hitter.

Muir and her teammates shrugged off that first game and played much better in a 25-15 win to make it a 1-1 match.

"I had a different lineup in the first game which I thought was going to work. It backfired really quickly," Kryska said. "So I made the immediate change. I had already talked to Kristen about changing from defense to allthe-way around.

"It's hard mentally to go back and forth, back and forth, but she was prepared to do that. We talked about it last night and today."

Canton kept on rolling into the third set and led most of the way. However, the Chiefs were unable to close out the win. Canton served the ball into the net when up 22-19, and the Chiefs also missed a chance to score the clinching point when leading 24 - 23

Novi rallied for a 27-25 win to take a 2-1 lead in the match.

"The crowd was so loud, we had communication errors at the end, we missed a serve at 22-19," Kryska said. "We were giving the ball away every chance we could.

But Kryska said how she reminded her players about the text message she sent each of them earlier Friday — that they believed they could win.

They did it before

After all, the Chiefs did defeat Novi on Oct. 18 in a five-game set for the **KLAA Kensington Confer**ence title.

"Beating them before helped because we know the type of pressure we'd have to deal with," Kryska said. "Knowing we could actually beat them made us believe. That was our big thing today, we believe we can win.'

Turner led the Chiefs with 24 kills, while Muir chipped in with 13 kills and 11 digs.

Deloy contributed 18 digs and seven kills, while den Boer's 11 kills and 19 digs also helped the cause. Middleton had 12 digs, while Tubaro tallied four kills.

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LOCAL SPORTS

EAGLES

Continued from page B1

powerhouse Battle Creek St. Philip).

They're on the right track. Friday, the Eagles (41-6-4) earned a 3-0 win over Saline Washtenaw Christian to win their ninth straight district title. They now advance to the Adrian Lenawee Christian-hosted regional.

The right stuff

Talent is one thing, and PCA has it. But with the coaching of Blackney and the leadership provided by Kristin Malcolm, Amy Zinn and Jessica Rich (both also senior co-captains), the Eagles have all the intangibles needed to make a return trip.

"The difference between this team last year and this year, is we know what it takes to play at the state finals in Battle Creek," Blackney said. "We're not new and green anymore, we're seasoned players who have gone as far as we can go.

"Not too many teams can say that when they approach the postseason."

The older Malcolm agreed that last season's experience should help this time around.

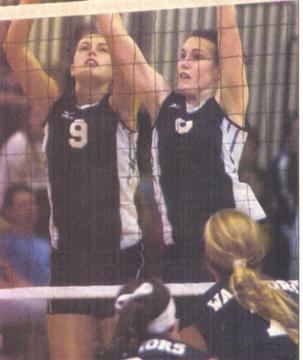
"It will definitely motivate us," she said. "We know that we can do it now. We have that motivation. We are excited to play St. Phillips again, if we make it that far."

Another intangible is Blackney became head coach of the Eagles in 2008-09 — the same year Kristin Malcolm and Zinn joined the varsity.

"It's meaningful," the coach said. "My first year was Kristin's first year and Amy's first year, so we've kind of had this journey together.

"We've talked several times (about that), we're a close-knit group for a reason."





PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth Christian's Malcolm sisters, Jenny (No. 9) and Kristin (No. 6), team up at the net to thwart an opponent during a recent contest.

Pulling for each other

The co-captains have a lot to do with that by setting the tone for team camaraderie.

"I think that's the strongest part about our team," said third-year starter Rich, this year's libero. "I don't think any other team can measure up to this volleyball team in their unity."

According to Zinn, who switched from setter to outside hitter during her varsity career, each player is willing and able to do the proverbial "whatever it takes" to help the squad.

"Each person brings a different aspect to the team," Zinn said. "Without one person we wouldn't be the same. Each person, no matter their position, they bring a different aspect, a different positive thing to the team.

"Without each other we wouldn't be get as far as we could."

Malcolm added that the way the girls get along impacts how well they play as a team, too.

"That really translates on the court, because we all talk about how volleyball is such an emotional sport," Kristin said. "It is about skill, but a lot of it is about the mental game. When we're so close as a team that really helps our team."

Who knows whether the Eagles will make it as

TRIO OF LEADERS

Plymouth Christian Academy finished the regular season with a record of 39-6-4, including a 10-0 record to win the Michigan Independent Athletics Conference Blue Division. Now, led by three senior co-captains, the team is looking to have a successful postseason run in the Class D state tournament.

Here's a closer look at the co-captains:

• Kristin Malcolm: The 17-year-old Malcolm is a middle blocker and force to be reckoned with. Now in her fourth season as a varsity starter at PCA, she will play volleyball next year at Hillsdale College. She carries a 4.4 grade-point effort. Her parents are Annie and Greg Malcolm of Plymouth.

• Amy Zinn: Also in her fourth year on the varsity, the 17-year-old Zinn moved to outside hitter from setter after her sophomore season and didn't miss a beat. She carries a 4.0 GPA and will go to Calvin College, although not to play volleyball. Her parents are David and Brenda Zinn of Canton.

• Jessica Rich: PCA's libero is in her third season with the varsity squad and is a defensive sparkplug to say the least. Rich, 17, owns a 3.8 GPA and will attend Grand Valley State University. Her parents are Ann and James Rich of Plymouth.

far as Battle Creek again or not. But the early evidence is pretty good.

PCA waltzed through conference competition, winning the Michigan Independent Athletics Conference Blue Division



Senior Amy Zinn (No. 7) is one of three co-captains spearheading Plymouth Christian to another winning season.

with a 10-0 record.

Losses to any opponent were few and far between and the Eagles defeated Marysville (a Class B team of the St. Philip ilk) in a recent tournament match to boost the belief they can hang with St. Philip if they again reach the final.

"We are ranked second in the state for a reason," Blackney said. "We've faced good competition this year and we've done very well."

All of the co-captains have been key to PCA's excellent season, both for on-court play and the ability to motivate when that is needed.

And now is when the fun really begins.

"Our options are endless," Zinn said. "We keep improving and improving. Who knows what will happen. We have the highest hopes to win states, but I'm really excited for what's going to happen."

Rich said this year's team learned so much from last postseason, which can only help this time.

(CP)

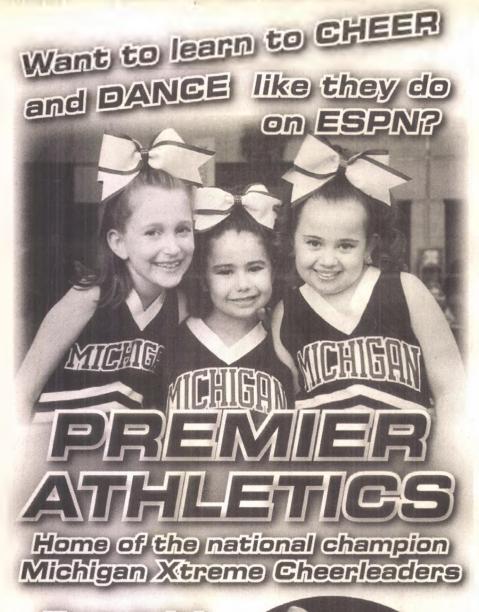
B3

"We really wanted to win (in 2010)," Rich said. "But we wanted to be like playing for God, and use that as an experience to set us up for the next year — which is this year."

The Eagles might overcome that final hurdle. Perhaps they won't. Either way, the experience is one they wouldn't trade for anything.

Asked what gave her the most satisfaction as a member of the Plymouth Christian volleyball team, Rich answered without hesitation. "It's probably just being with this team. Together every practice and every game and at tournaments every Saturday."

Sounds pretty satisfying, doesn't it?





Travel cheer teams, tumbling classes, and Kip Klop for all ages!

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Lady Seeks Companion

Single lady, non-smoker, blue-green eyes, no children, employed, kind and caring, seeks a monogamous



relationship that could lead to marriage with a single professional man, 50 or older, non-smoker, who is kind and caring with similar interests. I reside in Novi, but I visit Wayne County often. I enjoy cooking, movies, travel, dining out, fresh flowers, fitness, soft music, DSO, boating, museums, and all the little things in life that make it fun. American Red Cross volunteer and hospital volunteer. Raised Catholic, I still have oldfashioned morals, ethics and values that I was raised with. I love being around water, I find it very

calming. I pride myself on being very honest. People tell me I am very easy going and fun to be with. I am a thoughtful person, I enjoy doing nice things for people to surprise them. The man I am seeking will be down to earth, handsome, funny, thoughtful and will want us to take care of each other in sickness and in health, in good times and in bad. Absolutely NO married men!!

Interested? Email me and include a photo.

(Sorry, due to SPAM, I will not open any emails without a pic.)

Please tell me about yourself, include your interests, family details and career. Serious replies only, no "Advice" emails, please.

> Send replies to: SMM3879@hotmail.com

GIRLS SWIMMING & DIVING RESULTS

KLAA SOUTH DIVISION GIRLS SWIM MEET Oct. 28-29 at John Glenn

TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Plymouth, 744 points; 2. Canton, 647; 3. Livonia Churchill, 356.5; 4. Livonia Franklin, 203; 5. Westland John Glenn, 170; 6. Wayne Memorial, 118.5. FINAL MEET RESULTS

200-yard medley relay: 1. Plymouth 'A' (Alexa Earls, Emily Toro, Lydia Plencner, Lexi Ethier), 1:55.84; 2. Canton 'A' (Caitlin Orr, Claire Green, Hannah Jenkins, Abby Madison), 1:59.89; 3. Plymouth 'B' (Linda Erickson, Lydia Matson, Casey Wing, Caylin Waters), 1:59.94; 5. Canton 'B' (Mackenzie Dugas, Faith Goodwin, Rachel Barszcz, Emily Pettit), 2:08.22.

200 freestyle: 1. Madeline Madison (Canton), 2:01.68 (meet record); 2. Emily Weiner (P), 2:02.43; 3. Green (Canton), 2:03.1; 4. Carolyn Stoddard (P), 2:08.23; 5. Christine Pray (Canton), 2:10.08; 7. Wing (P), 2:15.19; 8. Abby Humphries (P), 2:15.46; 9. Waters (P), 2:17.20.

200 individual medley: 1. Toro (P), 2:13.79 (meet record); 3. Delaney Adams (Canton), 2:18.27; 4. Earls (P), 2:18.98; 5. Jenkins (Canton), 2:21.72; 7. Dugas (C), 2:27.13; 8. Matson (P), 2:30.05; 9. Samidha Visai (P), 2:31.69. **50 freestyle:** 1. Destinee Barmore-Hicks (Canton), 25.38 (meet record); 2. Stephanie Matsui (P), 25.48; 3. Ethier (P), 25.64; 6. Abby Madison (Canton), 27.67; 7. Pettit (C), 28.05.

1-meter diving: 1. Yumi Nozawa (LC), 263.25 points; 2. Emily Lang (Canton), 248.70; 4. Melissa Green (Canton), 236.80; 5. Megan McKeehan (P), 225.65; 7. Pia Simon (C), 189.50; 8. Katy Telega (P), 186.20; 9. Ariel Magyar (P), 181.95.

100 butterfly: 1. Toro (P), 1:00.49 (meet record); 2. L. Erickson (P), 1:01.63; 3. Adams (Canton), 1:03.62; 4. Plencner (P), 1:06.07; 7. Barszcz (C), 1:08.37; 10. Caroline Wall (C), 1:15.40. **100 freestyle:** 1. Matsui (P), 55.27 (meet record); 2. Weiner (P), 56.59; 3. Barmore-Hicks (Canton), 56.8; 4. Ethier (P), 56.82; 5. Orr (Canton), 58.92; 6. Stoddard (P), 59.51; 8. Goodwin (C), 1:01.49; 9. Pettit (C), 1:01.70. **500 freestyle:** 1. Green (Canton), 5:19.35 (meet record); 3. Earls (P), 5:25.7; 4. M. Madison (C), 5:29.02; 5. Pray (Canton), 5:40.24; 6. Wing (P), 6:02.04; 7. Emily Downs (C), 6:02.19; 8. Lauren Wischer (P), 6:07.19; 9. Humphries (P), 6:10.10.

200 freestyle relay: 1. Plymouth 'A' (Matsui, Ethier, Weiner, Toro), 2:42.94 (meet record); 2. Canton 'A,' (Jenkins, M. Madison, Adams, Barmore-Hicks), 1:47.45; 4. Plymouth 'B' (Stoddard, Waters, Matson, Wing), 1:50.79; 5. Canton 'B' (Green, Pray, Pettit, A. Madison), 1:51.98.

100 backstroke: 1. L. Erickson (P), 1:02.55; 2. Orr (Canton), 1:04.52; 3. Dugas (Canton), 1:07.77; 5. (tie) Brittany Gates (LC) and Plencner (P), 1:09.23 each; 7. Barszcz (C), 1:11.34; 8. Kelly Erickson (P), 1:11.95; 9. Marissa Zinn (P), 1:13.70; 10. Goodwin (C), 1:14.86.

100 breaststroke: 1. Jenkins (Canton), 1:14.02; 2. Matson (P), 1:14.23; 4. Samidha Visai (P), 1:19.29; 5. A. Madison (Canton), 1:20.7; 7. Stacey Jedele (P), 1:24.60; 9. Emily Hugan (C), 1:25.57; 10. Christine Garrissi (P), 1:27.40.

400 freestyle relay: 1. Plymouth, 'A' (Matsui, Stoddard, L. Erickson, Weiner), 3:51.14; 2. Canton 'A' (Orr, M. Madison, Adams, Barmore-Hicks), 3:59.88; 4. Plymouth 'B' (Plencner, Humphries, Wischer, Earls), 4:07.37; 5. Canton, 'B' (Dugas, Barszcz, Goodwin, Pray), 4:11.37.

KLAA CENTRAL DIVISION CHAMPIONSHIP

Oct. 28-29 at South Lyon East FINAL TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Northville, 551.5 points; 2. South Lyon, 515; 3. Novi, 461; 4. Salem, 396; 5. Livonia Stevenson, 275.5.

200-yard medley relay: 1. South Lyon (Deirdre Gerke, Erin McCurry, Chanel Bonin, Rachel Green), 1:52.40; 4. Salem (Abby Aumiller, Lauren Seroka, Claire Amin, Julia Suriano), 1:56.56.

200 freestyle: 1. Suriano (S), 1:59.42; 4. Maddie Gorman (S), 2:02.23; 6. Aumiller (S), 2:02.82; 9. Sara Stemen (LS), 2:07.40.

200 individual medley: 1. Mallory Buha (Novi), 2:11.38; 7. Brenna Gabrielson (LS), 2:21.41; 8. Jocey Lamoureux (S), 2:22.45; 9. Amin (S), 2:23.65. **50 freestyle:** 1. Rachel Green (SL), 24.85; 5. (tie) Sarah Cauzillo (LS), 26.37; 8. Ashley Reed (LS), 27.18; 9. Nicole Kariotis (S), 27.32; 10. Aidan Odowd (LS), 27.35.

1-meter diving: 1. Andrea Meister (N'ville), 391.45 points; 11. Bridge Maul (S), 267.45; 16. Ally Hermann (LS), 228.50; 18. Nora Akcasu (S), 224.05; 20. Sam Ellis (LS), 218.15.

100 butterfly: 1. A ndrea VanderMey (Novi), 1:01.40; 2. Seroka (S), 1:01.97; 5. Cauzillo (LS), 1:04.97; 7. Amin (S), 1:07.24; 9. Amanda Nilles (S), 1:09.35. 100 freestyle: 1. Buha (Novi), 55.13; 2. Aumiller (S), 56.22; 6. Gabrielson (LS), 57.05; 11. Reed (LS), 59.06.

500 freestyle: 1. Suriano (S), 5:16.32; 3. Gorman (S), 5:29.78; 5. Lamoureux (S), 5:31.78; 7. Shaelyn Dolinski (LS), 5:34.54; 8. Sara Stemen (LS), 5:37.25; 9. Merrill Froney (LS), 5:37.77.

200 freestyle relay: 1. South Lyon (Corinne Caldwell, Stormy Malarik, Rachel Green, Chanel Bonin), 1:41.05; 4. Salem (Maggie Sneideman, Amin, Vincenza Zaia, Gorman), 1:47.68; 7. Salem (Kariotis, Hannah Tardiff, Nilles, Lamoureux), 1:52.91; 9. Stevenson (Christine Herrod, Catherine Joss, McKenzie Queen, Sarah Adamczyk), 1:59.60; 10. Stevenson (Sara Elliot, Teresa Koda, Erin Brown, Deanna Kluka), 2:00.53.

100 backstroke: 1. Buha (Novi), 59.65; 3. Emily Roque (LS), 1:01.91; 4. Dolinski (LS), 1:02.64.

100 breaststroke: 1. Catherine Cui (N'ville), 1:09.15; 3. Seroka (S), 1:12.65; 8. Froney (LS), 1:16.16.

400 freestyle relay: 1. Northville (Briana Schoenek, Maddy Kipke, Lia Nagata, Cui), 3:43.96; 4. Salem (Gorman, Suriano, Aumiller, Seroka), 3:48.98; 7. Salem (Lamoureux, Andrea Ringer, Zaia, Maurice), 4:05.06; 9. Stevenson (Alicia Stark, Megan Galeana, Catherine Joss, Samanta Weak), 4:16.15.

PREP CROSS COUNTRY REGIONALS

MHSAA CROSS COUNTRY REGIONAL RESULTS DIVISION 1

Oct. 29 at Willow Metropark BOYS TEAM STANDINGS (top 3 advance to state finals): 1. Dexter, 54 points; 2. Ann Arbor Pioneer, 57; 3. Pinckney, 59; 4. Plymouth, 122; 5. Livonia Churchill, 143; 6. Canton, 146; 7. Salem, 217; 8. Ann Arbor Huron, 220; 9. Westland John Glenn, 275; 10. Ann Arbor Skyline, 276; 11. Livonia Franklin, 300; 12. Dearborn Heights Crestwood, 338; 13. Detroit Cass Tech, 420; 14. Redford Union, 420: 15. Dearborn Fordson, 445; 16. Garden City, 469.

Individual winner: Derek Gielarowski (Plymouth), 16:09.86 (sq) (5,000 meters).

Other Plymouth finishers: 26. Brandon Dalton, 17:10.90; 30. Liam Cardenas, 17:15.95; 32. Zane Berlanga, 17:16.63; 33. James Maciag, 17:17.47; 36. Max Rogowski, 17:25.53; 58. Nick Eiben, 17:58.63 **Canton finishers:** 12. Miles Felton, 16:41.94 (sq); 22: Mitch Clinton, 17:03.27; 31. Bradon Conley, 17:16.38;

38. Jeff Molchan, 17:30.13; Tom Walkinshaw, 17:34.16; 45. Evan Dunklee, 17:37.21; 51. Billy Toth, 17:48.75. **Salem finishers:** 16: Steve McEvilly, 16:50.74; 34. Riley Doxtader, 17:17.94; 59. Donavon Drouillard, 17:59.50; 61. Evan Bruyere, 18:04.69; 67. Lewis Campbell, 18:29.23; 68. Lucas Salinas, 18:37.09.

GIRLS TEAM STANDINGS (top 3 advance to state finals): 1. Livonia Churchill, 47 points; 2. Dexter, 94; 3. Pinckney, 96; 4. Salem, 97; 5. Ann Arbor Pioneer, 135; 6. Plymouth, 167; 7. Ann Arbor Huron, 174; 8. Canton, 216; 9. Livonia Franklin, 224; 10. Ann Arbor Skyline, 274; 11. Westland John Glenn, 320; 12. Garden City, 394; 13. Redford Union, 413; 14. Dearborn Fordson, 437; 15. Detroit Cass Tech, 438.

Individual winner: Kerigan Riley (Churchill), 19:24.27 (sq) (5,000 meters).

Salem finishers: 12. Adrianna Beltran, 19:54.11 (sq); 15. Amanda Beyer, 20:02.77 (sq); 19. Emily Bizon, 20:11.18; 25. Hannah Stoliker, 20:33.88; 26. Autumn Burin, 20:34.16; 29. Shannon Flynn, 20:41.96; 30. Ale-Jandra Beltran, 20:42.23; . **Plymouth finishers:** 4. Marina DeBiasi, 19:44.63 (sq); 14. Nicole Traitses, 19:58.20 (sq); 37. Alexa Chicon, 21:09.13; 54. Morgan Henson, 21:38.06; 58. Renae DeBrito, 22:05.66; 64. Constadina Manettas, 22:20.54; 73. Mariah Lax, 22:58.84.

Canton finishers: 20. Jessica Siegler, 20:20.18; 44. Emily Southern, 21:23.46; 47. Katie Grimes, 21:32.15; 49. Allison Spitz, 21:32.75; 56. Paige Calvert, 21:58.00; 63. Marina Milad, 22:15.25; 66. Marissa Campbell, 22:30.08; DIVISION 4

Oct. 29 at Willow Metropark

BOYS TEAM STANDINGS (top 3 advance to state finals): 1. Plymouth Christian Academy, 44 points; 2. Sand Creek, 64; 3. Lutheran High Westland, 70; 4. Ann Arbor Greenhills, 88; 5. Newport Lutheran South, 117; 6. Whiteford, 137; 7. Taylor Baptist Park Christian, 165. Individual winner: Ashwin Fujii (Greenhills), 17:32.75 (5,000 meters).

(5,000 meters).
Plymouth Christian finishers: 5. Jimmy Parks,
18:34.06; 7. Trevor Baloga, 18:51.10; 10. Ian Rose,
19:02.81; 21. Jacob Nichols, 19:38.27; 29. Steven Zomermaand, 20:29.42; 46. Nathan Harold, 22:57.62.
Lutheran Westland finishers: 3. Jake Fairbairn,
18:28.29; 5. Eric Smith, 18:44.05; 10. Daniel Bunge,
10:04.24; 22. Peter Sillanpaa, 19:58.0; 30. Caleb Kempf,
20:52.45; 32. Ian O'Banion, 20:54.18; 42. Philip Welte,
23:14.04.

GIRLS TEAM STANDINGS (top 3 advance to state finals): 1. Lutheran High Westland, 56; 2. Whiteford, 60; 3. Sand Creek, 62; 4. Britton-Macon, 71; 5. Taylor Baptist Park, 122; 6. Ann Arbor Greenhills, 129. Individual winner: Natalie Perry (Sand Creek), 20:59.09 (5,000 meters).

Lutheran Westland finishers: 2. Erin Lyle, 21:04.51; 6. Erin Hardin, 21:48.59; 10. Jessica Rice, 22:21.4; 15. Angela Morrison, 23:35.67; 23. Kelsey Kruger, 25:06.08; 29. Jessica Drife, 25:26.83; 30. Michelle Greening, 25:27.77.

Plymouth Christian finishers: 5. Terra Crown, 21:31.63 (sq); 26. Megan McHugh, 25:10.74. (sq): additional individual state qualifier.

Lobo's 2 goals gives SC crown

By Brad Emons Observer Staff Writer

Schoolcraft College protected its No. 1 ranking and kept its unbeaten record intact Sunday by ousting Cincinnati State, 2-1, in double-overtime to win the NJCAA Region XII championship at Owens Community College in Millbury, Ohio.

Marco Lobo scored both Schoolcraft goals, his 12th and 13th of the season, as the Ocelots improved to 22-0 overall and advance to the NJCAA North Central District final to face Region 20 champion College of Southern Maryland (12-3-2) this Saturday on the road. (Game time is 1 p.m.)

Lobo, taking a pass from Brent McIntosh, dribbled down the left side before putting a shot past Surge goalkeeper Ben Steinnecker for the eventual game-winner 3 minutes and 2 seconds into the second overtime.

Cincinnati State took a 1-0 lead at 36:21 into the match when Schoolcraft College goaltender Scott Shewfelt misplayed a ball in the penalty box and Justin Mitchell put it in the empty net for his sixth of the season.

Cincinnati held the play for the remainder of the first half and early in the second half, but the tide started to turn the Ocelots way when Christian Johnson received a red card at 60:44.

Playing with a man advantage, Lobo took a pass from Jonathon Heslop and put it upand-over the Surge goalie to tie the game in the 80th minute.

Cincinnati State's Colin Murray and Jake Brooks each picked up red cards one in the

Reprir

Make

Great Gifts

85th and 99th minute, respectively, putting the Surge three players down.

Steinnecker made 12 saves for the Surge, who finished 16-5 overall, while Shewfelt recorded six saves for the Ocelots.

SCHOOLCRAFT 4, MUSKEGON

0: In the Region XII semifinal Saturday, Schoolcraft College (21-0) rolled past Muskegon Community College (11-8-1) in a match played at Delta College in University Center.

Schoolcraft led 1-0 in the 27th minute on Doug Beason's fifth of the year from Brent McIntosh. Ryan Lemaster then notched his 11th in the 54 minute with Marco Lobo assisting to make it 2-0 and Tom Nevill tallied his 16th just 4:44 later off an assist from Anthony Lourenco.

Juan Garcia completed the scoring in the 71st minute off a corner kick from Carlos Izquierdo. Ocelot goalkeeper Scott Shewfelt made four saves to earn the shutout.

Nothing new here:

wins again

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B5. (WGcReLCP) SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2011 **OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC** HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

COMMUNITY LIFE

Sherrie Bencik and Brian **DeVet**ter on their wedding day.





Sherrie Bencik's daughter, Cambrie, gets a smooch from a furry friend while visiting Best Friends Animal Sanctuary for her mom's wedding.

Bride combines love of animals with wedding

By Sharon Dargay O&E Staff Writer

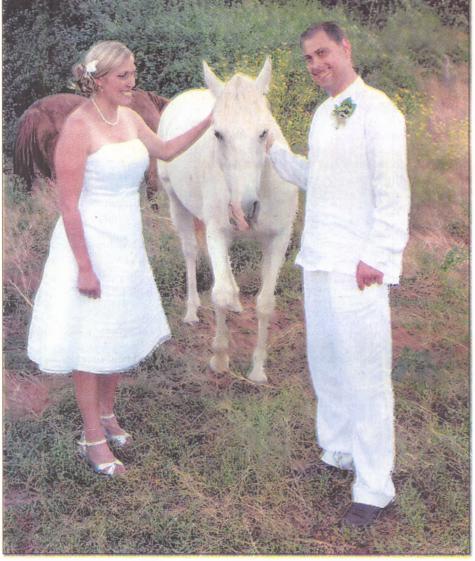
Sherrie Bencik spent the day before her wedding walking dogs, training puppies and reconnecting with an old canine friend named Tabitha.

Her husband-to-be, Brian DeVetter, and nearly half of their 70 wedding guests, volunteered with her. Some walked dogs or cuddled cats, while others cared for exotic birds and horses. They spent the day with animals and each other in a breathtaking setting called Angel's Canyon, near Kanab, Utah.

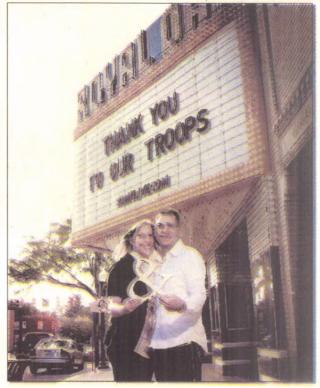
Fans of the National Geographic television program, Dogtown, recognize the locale as the home of Best Friends Animal Sanctuary, one of the largest animal havens in the country.

Bencik, who grew up in Livonia, had volunteered regularly at Best Friends for more than a decade, sometimes making three visits there in one year. When it came time to make plans for her Aug

Please see WEDDING, B6



Sherrie Bencik and Brian DeVetter welcome a four-footed friend to their wedding at Best Friends Sanctuary in Utah



Aimee Hamlin and Phil Jeffers of Canton will tie the knot on Veteran's Day in a ceremony at the Royal Oak Music Theatre.

Couple answers 'call to wed'

By Sharon Dargay O&E Staff Writer

Most couples look forward to a wedding day that's all their own, Aimee Hamlin and Phil Jeffers don't mind sharing

The Canton residents will marry on Veterans Day, Friday, Nov. 11 --- that's an easy-to--remember anniversary date of 11/11/11 - along with seven other couples involved in the military, at the Royal Oak Music Theatre.

Each couple won a place in the multi-nuptial wedding and reception based on an essay contest, "Call to Wed." Jessica Miller, events director for the theater, proposed the idea as a way to give back to military couples for their sacrifice. She enlisted the help of 30 Michigan businesses to donate goods and services — from flowers, bridal gowns, wedding veils and tuxedos to food, liquor, photography and entertainment — to make the evening memorable for the couples and their 30 guests each.

"One thing I'm happy about is the fact that there seven other couples getting married. I don't know them at all, but to be able to share your event, your night with seven other people who

Please see CALL TO WED, B6



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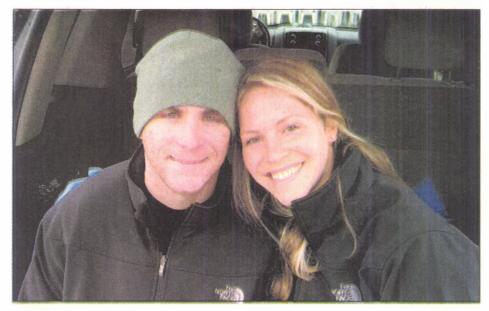
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COMMUNITY LIFE

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Phil Jeffers and Aimee Hamlin will marry on Veterans Day.

CALL TO WED

Continued from page B5

have been in the military or are still in the military and have gone through what I've gone through in their own way means a lot," Jeffers said. "Even though we don't know them it's cool that we can spend it all together."

Military experience

Jeffers, who graduated from Plymouth Salem High School in 1997, joined the U.S. Army, which included a stint in the presidential honor guard and the Army's drill team. He left the army in 2000 and has worked for Ford Motor Company and has taken classes at Schoolcraft College. He's been a member of the Michigan National Guard for three years and was deployed to Iraq. His hand and a knee were injured while overseas, requiring surgery and therapy. He returned home and was part of a communitybased "warrior transition" program until Dec. 2010. He's back at Ford and at Schoolcraft where he's focusing on an associate's degree in homeland security.

Jeffers says the Vet-

erans Day wedding is as much a salute to family members and friends as it is to military men and women.

"We had been together for almost nine years. We have a house in Canton and two dogs. I left her unmarried and went to Iraq, overseas for a year. She took care of the house, the dogs, did everything from shovelling snow to cutting the grass. It may be a salute to veterans but it's also a salute to people who support the veterans."

Friends at first

Hamlin, who works for Quicken Loans, earned bachelor's and master's degrees from Walsh College after graduating from Agape Christian Academy.

She met her future husband while sledding with friends. Jeffers' best friend was dating one of Hamlin's best friends.

"When I went away to the army the first time we kept in touch. We talked off and on and were close friends before we started dating," Jeffers said.

He considers their first date the Christmas he spent with her family. She said it's when they went to the movies together for the first time. "It will be 10 years in January," Hamlin said, figuring the length of their courtship.

During those years they discussed marriage but the timing wasn't right. She wanted to wait until after she finished school, but then he prepared to deploy overseas. They became engaged just before he left for Iraq. When he returned, he was in therapy for his injuries and didn't resume work at Ford until this year. Meanwhile, money was tight.

Jeffers submitted an essay for the contest and then told Hamlin about it. Both say Call to Wed came along at the perfect time.

"It's a dream come true," Hamlin said. "It's been a crazy ride and I can't wait for the day." Jeffers, who has two older sisters, is the son of Phil Jeffers of Canton and Debra Norman of Ypsilanti. Hamlin is the middle child of three daughters. Her parents are Darrel and Larrena Hamlin of Canton.

How did family react to the couple's unusual wedding plans?

"It was very emotional," Hamlin said. "We've been a part of each other's families for a long time."

WEDDING

Continued from page B5

27 nuptials, there was never any question where the wedding would take place.

"My immediate family, they know I've been going there for years and it was well known that if I ever got married, that's where it would be," said Bencik, who is finishing a residency in emergency medicine in Kalamazoo. "I sent a note out eight months before the wedding saying hey, this is a destination wedding so if you're interested, make plans to go."

Her parents, William and Diane Bencik of Livonia, and her husband's parents, Dennis and Roberta DeVetter of Marshfield, Wisc., along with the couple's siblings and their children, stayed in rented cottages and cabins at the sanctuary.

The wedding, held at a grassy area called Angel's Landing at Best Friends, capped a weeklong stay that included tours of nearby parks, canyons and the animal haven. The couple's three-month-old son, Bodie, was the ring-bearer, with the jewelry affixed to his pacifier. Their daughter, Cambrie, 21/2, who Bencik had with the help of a sperm donor during her fourth year at medical school, also witnessed the marriage, which included a sand ceremony.

The couple mingled sand from Best Friends and from both shores of Lake Michigan into one container, symbolizing separate lives coming together.

Meeting on the job

Both Bencik and DeVetter are physicians who will work for Southwest Michigan Emergency Services after finishing their emergency medicine residencies in summer 2012. Bencik met her future husband at the hospital on her first day of her emergency medicine residency. Initially, marriage wasn't one of her goals.



Brian DeVetter and Sherrie Bencik, a former Livonia resident, marry at Angel's Landing in the sprawling Best Friends Animal Sanctuary in Utah.

business, was working in marketing at Kimberly-Clark when she started volunteering at Best Friends. Three times a year she took business trips took to Las Vegas, Nev, about three hours away from the sanctuary. On one trip, while driving between the Grand Canyon and Bryce Canyon, she noticed the sanctuary sign. She stopped, took the tour, volunteered and was hooked. When she left Kimberly-Clark in 2005 to attend medical school at the University of Wisconsin, the trips became less frequent but she managed to visit Best Friends at least once a year.

"I love going there. It's so beautiful and peaceful there. They know how to treat animals. None of the animals are in small cages. They do everything humanly possible to make their quality of life better." der Collie mix that she has visited every time she volunteers there.

"Tabitha is my buddy. I make sure to see her every time I'm there," said Bencik. "She doesn't like other animals around so I've never been able to adopt her. But every time I go to the sanctuary I do a dog sleep over. You spend time with them one-on-one for the night."

Bencik was so busy coordinating her wedding guests the day they all volunteered, that she didn't ask to see any specific dogs. Bencik was delighted to discover that Tabitha was the first dog brought out of her run to meet the group.

Bencik hopes to continue volunteering at Best Friends and include her children when they are old enough to participate. Some of her wedding guests have planned a second trip to the sanctuary. Some also donated to Best Friends, raising



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The Center for Joint Replacement at St. Mary Mercy Hospital has a comprehensive team approach which results in shorter hospital stays, better pain management and faster recovery. "I'm an independent person and did not plan on getting married," she said, adding that DeVetter "accepted my daughter and all of my animals."

Bencik, who holds bachelor's degrees in chemical engineering and German and a master's in

Animal lover

Bencik has adopted several animals over the years, including three cats and a dog from Best Friends. One of her cats also has a memorial at Angel's Rest, the pet cemetery at the sanctuary. If she could, she'd also adopt Tabitha, a shy Bormore than \$1,000 for the organization.

"Spending a week at Best Friends instead of taking a honeymoon and getting married at Angel's Landing was exactly what I wanted."

Visit Best Friends' website at www.bestfriends.org



Collectible sale, harvest dinner set at Greenmead

Historic Greenmead will offer a cross between an estate sale and flea market, "Treasures from Grandma's Attic," 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 12.

Collectible, vintage and other "treasures" will be for sale at the Alexander Blue House in the historical park, located at 20501 Newburgh, in Livonia.

Admission and parking are free.

A "Harvest Candlelight Dinner" also will be held at the Alexander Blue House, 6-9 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 17. A harvestthemed meal, complete with wine and desserts will be served on tables set with linens and candles. Tickets are \$35.

Call (248) 477-7375 for reservations.

Proceeds go toward the restoration and preservation of Greenmead.

REUNIONS

LADYWOOD HIGH **SCHOOL**

CLASS OF 1961 Planning a 50th reunion in 2011. Seeking classmates and contact information. E-mail sandymacg@aol.com or call Sandy Phillips O'Leary (734) 453-0783 and leave a message if voice mail picks UD

MORE ONLINE at hometownlife.com



COMMUNITY LIFE

This card is one of 12 different designs available from Seedlings Braille Books for Children.

Holiday cards support braille books

Seedlings Braille Books for Children, a Livonia-based nonprofit organization, is offering holiday greeting cards in 12 designs and two sizes.

Pumpernickel Press created the cards, which cost \$18 per box of 16 large cards and \$10 per box of 10 smaller cards. All designs are made from premium grade, environment friendly recycled paper, printed with agri-based inks and made in the USA — including the packing material.

Sale proceeds will enable Seedlings to place braille books into the hands of visually impaired children locally and around the world. The organization is dedicated to increasing the opportunity for braille literacy by providing high quality, low cost children's literature in braille.

Buy holiday greeting cards 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday at Seedlings' office, 14151 Farmington Road, Livonia. Call (734) 427-8552 for directions and more information. Visit Seedlings Web site at www.seedlings.org/donate.php, for a look at its new card designs.



Holiday cards from Braille Books for Children cost \$18 and \$10 per box, depending on card size.

Sweet donation



JULIE YOLLES Pam Turkin, (left), founder of Just Baked, a Livoniabased bakery, and Melissa Kukulka, cake studio designer, donated their delicious creations to the 1,200 people that attended the Cattle Baron's Ball at Joe Louis Arena Saturday, Oct. 29. More than \$1.4 million was raised

- with more than \$300,000 from live auction alone - for the American Cancer Society.

Arthritis Today JOSEPH J. WEISS, M.D. RHEUMATOLOGY 18829 Farmington Road Livonia, Michigan 48152 Phone: (248) 478-7860



DIET AND ARTHRITIS

A good diet is a good arthritis diet. Nutritional concepts that emphasize a diet balance with fruits, salads, vegetables and small amounts of meat, chicken and fish, are applicable to patients with arthritis as to people in good health or with diabetes

Popular opinion holds that people with gout need to stay away from seafood and steaks. Such dietary restrictions are rarely required, as medication available today can bring serum uric acid levels down without necessitating stringent mealtime mandates.

Dietary supplements fare little better. The value of glucosamine is overrated, and made more suspect because being unregulated by the government, the amount of glucosamine in each tablet can and does differ from what the label states. In addition, no supplement in the arthritis marketplace has stood up to a test of its claims, and no supplement has a chemical composition that holds promise of acting as an inducer to end inflammation or as an initiator of rapid repair of arthritic joints.

Patients with arthritis must keep vigilant about dietary fads. For instance, no one questions the need for Vitamin D and calcium for maintenance of strong bones. But be aware that claims for the need of Vitamin D over 2,000 units a day are only claims; mega doses of basic nutrients do not product super benefits.

Nor do high doses of fish oils produce an effect in keeping with the amount needed to enhance immunity. Doses that have proved useful are too large to take daily as they cause the unwanted side effect of bleeding leading, to stroke and brain hemorrhage

Check out these exciting career opportunities!

For even more opportunities see our 'award winning" classified section!



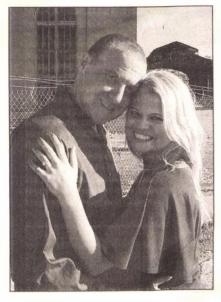
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B8 (*)

COMMUNITY LIFE

Milestones



La Bean-Rutkowski

Kellee Renee La Bean and Joseph J. Rutkowski announce their engagement. The bride-to-be is

the daughter of Arnold and Sandra La Bean of Westland. Her fiance is the son of Phillip and Linda Rutkowski of Port Austin.

A November 2011 wedding is planned in Plymouth Township.



Madeline Rose Kramer

Madeline Rose Kramer was born Sept. 27, 2011 at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, in Livonia. Her proud parents are Joel and Katie Kramer of Livonia.

Grandparents are Richard and Katherine Brown of Livonia and Dennis and Diane Kramer of Troy.

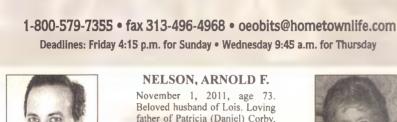
BLANCHARD, CATHERINE E. **Brighton**, MI

Her Legacy... Age 85, died November 3, 2011. She was born June 19, 1926 in Detroit, MI, the daughter of Daniel and Sadie MacDonald. (Smith) December 12, 1945 Catherine married James Blanchard. James preceded her in death January 5, 2003. Catherine spent her life as a devoted wife and loving mother. Her Family ... Beloved mother of the late Carol Dillon, John (Tammy) Blanchard of Brighton, Stacey (John) Phillips of Brighton and Howard (KaTina) Blanchard of Plymouth, dear grandmother of 13 and great-grandmother of 10. Her Farewell... The family will gather with friends Sunday and Monday from 4-8 PM at Borek Jennings Funeral Home, Jennings Hamburg Chapel. A Healing Farewell will be held Tuesday, November 8, 2011 at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Brighton beginning with 9:30 AM visita-tion followed by 10:30 AM Mass of Christian Burial with Rev. Fr. Karl Pung as Celebrant. Burial will be in Knollwood Memorial Park in Canton. Memorial contributions are suggested to the Rheumatoid Arthritis Foundation of Michigan 1050 Wilshire Drive, Suite 302 Troy, MI 48084-1564. Please leave a Message of Comfort to Catherine's family by calling 877-231-7900 or visit her guestbook at: www.borekjennings.com.

BOGGS. **MARGUERITE ROSE** "PEGGY"

(NEE LATHROP)

Age 87 years, of Farmington Hills, MI, passed away on Monday, October 31, 2011 at the fiome of her daughter in Holton, MI. The Funeral Service will be held at 2:00 PM on Friday, November 4, 2011 at the Kroeze-Wolffis Funeral Home, Inc., 637



Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

Passages

DUGGAN, **ROBERT "BOB"**

Age 46, of Livonia, MI passed away on November 3, 2011. Loving son of Patrick and Joan Duggan of Livonia. Brother of Michael (Lori Maher), Daniel (Sharlene), James (Stephanie) and Timothy (Albina). Favorite uncle to thirteen nieces and nephews. Duggan was born at St. Mary's Hospital on February 23, 1965 and attended St, Michael's catholic school before going on to Redford Catholic Central (class of 1983). Duggan graduated from Adrian College before heading to Orlando, Florida to pursue an acting career. While in Florida, Duggan secured his real estate license and moved back to Livonia in 2008 after spending 19 years in Florida. His acting career led him back to his home state where he recently appeared in Real Steel. He was a former Livonia Jaycee and active in the Catholic Central and Adrian College Alumni Associations. Duggan had a passion for the city of Detroit and was an avid supporter of all Detroit sports fran-

NELSON, ARNOLD F. November 1, 2011, age 73 Beloved husband of Lois. Loving father of Patricia (Daniel) Corby, Andrew (Julie) Nelson, Rosemary Setser, Edward (Angela) Nelson, Benjamin (Christine) Nelson, Mark Boneff and Matthew (Carol) Nelson. Memorial services were held Saturday at Newburgh United Methodist Church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia, 48150. Contributions may be made to the church or Boys and Girls Town, National Headquarters, 200 Flanagan Boulevard, P.O. Box 6000, Boys Town, NE 68010



NYLAND, JOHN R.

Age 88, of Seneca, SC. passed away October 2nd. Born in Saginaw, he was

a retired Executive Vice President of Indian Head Inc., and President of the Metals and Automotive Groups. Prior to that, was President of Detroit Gasket & Manufacturing, Inc. and Vice President - General Manager of The Holley Carburetor Company. He started his automo-



View Online

www.hometownlife.com

ROWLAND-BARNER SARAH J. "SALLY"

Age 77 of Fenton (formerly Plymouth) passed away October 24, 2011. Beloved wife of Robert Barner, and the late Robert Rowland. Loving mother of Christine (David) Cope, Debra (James) Tiller, Gail (Christopher) Rink, and Rob (Connie) Rowland. Proud grandmother of eight. Also leaves two sisters, and several nieces and nephews. Predeceased by her brother. Visitation was held Thursday 4-9 PM at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 46401 W Ann Arbor Rd (btwn Sheldon and Beck) Plymouth. In state was held Friday until the 11 AM funeral service at First United Methodist Church, 45201 North Territorial (west of Sheldon) Plymouth. Interment Lake City Cemetery.

To share memories please visit vermeulenfuneralhome.com



Ludwig-Englen

Kevin Ludwig and Emily Ann Englen were married Oct. 15, 2011 at St. Michael's in Wayne.

The bride, daughter of James and Shelly Englen of Garden City, is a 2010 graduate of Garden City High School and has attended Schoolcraft College. She is employed at Emagine Theater in Canton.

The groom, son of Kris Woolsey of Garden City

and John Ludwig of Florida, is a 2010 graduate of Garden City High School. He is a mechanic for the US Army.

Katie Englen was the Maid of Honor and Leander Berry was the Best Man.

A reception was held at Knights of Columbus in Garden City.

The newlyweds plans to make their home in Fort Lewis, Wash.



David and Patricia Furman of Farmington

50th wedding anniversary

David and Patricia (Crampton) Furman of career in the auto industry and enjoys boating.

E. Main St., Fremont, MI 49412, (888) 544-5388. Visitation will be from 1-2 PM on Friday. To view her complete obituary or to sign the online guest book please visit: www.kroeze-wolffis.com



DARROCH, ROBERT E ("Bob" or "Boo")

Age 72, of Largo, FL, died Saturday, Oct. 29, 2011, at his home. He was a policeman with the Southfield, Michigan Police Dept. for 25 years, achieving the rank of Lieutenant before retiring in 1993. Bob was an avid biker, who rode wearing the colors of the Blue Knights and the Christian Motorcyclists Association, and with numerous friends and motorcycle enthusiasts. Survivors include his daughter, Rebecca Darroch Dandeker and husband, Anand, of Burtonsville, MD; his sister, Maureen McCarron of Largo, FL and Northampton, MA; his niece, Pam McCarron Graham of Ashfield, MA; and granddaughter. There will be a memorial service on Saturday, Nov. 12, 3:30 p.m. at A Life Tribute Funeral Care, 716 Seminole Blvd., Largo, FL. Visit our online Guestbook at: www.ALifeTribute.com. Written condolences may be mailed to: 6428 Ridge Terrace, #401, Orlando, FL 32810. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to International Families, Inc. of Maryland: www.ifimd.com

JASKE, MILDRED E.

Age 84, of Farmington Hills, October 26, 2011. Beloved wife of the late Walter. Loving mother of Kim (Melody) Jaske, Karla (Robert) Winnie, Kirk Jaske, and Karen (Tom) Hilliard. Dear grandmother of SGT. Andrew and SGT. Matthew Hilliard, Abigail Jaske, Christen Ciaravino, Travis and Erica Jaske. Great-grandmother of Spencer and Brielle Hilliard and two grandcats. Funeral Saturday 11 a.m., November 5th, at First United Methodist Church of Farmington, 33112 Grand River Ave. Farmington. Visitation Friday 1-8 p.m. at Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, 33603 Grand River Ave., Downtown Farmington, (1 blk W. of Farmington Rd.). Memorial contributions may be made to the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research

www.michaeljfox.org www.thayer-rock.com

chises. Viewing will be held on Saturday and Sunday from 4-8 PM at the Neely-Turowski Funeral Home on Five Mile Road (between Merriman Rd and Middlebelt Rd). A funeral mass will be held Monday, November 7 at 9:30 AM at St. Aidan Catholic Church 17500 Farmington Rd Livonia, Mi 48152 at 9:30 AM. www.neely-turowski.com.



HOWE, **HOBERT "BILL"**

Age 82, October 28, 2011. Beloved husband of Mary for 59 years, dear father

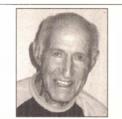
of Mark G. (Esther), Lori Richardson, Darrell (Marilee), and Beth Simmons. Grandfather of Buffy, Joshua, Danae, Mateo, Jenny, Jessica, Erin, Emily, Joseph, Tommy, Brad, Chad, and the late Markie and Jon, and 13 great-grandchildren. Hobert was born on April 23, 1929 and raised in Highland Park Michigan. As a teenager he was a member of the Order of DeMolay and the US Coast Guard, he later joined the US Navy. He also served as Corporal, Dental Technician and Communication Engineer in the US Army in the 599TH Field Artillery Battalion. He attended Radio Electronics School, was a part-time teacher for Michigan Public Schools, served as a member of the Garden City Planning Commission and served as a Work Release Program Director for Garden City. He was also a long time Committee Member of the Michigan Beautiful Keep Committee. Hobert worked for thirty years in Research & Development for Burroughs (Unisys) Corporation. Visitation Wednesday 2-9 p.m. at the John N Santeiu & Son Funeral Home, 1139 Inkster Rd (between Ford Rd and Cherry Hill). In state Thursday 10 a.m. at Merriman Road Baptist Church, service begins at 11 a.m. 2055 Merriman Road (1 Block south of Ford Rd) Donation to Angela Hospice.

www.santeiufuneralhome.com

KUNZAT, RICHARD

Age 79, of Farmington Hills, MI. Passed away October 28, 2011 Arrangements by Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington.

industry career tive as Purchasing Agent at Ford. John was a 1958 engineering graduate of Wayne State and a 1970 graduate of the AMP program at Harvard University. A veteran of World War II, John was a Primary Flight Instructor at Orangeburg, SC. A licensed pilot for 65 years, he learned to fly prior to the start of the war, then flew internationally for TWA afterwards. John was an avid private pilot maintaining a commercial pilot rating, and accumulating over 12,000 hours until his last flight in 2006. John was a volunteer firefighter with the Bloomfield Village Fire Department from 1964 to 1984 having served as Chief and Assistant Chief for many years. He enjoyed boating and spending time with family at his vacation home in Lake City, MI and Hilton Head, SC to which he retired in 1984. John is survived by his lov-ing wife of 61 years Dorothy, sons John (Carol) of St. Michaels, MD, Scott (Barbara) of Hockessin, DE, daughters Susan of Travelers Rest, SC, Jill Ischinger (Gene) and Barbara Andrews (Charlie), both of Campobello, SC and grandchildren Kathryn, Andrew and Michael. Funeral services were private. Contributions may be made to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, 26 Broadway 14th Floor, New York, NY 10004 or to the Aircraft Owners Pilots Association - Air Safety Foundation, 421 Aviation Way, Frederick, MD 21701



READE, ALAN LEE

Of Bloomfield Hills passed away peacefully surrounded by his children at age 89 on October 18, 2011. He was born and grew up in New York City, graduated cum laude with a degree in math-ematics from Harvard, served in the Navy in WWII, and after the war returned to Harvard for an MBA. He started his business career in textiles in NYC where he met his late wife, Carmeta McLeod. He then went on to spend the rest of his career in the early computer business. After losing his wife to cancer in 1975, he retired to Michigan staying in his same home until the end of his life. He had a very active retirement: skiing, playing tennis and bridge, and advising people on their investments. He is survived by three children and six grandchildren who will miss him greatly, along with the wonderful family reunions he arranged.

WATTON. SALLY ELLEN (NEE TORPIN)

Born February 20, 1931 in Philadelphia to Richard Torpin III and Margaret Chase. Sally passed away peacefully to join her beloved relatives, friends and "critters" on October 23, 2011 in Rehoboth, DE, She was graduate of Cheltenham High School and Centenary College for Women. Sally successfully embraced a variety of interests and adventures throughout her life with enthusiasm and warmth: daughter, writer/actress, executive's wife, supportive mother, fashion cooordinator, and active parish-ioner at her churches in PA, MI, and lastly, in Lewes, DE. Sally is survived by her loving husband of 59 years, Donald, three children, grandchildren, extended and many treasured family friends. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Sussex County S.P.C.A., Vitas Hospice, or St. Peters Episcopal Church in Lewes, DE. Burial will be private and a beach memorial service will be held in the summer of 2012. Sign the online guest registry at: www.parsellfuneralhomes.com

ZIEL, PATRICIA A.

Age 80, of Canton, formerly of Homer, passed away Wednesday, November 2, 2011 at her daughter's residence. She was born in 1931 to Grandville and Lola Patton in Homer, Michigan. She lived in the Plymouth-Canton area since 1955 as a Homemaker, she attended the Presbyterian Church in Homer, was involved with the Senior Exercise Club, Jackson Trippers and enjoyed homecrafts. Pat is survived by: Daughter Janice (Glenn) Boyer of Dexter; Son - Jeffrey (Barbara) Ziel of Saginaw; (2) grandchildren - Erica and Natalie Ziel. A Gathering for family and friends will be Saturday, November 5, 2011 from 12:00-1:00 P.M. at the J. Kevin Tidd Funeral Home, 208 W. Erie Street, Albion, Michigan 49224 Graveside Service will be held Saturday, November 5, 2011 at 2:00 P.M. at Fairview Cem-etery, M Drive South, Homer, Michigan 49245 with Pastor Tim Marvil officiating. Assistance with Memorial Contributions can be made to American Cancer Society is available at the funeral home www.kevintiddfuneralhome.com

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Farmington marked their 50th wedding anniversary Oct. 28. They were married in 1961 at Redford Presbyterian Church in Redford.

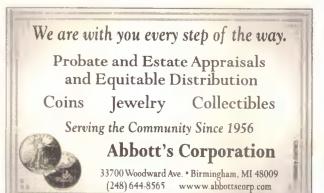
The couple have two children, Sheila (Curt) Sigro of Livonia and Rhonda (Scott) Treadwell of Farmington. They also have two grandchildren. David is retired from a

Patricia, retired from a career in retail administration, plays flute in the **Farmington Community** Band, is a board member of Miss Wayne County Scholarship Pageant and a member of the Michigan Humane Society.

They celebrated their milestone anniversary with dinner at Andiamo's Livonia.



David and Patricia Furman on their wedding day in 1961.



11.00

B9.(*) SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2011 **OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC** HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

HEALTH

SHARON DARGAY, EDITOR SDARGAY@HOMETOWNLIFE.COM (313) 222-8833 FACEBOOK: HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

NEW FACES

Three doctors have joined the medical staff at St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia. They are:

• Jennifer A. Gerteisen, DPM, received a degree in podiatry at Des



Moines University College of Podiatric Medicine and Surgery, Des Moines, Iowa. She completed her residency at St. John Hospital & Medical Center, Detroit and is a member of the American Podiatric Medi-

Gerteisen

cal Association, Michigan Podiatric Medical Association, and is an associate of the American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons. Gerteisen is located at Dr. Kane & Associates, PC, 35210 Nankin Blvd., Suite 301, Westland; (734) 525-2555.

• Tamam Mohamad received his medical degree from Damascus Uni-



versity School of Medicine, in Damascus, Syria. He completed an internal medicine residency and cardiology fellowship at Detroit Medical Center Wayne State University School of Medicine, Detroit. Mohamad is board certified in

Mohamad

internal medicine. He is a member of the American College of Cardiology and American Medical Association.

Dr. Mohamad is located at the Heart & Vascular Institute, PLLC, 4160 John R., Suite 510, Detroit; (313) 993-2577. • Nicholas J. Szerlip received his

medical degree from Tulane Universi-



ty School of Medicine, New Orleans, La. He completed a neurosurgery residency at the University of Marvland Medical Center, Baltimore, Md. Szerlip is a member of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons, Amer-

Szerlip

ican Association of Neurological Surgeons, and Society for Neuro-Oncology. He is located at the Wayne State University Physician Group Department of Neurosurgery, 4160 John R., Suite 925, Detroit; (313) 966-5007.

PARKING

in the

Compuware garage Mon-Fri 11am-6pm

with skating

admission

Mon.-Thurs.....11am - 10 pm

Friday.....11am - Midnight

Saturday.....10 am - Midnight

HOURS:

Surgeons offer seminar on joint replacement

The Center for Joint Replacement at St. Mary Mercy Hospital will offer a free educational seminar 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 10 in classroom 10 at the hospital, 36475 Five Mile at Levan, Livonia.

One of the hospital's orthopedic surgeons -Ryan Molli or David Mendelson — will be on hand to

Theresa Castagna, RN, Behavioral Medi-

Diabetes Support Group meeting, 7-8:30

p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 9, in the hospital's

auditorium. The American Diabetes Associa-

busy and stressful time of year. When stress

builds up, it causes the release of "fight or

flight" hormones. These hormones then

cause an increase in blood glucose. Cast-

stress. This is a Diabetes Support Group

presentation and is open to anyone with

diabetes and their support family. There

is no charge, and pre-registration is not

munity Outreach at (734) 655-8955. The

The hospital offers Silver Lining, a five-

week wellness program for women cancer

survivors. The program is free and designed

for women who have survived any type of

cancer. It includes meditation, yoga, breast

and expressive writing. The program helps

cancer survivors explore and heal the physi-

disease. The program meets for five weeks,

Nov. 10 through Dec. 15. All interested par-

ticipants must attend an evening informa-

tion/registration session on Thursday, Nov.

3 at the Beaumont Cancer Institute in Royal

Oak. Participants must be 18 years or older

ments. Call Pam Jablonski at (248) 551-4645

The National Kidney Foundation presents a

free workshop designed to help individuals

and have completed their cancer treat-

HEALTH CLASS

cal, emotional and spiritual effects of the

from 6:30-8:30 p.m., beginning Thursday,

awareness/self-exam, mindful listening

BEAUMONT HOSPITAL

Livonia.

required. For more information call Com-

hospital is located at Five Mile and Levan in

agna will discuss ways to decrease holiday

tion states that the holidays can be a very

cine, St. Mary Mercy Hospital, will talk

about managing holiday stress at the

November

ST. MARY MERCY



They'll also talk about the comprehensive group approach to St.

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

manage long-term health conditions, 6-8:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 7-Dec. 12 at American House, 11525 Farmington Road, Livonia. The Personal Action Toward Health (PATH) class is aimed at individuals with chronic health conditions such as arthritis, heart disease, chronic kidney disease, diabetes, bronchitis, asthma, and depression. Workshops are conducted by trained leaders who hold informal, small group discussions and provide easy-to-understand course materials. Facilitators discuss ways to reduce pain and stress, cope with fatigue, use medications wisely, and benefit from physical activity. To register or learn more about this program, call Elizabeth Star at (734) 425-3050.

MAPLEGROVE CENTER A free public panel discussion will address

the questions and concerns parents and other family members have about young people who may be using drugs or alcohol, 7-9 p.m. Nov. 10 in the Henry Ford West Bloomfield Hospital Ravitz Atrium, 6777 West Maple, West Bloomfield. Betty Conger, Maplegrove Children and Family Program coordinator, will make the keynote presentation on how to better understand and guide young adults who may be struggling with making healthy, mature decisions. Other panelists include Judge Linda Davis with the Macomb County District Court and Families Against Narcotics; Dawn Kepler, Prevention Network College Program coordinator; Tom Ghena, administrative director of Maplegrove Center; as well as a family in recovery. Register at (248) 661-6170 or mce_cp@hfhs.org.

VITA REDITA DINNER

The ninth annual Vita Redita gala dinner and auction is set for 6 p.m., Nov. 12, at Fox Hills Country Club in Plymouth. The event raises funds for U-M Transplant Center's research programs, as well as programs to assist patients in need, organ donation initiatives, and Camp Michitanki, an annual program that sends more than 60 pediatric

Mary Mercy's program, including pre-surgical classes, choosing a personal "coach" to assist through the process, and what to expect post-surgery and discharge from the hospital. The multidisciplinary team approach to care enhances pain management and makes recovery faster while shortening hospi-

tal stavs.

Other meeting dates are Wednesday, Nov. 30 in the auditorium and Thursday, Jan. 12, 2012 and Jan. 26, 2012 in classroom 10. All sessions run from 6-8 p.m.

To register, call (734) 655-2400. For more information about physician and hospital services visit www. stmarymercy.org.

transplant recipients to a week-long summer camp in Northern Michigan. Michigan State Rep. Kevin Daley, (R-Lum) will be the keynote speaker. Daley's son died in a car accident this year and his organs were donated to help save others. Vita Redita - which means "life restored," will include a strolling dinner, premium bar with signature cocktails, desserts, valet parking and an auction on such items as a private plane trip and original works of art. Tickets are \$175 per person. Call (734) 232-0594 or e-mail to vitaredita@umich.edu.

December

ST. MARY MERCY

The Michigan Bariatric Institute at St. Mary Mercy Hospital offers free monthly educational seminars, 6-7:30 p.m. in the hospital's auditorium. Dr. Tallal Zeni, director of minimally invasive and bariatric surgery and Dr. Jacob Roberts, bariatric surgeon, present information about laparoscopic bariatric surgery. The next session is Dec. 1. For information, call the Michigan Bariatric Institute at (877) Why-Weight. It's located at 14555 Levan, Suite 311, in the Marian Professional Building, Livonia.

Ongoing

AQUATIC CLASSES

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



Par ason DAY, NOVEMBER SUNDAY, NOVEMBE

Sun, noon-8

Then we close & re-open for the whole season on Friday, November 18th

- Family Outings
- Private Ice Parties
- Birthday Parties
- Field Trips
- Group Rates
- Skate Rentals
- Convenient, **Adjacent Parking**
- Open 7 Days **Including Holidays**





800 Woodward Avenue 3 Blocks North of Jefferson

Located in Detroit's Meeting Place, Across from the Compuware Building and Hard Rock Cafe.

For reservations & further info, call 313-963-9393

Without question, Westland's First Annual Blues Brews and BBQ was a hit! With something for everyone, all who attended said they had a good time and look forward to even more fun next year.

The success of this event is directly due to the support of our sponsors, vendors and attendees. Blues Brews and BBQ is sure to become one of our All American City's signature events.

The proceeds were donated to local non-profit organizations from the community that volunteered their time to run the day's activities. Over 110 volunteers from 9 different organizations played an integral part in making this first time event one that will be talked about for years to come.

Mark your calendar next year's event will be held over a two day period, September 15 and 16, 2012. We look forward to seeing you there!

2011 FINANCIAL SUMMARY		BBB Breakd Advertisement/P	
	¢22.050.00	print ads	\$2,816.00
Sponsorship Income:	\$33,950.00	radio ads	\$2,250.00
Ticket Income:	\$14,743.76	posters	\$1,190.00
Total Income =	\$48.693.76	logo design	\$ 90.00
Expenses:	\$33,100.69	banners/signage	\$2.037.52
Event Profit:	\$15,593.07		
Evolit Folit.	φ10,000.07	Entertainment	
		bands	\$1,700.00
Donations Made to Local		stage/sound	\$3,215.00
Non-Profit Organizations		stago, ocana	+01=10100
Warm Hearts	\$250	Rentals	
		tables/chairs/tents	\$2,529.06
Westland Grange#339	\$250	restrooms	\$1,120,00
Westland Historical Commission	\$500		
Westland Goodfellows	\$1,000	Kids Zone	
Westland Rotary	\$1,000	crafts/punch cards	\$ 550.12
Westland Lions		bouncers/entertainment	\$1.040.00
	\$1,000	tents	\$ 211.98
Westland Civitans	\$1,000		
Westland Community Foundation	\$1,000	Fencing	
Westland Chamber of Commerce	\$4,500	fencing/poles	\$1,536.84
Total Amount Donated	\$10,500	labor	\$1,000,00
Net Reserve Balance for		Misc. payout to restaurants	\$6,790. 7 Ø
2012 Blues Brews & BBQ: \$5,093.0	07	payout to Saranda's	\$ 130.90
	1999	insurance/license	\$ 743.00
WESTLAN	AS ES	shirts	\$1,758.00
		souvenirs	\$1,:35.56
*ALL AMERICAN	×	tickets	\$ 419.55
2011	ALL IN	рор	\$ 209.40
2011		id bands	\$ 147.45
		table cloths	\$ 127.83
		bank fees	\$ 102.62
	lille	planning meeting	\$ 9.68
DDTTATC	aller .	credit card processing	\$ 139.48
BREWS			
		Total	\$33,100.69
BARBECUE		Westl	and
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	CI 31 (13) (CI 3	- Downlawn Develo	ionest Authority -
	-	Chomber	
www.cityofwestlar	nd.com	of commerce	

B10 (WGcReLCP) Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, November 6, 2011

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SECTION C . (*)

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2011 **OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC** HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

JOBS



Do Background Check On Potential Employer

Alina Dizik **Special to CareerBuilder**

Job seekers aren't the only ones who should undergo a lengthy background check; it's important that candidates research the company, too. Anything from pending lawsuits, bankruptcies or layoffs can be enough to raise a red flag. It's important to understand what you're getting into before accepting any position. Doing background research also will help you ask all the right questions during an interview and impress hiring managers. Not sure where to start when it comes to researching the company?

Here's how to conduct your own background check on a potential employer: **Check the finances**

"Always look at the financial stability of the company," says Jonny Laurent, vice president and general manager of Sage Employer Solutions, a recruiting firm. While it may be difficult to find specific information for a private company, it's important to try. Do online research, search local news sources and ask former or current employees -- do some quick digging to make sure your employer is viable. When companies experience important financial events like bankruptcies, there's a greater chance you'll be able to find out about them and track results.

Gauge the company culture Speaking to current or former employees can help vou understand whether you're a cultural fit with the company before you take the job. If you're not comfortable with areas of a company's culture, it can hurt your career. For example, a place that prizes cutthroat tactics to get ahead may be the wrong fit for someone who is looking for a team-oriented environment, "Find people in your network or close to your network who do work or have worked for them and start a dialogue," says Laurent, who suggests LinkedIn as a good start.

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Help Wanted-General

"Unless there is

overwhelming evidence that the company is a bad fit. do not sell the company short and still interview, but now you can interview with open eves."

Check its problem-solving record

The way a company approaches problems can be a good indicator of whether you'd want to work there and how the company treats its workforce. Before taking a job, find out "what has been the company's greatest challenge over the past year and how have they approached and solved the problem," says Jayne Mattson, senior vice president of Keystone Associates, a career management company with offices in New England. In a weak economy, it can be especially telling to see how a company has dealt with tough times. For example, if it's been able to grow an area of its business -- and you're being hired for a new position -- it can be a sign of good leadership.

Track layoffs and career progression

For most people, the biggest fear once they take on a new job is a layoff. And while that risk can't be entirely prevented, it's good to understand a company's track record. If the company has had multiple rounds of layoffs, it pays to be more careful when taking the role.

Help Wanted-Dental

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Additionally, try to find out who had your job previously, why she left and where she went. Knowing your career options after vou're ready to move jobs can be a good way to gauge fit.

If you have any lingering questions, don't be afraid to speak up when talking with the recruiter or during an interview with the company. Not only will it help calm your anxiety, but it'll show hiring managers that you've done your homework and understand the company. A background search "will help you and the company make sure the role is going to be a good fit for both of you," Mattson says. "Ask questions that will get to the heart of what you are trying to understand, so you will make the right career decision."

Alina Dizik researches and writes about job search strategy, career management, hiring trends and workplace issues for CareerBuilder. Follow @Careerbuilder on Twitte.









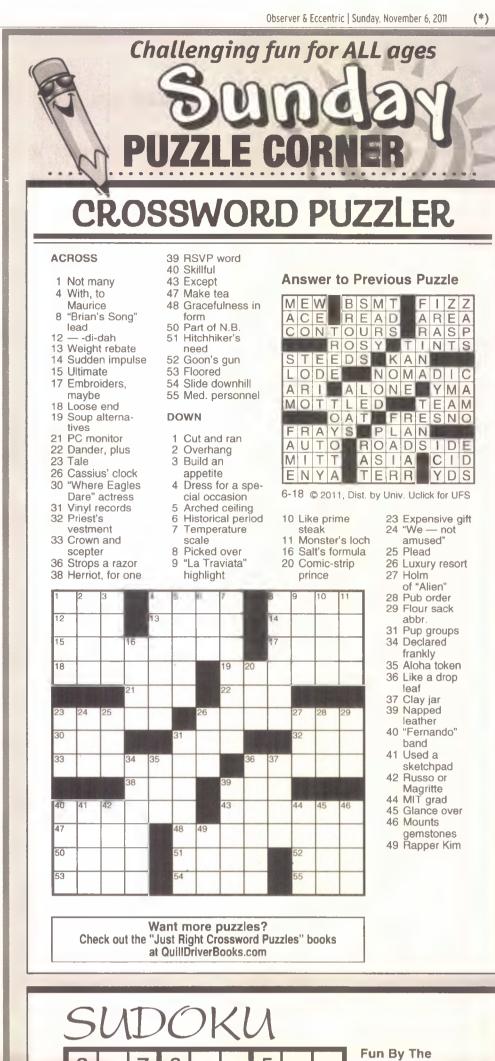
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